

# American Brake Shoe Factory

Although it may be hard to imagine, Mahwah was once home to a large factory. It was called the American Brake Shoe and Foundry. It was built because a factory in Hillburn was considered too small. So, in 1901, the new factory in Mahwah was opened. It made parts for railroads, including brake shoes. Brake shoes are part of train brakes, which help them stop. Eventually, the American Brake Shoe and Foundry Company grew. The factory in Mahwah was the company's largest factory. It included labs, offices, workshops, and homes for the workers. During World War II, it made different parts used for airplanes in the war. It also worked on the atomic bomb.

The factory brought different people into Mahwah to work. The workers were mostly Eastern European immigrants. They worked and lived in bad conditions. The workers often didn't speak the same languages. They were not trained and often got injured. They did not get paid much. The company built them small houses to live in. Often, many families lived in one house. These bad conditions led the workers to strike many times. The factory closed in 1983. The area is now part of Mahwah's Business Park. But, some people who worked there are still living in and around Mahwah.

Q	F	O	X	V	W	O	R	K	S	H	O	P	S	W
L	F	W	S	I	M	M	I	G	R	A	N	T	S	P
P	F	G	Q	F	T	H	C	K	Y	D	R	C	Q	X
J	E	K	L	R	Q	A	Z	D	Q	N	O	R	Z	Q
P	K	T	X	X	Y	I	Z	R	F	Z	Q	K	E	Y
C	N	N	M	H	Y	R	M	H	V	L	B	Z	P	B
P	C	W	R	C	H	P	L	U	O	J	U	E	R	F
X	R	Z	O	K	V	L	H	L	B	A	D	B	Z	A
C	K	B	E	R	I	A	P	I	V	X	J	U	X	C
B	C	I	N	C	K	N	T	D	O	D	T	I	S	T
H	B	R	A	K	E	E	T	R	A	I	N	L	T	O
P	A	U	I	K	P	U	R	N	O	A	M	D	R	R
D	P	S	G	H	M	Y	B	Y	H	I	Z	Q	I	Y
W	C	H	E	S	X	M	A	F	U	U	A	J	K	A
E	S	R	A	I	L	R	O	A	D	B	J	V	E	X

Find the Words!

airplane

brake

build

factory

immigrants

railroad

strike

train

worker

workshops

Observations