

A MANCHESTER MINUTE

“A Trolley Runs Through It” ...

...Through Port Gibson, that is, from 1909-1931. The Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Railway was in business for those 22 years as Interurban passenger electric trolleys were very popular across the country. The RS&E trolley entered the Town of Manchester just south of Garnsey Rd, passed over County Rd 7 at Bedette Rd and exited the Town at Turner Rd. Although Port Gibson did not have a passenger station, passengers could “flag” down the trolley at any point along the way. Port Gibson did have an electric power station which can still be seen today as part of T&J Auto service in Port Gibson. The purpose of the power station was to boost electric power to the trolley by converting AC (Alternating Current) into DC (Direct Current) which is then fed into power lines connected to the trolley. The “power house” never made power, just converted it.

If you have interest in walking the former RS&E trolley route, a portion of it exists in the Monroe County Town of Perinton. A trailhead exists at Pennell Rd, off Rt. 31, just west of the Wayne County line. The trail runs for about 4.5 miles northwest to where it joins the Erie Canal Trail at Fairport. A pedestrian bridge carries the trolley trail over the canal.

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