



Troy Steam Laundry

188 North Liberty Street

This business was one of the largest employers in Harrisonburg during mid-twentieth century. In 1903 brothers-in-law A. P. Sumption and Charles E. Trenary purchased the Garber-Flory laundry where they both worked at the time.

Initially employing six people, including themselves, they grew the business as Troy Steam Laundry, which by 1933 employed 40 workers and operated a delivery fleet of 7 trucks. The plant had \$84,000 worth of machinery that could even press shirts without using a hand iron. It had become one of the largest laundries in the Valley. In 1939 they built an addition to the rear of the building with steam provided by a new automatic boiler. The 1941 photograph above shows the firm's 45 workers and managers—36 women and 9 men, not counting the children holding the “Patronize Home Industries” campaign banner.

In 1953 William Cleveland Wine, co-founder of Wine Brothers Garage became the owner-operator, adding Troy Dry Cleaners next door by 1961. The steam laundry closed in 1970 leaving only Troy One-Hour Cleaners in operation.

Photo Courtesy of The Heritage Museum: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, Lewis Lupton Kaylor collection, negative #LK0476



—Dale MacAllister

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