

# Jewish Homes of Lowertown East on Clarence and York Streets



*Photos (clockwise): 257 Clarence St., 241-43 York St., 237-39 York St., and 261-63 Clarence St. as it appeared in August 2016. Taken by Jolson Lim.*

**By Jolson Lim**

**House Researcher – 2016 Summer Student**

**Prepared for the Lowertown Community Association Heritage  
Committee**

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### **257 Clarence Street (also known as the Cherry house)**



*Photo taken by Jolson Lim, August 4, 2016.*

### *About the house and property*

Due to the 1930 Ottawa city hall fire that destroyed many old tax assessment records, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact year the current house was built. In the 1861 census, however, it is noted that a house is being built on the property. In the 1871 tax assessment rolls, the property is valued at \$1,000, a high sum compared to larger property lots adjacent to it. Based on the two

records, the building was built sometime in the 1860s. Meanwhile, fire insurance plans show the current structure there in 1877. Given the approximate date of construction, the building is one of the oldest homes in Lowertown East.

The Cherry family of Ireland are the first known residents of the lot and current building. Before the current house was constructed, a one-storey wood-framed building stood at the location that the Cherry family lived in for at least 15 years. The building sits on Lot B of the north side of Parry Street between King Edward Avenue and Nelson Street, plan number 43586. Land registry records show Ann Cherry purchased the south side of Lot B for \$88.16 on May 19, 1875. The lot stretched from the north front of Parry [now Clarence] Street to current site of Murray Street (The street itself was not built at the time the plan was drawn up). The south half of Lot B is 33 feet by 100 feet. The lot's width is roughly half a chain (66 feet, which was also used to determine the width of a road), and has a length of 200 feet. Lot B is thinner than its adjacent lots, and was probably added to the original lot plan, because the Cherry family had been among the earliest Lowertown residents able to afford purchasing land from the Crown and already had a home there.

### *Architecture and context*

The house is a two-and-a-half storeys with a brick veneer and a veranda on the front and front-left side of the building. The gabled roof slopes down on the left and right sides of the building and has a relatively steep pitch. There are six white rectangular windows on the front; two on the first floor, three on the second, and one small one on the attic level. The part of the veranda on the left side of the building is relatively narrow, and intended for a second entranceway into the building, rather as a spot for patio furniture. There is a large deciduous tree in front of the building. To the rear, on the left, there is a rectangular extension that is included in the brick veneer. Perhaps what is most unique about the home is that it includes large wooden rear buildings, almost taking up as much space as the brick home itself. These buildings wrap the property on the left and north sides, and are vintage in appearance [see Figure 1.1]. These rear buildings had been used as a stable in the past. A news advertisement in the *Ottawa Journal* from 1950 show ponies, buggies, and saddles for sale at the property.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, a 1952

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<sup>1</sup> "Livestock for sale," *Ottawa Journal*, December 21, 1950, p. 28.

advertisement shows 100 surplus benches, 16 drawers, and 25 folding tables for sale at the address, which likely used the rear buildings as storage space. Additionally, city directories show James and Sarah Lawlor ran a washing compound out of the property in the 1920s and 1930s.



*Figure 1.1: The rear of 257 Clarence St. Photos taken by Bruce Elliott, August 9, 2016.*

According to fire insurance maps from 1877 and 1888/1901, the brick veneer was not constructed with the building and was added in sometime before 1912. Additionally, the rear wooden stables were built sometime before then as well. Like many homes in Lowertown, ornate verandas, cornices porches, and other exterior decor were added. In a photo of James and Sarah Lawlor, a rounded classical style column is holding up the front porch. Meanwhile, the porch railing spindles are curved. Most likely, the more ostentatious features from the home were removed rather than restored at a significant cost.

The building was on the location of proposed office developments adjacent to the King Edward Freeway, which made up the fourth phase of Lowertown East's urban renewal plan. Neither the office buildings or the freeway was built and the property is part of a heritage overlay. Currently, there are only a handful of houses in Lowertown that are of similar architectural style still remaining. These houses, featuring a sloped roof and a veranda tend to date from 1865 to 1900. If the home was constructed in 1861, then it may be the first of such styled homes constructed in Lowertown.

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## Notable Residents

### *The Cherry family [1846 to 1893]*

Beginning in 1846, the plot of land where the current house stands was occupied by William (1809 – 1848) and Ann Cherry (née Anderson, 1810 – 1892). An 1846 map of Ordnance land possessions, tracts of land in Lowertown owned by the British following the completion of the Rideau Canal, show William's name [Figure 1.2].<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the Cherry family stayed for 47 years on the property. At the time, most residents living on Ordnance lands either paid rents or squatted on the relatively large amount of open land directly east of the Rideau Canal. In the early 1840s, William and Ann Cherry left Ireland for Canada. Many Irish emigrated due to economic hardship in the early-mid 1800s. They first stayed in Kingston, where their first son, William Jr. (1844 – 1894), was born in 1844. He would eventually become a druggist and alderman in Wellington ward. The Cherry family eventually settled permanently in Ottawa in 1846, then known as By Town.<sup>3</sup> That year, William and Ann gave birth to their second son, Samuel (1846 – 1904), this time in By Town. The family were Presbyterian and likely attended Knox Presbyterian Church on Elgin Street.



Figure 1.2: A map from April 1846 shows William Cherry's name on the parcel of land that is currently the 257 Clarence St. lot. Note the Bywash, which was an open sewer stream that ran on King Street (now King Edward Avenue). Microfiche NMC16171. (Library and Archives Canada)

<sup>2</sup> Map of lots on Ordnance Department land in Lowertown, April 1846, *Library and Archives Canada*, microfiche, NMC16171.

<sup>3</sup> "A Respected Citizen Gone: William Cherry," *Ottawa Journal*, March 7, 1894, p. 7.

In the 1851 census, William is listed as a joiner and lived in a one-storey wood-framed house with four other people. William either bought or built the home. One-storey wood homes were common in Lowertown, as such material were inexpensive and construction using wood was simple. Samuel became a carpenter, and married Margaret Gibson (1846 – 1923). They had 12 children, at least five of which died within two years of their birth. Lowertown in the late 1800s had a significantly higher infant mortality rate than the rest of the city.<sup>4</sup> In 1871, Ann Chery purchased Lot B, among adjacent lots that were gradually sold off, for \$82.16 from the Crown. The Cherry family left the home in 1893, moving to a similarly-designed home on Somerset Street. No known photos exist of the family.

### *The Boudreault family [1914 to 1920]*

George A. Boudreault rented the home from Hormisdas Major during the First World War and for two years after. During that time, he was the assistant and then chief messenger and housekeeper of the House of Commons. At the time of his retirement in 1933, at age 72, he was the longest serving public servant on Parliament Hill, according to the *Ottawa Journal*.<sup>5</sup> He started as a page boy in 1872, and served every prime minister from John A. Macdonald to R.B. Bennett. The *Journal* called him one of Ottawa's "most highly esteemed French-Canadian citizens."

### *The Torontow family [1920 to 1925]*

The first Jewish family to move into 257 Clarence St., the Torontow name is an easily recognizable within the Ottawa Jewish community due to the number of descendants and their famed hardware store. Joseph Torontow left Belarus, arriving in Canada in 1904. He lived in Montreal before moving to Ottawa in 1909. In 1916, he founded Torontow Hardware Company Ltd. The family would own and work at a well-known store at the corner of Dalhousie and Clarence streets for several decades. His son, Abraham Raphael Torontow, bought the Cherry property in 1920 and moved in his family. Many of his relatives lived in the home and worked at the family store several blocks away. He and his wife, Ethel, had eight sons and two daughters. Abraham had worked as a peddler for much of his time in Ottawa, city directory records show.

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<sup>4</sup> Michael E. Mercier and Christopher G. Boone, "Infant mortality in Ottawa, Canada, 1901: assessing cultural, economic, and environmental factors," *Journal of Historical Geography* 28(4), 2002.

<sup>5</sup> "Chief Messenger On Hill Retiring," *Ottawa Journal*, January 31, 1933, p. 1.

He passed away in 1923, in his mid-fifties. Ethel sold the home in 1925, land registry records show.

### **List of Residents of 257 Clarence St.**

**1846 to 1893 – Samuel Cherry and family**, carpenter

**1894 to 1898 – Alphonse Valiquette**, printer

**1899 to 1903 – Henry McClory and family**, printer

**1904 - Francois Sabourin**, driver

**1905 – Napoleon Gravel**, driver

**1906 to 1913 – Hormisdas Major and family**, contractor

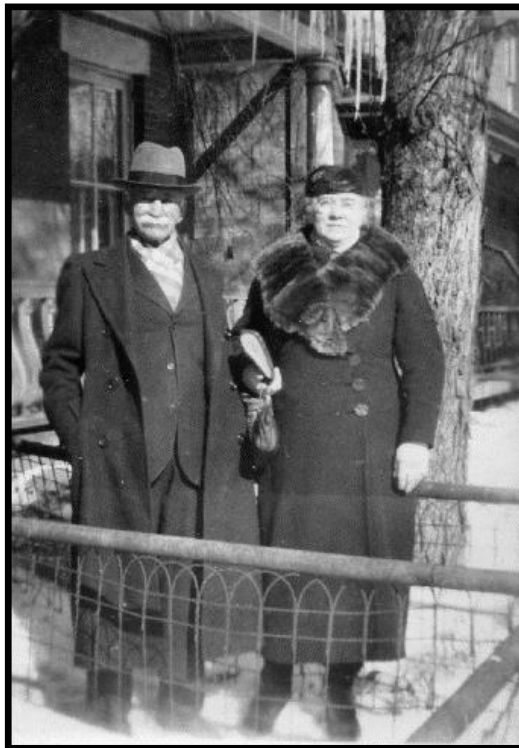
**1914 to 1920 – George A Boudreault**, chief messenger and housekeeper of House of Commons

**1921 to 1925 – Abraham Torontow and family**, peddler

**1926 to 1950 – James and Sarah Lawlor**, ran a washing compound [Figure 1.3]

**1951 to 1957 – Delbert Cundell and family**, second-hand goods store at 97 Clarence St.

*Source:* Ottawa city directories, LAC.



*Figure 1.4: James (1862-1953) and Sarah Lawlor (1880-1956) in front of 257 Clarence Street, undated but likely 1930s. They lived at the address from 1926 to 1950. Note the differences with the porches of 257 and 261. Photo from the Lawlor family Ancestry.com website.*



## 261-63 Clarence Street (also known as the Silver house)



*Photo taken by Jolson Lim, August 4, 2016.*

### *About the house and property*

Before the current house was built, a wood-framed one-and-a-half-storey home with the 261 address existed on the property as early as 1875, when the address first appeared in the city directory. The house sits on Lot 8 of the north side of Parry [now Clarence] Street between King Edward Avenue and Nelson Street, plan number 43586. The property forms the south half of the lot, with the north half facing Murray Street. On January 2, 1893, Benjamin Silver bought the south half from Samuel Cherry for \$500, who had officially acquired the entire lot from the Crown for \$268 on November 2, 1892, land registry records show. The Cherry family had owned part of Lot 8 as early as 1871-72, tax assessment rolls show. The south half of Lot 8 was 66 feet (one chain) by 100 feet. The older 261 Clarence St. building existed on the western half of the property. City directory records show Silver ran a general store in 261 Clarence St. before it was

torn down. The current home at 261-63 Clarence St. was constructed in 1898. On April 2, 1898, the eastern half of the property was sold to Anable Bellair for \$310. 265-67 Clarence St. was subsequently built. The first tenants, the Sugarman family, are listed living at 261 in 1899.

### *Architecture and context*

The house is a semi-detached two-storey building with front porches at both addresses. The house is similar to most other older homes in Lowertown in that it features a flat roof. The building features a brick veneer with decorated cornices that span the top of the second-floor façade. The frieze features two dozen small curved brackets as dentils, and quarter-circle designs that look like shells underneath the dentils. There are moulded eaves at each end of the cornice. There is significant brickwork done on the second floor. A strip of narrow bricks crosses the façade, arching above the second-floor windows. Meanwhile, there is a segmented brick arch above each of the windows. Another sequence of thin bricks lines the top of the porch roof.

The house also features lintels with wood-carved designs above the second-storey windows [Figure 2.1]. Six-pointed stars define the lintel decoration, although there is scrollwork on its sides. Although the Silvers were Jewish, it is likely the design came from a builder's catalogue, but religion may have influenced the orthodox Silvers to be included. Work on the front porch was once more ornate. In the background of the Lawlor photo, the porch railing featured spindles with a staggered pattern between them. Additionally, the porch featured elegantly-curved friezes and brackets connecting rounded columns to the ceiling. The features were eventually removed, possibly because it was too expensive to replace or refurbish.



*Figure 2.1: The 6-pointed star in the lintel of the doorway to 261 Clarence St. The same patterns are also on the lintels of all of the windows and doorways. Photo by Katherine Lipsett.*

To the rear of the brick veneer structure are wooden back rooms common to semi-detached homes in Lowertown. Currently, these rooms are not enclosed and act as a backyard

porch. There are also a series of small sheds in the backyard. There was also once an open kitchen in the rear called a succah, which was used for much of the summer and also during the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Historically, the large front room on the first floor of 263 was Benjamin Silver's grocery store. There was also a swinging door inside the building that allowed access between 261 and 263. Given that the Silvers had occupied both sides of the building, it is not surprising that both sides were connected. According to Label Silver, the son of Harry, he, his brothers, and parents would live upstairs while his grandparents Benjamin and Rachel lived on the first floor.<sup>6</sup> Harry did not want Label and his brothers to attend York Street School, so a classroom for 7-to-8 students in the 1930s to be taught by a Hebrew teacher was set up in 263 until Label was in Grade 3. The building was on the location of proposed office developments adjacent to the King Edward Freeway, which made up the fourth phase of Lowertown East's urban renewal plan. Neither the office buildings nor the freeway was built and the property is part of a heritage overlay

### **Notable Residents**

#### *The Silver family [1892 to 1960s] – 261-63 Clarence St.*

It is unusual for one family to stay in a single home for more than five years in a neighbourhood that is often seen as transitional. The Silvers stayed for almost 70. Benjamin (Binyamin) Silver (1858 – 1939) was born in 1858 in Grodno Gubernia, a region of Belarus (then part of Russia) and settled in Montreal and Bishops Mill before arriving in Ottawa around 1882. With him was his wife, Rachael Bluma Silver (1859 – 1940). In 1892, Benjamin bought a parcel of land on Clarence Street from Samuel Cherry for \$500. The current home at 261-63 Clarence St. was constructed in 1898. At 263, there was a large front first-floor room that would also be the family-run dry goods and then grocery store. Benjamin was a devout Jew who was entrusted with the role of *baal tokea*, blowing the *shofar* horn used in religious services at the Agudath Achim synagogue on Rideau Street. According to Abraham Lief's autobiography, the store sold calico, cotton, buttons, needles, thimbles, and sugar.<sup>7</sup> Common to the store's counter,

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<sup>6</sup> *Interview with Label Silver*, Christina Williamson, August 2, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Devorah Klein, "Learning Torah and Keeping Mitzvos No Matter When, No Matter Where," *Hamodia*, July 10, 2013, p.

Lieff wrote, were spices and ground coffee creating a pleasant fragrance throughout the store. Benjamin was also well-respected as an honest businessman and served as collector and treasurer for several Jewish institutions in Ottawa such as the Etz Chaim Yeshivah.

Benjamin and Rachel had several children, including Harry (Herschel) Silver (1895 – 1963), who would live in the home for his entire life [Figure 2.2]. Harry was born in 1895 in Ottawa. Because there was no *yeshivah* at the time, he learned the Torah from his parents and local rabbis, include Rabbi Joseph Berger, who lived one block away on York Street. Harry worked as a “customer peddler,” which had him buy items from stores for customers in exchange for small periodic payments. Like his father, Harry was also very devout and involved in the Jewish community. He was honoured in 1945 at a Machzikei Hadas *melaveh malkah* for his shul activities and gifted a silver *becher* and tray.<sup>8</sup>



Figure 2.2: Herschel (Harry Silver) and his sons Label and Mendel in the 1930s. *Hamodia Magazine*, July 10, 2013, Silver family photograph.

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<sup>8</sup> Klein, “Learning Torah and Keeping Mitzvos,” p. 32.

Harry had five sons, two of which became rabbis. After Benjamin died in the mid-1930s, the store was closed. Harry worked as a salesperson. Land registry records show Harry Silver Realty Ltd. involved with the Silver home until the 1990s, about 100 years after Benjamin first opened his store.

*The Sugarman family [1899 to 1903] – 261 Clarence St.*

Simon Sugarman (1860 – 1943) was born in Vilna, Russia and was one of the first five Jewish settlers in Ottawa, according to his *Ottawa Citizen* obituary.<sup>9</sup> Simon, also known as Samuel or Schlomo, arrived in Canada in 1883 and was naturalized in 1896. He married Freda Sugarman (née Cooper) in 1891, the first Jewish couple to marry in the city. Simon was mentioned as one of the original founders of the Adath Jeshurun synagogue in his obituary, and worked as a news agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He also worked as a peddler, salesman, and merchant throughout his life. He and Freda gave birth to one son and four daughters. He rented 261 Clarence St. from Benjamin Silver for five years.

### **List of Residents**

**\*Note: The Silvers owned both addresses, and rented out parts of each building to tenants**

**261 Clarence Street [occupants]**

**1892 to 1898 – Benjamin Silver and family, grocer**

**1899 to 1903 – Simon Sugarman and family, news agent and peddler**

**1904 to 1906 – Marcel Dube, blacksmith**

**1907 to 1909 – Alphonse Groulx, steam fitter**

**1910 to 1912 – Joseph Gravelle, barber**

**1913 to 1925 – Lyon Cohen and family, clerk and peddler**

**1926 to 1927 – Leo Gordon and family, fur dealer**

**1928 to 1961 – Harry Silver and family (including Benjamin until his death), clothing salesperson**

**263 Clarence Street [occupants]**

**1899 to 1939 – Silver family**

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<sup>9</sup> “Samuel Sugarman, One of Founders of Synagogue, Dies,” *Ottawa Citizen*, June 7, 1943, p. 20.

## 1940 to 1963? – Albert Paquette and family, salesman

Source: Ottawa city directories, LAC

### 237-39 and 241-43 York Street



Photos taken by Jolson Lim, August 4, 2016.

#### *About the homes and property*

Since both homes are constructed at the same time by the same builder with the same architectural style, it is only appropriate to look at the homes together. Unlike Clarence Street east of King Edward Avenue, York Street east of King Edward was only constructed around 1912. Houses had faced Rideau Street to the south, Clarence Street to the north, King Edward Avenue to the west, and Nelson Street to the east, leaving homes with large backyards. In 1910, the area between York and Clarence streets only lists A.H. Caplan Co. Ltd. Junk in the city directory. A.H. Caplan, who emigrated from Minsk, Russia, later founded Hull Iron and Steel and Foundries, which employed hundreds of people. In 1912, addresses for 237-243 York St. [Figure 3.1] first appear, making it likely the homes were built together in 1911 when York Street was extended east of King Edward Avenue.

The 237-39 and 241-43 York Street homes sit on Lot 9, which is between King Edward Avenue and Nelson Street fronting on Parry Street (now Clarence), plan 43586. Since York Street was built after the lot plan was established, the lot fronts on Clarence Street. Land registry records show David Mirsky and Aaron Brahinsky buying the south half of the lot for \$3,250 on October 1, 1911. The two homes were constructed in 1912 on Lot 9, which is 66 feet by 100 feet.

Mirsky and Brahinsky were two bottle collectors working out of their neighbouring homes on Murray Street in 1912, city directory records show. David was the son of Jacob Mirsky, the first rabbi of Ottawa. He worked as a bottle collector and began selling bottled spring water by 1920.<sup>10</sup> In 1925, he incorporated his company as Pure Spring, the famous local soft drink brand known for its ginger ale. City directory records show Mirsky and Brahinsky never lived on York Street. Mirsky relinquished his ownings in 1913, and Brahinsky held onto the property for at least four years, land registry records show.

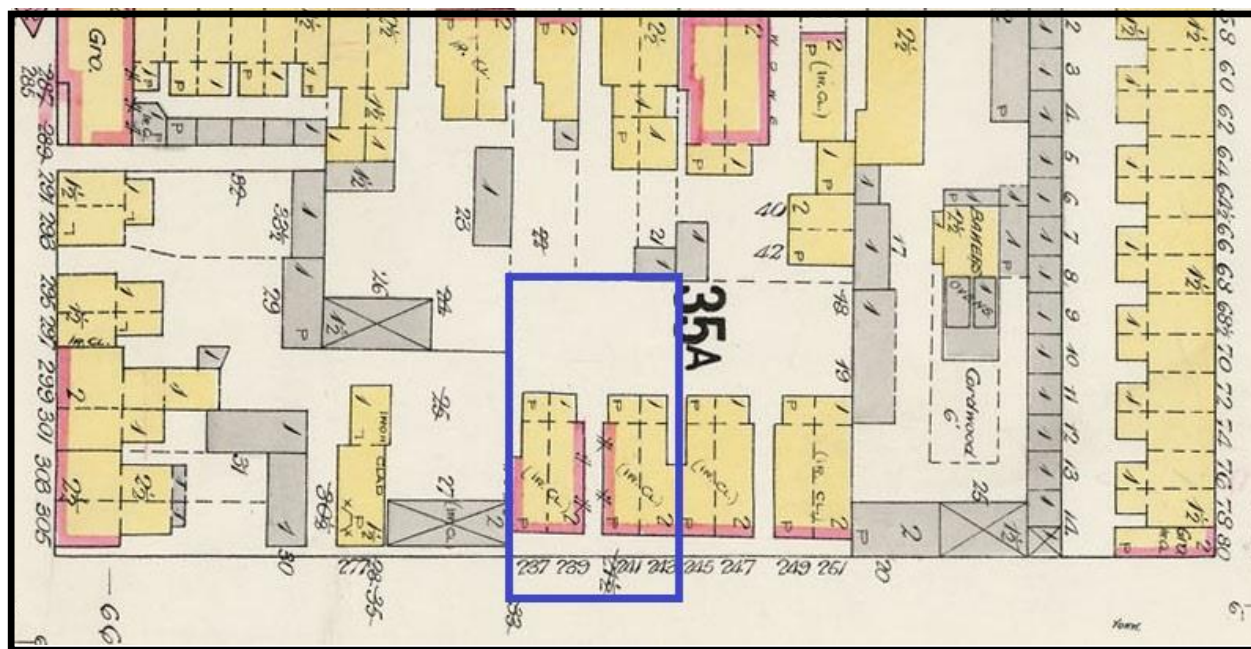


Figure 3.1: 237-39 and 241-43 York St. as it appears in a 1912 Ottawa fire insurance map. Library and Archives Canada.

### *Architecture and context*

Identical in design, the semi-detached houses are two-storeys tall with a brick veneer, stone foundation, and vinyl siding. Both have simple cornices or eaves projecting from flat roofs, with moulded brackets at the front corners. There is a right of way leading into the backyard between the two buildings, just wide enough for a horse and carriage to travel through. On the street frontage, the main windows walls project outwards, while each entrance wall is slightly recessed. There are two main windows at the front of each half of the structure, with an additional window directly above the front door for 237-39. An upstairs window-door leads to a balcony at 241-43. Both houses have wooden stepped verandas at their entrance with stone

<sup>10</sup> Andrew King, "Finding the spring in Pure Spring ginger ale," *Ottawa Citizen*, August 30, 2015.

pedestals. For 241-43, the pedestals support a wooden second-storey unroofed balcony. Owners' records for 237-239 indicate they also originally had two-storey verandas, demolished in 1983. Besides the second-storey balconies, the main architectural feature differentiating the two buildings is the colour scheme of the painted brick and wooden trim. 237-39 has its front brick painted a natural clay orange, with windows, doors, and eaves painted a blue-grey. 241-43 has its front brick painted a striking red, with its doors painted black, and windows and eaves a light grey. A 1968 photo from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation show 241-43 painted a lighter red with green columns, balcony and eaves, indicating that the colours have been changed throughout time. The photo also shows its balcony had a sloped roof that is similar to other buildings in Lowertown.

The buildings are very similar to many other buildings in the Lowertown area featuring a flat roof, cornices, and brick veneer. The main difference at 237-39 York St. is that the front of the façade doorway is slightly recessed on both storeys, while most other Lowertown buildings of the same architectural style have a straight façade. In that sense, it also makes the building look more contemporary. The building was on the location of proposed office developments adjacent to the King Edward Freeway, which made up the fourth phase of Lowertown East's urban renewal plan. Neither the office buildings nor the freeway was built but the property is not part of a heritage overlay zone.

### **Notable Residents of 237-39 York St.**

#### *Jacob Kronick [1920 to 1922]*

Kronick arrived in Canada from Belarus in 1905 when he was only 23 years old. Jacob ran Kronick's Furniture Exchange, a second-hand furniture store at 37 William St. from the late 1910s and into the 1940s. He and his wife Toba raised five children: Ben, David, Annie, Sol and Sydney. His sons would work at the store and the family attended Machzikei Hadas synagogue on Murray Street. He later married Rachel (Rae) Samuels. Kronick lived at 239 York from 1920 to 1922. He later lived above his store. He passed away in 1962.

#### *Abraham and Dora Lithwick [1925 to 1936]*

Abraham Lithwick and his wife, Dora [Figure 3.2] left Eastern Europe and arrived in Ottawa in 1921. Abraham, who was from Ritziv, Poland, and Dora, who was from Rovno,



Ukraine, were part of a large wave of immigrants who arrived in North America escaping the pogroms of the early 1920s. They operated a wholesale and retail store focusing largely on dairy goods at 34 By Ward Market Street (now, coincidentally, House of Cheese) from 1925 to 1937. The two lived at 239 York St. from 1925 to 1936.

The Lithwicks had four children: Sarah, Harold, Norman, and Sidney. Sidney, born in 1921, would become a well-known and respected architect who designed the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and the current Agudath Israel synagogue. His firm, Hazelgrove and Lithwick, also designed the Beth Shalom Synagogue and Community Centre at 161 Chapel St., which closed in 2015. After a planned move to Melbourne, Australia in 1937 that only saw the family return due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis, Abraham went into real estate and became more involved with the Jewish community. He was governor of the Jewish Community Centre and the family were members of the Adath Jeshurun congregation. Abraham died in 1953 and more than 500 people attended his funeral, a testament to his dedication to the community.

Dora Lithwick worked for nine years to get a home for elderly Jewish people in Ottawa. In 1963, she turned the sod for the Hillel Lodge on Wurtemberg Street. Her son Sidney would design the initial two-storey structure. She was the founder and first president of the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged. She continued her work by having a religious chapel installed to the home that is now called the Abraham and Dora Lithwick Beth Midrash.



*Figure 3.2: Abraham and Dora Lithwick stand in the doorway of their grocery store at 34 Byward Market Street, circa 1930. They operated their store for 12 years until 1937. Photo by Hugo Levendel. Ottawa Jewish Archives.*

*Louis-Lazar and Miriam Goldstein [1950 to 1958]*

Louis-Lazar Goldstein was born 1922 in Uzhorod, Czechoslovakia and arrived in Ottawa with two siblings in 1936. Miriam Goldstein (née Dobrow) was born in 1921 in Romania while her family was en route from Russia to Canada. She attended York Street School and worked for the federal service and as part of Carleton University's administrative staff from 1968 to 1985. Louis served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. They lived at 237 York St. from 1950 to 1958. There is a Carleton scholarship called the Louis and Miriam Goldstein Book Award in Judaic Studies named in their honour.

**List of Residents of 237-39 York Street**

**237 York Street**

- 1912 – L. Barney Diamond and family**, auctioneer
- 1913 – Samuel Katz**, salesman
- 1914 – Alfred Lecuyer and family**, driver
- 1915 to 1916 – Annie Sacher**, n/a
- 1917 to 1918 – Isaac I Cohen**, n/a
- 1919 to 1921 – Samuel Greenberg and family**, bag maker and fruit dealer
- 1922 to 1926 – Moses H Liftshitz and family**, teacher
- 1927 to 1928 – Samuel St. Germain**, labourer
- 1929 to 1937 – Meyer Liff**, junk peddler
- 1940 to 1946 – Herve Gemus and family**, salesman
- 1947 to 1949 – Roland Parent and family**, salesman
- 1950 to 1958 – Louis-Lazar Goldstein and family**, electrician
- 1959 to 1973 – Benny Held and family**, storekeeper Rideau Plumbing and Heating

**239 York Street**

- 1912 – William A Smallwood**, chemist Ottawa Drug Co.
- 1913 to 1917 – L. Barney Diamond**, auctioneer
- 1920 to 1922 – Jacob Kronick**, second-hand goods seller 37 William

**1923 to 1924 – John Baker**, merchant

**1925 to 1936 - Abraham Lithwick and family**, dairy seller in By Ward Market

**1937 – Hermisdas E Demoulin**, steward Chateau Laurier

**1940 – Isaac Zunder and family**, clerk

**1941 to 1942 – Wilfred Jean-Louis**, n/a

**1944 to 1950 – Alphonse Parent**, employee Brantford Coach

**1955 to 1957 – Mrs. Geraldine Rolland and family**, n/a

**1958 to 1970 – Oscar Joanisse and family**, cleaner

*Source:* Ottawa city directories, LAC

### **Notable Residents of 241-43 York Street**

#### *Samuel and Anne Lazear and family [1942 to 1950]*

Samuel Lazear, born in 1895, and Anna Lazear, born in 1902, travelled from Minsk to Quebec City in 1927. They brought with them their two children, Arthur (Art) and Sonia. Sponsored by Anna's brother David, who was the deputy mayor of Newark, New Jersey, and Samuel's American brothers, they had first intended to move to the United States. However, immigration restrictions forced them to settle in Ottawa, where a distant cousin lived. Samuel worked as a labourer, clerk, and salesman in the Byward Market. Years later, Anna and Samuel opened a jewellery shop called The Jewel Box. The son, Art, born in 1926, married Ann Tarantour. Ann became an art teacher at York Street School.

#### *Max and Ida Nadolny and family [1945 to 1970]*

Max Nadolny was born in 1896. He worked as a peddler during the 1930s and 1940s, according to city directories, and lived at 477 St. Patrick St. In the late 1940s and into the 1950s, he is listed as a fruit dealer, likely working in the By Ward Market. He died in 1979. His wife, Ida Nadolny (née Belasko or Lasko), was born in 1895. They married in 1916. The Nadolny family [Figure 3.3] lived at 241 York St. from 1945 to 1970. They had three children: Samuel, Lillian, and Herbert. Although the Nadolny name is known by almost everyone in the Ottawa Jewish community, little is recorded in public records and newspapers about Max and Ida, especially compared to their son, Herbert.

Herbert first worked as a chartered accountant for the company Nadolny, Jodoin, Kearney & Co., and then went into real estate development. He co-founded Urbandale with Lyon Sachs, which would become one of the city's largest home builders. Much of Alta Vista was constructed by Urbandale, and the company is currently building in Riverside South and Bridlewood. The Soloway Jewish Community Centre in West Ottawa is on a street called Nadolny-Sachs Private. Herbert lived at 241 York St. until 1952. He died in 2005, with the company he founded still intact (unlike a handful of other big residential developers in Ottawa), and with great respect among the real estate and philanthropic communities. His wife, Dora, who married Herbert in 1952 at the Adath Jeshurun synagogue, has been a common face in the local philanthropic community. In 2014, a dinner dedicated to her and her charity work, raised more than \$1.3 million.<sup>11</sup>



Figure 3.3: *Ottawa Journal*, May 21, 1966, page 23.

<sup>11</sup> Caroline Philips, "Around Town: 2014 Negev Dinner honours Dorothy Nadolny," *Ottawa Citizen*, October 26, 2014.

## List of Residents of 241-43 York Street

### 241 York Street

**1912 to 1914 – Fred N Mahon, n/a**

**1915 to 1916 – John Dolan, n/a**

**1917 to 1918 – Francis Clairmont, shoemaker**

**1919 – Maria Cleary, n/a**

**1920 to 1923 – David Astrof and family, furrier**

**1924 to 1925 – Joseph Berger and family, Rabbi at United Brothers Jewish Synagogue**

**1926 to 1929 – Harry Greenblatt and family, fruit dealer in By Ward Market**

**1930 to 1936 – Charles Shore and family, fur salesman**

**1937 to 1944 – Samuel Slipakoff and family, seller at By Ward Market Fruit Store**

**1945 to 1970 – Max Nadolny and family, fruit dealer**

### 243 York Street

**1912 to 1919 – Edgar Empey, grocer at 298-306 Cumberland**

**1920 – Samuel Agulnik, upholster**

**1921 to 1923 – Isidore Kersner [or Kersher], peddler**

**1924 – Nicholas Korsos, cook**

**1925 to 1928 – Thomas Keyes, carpenter**

**1929 to 1931 – Benjamin B Davis and family, mail dispatcher**

**1934 – Samuel Gencher, peddler**

**1935 to 1936 – Samuel Slipakoff and family, fruit peddler**

**1937 to 1941 – Peter Weltman, fruit dealer**

**1942 to 1950 – Samuel Lazear and family, clerk**

**1951 to 1954 – Sam Lazarus, salesman Berg's Ltd.**

**1955 to 1964 – Jean Paul Charron and family, employee at Eastview Hotel**

*Source: Ottawa city directories, LAC*

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