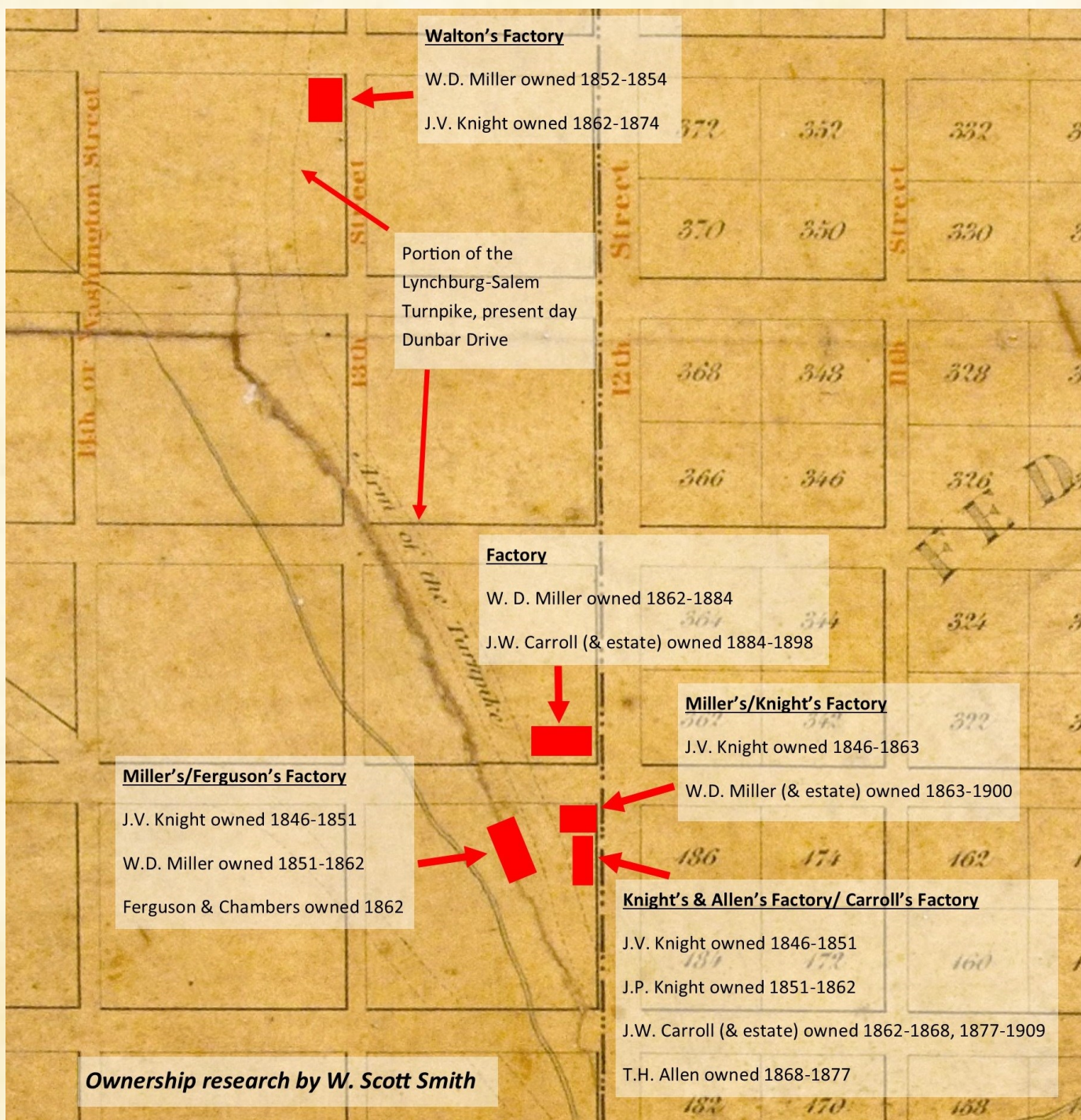


Miller's, Knight's, Ferguson's Tobacco Factories

A small complex of Tobacco Factories were constructed in the mid-19th century along a section of the Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike which is present day Dunbar Drive. Tobacco Factories were typically called by their owner's or manager's names. These buildings are often referred to as the Miller's and Knight's buildings, after their their owners William D. Miller and John P. Knight in 1851. Miller owned several of these at various times as did Knight. It can be confusing which names applied to what buildings and which probably evolved over the decades of ownership. A tobacconist named T. C. S. Ferguson also owned one of the buildings. For more information on these buildings [click here](#)

Due to the war, many of these tobacco buildings were converted into makeshift Civil War hospitals in the city. Knight's and Miller's were supervised by Surgeon J.K. Page as divisions of General Hospital No.2. They remained "the oldest buildings in Lynchburg which served as hospitals" (Peter W. Houck, *A Prototype of a Confederate Hospital Center in Lynchburg, Virginia*).



Miller's, Knight's, Ferguson's Tobacco Factories



Photo courtesy The Lynchburg News & Advance



Click to watch video on these hospital buildings



Scene in a Lynchburg Tobacco Factory.

...On Wednesday morning I started out to hunt for Miller Hospital and after trudging through the snow until I was tired of it and at last I found it. Here I found Brother John. He is in fine health at this time and looks better than I ever saw him before. He is satisfied to remain where he is, but is very adverse to going back into the regiment. James L. Stephenson to his wife, Fannie E. Stephenson, from Miller's Hospital, Lynchburg, Virginia, dated January 31st 1863.

I don't see very lively times here sure I am confined to my bed all of my time. I have tolerable fair, as good as could be expected for a Hos. [hospital] but can't get no corn bread which I would like very much to have. – Pvt. T. T. Graham to Melia, from Knight's Hospital, Lynchburg, Va., October 3rd 1863.

I was promoted [from College Hospital] and put in charge of a special hospital (the Ferguson) where I served until the following April. The Ferguson Hospital was on both sides of the so-called "dog alley", now Salem Avenue, and could accommodate from 800 to 1000 patients, and, of course, I had a full corps of assistants to help look after them and nurses and other attendants of course... Confederate Surgeon: The Personal Recollections of E.A. Craighill, edited by Peter W. Houck.