

Tarrant's at the corner of West Broad and Foushee, Richmond, Virginia

**1 West Broad Street. 3 West Broad Street. and 212 N. Foushee Street
1867/1868**

Long known as Tarrant's, this corner lot is located in the 1810 Richmond City annexation. Over the years this area of Broad Street experienced many changes. Most significantly, as post-Civil War reconstruction began following the evacuation fire, damaged Main Street businesses moved to Broad Street as the city rebuilt. The very width of the street provided a central area for transportation that was key to Richmond's recovery. During this time the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad operated down the center of the 118 foot wide Broad Street.

The 1847 Richmond City deed from Thomas Rutherford to J. C. Carl Loth conveyed this thirty-foot lot (1 and 3 West Broad Street) and its appurtenances on the corner of Foushee and Broad Streets. The following land tax records of 1850 indicate a small building on the lot. Perhaps, it was on the Foushee Street side because J. C. C. Loth is listed in the 1860 Richmond City Directory as living on Foushee. Loth mortgaged this property six times between 1847 and 1868.

In 1868 J. C. Carl Loth split the lot with improvements and conveyed them to two separate individuals, Henry C. Boscher and Christian Heisz. Within three months Boscher sold 3 West Broad to William B. Jones.

Christian Heisz, a shoemaker, owned, lived, and worked at 1 West Broad Street between 1868 and 1883. During this same period, wholesale grocer William B. Jones owned thirty downtown brick tenements including 3 West Broad Street. William B. Jones is listed in the 1870 Richmond City Census with personal worth at \$250,000 (approximately \$9,000,000 today).

This split lot with improvements was joined again in 1883/4 when both fifteen foot lots (1 West and 3 West Broad) were sold to Peter H. Mayo. He and his wife and their two daughters held this property until 1959. Not only was Mayo the president of one of the largest American tobacco Richmond factories, he was a far-sighted businessman. He protected his property holdings by initiating an 1885 deed of trust to George H. Burwell (his wife's father) for the Foushee and Broad property as well as his home at 111 Franklin Street. This action protected his wife and their two daughters (Agnes M. Carter and Sally M. Cameron) should there be a downturn in his business ventures.

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The Mayo family held this thirty-foot Broad Street property for seventy-five years from 1883/4 until 1959.

1 West Broad Street operated as a shoemaker's shop following the Civil War and then in 1883 became a drugstore with R. H. M. Harrison as druggist, followed by William G. Tarrant and James H. Grant from 1908 to 1903 and then Tarrant until 1955.

The Foushee (named for Richmond's first mayor) side addition to the rear of 1 West Broad occurred in the 1880s. For a short time Charles Myers, an African American, operated as a shoemaker at this address.

One can only speculate about how the two buildings evolved into the present day Second Empire brick fronting the thirty-foot lot on Broad Street. The basement under the thirty-foot lot appears to be antebellum. However, today's brick building attests to a more modern date. Unfortunately, there are no insurance policies that reveal a date for the Second Empire style. Land tax records from 1851 to 1857 record stable taxation with no change. From 1858 to 1868 the taxes increased significantly on both addresses attesting to Virginia's need for revenue to support the war and or perhaps an improvement. In 1870, 1 West Broad's value decreased substantially while in comparison 3 West Broad was much higher. The 1884 deed transferring William B. Jones's (deceased) property to his son, William Ashby Jones, describes a brick tenement at 3 West Broad Street. The combined land taxes for both addresses in 1884 were 3000/4950. After Peter Mayo purchased the two properties the 1885 land taxes were 8000/12500. With this jump one might assume that the united front and Foushee side were improved architecturally with the Second Empire style.

1 West and 3 West Broad Street are situated in the Richmond Old and Historic District. It was an important corner bringing drugstore services to nearby residents for over eighty years spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Once again, one hundred and thirty years later this building is bringing neighborhood service to Richmond's community with an upscale but affordable restaurant: Tarrant's Cafe.