

Curran Roofing Company

Founded: 1884

Location: Original location unknown, Fort Wayne; after 1892, Marion; West Nelson; 1116 West Third Street; Spencer and Western (at some point—unclear when company at this location); 105 East Third Street (1904); 513 South Washington Street; 505 South Washington Street; 511 South Washington Street; 609–611 South Washington Street (–1954); 1820 West Second Street (1954–)

The Curran Roofing Company traces its origins to 1884, although an ancestor living in Nebraska, W. H. Curran, was in the roofing business before that year. Forrest V. Curran, originally from New York State, moved to Fort Wayne in 1884 and began working as a roofer. Around 1892 he moved to Marion. Curran started in the roofing business by working out of a pushcart that contained his roofing materials. By 1901 he was advertising himself as “The Gravel Roofer.” He had a separate office at 105 East Third Street by at least 1904. By 1909 Curran had been joined by his son Arthur and was operating under the name F. V. Curran & Son. By 1914 the company was known as the F. V. Curran Roofing Company.

Forrest died in 1930, and leadership of the roofing company passed to his son Glen T. Curran. In 1931 Curran Roofing Company advertised its services in asphalt and asbestos applications and composition roofing; it also acted as a jobber for roofing products and latite shingles. Glen’s son Robert and grandson Todd later followed him in leading the company. In 1954 Curran Roofing Company moved its offices to 1820 West Second Street; it had previously been located on South Washington Street for many years. By the 1980s the company had expanded into siding and sheet-metal work and served customers within a sixty-mile radius of Marion. By 1984, 65 percent of the firm’s

work, carried out by union labor, was industrial and commercial; 35 percent, undertaken by nonunion workers, was residential.