



B. Ney & Sons

NW Corner N. Main & Elizabeth,
opposite U.S. Post Office

German-born Baruch Ney came to America after the Civil War had concluded. Following brief stays elsewhere, he arrived in Harrisonburg in 1868. Ney worked for Leopold Wise, and together they soon opened a confectionary store known as Ney &

Wise on Main Street. In January 1875 Ney bought the Henry J. Gambill house and lot on the corner of Elizabeth and North Main and set up his store business there in 1878. B. Ney began specializing in men's clothing and later expanded into a department store. Their business used the interesting motto, "The Boss Clothier." In 1895 sons Isaac and Henry Ney were added to the business, followed later by sons Albert and Carl. By the time of his death in 1915, Baruch Ney was considered one of the self-made business geniuses in Harrisonburg.

The original house had much added to it to result in a three-story frame building. Eventually the upper floor was stocked with furniture, the second floor held ladies' ready-to-wear clothing, and the first floor was filled with men's and women's clothes. There was even a bargain department in the basement. They were the first in the area to sell radios, and they once conducted a mail-order business. B Ney & Sons' store closed in December 1956 after 88 years of business.

—Dale MacAllister



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