

**COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
STAFF REPORT
January 23, 2018 Meeting**

17. **COA-028679-2018** (L. Kincaid)

**212 N. Foushee St.(1-3 W. Broad St.)
Broad Street Old and Historic District**

Project Description:

Install an awning.

Staff Contact:

M. Pitts

The applicant requests approval to install a fabric awning at the entrance to Tarrant's Café in the Broad Street Old and Historic District. The proposed shed awning will be 7 feet wide, project 5 feet from the front façade, and will be 7' from the sidewalk. A second proposed awning will be 25'3" wide, project 6'4.5" from the front façade, and will be 7' from the sidewalk. The applicant proposes an acrylic fabric material in grey and red stripes to match the existing awning on the North Foushee elevation of the building. The proposed awning will have a straight valance. No signage is proposed on the awnings and the awning is proposed at a height below the decorative transom windows.

Staff recommends approval of the project. The *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines* note that the use of awnings on commercial structures should enhance the individual building on which such coverings are placed as well as the image of the surrounding area (pg. 70). Specifically, the *Guidelines* note that the awning valance should be no lower than 7 feet above the sidewalk; metal, plastic or overly ornate fabric awnings should be avoided; and the choice of colors should coordinate with the overall color scheme (pg. 70, #3, 4, 7). The proposed awnings meet these standards as the grey and red fabric awnings coordinate with the existing awning and the painted brick structure and are located 7 feet above the sidewalk. The awning placement ensures that the decorative transoms will remain visible. An awning on Broad Street is appropriate as historically, there were retractable awnings on many the storefronts along the commercial corridor. As the proposed awnings meet the standards for awnings in the Guidelines, staff recommends approval of the proposed awnings.

It is the assessment of staff that the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation in Section 30-930.7(b) of the City Code, as well as with the *Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines*, specifically the pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code.