

## Farver Lumber Company

Founded: 1889

Location: Originally southeast of Shipshewana (1889– ); Main and Talmadge Streets, Shipshewana (1993)

Jonathan Farver grew up on a farm south of Shipshewana, where he learned the cabinetmaking trade from his father. His father, a farmer and part-time cabinetmaker, was Presbyterian; his mother was Mennonite. Jonathan and his brother William Farver established a sawmill and lumberyard southeast of Shipshewana in 1889. Shipshewana was platted in 1889 and grew up along the new Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railway line. With the growth of the railway, Farver Brothers moved into town.

Jonathan and William seem to have been previously involved as partners in a general contracting business: Farver Brothers was listed in an 1893 atlas as a thriving building and contracting establishment founded in 1884 and employing more than twenty men.

William Farver died in 1906, and Jonathan continued the lumber company on his own. In December 1914 Jonathan Farver incorporated the Farver Lumber Company in partnership with his brother-in-law Valentine D. Weaver and Hiram Norris. Weaver had begun working at Farver Brothers as a bookkeeper after completing a business course at Valparaiso University. He stayed with the company fifteen years, later becoming president of the National Bank of Lagrange. The company manufactured hardwood lumber for both the wholesale and retail market. It also provided a variety of products for farm and home construction, including double-wall silos, sewer tile, cedar fence posts, “Can’t Sag” farm gates, hog houses, and hayracks.

In November 1986 HHI Wholesale Home Center formed FLI, Inc., with which it acquired Farver Lumber Company later that month. In July 1990 HHI Wholesale Home Center acquired Farver Lumber Company outright.