



## Harry Lee's Shoe Shine Parlor

61 South Main Street

Harry Lee Solomon's well-known business on South Main was the culmination of a lifetime of experience. He shined shoes from 10 years of age until his death in 1960 at age 63. He operated his own stand at City News and the National News Company stands before moving to his final location on South Main next to First National Bank at the end of WWII. Of that location long-time resident Doris Allen recalled, "It was a small shop. Maybe six shoe shine stands [with] a tall glass

window." In a 1953 interview with a newspaper reporter Solomon said, "You know, soon after the war, I decided to get out of the shoe shine business, so I pulled stakes and went to Pittsburg for a while." "What did you do up there?" the reporter asked. Solomon answered, "Shined shoes." Upon returning to Harrisonburg, he opened his own shoeshine parlor, and operated Harry Lee's Shoe Shine Parlor for the rest of his days.

Solomon was known as more than just a shoe shiner, though. He was known and respected by the entire Harrisonburg community as a most talented musician. He sang for local quartets and at his church. He and his fellow band members made a name for themselves in the Harrisonburg and Shenandoah Valley communities. The band was known to play at local clubs, establishments, schools, and more.

Photo Courtesy of: The Heritage Museum: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, Lewis Lupton Kaylor collection, detail from negative #LK0001



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