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# Wallabout Market Photographs

The National Archives at New York City recently completed a digitization project for a series of [photographs of the Wallabout Market in Brooklyn, New York](#). Located along the eastern edge of the New York Navy Yard, the Wallabout Market was one of the largest outdoor markets in the world, serving as a major wholesale marketplace from at least 1884 until 1941, selling meat, produce, and dry goods to retailers.



L: Store view of items on display with promotional signage for Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" & Planter's Peanuts, 4/12/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164911810](#)

*R: Room view of loading area with two open doors leading outside to street; produce wagon, stacks of crates, and worker sitting by door, 5/16/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164912384](#)*

The market developed informally, between the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the Naval Hospital, and began as a series of small wood and brick buildings. In 1890, the City of Brooklyn decided that a permanent, physical market should be built to house Wallabout

Market. Architect William B. Tubby was hired and the market was designed and rebuilt in a Flemish Revival style between 1894-1896.



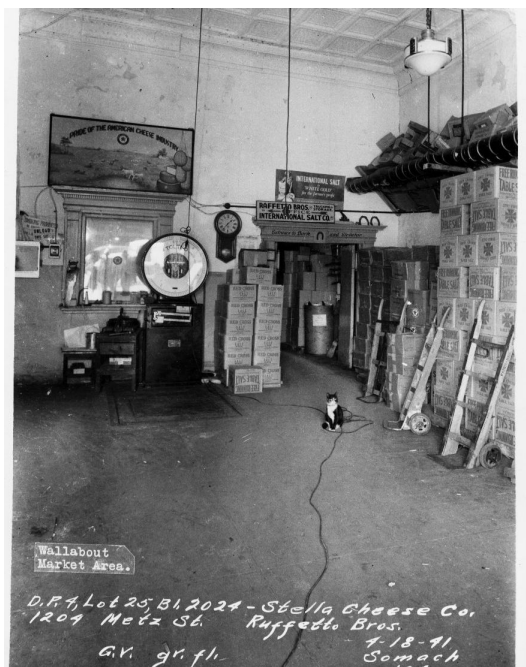
L: Photograph of exterior of clock tower building, 340 East Ave, 5/6/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164913118](#)

R: Photograph of two men on sidewalk outside market buildings looking west on south side of B St from Mkt Ave, 5/26/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164912956](#)

As the United States began to take an active part in World War II, security concerns about the Brooklyn Navy Yard grew. The bustling Wallabout Market, with its shipments coming in via rail, ship, cart, and truck, as well as its foot traffic, posed a problem for the Navy Yard's security. Additionally, an expected increase in the number of ships that needed to be constructed or repaired necessitated expanding the Navy Yard. These concerns, combined with charges of corruption against one of the Market's directors in the 1930's, spelled the end of Wallabout Market. In June 1941, the Market was officially turned over to the US Navy and the buildings were demolished over the following months.



L: Photograph of interior Wallabout Market, 1204-06 Metz St., Stella Cheese Co., view of two men cleaning up vacated area in furnace boiler area, 5/3/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164911766](#)  
 R: Photograph looking Southwest at Wallabout Market area from East Avenue and B Street, Brooklyn, New York, 3/28/1941. [National Archives Identifier 157670166](#)



L: View of scale area within high ceilinged warehouse with boxes, handtrucks and a black & white cat. Stella Cheese Co., 4/18/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164911748](#)  
 R: Depicts man working on corner of B Street and Market Av with administrative clock tower in background and car in foreground, 5/26/1941. [National Archives Identifier 164912130](#)

These photographs were taken shortly after the market was vacated. Soon after photographing, all of the buildings of the market were razed.





L: External view under building overhang of storefronts with signage for Losio Brothers and Wholesale B. Dorman Groceries and two men in the distance, 4/15/1941. [National Archives Identifier 164911818](#)

R: External view along building overhang with signage for C.H. Patterson Fruits and Produce Brooklyn buildings in distance, 4/11/1941 [National Archives Identifier 164911820](#)



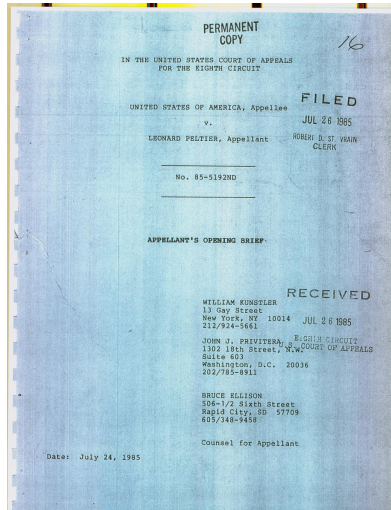
L: Photograph of interior of lot 18, Bl. 2124, 155 West Ave, ground floor in Harry Feffer, 5/5/1941. [National Archives Identifier 164912672](#)

R: Photograph of interior of lot 4, Bl. 2258, 102 West Ave., ground floor of DeStefano with two cats, D.P. 116, 5/15/1941. [National Archives Identifier 164912808](#)

The National Archives at New York City recently completed this digitization project, which includes 36 boxes of photographic prints and one box of negatives of the Wallabout Market. While scanning these photographs, it was discovered the negatives are entirely different from the prints--it was always assumed they matched! Thanks to the hard work of two volunteers, Leah Worster and Jen Hayes, [791 photographs](#) and all [73 negatives](#) are now available to view and download in the Catalog.

# Transcription Challenge

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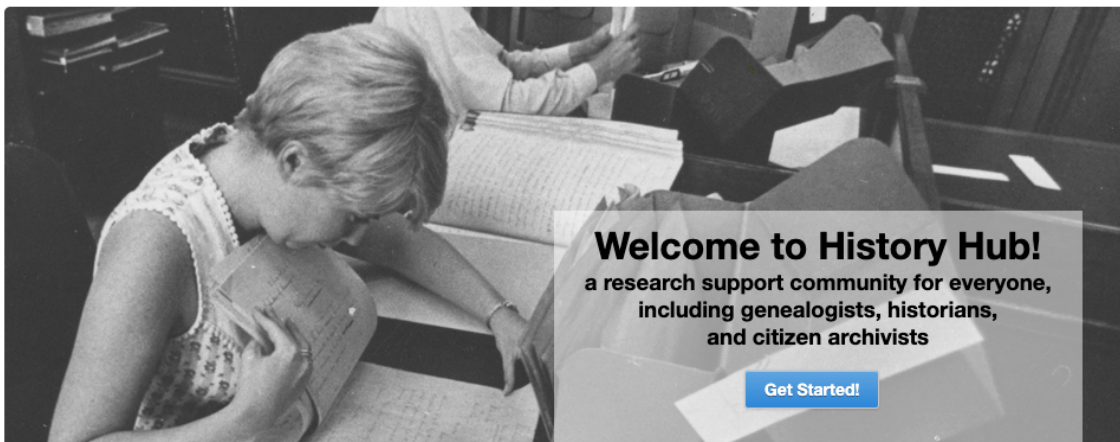
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### COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

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