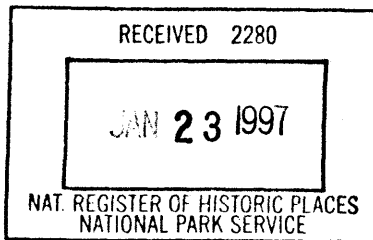


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Torrey-Larrabee Store

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 11 Union Avenue NA not for publication

city or town Lakehurst Borough vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Ocean code 029 zip code 08733

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

2/21/97

Torrey-Larrahee Store
Name of Property

Ocean County, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/ Department Store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick and concrete

walls Brick

roof Shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1860/61-1890

Significant Dates

1860/61, 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Torrey, William

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Torrey-Larrabee Store
Name of Property

Ocean County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Lakehurst Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8
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5	5	8	8	5	0
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4	4	2	9	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kari Brower (revised by Meisha Hunter, Intern, NJ-HPO)

organization Thomas and Sons Contractors, Inc. date 7-1-1996

street & number 11 Locust Street telephone 908-657-6479

city or town Lakehurst state NJ zip code 08733

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name James Thomas

street & number 424 Horicon Avenue telephone 908-657-6479

city or town Lakehurst state NJ zip code 08733

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Situated at the corner of Union Street and Locust Avenue, the Torrey-Larrabee store is a three-story, commercial brick building with simple Italianate features constructed circa 1860-61 (Photo 1). Originally bordered by Torrey cottages and possibly workmen's homes, the Torrey-Larrabee store is now located next to a two-story brick building on Union Street and a single-story office building on Locust Avenue.

Although the 7-by-7-bay store appears to be a solid rectangular block when viewed from Union Avenue and Locust street, the building actually follows an L-shaped plan, which can be observed from the rear (Photo 2). The brick and concrete foundation of the three-story building is surmounted by brick walls and crowned by a gabled roof with slate tiles. Except for the first story of the facade, the common-bond brick walls were originally covered by a layer of cream paint, resembling stucco (Photo 3). This exterior coating was removed in the mid-twentieth century, and the brick has recently been repointed.

The Torrey-Larrabee store retains much of its nineteenth-century commercial facade, despite loss of some original fabric and twentieth-century renovations. The first story was originally covered by an open veranda supported by colonettes, offering pedestrians shelter from sun and rain. This veranda has since been replaced by a pent eave which extends the length of the first story (Photo 4).

The Union Street storefront is accessed by three irregularly spaced entrances, each with a stepped concrete approach of two risers and treads (Photo 5). Recessed double doors with 3/4 length glazing and transom marked the major entrance. This entrance is flanked by two bay windows, which would have brought light to the interior as well as attracted customers to the store. While one minor entrance with 3/4 glazing and transom may have led to the upper story apartments, the third minor entrance is located next to a bay window and may have been another entrance to the store (Photo 6).

The second story was originally fitted with an open veranda, supported by colonettes and bordered by a wooden balcony, which has been removed. Unlike its first story counterpart, the second-story veranda extended from the third to the sixth bay, evidenced by the

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

two remaining doors in these bays which are no longer serviceable. While one of these entrances has been boarded over, the remaining wood-frame door is decorated with ten panes, resembling a French door (Photo 7). An undated twentieth-century photograph reveals that the other door was also wood framed, but with eighteen panes of glass (Photo 8).

The second story is also marked by windows with 2-over-2 sash with limestone lintels and sills in the first, second, fourth, fifth, and seventh bays. Although the new windows follow the original scheme, the windows of the historic postcard (date?) of the building appear to be larger. The windows were also originally fitted with olive green wooden shutters, which have since been removed. The current owner has ordered custom shutters which will be installed. The third story closely resembles the second, except that the fenestration is completely regular. The upper register of the building is marked by a running cornice, whose consoles have been removed, giving the building a severe character.

The Locust Street elevation is marked by three irregularly spaced windows on the first floor and a single, non-serviceable entrance (Photo 9). The seven bays of the second and third stories are articulated by windows in a 2-over-2 sash with limestone lintels and sills, in keeping with the Union Street facade.

The interior features of the building are difficult to discern since many interior wall surfaces are covered with plastic sheets. The plaster on the walls and ceilings of the store has been stripped away, leaving the wooden structural system exposed (Photo 10). Pale blue, simple-pressed ceiling tiles are still extant at the forefront of the store, just beyond the main entrance (Photo 11). Observable original features also include a straight stair on the first floor, which led to the inventory areas and apartments on the second floor, and a wooden cistern in the attic (Photos 12, 13).

The owner of the Torrey-Larrabee store is currently directing a rehabilitation project which will restore some of the original features, stabilize the building, provide structural support, and permit the commercial and residential use of the building.

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed circa 1860-61, the Torrey-Larrabee store was a commercial venture undertaken by the founder and head of the Raritan & Delaware Bay Railroad, William Torrey, Sr. (1798-1891). The railroad crossed the New Jersey Pine Barrens and offered access to the still-developing industries in the Pinelands area of the state. The Raritan & Delaware Bay line directly competed with the established Camden & Amboy Railroad, which held the monopoly on rail traffic between New York and Philadelphia. The connection between the Torrey-Larrabee store and the Raritan & Delaware Bay Railroad was confirmed in the Torrey ledger books, discovered in the attic of the store (1982). These ledger books record the issuance of Torrey-financed scrip in 1861, which partly financed the construction of Torrey's railroad. Thus, the building meets Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Commerce for its association with the railroad and as the oldest store in Lakehurst, and Criterion B for its association with William Torrey.

A real estate promoter and developer from New York City, William Torrey moved to Manchester, New Jersey with his family in 1841. Torrey had already received a mile-square plot of land in the center of Manchester (present-day Lakewood) as a wedding present from his father-in-law in 1821, for which he received the title twenty years later. Upon arrival, Torrey purchased 27,500 acres of forest land near Manchester, and he planned residential development for the site. At the time, Manchester was part of Dover Township in Monmouth County, deep in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, and the area was difficult to access. To realize his development plans, Torrey recognized a need for adequate transportation that could bring building materials and people to the area.

After a brief venture into the charcoal manufacture industry, Torrey and his three sons (Samuel, William and John) decided to enter into commercial railroad operations. Torrey envisioned a complex system of steamboats and rails as a link from Norfolk, Virginia to New York City, which he called the "New York and Norfolk Air Line Railroad". The Raritan & Delaware Bay (R & DB) railroad, incorporated in 1854 and under construction at Port Monmouth in 1856, was the only portion of Torrey's system ever completed.

When the nation was struck by an economic panic in 1857, Torrey suffered financial setbacks which consequently halted the

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

progress of the line. During such an economic crisis, the fact that much of Torrey's assets were tied up in real estate did not alleviate matters. Despite such hardship, Torrey's railroad was again under construction in 1858, and within three years, the northernmost portion of the line from Raritan Bay to Lakewood was complete. By 1862, a connection at Atsion (Shamong Township, Burlington County) permitted access from Philadelphia to New York. The rapid and continuous extension of the line, coupled with the transport of Civil War troops and supplies made the Raritan & Delaware Bay line a competitor of the more established Camden & Amboy Railroad.

While the railroad was progressing, the family still had to finance daily operating expenses and repay a large debt from the Bank of England, secured through Brown Brothers & Company of New York. After five years of confronting expenses without income (1856-1861), the Torreys decided to issue family-financed scrip in 1861 as a means of satisfying creditors and paying employees' salaries. The ledger books show that printing of at least two scrip runs occurred in 1861, specifically: May 1, June 1 (with hand written signature of agent William Lewis), and June 15 (printed). The notes were produced in eight denominations, including five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty cent varieties as well as one, two, three, and five dollar values.

The merchant notes bore the inscription: "S.W. & W.A. TORREY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY", to reflect the names of both issuing parties, William Augustus and Samuel Whitmore Torrey, while the location of where the scrip could be redeemed was discretely omitted. Although a limited number of other stores might accept the Torrey notes, and discount the notes' value, these notes could only be redeemed for close to face value at the Torrey-Larrabee store. Circulated among residents and railroad employees, the scrip was made payable in goods available for purchase at the company store in Manchester. For the historian William S. Dewey, the last printing date of the scrip has offered a possible date for the opening of the store.

The Torrey notes were a legitimate substitute for U.S. currency at the time they were printed. However, corrupt banking and business practices that had poisoned the private-issue system had attracted the attention of the Federal government. The government resolved to discourage the manufacture and distribution of private-issue currency, and make federally-issued greenbacks more accessible. Two years into the Civil War (1863), on the recommendation of the US Office of Internal Revenue, a tax was

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

levied on all privately-issued notes, in the amount of: "one percent on the excess of the average circulation over ninety percent of the capital" or "one half percent on the average circulation not exceeding ninety percent of the capital". No mention is made as to how often this tax was levied, or how the collection of the tax was enforced. Dewey postulates that the last printing of Torrey notes in 1863 coincides with the date when the family was aware of the new tax.

The Torrey ledger books offer valuable information regarding the various partnerships formed during the early ownership history of the store. In 1862, the ledgers record a triple partnership existing between William and John Torrey, and Solomon H. Mead. Evidently, Samuel Whitmore Torrey withdrew from the partnership shortly after the store opened, offering his position to his brother John. Samuel Torrey then focused his attention on completing the railroad and managing the family-operated Alliance Steamboat Company.

By 1865, the Torrey-Mead partnership had dissolved, William Torrey Sr. and his son Samuel had relocated to Montclair, New Jersey, and the younger William Torrey remained as the sole owner of the store. While the R & DB railroad would be bankrupt by 1867, the Torrey store in Manchester was proving quite profitable. The 1866 Dun & Bradstreet Report gave the business a high financial rating "Torrey, W.A. -- Country Store, &c A AB". The "A AB" score was defined as follows:

A = a house fully established, with large capital, can pay cash for all they buy, or make as good a note as can be made. Of excellent business character and ability.

AB = a well established house of undoubted business character and ability - easy as regards money matters, prompt, careful, and in excellent credit.

By this time, the Raritan & Delaware Bay railroad had reached Manchester. The increased rail traffic had brought settlers to the town, creating a need for more housing. To meet the demand, William Torrey opened a brickyard in the nearby town of Whiting for the manufacture of bricks, under the management of his brother John Torrey. The large land-holdings of William Torrey Sr. in Manchester had already been sold to New York banker, James Brown, in 1863.

In 1870, William Torrey sold the Whiting brickyard to A.S. Larrabee, a co-owner of a general store in Manchester. In order to

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

oversee the operations of his new enterprise in Whiting, A.S. Larrabee withdrew from the co-ownership of the Manchester store. In the same year, A.S. Larrabee's associate, E.F. Larrabee, decided to enter into a partnership with the Torreys, rather than compete with them. The ledger books record E.F. Larrabee as a Torrey partner in 1870, and by 1890, he was the sole owner and operator of the store.

While the commercial function of the Torrey-Larrabee store has been established, the functions of the upper floors of building have yet to be explored. The second and third stories were originally used by E.F. Larrabee as inventory and storage space. Evidently, the upper floors were also a locus for political gatherings. At least one meeting of the Republican Club of Ocean County was held there, for which the minutes from October 10, 1866 record: "Pursuant to a resolution at a former meeting, the Republicans of Manchester Township met in a room on the second floor of Store building of Wm. A. Torrey in Manchester Village".

Exactly when the upper floors began to be used as residential space is not certain. The Larrabee and Narozanick families lived in apartments on the west side of the building. By 1920, Harry Fuccile lived there and operated a barber shop on the premises. Sometime between 1930 and 1960, Don Rose rented the upper floors, as living space and as a site for his beauty parlor. The apartments on the east side of the building were occupied by a variety of tenants, including the officers stationed at nearby Camp Kendrick during World War I, and Navy officers stationed at the Lakehurst Naval Air Base.

In 1982, the Torrey-Larrabee store was purchased by James H. Thomas, president of Thomas & Sons, Inc., who intends to adapt the building for use as office and residential space.

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

- Dewey, William S. "The Old Torrey Store in Manchester, New Jersey and Its Currency". Paper Money Magazine (May/June 1983) 102-109.
- . "The Old Torrey Store in Manchester, New Jersey and Its Currency". Paper Money Magazine (July/August 1983) 173-175.
- . "The Old Torrey Store in Manchester, New Jersey and Its Currency". Paper Money Magazine (September/October 1983) 220-226.
- . "The Old Torrey Store in Manchester, New Jersey and Its Currency". Paper Money Magazine (November/December 1983) 267-275.
- . "Torrey and Mead Notes of Manchester, New Jersey". Paper Money Magazine (September/October 1985) 229-230.

Interviews

William S. Dewey, March 1992. Interview conducted by Kari Brower.

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Torrey-Larrabee Store

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Torrey-Larrabee Store is located at 11 Union Avenue, on the corner of Union Avenue and Locust Street in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Block number 69, lot 1.

Beginning at a point located at the intersection of the northerly side line of Union Avenue and the easterly side line of Locust Street, thence eastwardly along the northerly side line of Union Avenue 50 feet to a point, thence north 5 degrees 10 minutes east 100 feet to a point, thence north 84 degrees 50 minutes west 50 feet to a point, thence southerly along the easterly side line of Locust Street 100 feet to the place of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary description for the nominated property (Block 69, lot 1) was drawn from the deed, dated June 5, 1989. It is not known whether the dimensions of the lot have been altered since the Torrey-Larrabee store was erected in 1860/61.

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

1. Lakehurst Quadrangle (7.5 Minute Series, Topographic). United States Geographical Society (USGS) Map.
2. Borough of Lakehurst, Ocean County, NJ. Zoning Map.
3. a. Street map of Lakehurst showing location of Torrey_larrabee Store.
3. b. Groundplan of Torrey-Larrabee store.

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N.J. Ocean County
Torrey-Larrabee Store

LIST OF PHOTOS

1. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of facade, 1991.
 2. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of rear elevation, 1991.
 3. Historic postcard of Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of Union Street and Locust Avenue elevations, ca. 1870.
 4. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of Union Street facade, showing pent eave on first story, 1991.
 5. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of Union Street facade, showing three first story entrances, 1991.
 6. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of first story minor entrance with transom, 1991.
 - * 7. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of Union Street facade, showing two second story entrances, 1991.
 - * 8. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of second story entrance, 1991.
 9. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of Locust Avenue elevation, 1991.
 10. Torrey-Larrabee Store. Interior of store, showing exposed wood beam ceiling, 1993.
 - * 11. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of pressed tiles in store, 1993.
 12. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of staircase on first story, 1993.
 13. Torrey-Larrabee Store. View of wooden cistern in attic, 1993.
- * Photos located at New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.
Not submitted to National Register.

Torrey-Larrabee Store, Lakehurst Borough,
Ocean County, NJ

LOT-5.03
(Dwelling)

BLOCK - 69

ASPHALT PUMPT

IR ROD SET

N. 84° 50' W

IR ROD SET

WOOD STOCKADE FENCE 4 HIGH

LOT-1

LOT-2

DRIVE

100.00'

29

201

1-STORY MASONRY

1-STORY FRAME

100.00' N. 05° 10' E

100.00'

5.05' 10' W

3-STORY BRICK BLDG (VACANT)

2 STORY MASONRY BLDG

#11 UNION TUE

IR ROD SET

S. 84° 50' E

IR ROD SET

CONC CURBING

ASPHALT PUMPT

UNION AVE (75 R/W)

CONC CURBING

BLDG WALL 8' HIGH

52.13

0.44

BLDG LINE (50.10 BLY)

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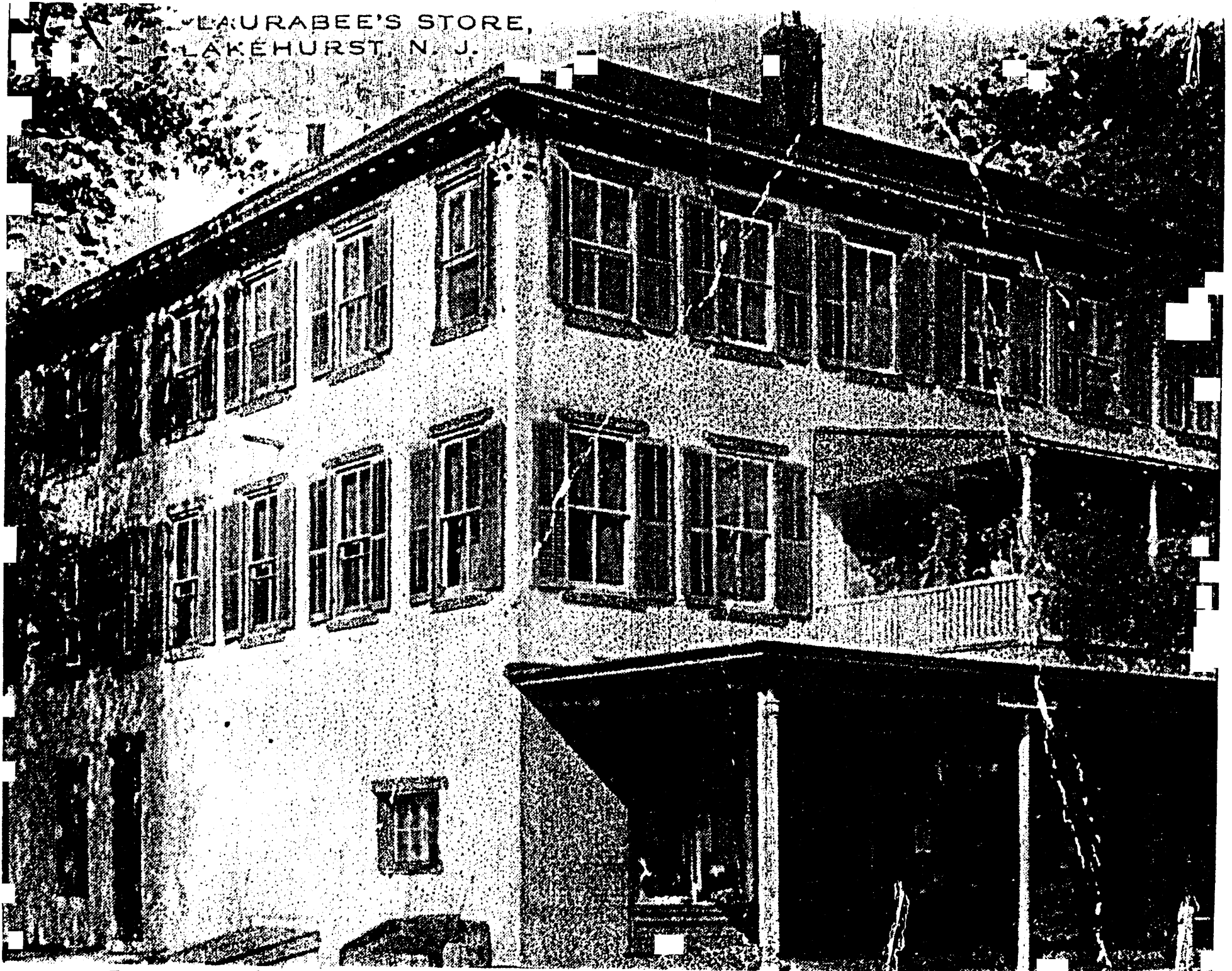
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LARRABEE'S STORE,
LAKEHURST, N. J.



Torrey-Larrabee Store, Lakehurst Borough, Ocean County, NJ (see photo inventory #3)