



HOME OF HIRSCH BROTHERS INCORPORATED
One of the leading livestock sales organizations in Virginia. Firm specializes in dairy cows. Regarded as experts in their line.

Hirsch Brothers Stables

80 West Water Street

Water Street in Harrisonburg was the center of the Virginia horse market from the latter part of the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century. Its close proximity to the railroad depot and access to the water of Black's Run made it the ideal location for horse and livestock stables. On Court Days, the entire street became a showroom for

various horsemen to present their stock of horses, drawing buyers & sellers from Washington, Baltimore, Pennsylvania, and Richmond. At the turn of the 20th century, Harrisonburg shipped out an average 1,440 horses by train each month. By 1919 horses had lost their advantage to automobiles. Some stables converted to auto garages, such as the L.J. Golden Carriage Company located just a few buildings away from Hirsch Brothers. The Hirsch Brothers building has been renovated to showcase the beam work and some the interior space as it once appeared in the heyday of Harrisonburg's horse market.

JMU history major, Devon Rowan's 2007 research paper, "[The South, the Valley, and the Horse](#)," places the history of the Hirsch Brothers Stable into the larger context of national economic changes and unique Shenandoah Valley culture. It can be read by click on its title above.



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