

Maas Building [No. 207 & No. 209]

1874 – Nathan Maas, owner

August Myers, whose clothing and dry goods business had been destroyed by the Great Fire of 1874, was the first to lease Maas' new building. His “**City of Paris**” store, as it was known, filled both floors. Myers is credited with being one of the originators of both the Orton Circus and the W.W. Cole Circus, frequent visitors to Independence. In 1886, **Mose Reitler & A. Jacobi**, both experienced tradesmen, opened a men’s clothing store at this location. Reitler sold his interest in 1888 leaving Jacobi’s “**The New Store**” to carry on.

Charles F. Herrick bought the building in 1889 and divided it into two storefronts with **Herrick’s Jewelry** moving into No. 207.

He was one of the early pioneers and first established his business here in 1856. He served as mayor of Independence for four separate terms of office, the last one being in 1905 shortly before his death. In 1891, he took Daniel S. Jones as a partner, forming **Herrick & Jones**. Later, he partnered with his son, Charles G. Herrick. He retired after 47 years in the jewelry trade, selling both the building and the business to the **Howard Thomas Jewelry House** in 1903. Eventually, the business reverted to his son, but the younger Charles struggled financially, finally declaring bankruptcy in 1916 and selling to **H.G. Fussell Jewelry**.

Herrick initially rented No. 209 on the east to **Snow & Hyde**, a men's clothing store. They soon found other quarters and

a variety of businesses came and went for several years. In 1895, **Littlejohn & Son Boots & Shoes**, a business founded in 1878, moved here from the north side of Main Street. Abraham Littlejohn, best known for his tales of the many Civil War battles in which he fought, retired in 1898, leaving his son Will in charge. Will was known locally for his success in amateur bicycle racing. He continued in business until 1930.