



The Wetzel Seed Company

128 West Market Street

In 1897 blacksmith Daniel M. Wetzel began growing high-quality seed corn on his Green Island Farm near Port Republic and soon added other garden seeds. He was soon selling his seeds to farmers from his wagon

that he drove to Harrisonburg for Court Days. In 1911 Wetzel and his sons Arnold and Earl opened a store on North Main Street. By 1915 they were operating under the name Wetzel Seed Company. They were next located on North Court Square and then moved to South Main. In 1920 the Wetsels opened a store on West Court Square on the corner with West Market Street where they broadened their inventory to include feeds, poultry equipment, pet supplies, spray materials, and seed cleaning.

In 1936 they opened a new three-story, brick store built over Blacks Run by Nielson Construction Company on West Market Street beside the railroad tracks. It became their final retail location in Harrisonburg. It is currently the site of Union Station Restaurant.

—Dale MacAllister



<http://gtsc.jmu.edu/shps/map>