Voted "Best Thing About Harrisonburg" by Daily News-Record Readers

Downtown Harrisonburg is full of many dining options, locally owned shops and boutiques, historical architecture and museums. Stop downtown to try some of our local food and drinks. The downtown district is made up of 40 blocks and is a great way to spend the day. There are many events that happen weekly, such as karaoke, fundraiser nights, and concerts. You wont regret visiting the Harrisonburg’s most loved downtown. For a list of our weekly and annual events be sure to visit <https://www.visitharrisonburgva.com/annual-events/> for more details.

Welcome to Harrisonburg, Virginia, located at the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. Harrisonburg is best known for James Madison University, a college that holds over 20,000 students, the historic and booming Downtown area, and its beautiful scenery.</p>

<h3>History</h3>

<p>Harrisonburg was founded in 1779 by Thomas Harrison. The city began as only two and a hlaf acres wide and eventually grew to 11,132 acres by 1982. Harrisonburg is now the 12th largest city in Virginia and is home to around 50,000 people. </p>

This diverse and vibrant town is sure to please everybody. Theres so much to do whether you decide to visit the downtown, check out the college life, our explore the outdoors and nature. The Shenandoah Valley has the most scenic hikes and adventures that anyone can do. Be sure to catch a glimpse of the sunset as its slowly and colorfully vanishes behind the mountain.

The downtown Historic district was established in 1779 and is centered around the Court Square. Downtown architecture consists of early stones, brick and logs, and more commercial materials and buildings from the 19th and 20th century. The different types of architecture represent the growth of the historic downtown to keep up with modern day style.

During the late 19th century, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had made it to Harrisonburg creating a demand for new and more houses. Many new homes were created along Main Street, one famous one in particular was Queen Anne Joshua Wilton’s House, which now is a bed and breakfast but remains the same style from being built.

During the 20th century, Rockingham country became a national leader in poultry production bringing new factories and warehouses along Chesapeake Street.

In 1960 there was a trend of tearing down old buildings and rebuilding them. Rather than that, many downtown buildings are being refurbished and put to better use. Today many old and unused buildings are being turned into apartments and offices to welcome more people such as the Wetsel Seed Company Building.