



Lillian Gary Millinery Shop

76 Court Square

The L.H. Gary Millinery shop catered to some of Harrisonburg's female elite. Gary's shop sold bonnets, straw hats, and fascinators—small hair decorations usually made from feathers or flowers—as well as other fashion accessories. The women of Harrisonburg, some transplanted here from more cosmopolitan areas, expected the same quality and exclusiveness available in

larger cities. Miss Lillie H. Gary, having grown up wealthy in the city of Baltimore, understood such expectations, and established her shop here in 1897 to serve the ladies of Harrisonburg and the surrounding area. This businesswoman and entrepreneur remained a fixture in Harrisonburg business through 1930. Originally located at 90 N. Main St., in late 1905 or early 1906 she moved her shop into a prime location at 76 Court Square where it remained until her retirement.

JMU history major, Sarah Berlinger's 2009 research paper, ["Big City Influence in Turn of the Century Harrisonburg,"](#) recovers the history of the L.H. Gary Millinery Shop. It can be read by click on its title above.



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