

Old Codgers Charleston
Address Book

BROAD STREET

The first three blocks of Broad Street in Charleston have for most of the century been like New York City's Wall Street, the home of financial institutions and attorneys. Before it was paved with asphalt it enjoyed the distinction of being one of the few streets paved with wooden bricks to cut down on the noise of the horses and carriages which would disturb the occupants of the offices as they conducted business. In 1970 two thirds of Charleston's more than 300 lawyers hung their shingles on Broad Street. An interesting analysis of the "Broad Street Lawyer" by Mariana Popp may be found in the News & Courier, September 4, 1977. During the middle of the century the term "The Broad Street Ring" became a popular description of the political group which ran the city government and elections. As the persons of power retired or died, and the city expanded its borders in the latter part of the century the "Ring" designation fell into disuse. Broad Street was also a popular demarcation for residential prestige with the term "lives below Broad" describing members of old Charleston families, or possession of wealth, or social prestige. Here again, the term is not as descriptive of certain social qualities as it used to be as many old Charleston family members in the latter part of the century fled the inner-city area as tourism and traffic multiplied and property value skyrocketed beyond the incomes of young families. The corner at Broad and Meeting Street came to be designated as the "Corner of the Four Laws", St. Michaels Church representing the law of God, the Federal Post office marking the law of the U.S. Government, the County Court House standing for the law of the State, and City Hall representing City law. The street became mainly residential after it crossed King Street, ending in marsh and waterway after it crossed Ashley until landfill projects extended it to what is now Lockwood Boulevard on the Ashley River. In 1999 a walkway along the riverside was laid from Broad to just below Calhoun for recreational use and beautification.

1 1999 Carolina First Bank 1990 North Carolina Bank 1969 thru 1980 Bankers Trust, main office 1963 Carolina Bank & Trust Company 1960 vacant 1991 thru 1950 Carolina Savings Bank This respected bank was organized by George W. Williams who was succeeded as president in 1903 by his son, George W. Williams (see 16 Meeting) who died in 1923(see 15 Meeting Street) His brother Henry Porter Williams (see 31 East Battery) became the next president, serving from 1917 until 1944 followed by Henry's (see 15 Meeting) son, Ellison Williams in 1944. In 1956 the bank merged with First National Bank of South Carolina and this office was closed in May of 1957. The building's second floor was used by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company until 1902 as an exchange. 1940 also Magnolia Cemetery Offices/ French Consular Agent 1910 also Carolina Portland Cement 1901 also George Williams Company Lawyers- 1940 Moore and Mouzon

2 1999 Wachovia Bank of South Carolina In December of 1991, South Carolina National Bank merged with Wachovia Bank. It retained its name at this site until 1994 when it officially changed its name at all locations. 1990 South Carolina National Bank SCN which had been long established at the corner of Broad and State Street (number 16 Broad) gradually expanded its facilities to occupy the whole north side of this block on Broad Street extending from East Bay to State Street. 1960 Marcus Rexall Drug Store This popular drug store burned down 1920 thru 1950 Demos Brothers restaurant 1940 thru 1950 Halsey & Cummings architects 1950 Edward N. Quincy, accountant / Harvey W. Smith, accountant/ Louis D. Simonds office / Southern Shipping Company/Franklin National Life Insurance Co. / Iron Workers Union 1930 thru 1940 J. Kollock, Inc. forest engineers 1940 George D. McKnight CPA /Doscher Business School 1930 Gadsden & Waring, real estate/ A.S. Furtwangler office / William Furtwangler, forest grading 1901 thru 1910 J.S. Pinkussohn Cigar Store