

Fort Recovery Monuments • 125 North Wayne Street



North Main Street, west side

McDaniel had a tavern in this area in from 1835-1878. It was then the Van Baker Hotel in 1880-1900 or so. For some time Jack Dennison ran it.

John Premer started Fort Recovery Monuments at his home in 1909. By 1927 he moved into this building, and was here until 1944. In 1945 Darrell (Ted) Franklin and Walter Barnes acquired it, then only Ted Franklin in 1949. In 1971 Larry Keller owned and operated the Fort Recovery Monument shop. In 1979 Charles and Natalie Meinerding purchased it and conducted business here for 37 years, and in 2006 sold it to Edwin Nickel of Versailles. It is still called by its original 1909 name, Fort Recovery Monuments.

The second floor of the building is owned and used by the local Masonic Lodge.

Fort Recovery Monument Shop is on the left and Ron May Plumbing is on the right. The Masons occupy the second story.



Fort Recovery Monuments and Ron May Plumbing

Ron May Plumbing • 127 North Wayne Street

North of the Van Baker Hotel stood a three story building occupied by Sam Nickerson, druggist. It was called the Berkheimer-Wagner Building. Nickerson had a drug and general book business in 1882.

John Wurdeman had a confectionery store and groceries in the late 1800s-early 1900s. The three story building was then moved further north on Wayne Street.

In 1927 Henry Vogel operated a saloon here with Charles Steinle. In 1935 Wangler Hardware moved into this location. Ehrhart Wangler began in the hardware business in 1916. Four generations later, the hardware store is still owned by a Wangler descendant. Ehrhart Wangler's son, Cletus, became manager, and in 1944 Cletus and son William purchased the store. Bill's children learned the trade but daughter, Patti Jo and her husband Mike Minor then took over Wangler Hardware in 1977. The fifth generation, Matt Minor, has joined the business today. The Wanglers had been here for 42 years. In 2001 they built a new hardware store on 49 south. This year marks the

Information obtained from: *Fort Recovery Businesses Then & Now: 225 years of Adventure!* By Helen LeFevre (2016)

History in the Making by Cora Pearson, Girl Scout Gold Award 2026

100th anniversary of Wangler Hardware in Fort Recovery. Today, Ron and Pat May use the location for their plumbing business, called Ron May Plumbing.



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