



**Jewish Historical Society Oral Histories  
Harry Gerofsky's "Union Street Revisited" (30 Nov. 1980)**

**By Ellen Callahan  
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**Link to audio files:**

<https://archive.org/details/JHS27SideA/JHS+27-+side+A.mp3>

<https://archive.org/details/JHS27SideA/JHS+27-+side+B.mp3>

**Summary Information:**

Tape Number: JHS 27  
Length: Side 1: 47:19  
Side 2: 45:20  
Name of Program: Jewish Historical Society of Greater Trenton (JHS) presenting Harry Gerofsky's "Union Street Revisited, Part II" [slide presentation]  
Date of Program: 11/30/1980  
Place of Program: Jewish Community Center, Lower Ferry Road

This is a recording of Harry Gerofsky's slideshow presentation "Union Street Revisited, Part II." In many ways, this recording (even without the slides) is a perfect companion piece to the other JHS oral histories since it focuses on the heart of Trenton's Jewish community in the area of South Trenton which included Union, Fall, Market and Mill Streets. During this program, Gerofsky uses maps and photographs of street scenes and specific buildings and people to paint a picture of Jewish life in South Trenton. He discusses the establishment of synagogues, Hebrew schools, businesses, Jewish social organizations as well as individuals who were central to the area. Many of the same businesses, social organizations, religious institutions, and families discussed in the other recordings are discussed here.

The recording also provides evidence of the activities of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Trenton (JHS). This presentation begins with an unnamed person (possibly the president of JHS) welcoming the audience and reporting on JHS activities. He discusses the society's application to the federal government for a grant to support a project to collect oral histories and have them

transcribed to document the history of Trenton's Jewish Community. Later, Gerofsky reports that JHS had hired Dr. Gertrude Dubrovsky<sup>1</sup> to write this history.

Finally, this 1980 recording indicates that much evidence of Jewish Trenton had already begun to disappear. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations of Trenton Jews were now middle and upper class professionals, and had moved out of the old Union Street neighborhood, which, according to Gerofsky, had some of the least expensive housing in the city. In addition, urban renewal was taking away physical evidence of the neighborhood. Specifically, the Hughes Justice Complex, built between 1978 and 1982 to house the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the State Superior and Supreme Courts, was constructed in what was the heart of the Jewish neighborhood, eliminating much of Union Street and the surroundings area.

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<sup>1</sup> Gertrude Wishnick Dubrovsky (1926-2012) authored "The Land Was Theirs: Jewish Farmers in the Garden State" in 1992 but there is no evidence that she ever wrote a history of Trenton's Jewish Community.