

Be a Tourist in your own City

~ Jewish Ottawa Walking Tour ~

- 1 54 ByWard Market Square
- 2 24 ByWard Market Square
- 3 111 Clarence Street

- 4 375 King Edward Avenue
- 5 25 Stewart Street
- 6 149 Somerset Street

1 54 ByWard Market Square

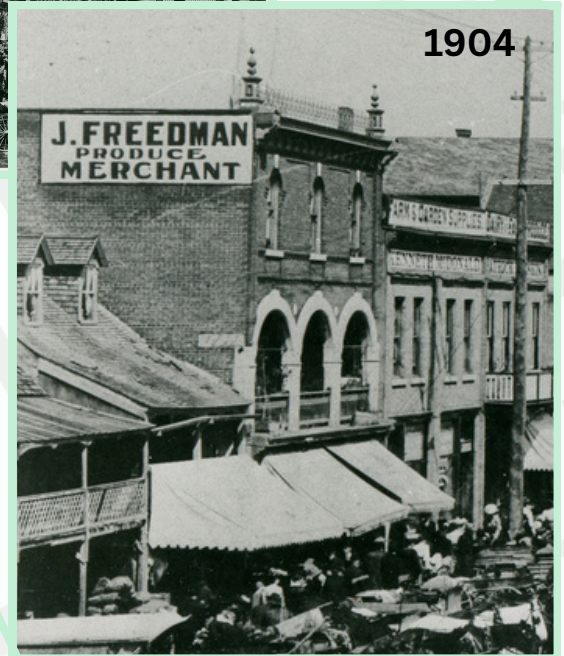
J. Freedman & Son Wholesale Grocery

Jacob Freedman was born in Zhitomir, Ukraine, on April 15, 1864. He arrived in Ottawa in 1891, at the age of 27.

Initially, Freedman sold butter, eggs, fruit, and vegetables door to door in Sandy Hill and Lowertown. He opened his first store in 1894 at 34 1/2 ByWard Market Square. By 1904, he had established the J.

Freedman & Son Wholesale Grocery with son Michael. The store became the largest wholesale grocery in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.

This location was at 54 ByWard Market Square. In 1912, Freedman became a very successful commodities trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. In 1951, he sold the Ottawa business to the Zelikovitz brothers, Nathan, Dave, Max and Saul, and turned to real estate, founding the Freedman Realty Co. Ltd.



Diamend's Dairy

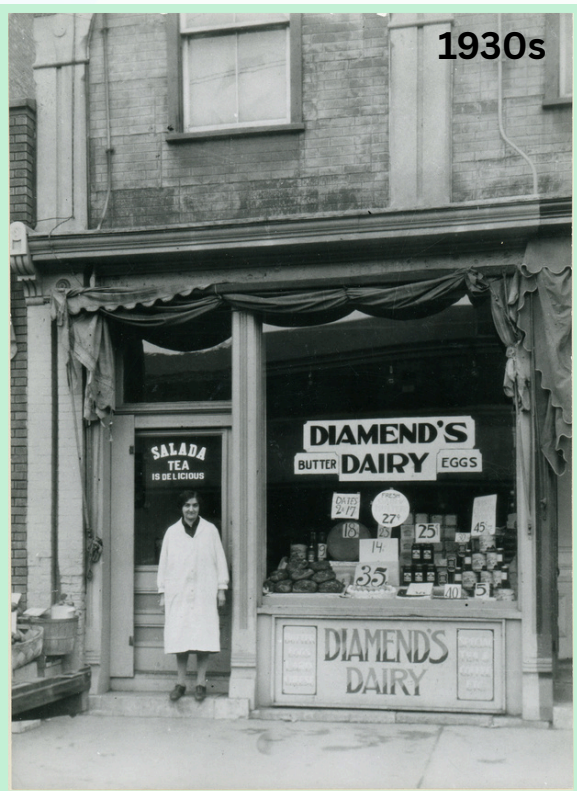
By 1927, J. Freedman had moved on to another location and Mrs. Sarah Diamend had opened Diamend's Dairy at 54 ByWard Market Square.

By 1952, the shop had been taken over by Zunder's Quality Fruit Supply another Jewish owned business.

Take a closer look ...

This building is very easy to identify because much of the original facade is still there. Looking at the photo of J. Freedman from 1904, you can still see the original structure of the arched balcony which has now been converted into windows.

By the time Diamend Dairy took over the location, it appears the balcony had been bricked in and smaller windows added. That being said, you can still see the bottoms of the arches and the carved details.



24 ByWard Market Square

Shore's Dairy

For nearly 100 years, 24 ByWard Market Square has been Jewish owned. By 1927, the location was owned by a Mr. John Shore who also owned 44 ByWard Market Square. Both businesses were recorded as produce shops. By the 1930s, 24 was renamed “Shore’s Dairy” and 44 was “Jack Shore Dairy.” While the shop was still owned by John Shore, it is Dave Sinder in the photo, presumably the individual managing the location.



1930s

Take a closer look ...

When looking at the photo above, what similarities do you see in the building? What differences? We believe this storefront was located under the current green “Rivers” sign. This is based off of the way the door is inset. It also appears that the wall continues past the edge of the photo.

While the stonework on the outside of the building is different, it is clear they tried to maintain the original look with the updated brick pattern.



1990s

Irving Rivers

In 1950, Irving Rivers purchased the retail clothing side of his father’s business. He renamed the store “Irving Rivers” after himself and adopted the slogan “We corner the Market” which has been used for the past 75 years.

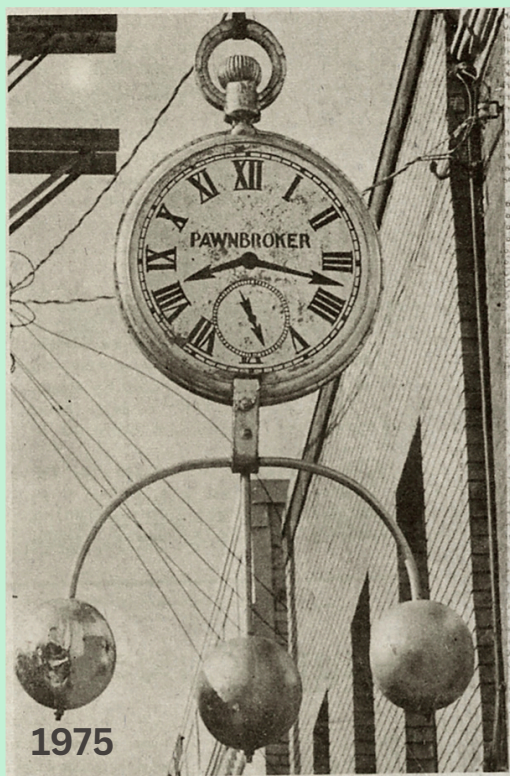
The shop still operates today in it’s original 24 ByWard Market location and is one of the longest standing Jewish businesses in the Market.

111 Clarence Street

D. Wolfson Watchmaker

From the early 1920s to the 1940s, 111 Clarence Street in the ByWard Market was home to D. Wolfson Watchmaker as well as his home. The shop owner, David Wolfson, was a watchmaker, repairer, and jeweler. Wolfson decorated the storefront of his business with several clock-themed pieces, including, a large, tin pocket watch which hung over the doorway of his shop until it closed.

Upon closing the store, Wolfson gave the tin pocket watch to Sam Nathanson who owned Sam's Buy and Sell at 41 William Street. Nathanson had a friend add the words "Pawnbroker" across the clockface and attached the three balls to the bottom, indicating the international symbol for a pawnbroker's shop. Between the two stores, the pocket watch became an iconic piece of ByWard Market history. So much so, that in 2017, a replica of the Wolfson Clock Sign was erected at George Street Plaza.



Take a closer look ...

For this closer look, we encourage you to check out the replica clock at the George Street Plaza when you finish the walking tour. Much like the original, this replica sports the metallic gold colour, the winder at the top of the pocket watch, and balls, representative of the international symbol for pawnbrokers.

Adath Jeshurun Synagogue

Since 1904, 375 King Edward Avenue has been home to the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue.

In 1893, congregation Adath Jeshurun purchased a plot of land at 375 King Edward to build a synagogue. In 1904, the plans were completed, and the corner stone was laid.

During the first half of the 20th century, Adath Jeshurun served as the principal orthodox congregation. However, in 1956, congregation Adath Jeshurun and the congregation Agudath Achim joined together to form the Beth Shalom Congregation, which was located on Chapel Street. Because of this amalgamation, the King Edward Shul became the Jewish Memorial Chapel, also known as the Chevra Kadisha, which provided funeral services. The building remained the Chevra Kadisha until its sale to a Seventh Day Adventist group in 1997. You can still visit the original building and it still has its beautiful Magen David window.



Post- 1956

Take a closer look ...

In the past 120 years, not much of this building has changed. The two large onion shaped domes on the top were designed to resemble architecture commonly used in mosques and eastern orthodox churches. The window shapes, which are common in synagogues, were designed to resemble the Ten Commandments.

Take a look at the photo to the left. Do you notice anything different about the building? Aside from the missing parapet and Magen David window which were added in 1929, you'll notice there are two doors instead of one. This is because when the building was turned into the Chevra Kadisha, the men's and women's entrance had to be combined to fit caskets through the doors.



Pre- 1930



Petigorsky Family home

The Petigorsky home, located at 25 Stewart Street, was the home of Oscar Petigorsky and his family. The house, which features a prominent Magen David in the gables, was built by Oscar Petigorsky himself and is rumoured to have been built with the Magen David as a message to the University of Ottawa, which did not accept Jewish students into their school at the time.

Oscar was born in southern Russia near the Black Sea in 1881. He arrived in Ottawa in 1904 and worked in a variety of jobs before establishing Petigorsky Ltd. Leather and Shoe Findings at 21-23 York Street in the ByWard Market.

He was very active in community affairs, serving as President of Congregation Machzikei Hadas and was also a founder of the Ottawa Hebrew Benefit Society.

Take a closer look ...

Just like Adath Jeshurun, this building is 120 years old and still maintains its original facade and details.

The house still has its original brick and stone work as well as the stucco Magen David in the gables near the roof. In fact, aside from the railings and pillars, this house's exterior maintains all of its original materials.



149 Somerset Street

Freiman Family home

The Freiman home, located at 149 Somerset Street has seen decades of the city's history within its walls.

Lillian and A.J. Freiman were well known Ottawa residents, not just in the Jewish community, but in Ottawa as a whole. A.J. owned the prominent department store Freiman's Ltd. on Rideau Street, and Lillian was known for her philanthropic nature.

In 1913, Lillian and A.J. moved to 149 Somerset Street, which became the meeting place for many of Lillian's charitable groups. During the First World War, Lillian hosted a Red Cross Sewing Circle in her home. She worked tirelessly



1940

throughout the war providing relief and established the Great War Veterans Association which later became the Royal Canadian Legion. Her home was often used as a sanctuary for veterans on leave.



1922

Lillian Freiman's charitable and philanthropic work continued after the war, and it is widely accepted that the first Canadian poppies for Remembrance Day were produced in her living room at 149 Somerset Street. Lillian's involvement with the National Poppy Advisory Committee and as the Chair of Ottawa's annual Poppy campaign earned her the nickname "The Poppy Lady."

After Lillian and A.J. had passed away, the home was left to the Royal Canadian Legion and is now home to the Army Ottawa Officers' Mess, which hosts veterans and those on active duty. While the home is now used by the Legion, the family's original menorot are on display and the craftsmanship of the interior remains the same.

Take a closer look ...

What similarities and differences do you see in the facade of 149 Somerset?

Much of the buildings original features remain the same such as the circular sunroom to the left and the stonework faces on the second story of the building. But the balcony over the front doors has been removed in the last few decades. If you look closely enough, you can see where the brick was removed.