

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Weinstein House/Harry's Market (preferred)  
 other Harry's Meat Market

## 2. Location

street and number 4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street \_\_\_ not for publication  
 city, town Mount Rainier \_\_\_ vicinity  
 county Prince George's County

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Green Feather LLC  
 street and number 4709 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone  
 city, town Hyattsville state MD zip code 20781

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County liber 51436 folio 120  
 city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 49 tax parcel 0000 tax ID number 17-1977842

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	___ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	___	___ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	___	___ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	___	___ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	___ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				0	

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. 68-74-5

---

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair                 altered

---

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary Description

The Weinstein House/Harry's Market at 4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street consists of two connected parts: a one-story, saltbox-roofed masonry store building constructed c. 1920 and a two-and-a half story American Foursquare-style multi-unit dwelling added by 1924. The store features a rectangular plan and simple detailing, with a storefront entrance flanked by display windows. The later residential addition, attached directly to the rear of the store, has a rectangular plan and a complex roof form reflecting its construction as a three-unit multi-family addition to an existing building. The back wall of the store was opened to provide direct access into the house, creating a mixed-use layout which combined early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial and residential functions in a unified structure.

### Site Description

The Weinstein House/Harry's Market is located at 4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street on a triangular lot at the intersection of Rainier Avenue, 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and Upshur Street in Mount Rainier, Maryland. The 0.187-acre property includes the store and attached multi-family dwelling. The store faces north towards the intersection and is accessed by concrete paths from the sidewalks along Rainier Ave and 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Low concrete garden borders and rough coursed stone retaining walls define the yard and separate the property from the adjacent houses at 4219 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 4216 Rainier Avenue, which were built by the same family.

As of February 2026, the mixed-use site is being rehabilitated for use as a neighborhood-serving shop and multi-family residence, restoring its historic function.

### Harry's Market

The original commercial building is a one-story tile building with brick sidewalls, parged with stucco, with its primary façade oriented to the north toward the three-way street intersection. The store is capped by a saltbox roof, featuring a combination of three-tab asphalt shingles on the sloped section and membrane roof on the rear slope. The roof is finished with k-style gutters and aluminum downspouts.

The façade includes steel-framed display windows with large plate glass panes, typical of early 20<sup>th</sup> century storefronts. The entryway retains pressed tin ceiling tiles and a historic wood single-light door, which still contains its original interior bell. A non-historic aluminum storm door has been installed over the wood door. The store's east elevation is fenestrated with one small basement-story window which has been infilled with glass block. On the west elevation, a surviving paired double-hung wood frame sash window is in poor condition, with one wooden sash remaining. Just to the left (north) of this window, concrete stairs descend to a basement-story paneled wood door which accesses basement storage.

The store's 1950s era metal "District Grocery Stores" sign, in the cooperative's signature orange and green, which once hung above the entrance, is displayed at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC.<sup>1</sup> The museum also houses the store's cash register, grocery snatchers, receipt pads, and ration books, along with personal effects of the Weinstein family.

### *Interior*

---

<sup>1</sup> The metal sign was the store's second or third sign, and replaced one with raised wooden letters. Oral History of Vivan and Ruth Weinstein, by Bonnie L. Bray, Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, 4.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

### Weinstein House/Harry's Market Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

---

The interior of the store has largely been gutted, but still retains some features which point to its original use. These include the bell attached to the interior of the front entry door and a large historic McCray walk-in refrigerator with a white porcelain exterior and wooden interior, which sits at the store's southwest corner. The rear (south) interior wall features a historic paneled wood door which opens into a first-floor hallway of the house, reflecting the Weinstein family's residence and proprietorship.

#### **Weinstein House**

The Weinstein House is a c. 1924 vernacular style multi-unit dwelling with American Foursquare influences.<sup>2</sup> The dwelling is a two-and-a-half story, wood-frame building constructed on a concrete foundation with a rectangular plan. It is attached to the rear (south) of the earlier store building and contains three primary residential entrances: two located on the west elevation providing access to the first- and third-floor units, and one on the north elevation providing access to the second-floor unit.<sup>3</sup> The building is clad with narrow wood siding on the first floor and wood shingles on the second floor. Although all windows have been replaced with vinyl units, primarily 6/1 double hung sash, the original wood window casings and trim remain intact. All primary exterior doors are non-historic wood-paneled doors with six-light upper sections.

The roof is a complex system reflecting the building's multiple units and its construction as a later addition to an existing store. It primarily presents as a hipped roof with four irregularly placed dormers: two hipped dormers on the east and west slopes and two large shed dormers – one centered on the south slope and one offset on the north slope. Above the connection point with the store on the north elevation, the roof form transitions into a small north-facing gable. The consistency of internal finishes as well as oral history evidence suggests that this unusual form may have been a functional choice at the time of construction to direct water away from the seam between the two buildings and to ensure adequate head height in the stairwell leading to the third-floor unit.

#### *West Elevation*

The west elevation is the primary residential façade and includes a full-width one-story porch spanning the first floor. The porch is supported by large Tuscan columns on heavy squared piers and features tongue-and-groove decking and wood railings. Two sets of porch stairs provide access to the two entry doors that serve the first- and third-floor units. A paired double-hung sash window is located on the first floor. On the second floor, above the porch, are one paired and one single double-hung sash window. In the attic story, a hipped roof dormer, offset to the north, features paired double-hung sash windows.

#### *South Elevation*

The south elevation is the simplest. The first floor is arranged in four bays, contained three single windows and one paired unit. The second floor includes one paired and two single windows. Centered on the roof slope above these openings is a large shed-roofed dormer with a paired double-hung sash window that lights the attic story.

#### *East Elevation*

---

<sup>2</sup> The house is not present on the 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, which depicts the store, but Ruth and Vivan Weinstein's oral history reflects that the family moved in on August 4, 1924 (Oral History, 1).

<sup>3</sup> At the time of survey, this entry also provided access to the first floor, but may be re-closed to restore the original three-unit configuration.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

---

The east elevation is dominated by a two-story sleeping porch supported on block piers. The porch is half-screened and clad in tongue and groove beadboard, now overlaid with grooved wooden panels. Wooden steps provide entrance to the first floor of the porch from the north. Doors on the interior of the porch provide access to the first- and second-floor units. To the south (left) of the porch stack there is one typical window on both the first and second floors. Above the porch, centered in the attic story, is a hipped dormer with paired double-hung sash windows.

### *North Elevation*

The north elevation is the most complex due to the attachment to the one-story store building. A partial-width porch, matching the west elevation in design but with non-historic decking, shelters the entrance leading to the hall and the stairway providing access to the second-floor unit. The right (west) side of the porch roof connects to the east side wall of the store, which projects north from the plane of the house. To the left (east) of the porch there is a single six-over-one double hung sash window. On the second floor, above the porch, there are two six-over-one windows and a smaller one-over-one window. The second floor above the store roof is unfenestrated and clad in vinyl siding.<sup>4</sup> In the attic story, the multi-part roof form is evident: within the main hipped roof is a large shed dormer, offset to the east, containing three small one-over-one windows. To the west, the north-facing gable end contains a single one-over-one window that lights the stairs to the third-floor unit. The east slope of this gable contains an internal chimney, parged in concrete.

### **Integrity**

The Weinstein House/Harry's Market building retains a moderately high degree of integrity. Its integrity of location is high, as the building remains on its original site. Integrity of setting is also largely preserved, with the triangular lot, low retaining walls, and relationship between the store and dwelling still clearly expressed. Integrity of design remains largely intact: the massing, multi-unit layout, porches, and cladding pattern all convey the building's historic form and function. Integrity of materials has been moderately diminished by the replacement of all window sashes with vinyl units, the re-cladding of the sleeping porch, and the use of vinyl siding on the dormers. Integrity of workmanship is preserved in surviving early twentieth-century construction techniques, including the stucco-clad porch piers and store, tongue-and groove porch decking, and pressed tin commercial entryway. Integrity of feeling and association are strong, as the physical connection between the store and dwelling are intact, as is the surrounding residential character of this streetcar suburb.

---

<sup>4</sup> This section of wall was unfinished until the mid-1980s: vinyl siding may therefore have been the original cladding.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, North Elevation, February 2, 2026.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, West Elevation, February 2, 2026.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 5

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, West Elevation, Porch entrance to first and third-floor apartment units, February 2, 2026

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 6

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Southeast Corner, November 25, 2025.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 7

---



Weinstein House/ Harry's Market, East Elevation, November 25, 2025.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 8

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Northeast Corner, November 25, 2025.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 9

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, North Elevation, Entrance to second-floor apartment unit, November 25, 2025.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 10

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Store Entrance (North Elevation), November 25, 2025. The wooden ramp framing shown represents a proposed intervention that was considered but not implemented and should be disregarded.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 11

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Historic Store Entry Door and Interior Bell, North Elevation, February 2, 2026

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 12

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Interior of Store, Walk-In Cooler and Entrance to Dwelling, November 25, 2025

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 13

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Interior wall that the Weinstein family opened to connect first and second-floor units,  
November 25, 2025

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 14

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Stone garden wall at south property line, November 25, 2025

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 15

---



Weinstein House/Harry's Market, Stone retaining wall at east property line, November 25, 2025

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. 68-074-05

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Specific dates</b>	1924-1996	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c.1920; 1936		

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The Weinstein House/Harry's Market is significant under the themes of Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Ethnic History, and Architecture. The one-story neighborhood grocery store, operated continuously for approximately 72 years, reflects the role of small, family-run commercial establishments that served emerging residential communities in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its establishment corresponds directly with the growth of Mount Rainier as a streetcar suburb and residents' need for walkable, local services. The store's operation by a Jewish immigrant family and its association with the District Grocery Stores (DGS) cooperative – a major regional network of Jewish-owned independent groceries – underscore the property's importance within the ethnic and economic history of the Washington metropolitan area, illustrating patterns of immigrant entrepreneurship and cooperative commerce. Architecturally, the attached two-and-a-half story dwelling represents an early 20<sup>th</sup> century multi-family residential form that evolved over time as its residents' needs changed. Together, the house and grocery store embody an intact example of a mixed-use residential and commercial complex that illustrates key aspects of Prince George's County's suburban and social development in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building is identified as a Contributing Resource in the Mount Rainier National Register Historic District, listed in 1990.

### Narrative

#### Early Development of Mount Rainier

The area that became Mount Rainier remained largely rural through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but began to develop rapidly around 1900 as a streetcar suburb for people of middle incomes. Growth was shaped by the extension of the Maryland & Washington Railway line to Rhode Island Avenue in 1897. The streetcar provided direct, affordable transportation to downtown Washington and prompted the platting of multiple subdivisions between 1900 and 1910. The Weinstein House/Harry's Market is centrally located within the original Mount Rainier subdivision, which was platted by Ira J. Baker, Sigmund A. Czarra, and Wallace A. Bartlett in June 1903. By 1910, the year of Mount Rainier's incorporation, development clustered around the streetcar station at Rhode Island Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street, where small commercial buildings emerged alongside single-family homes, reflecting a growing need for local goods and services in the commuter suburb.

The 1920s brought significant growth to Mount Rainier with substantial residential and commercial construction and notable public improvements sponsored by the new municipal government.<sup>5</sup> Residential construction remained characterized by single-family, detached frame houses, though an early brick boarding house was built c. 1913 at 3108 Varnum Street.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Mount Rainier NRHD, 8.17.

<sup>6</sup> NRHD, 7.22

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

### Weinstein House/Harry's Market Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

---

Previous documentation of the Mount Rainier National Register Historic District identified the Varnum Street building as the only multifamily housing built before the mid-1930s.<sup>7</sup> A small number of houses incorporating corner stores were built throughout Mount Rainier's residential blocks, but commercial development was heavily concentrated in the downtown area along Rhode Island Avenue.<sup>8</sup>

Within this context, Mary Elizabeth Widenmyer purchased Lots 19 and 20 in Block 10 of the "Mount Rainier" subdivision on April 12, 1907.<sup>9</sup>

#### Mary E. Widenmyer Ownership (1907 – 1936)

Mary Elizabeth Hoff (1873 – 1949) and Wesley Widenmyer (c. 1867 – 1933), both of Philadelphia, were married on August 12, 1896, in Camden, New Jersey.<sup>10</sup> From around 1905 – 1910, the couple lived on Fenwick Street in Brentwood, where they were recorded in the 1910 U.S. Census as living with their three daughters: Beatrice, Violet, and Dorothea.<sup>11</sup> It seems likely that the family had relocated to Mount Rainier by 1910, when they began trying to sell the Brentwood property.<sup>12</sup> Interested parties were directed to make inquiries of Wesley Widenmyer at "Plumber's cigar store" in Mount Rainier. Plumber's cigar store<sup>13</sup> may have been the commercial tenant preceding the Weinstains. Cigar stores were common early twentieth-century neighborhood retailers found in small storefronts with large display windows. Often located on corner lots, these shops served as early convenience stores, selling cigars, tobacco, newspapers, candy, and soda to commuters on their way to and from transit.

Wesley Widenmyer was a lifelong plasterer who worked in the building trades. As such, he may have contributed to the construction of the three stucco-clad structures built on the Widenmyers' property in Block 10: the store, the Widenmyers' frame dwelling at 4219 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue (previously addressed as 3953 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue), and the frame dwelling at 4216 Rainier Avenue (previously addressed as 3974 Rainier Avenue).

By 1920, the Widenmyers were recorded as living on 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Mount Rainier.<sup>14</sup> The 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows their dwelling sitting to the south of the standalone store, which is labeled as a grocery. In 1922, Mary Widenmyer advertised for sale the "stock and fixtures for a grocery store; also the business," and identified herself as the proprietor.

Construction of the house addition to the rear of the store was initiated sometime after 1920 and completed by mid-1924. Weinstein family oral history reflects that Wesley Widenmyer built the house as a residence for one of his daughters.<sup>15</sup> It was designed as a three-unit building, making it one of the earliest known multi-family residences in Mount Rainier.<sup>16</sup> Harry and Leah Weinstein moved into the first-floor unit at 4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street on August 4, 1924.<sup>17</sup>

#### Weinstein Family Tenancy (1924-1936) and Ownership (1936-1996)

---

<sup>7</sup> NRHD, 7.22

<sup>8</sup> NRHD, 7.27

<sup>9</sup> Prince George's County Land Records, Liber 40, Folio 309 via Maryland State Archives.

<sup>10</sup> Ancestry.

<sup>11</sup> 1910 U.S. Federal Census via Ancestry.

<sup>12</sup> Advertisement, *The Washington Post*, August 14, 1910.

<sup>13</sup> Also recorded as "Plimes' cigar store."

<sup>14</sup> 1920 U.S. Federal Census via Ancestry.

<sup>15</sup> "Oral History: Vivian and Ruth Weinstein," Bonnie L. Bray, Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection, 2.

<sup>16</sup> Oral History, 2.; NRHD, 7.22.

<sup>17</sup> Oral History, 1.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

---

### *First Occupancy and Opening of Harry's Market*

Harry Weinstein (1900-1988) and Leah Burke Weinstein<sup>18</sup> (1898 – 1994) were first generation Jewish immigrants. Harry arrived from Russia in 1916 and Leah from Poland in 1921.<sup>19</sup> The couple met in New York City, where Leah worked in the garment district and Harry for a book binding company.<sup>20</sup> Leah moved to Washington at the urging of her sister, Bertha Burke, and her sister's fiancé, Oscar Rozansky, who operated a grocery at 21<sup>st</sup> and H Street. Harry followed, and the two couples were married in a double wedding in 1923.<sup>21</sup>

Oscar Rozansky, himself an immigrant who was already established in the grocery business, connected the Weinsteins to the Widenmyer property in Mount Rainier, viewing it as a good opportunity to take over the store and move into the attached living quarters.<sup>22</sup>

Harry's Market was open by September 1924.<sup>23</sup> The small store included a meat case, a butcher's block, scales, fruit and vegetable shelves, a walk-in cooler, and a candy counter with penny, three-cent and nickel candies.<sup>24</sup> Each customer was waited on individually and each item was retrieved and rung up by staff. Phone-order service was an important aspect of the business, and the family eventually made local deliveries via truck and bicycle.<sup>25</sup>

Surviving receipts from the early 1930s document the range of merchandise offered by the Weinsteins during this period: household goods such as soap and brooms; tobacco; produce such as tomatoes, melons, and citrus; bread, milk, and sugar; fish; and non-kosher meats such as ham, reflecting the practical necessity of catering to the expectations of Mount Rainier's predominantly non-Jewish clientele.<sup>26</sup>

### *Immigrant-Run Family Groceries in the Washington, DC Area*

The Weinsteins and Rozanskys were among the million-plus Eastern European Jewish immigrants to the United States between 1880 and 1924. Fleeing poverty, political upheavals, and anti-Jewish violence, many came to the Washington area where they had family members and supportive social networks. The family-run grocery business attracted many immigrants because it required little initial investment and only basic English skills.<sup>27</sup> Many of these mom-and-pop grocer families lived above or behind their stores, with multiple generations living and working together.<sup>28</sup> The majority of these stores were in non-Jewish neighborhoods, like Mount Rainier, where it could be difficult for store owners to maintain Jewish traditions: many stores sold non-kosher foods like ham and sausages and stayed open on Saturday, a busy shopping day, making it hard for families to observe the Sabbath.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> Although Leah Weinstein's first name was frequently recorded as "Lena," family sources consistently refer to her as "Leah," so that is used throughout this document.

<sup>19</sup> 1930 U.S. Federal Census via *Ancestry*

<sup>20</sup> Oral History, 5.

<sup>21</sup> Marriage License via *Ancestry*; Oral History, 6.

<sup>22</sup> Oral History, 6.

<sup>23</sup> Advertisement, *The Washington Times*, September 28, 1924, pg. 9

<sup>24</sup> "Stocked With Memories.": Half a Day on Sundays [video].

<sup>25</sup> Oral History, 2, 12.

<sup>26</sup> Receipts, Harry's Market, 1931-1932, Images Courtesy of the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

<sup>27</sup> "Half a Day on Sunday," Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, 1.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 2.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

### Weinstein House/Harry's Market Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

---

The Weinstein family's experience closely followed this regional pattern. Arriving in Washington with little formal education, Harry and Leah saw the grocery business as an industry where they had connections and could learn to be successful. Within the store and their home, the Weinsteins navigated a multilingual environment: Leah and Harry spoke in Russian, Polish, and German to their immigrant customers and in Yiddish with Yetta Burke, Leah's mother, who lived with them in a three-generational household.<sup>30</sup> In the meantime, Leah Weinstein learned written English by reading the labels on canned goods and copying down customers' orders.<sup>31</sup>

In addition to starting out with limited English proficiency, Harry overcame the further challenge of being legally blind, a condition believed to have resulted from a childhood illness.<sup>32</sup> Their resilience was central to their ability to establish and operate a successful business in their new home.

#### *District Grocery Stores (DGS)*

In April 1928, Harry's Market joined the District Grocery Society, Inc. (soon renamed District Grocery Stores) cooperative.<sup>33</sup> The District Grocery Stores (DGS) cooperative was formed in 1921 by a small group of Jewish grocers.<sup>34</sup> The cooperative model allowed the mom-and-pop shop owners to pool their purchasing power to buy at lower prices from wholesalers, share advertising costs, and combat anti-Semitism by threatening boycotts.<sup>35</sup>

The organization grew steadily, especially after the 1930 election of Isaac Jacobson as president, and by 1939 DGS had 280 member stores, making them the largest cooperative in the metropolitan Washington area.<sup>36</sup> Jacobson oversaw the construction of a dedicated DGS warehouse on C Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets in Southwest Washington. The spacious \$750,000 facility opened in 1941 with dedicated office space upstairs and a large first floor warehouse housing meat, seafood, produce, groceries, candy and tobacco.<sup>37</sup> It was outfitted with modern features including a banana-ripening room and could accommodate 150 trucks at a time.<sup>38</sup> Staff inspected produce, meat, and eggs before daily deliveries to member stores. Member grocers, including the Weinsteins, got a weekly catalog to place orders for the store, and received evening phone calls to see if any meat or produce needed to be delivered the next morning.<sup>39</sup> The warehouse was broadly lauded as a "monument to cooperative effort."<sup>40</sup> It prolonged the family grocers' competitiveness as chain grocery stores began to emerge.

In addition to the economic benefits, DGS provided a strong social network for members and their families. The cooperative organized bowling leagues, banquets, and beach outings at a time when most area beaches excluded Jews and other minority groups.<sup>41</sup>

#### *Weinstein Family Modification of the Building*

---

<sup>30</sup> Oral History, 5; 1930 U.S. Census.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Oral History, 6.

<sup>33</sup> Advertisement, *The Evening Star*, April 19, 1928.

<sup>34</sup> "Half a Day on Sundays," 3. Various sources cite the founding group as anywhere from twelve to thirty grocers.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> "District Grocery Stores," Advertisement, March 22, 1939, [Scrapbook], Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection; "D.G.S. Stores Have 280 In Membership," *The Washington Post*, March 24, 1939.

<sup>37</sup> "Permit is Issued for Warehouse for D.G.S. Stores," *The Evening Star*, May 18, 1940.

<sup>38</sup> "New Headquarters District Grocery Stores Opening Soon," 1941, Untitled Publication, [Scrapbook], Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

<sup>39</sup> Oral History, 3.

<sup>40</sup> "District Grocery Stores Celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," 1941, Untitled Publication, [Scrapbook], Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

<sup>41</sup> "Half a Day on Sundays," 4.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

### Weinstein House/Harry's Market Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

---

By 1930, the Weinstein family included two daughters, Ruth and Vivian, and an infant son, Milton.<sup>42</sup> Leah's mother, Yetta Burke, immigrated in 1924 and moved in with the family, leading to an increasingly crowded living space.<sup>43</sup> In April 1936, Mary Widenmyer sold the store and the house at 4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street to Harry and Leah Weinstein.<sup>44</sup> She retained ownership of the houses at 4219 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 4216 Rainier Avenue until her death in 1949.<sup>45</sup>

Ownership of the property allowed the Weinsteins to make alterations to accommodate their needs. Initially, they planned to demolish the store and attached frame house to build a larger brick store with an apartment on top to house the family. Ruth and Vivian Weinstein recalled that these plans were scuttled by "small town politics" in Mount Rainier.<sup>46</sup> In response, her parents left the frame house in the unfinished state in which they had purchased it – lacking a finished cladding under the north gable end – as a form of protest. The Weinstein sisters finished it for the first time in the mid-1980s.<sup>47</sup>

Shortly after their purchase of the property, Harry and Leah Weinstein combined the first and second-floor units by opening the first-floor wall which had separated the two. They also began the project of finishing the third-floor unit, which had been roughed in but never finished and occupied.<sup>48</sup> It is possible that the dwelling's roof form was altered as part of the finishing of the third-floor unit. Within the third-floor apartment, consistent interior finishes suggest it is more likely that the unusual configuration of dormers reflects the builder's attempt to make space within the building for the desired three apartment units while maintaining the stylistic influence of the American Foursquare-style popular in the neighborhood at the time of its construction.

#### *Changes Through the 1940s and 1950s*

The Weinsteins experienced significant changes to Mount Rainier and to the grocery business through the 1940s and 1950s. As the World War II-era population of Washington boomed, Mount Rainier experienced rapid growth and increased competition for limited housing.<sup>49</sup> The town remained primarily white and native-born but saw the rapid construction of apartment buildings and apartment complexes to house new arrivals.<sup>50</sup> From the early 1940s through the late 1950s, periodic newspaper advertisements listed the Weinsteins' third-floor apartment for rent: one room, plus a kitchen and bath, with a screened porch and private entrance, close to transportation lines.<sup>51</sup>

Ruth Weinstein graduated from Mt. Rainier High School in 1941, learned shorthand, and found work as a government stenographer and in private industry.<sup>52</sup> Vivian Weinstein, still in high school, earned accolades for her basketball skill.<sup>53</sup> After graduating, Vivian began working alongside her parents in the store, where she spent all of her working life.<sup>54</sup>

---

<sup>42</sup> 1930 U.S. Federal Census via *Ancestry*; Obituary: Milton Weinstein, *The Washington Post* via *Legacy.com*, December 28, 2018.

<sup>43</sup> 1930 U.S. Federal Census via *Ancestry*; Oral History, 3.

<sup>44</sup> Prince George's County Land Records, Liber 447, Folio 213, via Maryland State Archives.

<sup>45</sup> Prince George's County Land Records, Liber 1158, Folio 159, and Liber 1158, Folio 150, via Maryland State Archives.

<sup>46</sup> Oral History, 2.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> Oral History, 3.

<sup>49</sup> NRHD, 8.20; Oral History, 10.

<sup>50</sup> NRHD, 8.21

<sup>51</sup> "4220 Rainier Ave," and "4221 31<sup>st</sup> Street," Advertisements, *The Evening Star*, August 2, 1942 – July 12, 1959.

<sup>52</sup> Ruth Weinstein's Invitation Card, Senior Class Graduation Exercises (1942), Mt. Rainier High School, and Ruth Weinstein: Gregg Shorthand Speed Certificate via the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection; 1950 U.S. Federal Census.

<sup>53</sup> "Cooperator Releases Its All-County Selections of High School Girl Cagers," *Greenbelt Cooperator*, April 13, 1945.

<sup>54</sup> 1950 U.S. Federal Census; "Stocked With Memories: Harry's Market Was the Weinsteins' Home for 72 Years. Today, They Say Goodbye," Linton Weeks, *The Washington Post*, November 2, 1996

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 5

---

The grocery business changed significantly in this era. As automobile-oriented suburbs drew middle-class families further from city centers, shopping centers on previously undeveloped land offered convenient parking and self-service grocery stores that ballooned to ten and twenty times the size of the family-run groceries that had been built to serve urban foot traffic and suburban streetcar lines.<sup>55</sup> In Mount Rainier, a Safeway and A&P opened on 34<sup>th</sup> Street, and nearby shopping centers began to compete with the Weinstein's business.<sup>56</sup> As regional chains grew, "the era of mom-and-pop grocery stores drew to a close."<sup>57</sup>

Some of Washington's Jewish mom-and-pop grocers pursued liquor sales to remain competitive.<sup>58</sup> In 1945, Harry Weinstein applied to the Prince George's County Liquor Board for an off-sale license for liquor, wine and beer.<sup>59</sup> He faced vocal opposition from nearby homeowners, local clergy, and town councilmen, and his application was denied.<sup>60</sup> Leah Weinstein became an American citizen in 1945, joining Harry, who had naturalized the prior decade.<sup>61</sup>

Milton Weinstein also entered the grocery business, but his career path reflected the changes sweeping the grocery industry. He spent only limited time working in the family's store, and in 1951 joined Giant Food, Inc. as a grocery clerk. He became a store manager at 28 and retired in 1998 as the Director of Deli and Dairy Merchandising.<sup>62</sup>

### *Ruth and Vivian Weinstein's Proprietorship (c. 1962 – 1996)*

In 1960, Harry's Market was recognized in the Town of Mount Rainier's Golden (50<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary Booklet as a local landmark for its decades-long tenure in the same location.<sup>63</sup>

Ruth and Vivian Weinstein took over Harry's Market from their parents around 1962, when they were in their mid-to-late thirties.<sup>64</sup> Neither had married, despite most of their friends doing so during or after World War II, so the two sisters lived together in the combined first and second-floor unit and shared the daily running of the store for the next thirty-odd years.<sup>65</sup>

Their tenure extended long beyond the life of the DGS cooperative, which dissolved in 1972. The group was challenged by the growing dominance of chain grocery stores and the lingering effects of the civil unrest that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, in which many Jewish-owned groceries in the city were destroyed.<sup>66</sup>

Ruth and Vivian Weinstein retired and closed Harry's Market on November 2, 1996, making the store one of the longest surviving Jewish-owned mom-and-pop groceries in the Washington area.<sup>67</sup> Their business had been increasingly challenged by chain stores and smaller niche retailers.<sup>68</sup> The sisters and their store, by then a local landmark, were profiled by several

---

<sup>55</sup> Michael Ruhlman, *Grocery: The Buying and Selling of Food in America*. Abrams Press, New York, 2017: 51.

<sup>56</sup> Oral History, 4.

<sup>57</sup> "Half a Day on Sunday: Jewish-Owned "Mom and Pop" Grocery Stores," Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington

<sup>58</sup> "Half a Day on Sunday," [Video].

<sup>59</sup> The store already possessed an off-sale beer license by this time.

<sup>60</sup> "2 Prince Georges Taverns Lose Liquor Permits," *The Evening Star*, September 14, 1945.

<sup>61</sup> "36 Become Citizens in Prince George's," *The Evening Star*, January 19, 1945; 1940 U.S. Federal Census.

<sup>62</sup> Oral History, 11; Obituary: Milton Weinstein.

<sup>63</sup> "Landmarks," *City of Mount Rainier, Maryland: Golden Anniversary, 1910 – 1960*, p.22, via Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

<sup>64</sup> Oral History, 3.

<sup>65</sup> "Stocked With Memories."

<sup>66</sup> "Half a Day on Sunday," 5.

<sup>67</sup> "Stocked With Memories.," "Half a Day on Sunday."

<sup>68</sup> Oral History, 15-16.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 6

---

local papers before the business closed and were featured in a short documentary and related article and exhibit by Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, where many artifacts from the store are housed as part of the museum's permanent collection.

Vivian Weinstein passed away in 1998, and Ruth Weinstein in 1999.

### *Post-Weinstein Family*

In the years following the Weinstein sisters' sale of the property, the former Harry's Market was used as a smoothie shop and later as residential space, while the dwelling continued to be occupied as housing.

As of February 2026, the Weinstein House/Harry's Market is being rehabilitated for use as a neighborhood-serving shop and a three-unit residential dwelling, restoring the site's original use.



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 8

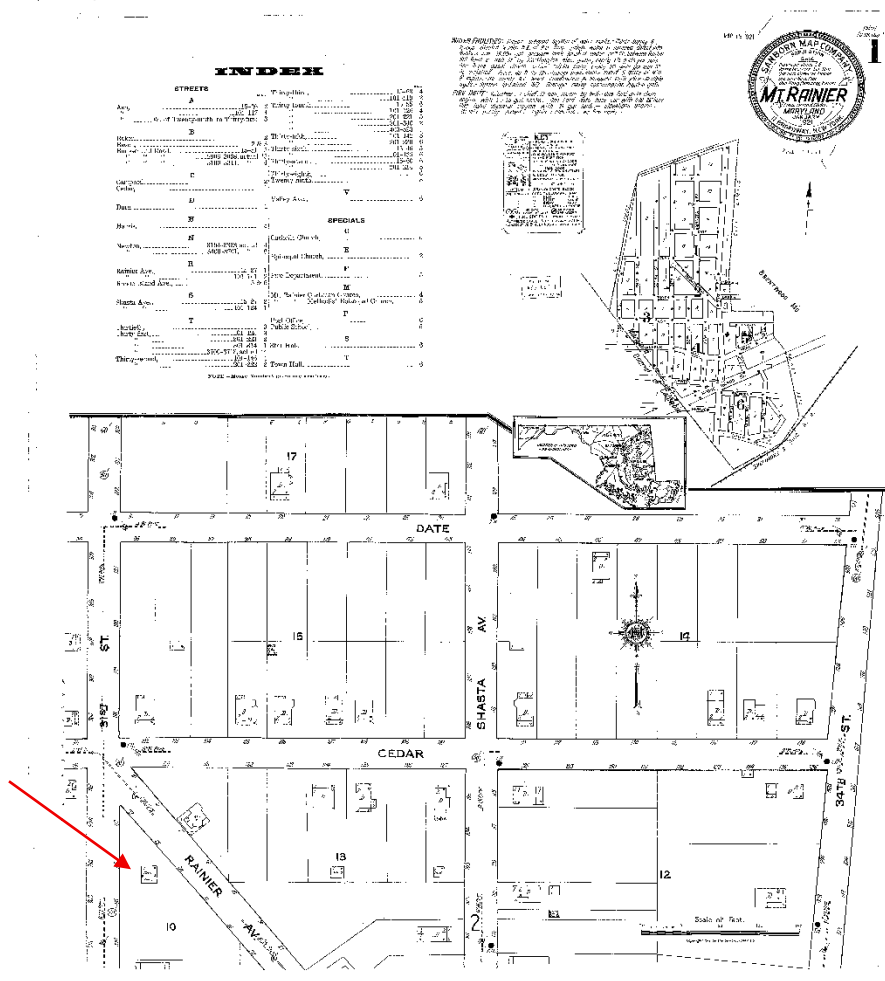


Figure 2: The one-story grocery building appeared on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 1.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 9



Figure 3: The Widenmyers' house at 4219 31<sup>st</sup> Street appeared on the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 2.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 10

---

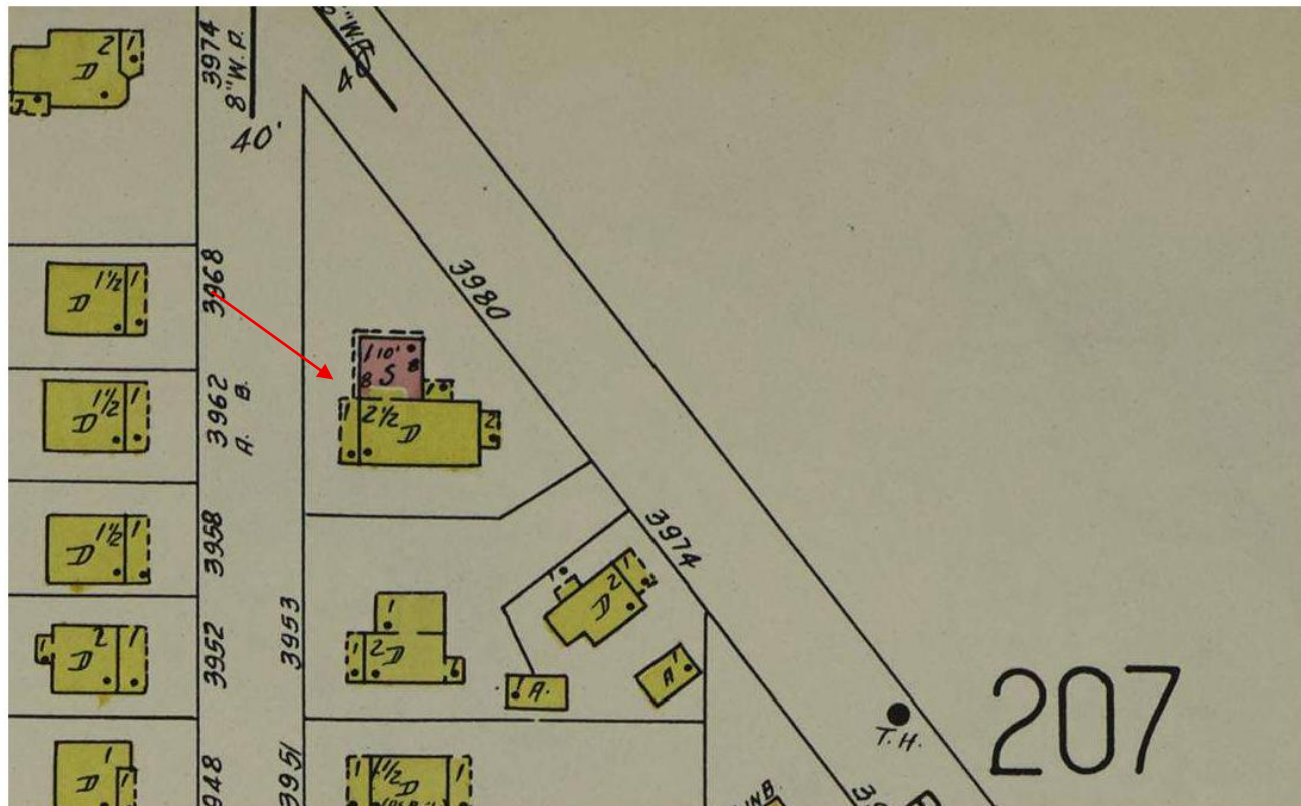


Figure 4: The dwelling addition to the rear of the store appeared on the 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 11

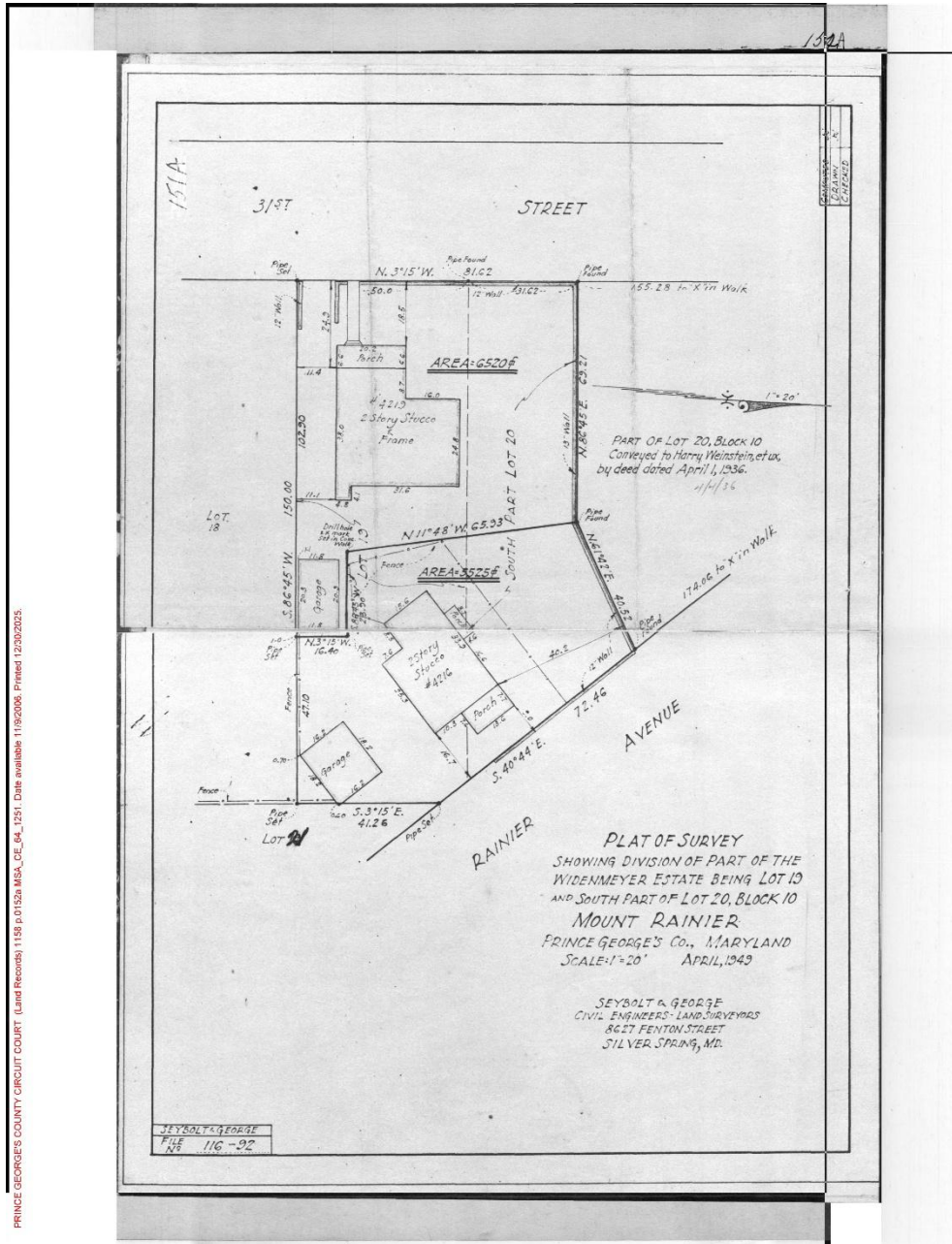


Figure 5: Plat of Survey, 1949, showing the houses at 4219 31<sup>st</sup> Street (top) and 4216 Rainier Avenue (bottom) built by the Widenmyers, and the land previously sold to the Weinstains.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 12

---



Figure 6: Mary Elizabeth Widenmyer. "Trinity Church Youth Are 'Bulwarks': Make Road Signs, Sing In Choir, Run Paper For the Lutherans," *The Washington Post*, May 27, 1939.



Figure 7: Harry and Leah Weinstein, undated. Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, October 24, 2012, "Half a Day on Sunday," [Video]. YouTube.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 13



Figure 8: Harry's Market joined the DGS cooperative in 1928. Advertisement, April 19, 1928, *The Evening Star*.



Figure 9: The 1950s era District Grocery Stores sign from Harry's Market is on display at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum. Photo by author.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 14

---



Figure 10: Harry Weinstein inside Harry's Market, 1942. Courtesy of the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 15

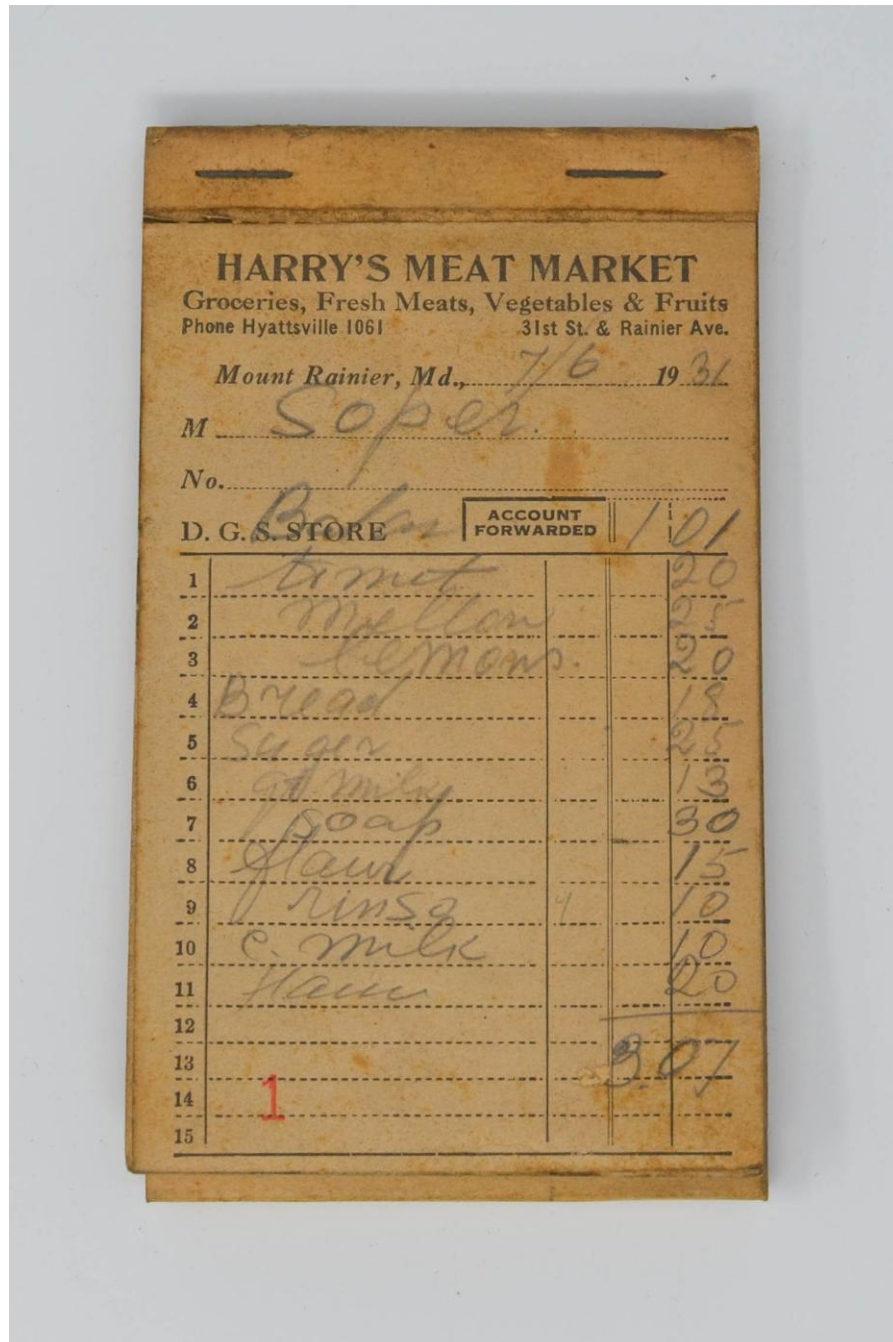


Figure 11: Receipt from Harry's Market, 1931. Courtesy of the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 16



Figure 12: Grocery delivery was fundamental to DGS' success.  
"Washington, D.C. A groceryman standing by a District Grocery Stores truck on the side of which is displayed a United States Truck Conservation Corps pledge," Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information photograph collection (Library of Congress).

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 17

---



Figure 13: The DGS warehouse opened in 1941. "Washington, D.C. District grocery store warehouse on 4th Street S.W. Trucks large and small, lined up in front of the warehouse at dawn, to be loaded for delivery," Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection (Library of Congress), 1942.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 18



Figure 14: Front and Back of Ration Book Holder with Harry's Market branding, Capital Jewish Museum Archives.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 19

---



Figure 15: Harry and Leah Weinstein at Harry's Market, 1980. Courtesy of the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection



Figure 16: Vivian and Ruth Weinstein at Harry's Market, undated. Courtesy of the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Collection

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 20

---



Figure 17: Vivian and Ruth Weinstein inside Harry's Market, taken to mark the store's closing in 1996. Photo by Juana Arias for *The Washington Post*, "Stocked with Memories."

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 21

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. 68-75-05

*Ancestry.com*, Various

*The Evening Star*

U.S. Federal Census

Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum Archives

*The Washington Post*

---

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.196 acres (8817 sq. ft.)  
Acreage of historical setting 0.196 acres (8817 sq. ft.)  
Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

---

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

Being known and designated as Part of Lot numbered Twenty (20) in Block numbered Ten ( 10) in the subdivision of the tract of land known as "Mt. Rainier", as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book JWB 5 at Folio 656 and rerecorded in Liber A at plat 5, among the Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, and described as follows:

Beginning for the same at a cross in the sidewalk at the intersection of the east line of Thirty-First Street with the west line of Rainier Avenue as shown on the plat of said subdivision and running thence:

1. South 3 deg 15 min East 155.28 feet with the east line of Thirty-first Street; thence,
2. North 86 deg 45 min East 69.21 feet at right angles to Thirty-first Street; thence,
3. North 61 deg 42 min East 40.58 feet to the west line of Rainier Avenue; thence,
4. North 40 deg 44 min West 174.06 feet with the west line of Rainier Avenue to the place of beginning, containing 8,817 square feet of land more or less.

The improvements thereon being known as: 4221 31st Street, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

---

### 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kacy Rohn, Planner III, Historic Preservation Section		
organization	Prince George's Planning Department	date	February 10, 2026
street & number	1616 McCormick Drive	telephone	301-952-3680
city or town	Largo	state	MD

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 68-74-5

Weinstein House/Harry's Market  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 22

---

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-697-9591

---