OMB No. 10024-0018

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.

2. Location street & number3959 County Route 563 (First and Main streets), Chatsworth ont for publication city or townWoodland Township		1. Name of Property
State New Jersey Code 034 County Burlington Code 005 Zip Code 08019		historic name Buzby's General Store
Street & number3959 County Route 563 (First and Main streets), Chatsworth not for publication city or townWoodland Township	y's	other names/site number Buzby's Chatsworth General Store; Chat
state New Jersey code 034 county Burlington code 005 zip code 08019 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 received by locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date Marc A. Matsil. Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO 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		2. Location
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		State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification		4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of A entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the		I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
National Register. removed from the National Register.		removed from the National
other, (explain:)		

Buzby's	General	Store
Buzby's Name of Prope	rty	

Burlington	Co.,	NJ
County and State		

5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)				
☑ private	building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing				
public-local	☐ district	2	buildings			
☐ public-State☐ public-Federal	⊠ site ☐ structure	1	•			
L and a constant	☐ object					
		22	_			
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	property listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources pr in the National Register '				
N/A	The state of the s	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)				
COMMERCE/department store		COMMERCE/department store				
DOMESTIC/single dw	elling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling				
		<u> </u>	···			
,						
7. Description		No.				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)				
LATE VICTORIAN		foundation <u>stone</u> , brownstone				
		walls weatherboard				
		roof <u>shingles</u>				
		other				

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

Burlington	Co.,	ŊJ	
County and State			

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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Commerce
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.	Period of Significance 1865–1952
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Property is:	1897
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	July 18, 1928
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	
☐ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ 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.	Architect/Builder Unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation she	eets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form of	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
 ☑ 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 	☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State agency ☑ Federal agency ☐ Local government ☐ University ☐ Other Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Library of Congress, Local Legacy Program

	Burlington Co., NJ
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 0.9 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
(Flace additional OTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 8 5 3 9 7 4 7 4 4 0 7 5 8 3	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	4
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	_ See continuation sheet
(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	
11. Form Frepared by	
name/title R. Marilyn Schmidt, CEO	
name/me	
organization Barnegat Light Press, Inc.	date November 2002
organization	
street & number Route 563, P.O. Box 607	telephone (609) 894-1405
city or town Chatsworth	stateNJ zip code08019
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	· ·
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p	roperty's location.
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A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties havin	
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A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property of the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.) name Barnegat Light Press, Inc. 3959 Route 563	g large acreage or numerous resources. Toperty. telephone (609) 894~4415

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.

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

Description Narrative

Buzby's General Store is a white cedar frame, two-story, clapboarded building built about 1865 in the village of Chatsworth, Burlington County, New Jersey (Photo 1). It stands, oriented northerly, facing First Street at the southwest corner of Front Street (County Route 563) on a nearly one-acre lot that contains one contributing building (the store), two non-contributing outbuildings, and the ruin of a contributing outbuilding (one contributing site). The store building consists of a two-story main block with a front gable roof and full-width covered porch, and a recessed, two-story wing that extends to the west perpendicular to the main block, so that its gable roof intersects the roof of the main block at a right angle. Both halves of the building rest on an ironstone foundation of evident 19th-century construction, all of which appears to have been built at the same time. Thus both halves of the building appear to date from the same episode of construction in the third quarter of the 19th century. From the beginning, the first story of the main block served as a general store and the entire second story was a dwelling unit. The store function eventually expanded to embrace nearly the entire first story of the wing as well.

The building evolved through several, mostly minor, changes made during its period of significance as Chatsworth's general store, especially during the ownership of the Buzbys during the first half of the twentieth century. These changes included, first, a one-story addition that was added sometime before 1900 to the rear of both the main block and the wing. This addition appears at the rear of the building in the oldest historic photo available, taken about 1900 (see historic photos). The building has undergone other modifications over the years, especially in the 1920s and '30s. A covered porch across the north side of the wing was enclosed, probably in the 1920s, and the entry door to the store (see historic photos) was replaced with a new corner door set at an angle to the facade. One bay of the store's porch was enclosed with large store windows. An asphalt shingle roof was added to the original wood shingle roof, and cement-asbestos siding was added to cover the exterior walls.

The building was sensitively rehabilitated by its present owner in 1998 (including removal of the cement-asbestos siding), and it possesses integrity, being still quite recognizeable as the building that was Buzby's General Store. The 1998 rehabilitation has generally restored the building's 1930s appearance, which was during the heyday of Buzby's tenure. Today the exterior walls of the building are clad with white cedar siding, some original, some replaced. All original sash windows with 6-over-6 lights had been replaced with 1-over-1 sash windows by a previous owner, and aluminum, triple track storm windows had been added. During the 1998 restoration all existing window sashes were replaced in their existing openings with similar-sized 6-over-6 sash vinyl windows, except for the projecting first-story bay, the other large commercial display windows, and the arch-topped window in the front gable.

Exterior, main block

The main block of Buzby's General Store housed the store proper. It presents a two-story, three-bay facade dominated by a full-width covered porch. The porch wraps around the east corner and extends about twelve feet along the east side. Three wooden steps extend plinth-like the full length of the porch on both sides. The floor of the porch acts as the top step. From the floor a series of unturned posts support the roof, except at the west end where the roof is supported by a projecting storefront bay (see below). Wide display windows with transom windows above and an entrance door set on a diagonal at the corner complete the first-story facade. This appearance has resulted from several twentieth-century alterations installed during the 1920s or '30s (diagonal entrance, display windows and transoms, projecting bay) and by a rebuilding of the front porch in 1998 to closely resemble the porch as shown in the ca.1900 historic photograph. This rebuilding of the porch

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

reversed a change made between 1983 and 1986 when the earlier wooden steps were replaced with concrete steps. A new sign, "Chatsworth General Store," has been hung from the soffit of the porch roof plate. (Photo 1)

The second story of the main block features three modern replacement 6/6 sash windows occupying original window locations. The facade extends upward into a front gable highlighted by an original 6/6 sash window with a semi-circular upper sash, and by a projecting cornice at the roofline, with returns. The cornice supports built-in wooden gutters along the east and west side walls. The roofs throughout are finished with asphalt shingles, which replaced the original cedar shingles. The east side wall was modified by the installation of the display windows around 1920 and by the extension of the porch in 1998 twelve feet beyond where it ended in 1900. Two replacement 6/6 sash windows in the second story occupy original locations (compare historic photo and Photo 4). The original cedar siding of the east wall, as shown in the ca.1900 photograph, was similar to the present siding of the west wall. It has been replaced, however, with narrower siding that matches the facade. Rainwater leaders and a large electrical utility meter box are also attached to the east wall of the building.

Exterior, wing

The wing extends three bays to the west from the main block. The last bay is occupied by the entrance for the residential apartment. This entrance is recessed behind a covered entrance porch that was once open across the entire front of the wing. The two interior bays of the porch, however, were enclosed, probably during the 1920s. This enclosed porch rests on a foundation of rusticated cement blocks of early 20th-century manufacture (Photo 9). Sash windows are paired in both bays of the enclosed porch. The second story of the wing a 6/6 window in each bay. The west end wall is clad in 8-inch-wide cedar boards, approximately twice as wide as those on other sides of the building. This was evidently the original treatment on other than the front wall of the building, because the wide boards are shown on the east side wall in the ca.1900 photograph (Photos 7,8).

Exterior, rear addition

Sometime prior to 1900 a one-story addition was made to the south side (Photos 4,5,6). This addition extends across the entire south side of the building. The easterly part behind the main block was called the "feed room." The east wall of the addition is shown in the ca.1900 photograph. The foundation is of cement block and a crawl space exists under the floor. The feed room area was refashioned by a previous owner in 1975 into a commercial kitchen to support a cafe in the store space, and the present owner renovated this kitchen and a bathroom and added a handicapped access ramp outside across the rear of the building. The west end of the addition is a one-room office.

The east wall of the addition includes a modern replacement door in the location where the ca.1900 photograph shows the feed room door. The historic photo shows that no steps were present at that time, which suggests that the purpose of the door was to facilitate the direct transfer of bulk commodities into waiting wagons. Today the new door is fitted with steps and railings. The east and west end walls of the addition are squared off at the top, forming parapets that conceal the addition's sloping leanto roof and partially obscure the ventilating ductwork from the commercial kitchen.

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

Interior, Cellar

A cellar extends completely under the original store and wing, but not under the rear addition or under the store's front porch or the enclosed front porch of the wing. Thus the cellar has a L-shaped plan and appears to have been constructed all at once. The foundation is built of uncoursed bog iron or ironstone laid in mortar (Photo 8) and parged with plaster. A concrete floor has been laid as part of the recent rehabilitation. Access to the basement from the outside was originally through a bulkhead entrance near the front of the east wall (see the historic photo), evidence of which can still be seen in the cellar wall, but this bulkhead must necessarily have been closed when the front porch was expanded along the east side of the building (see above). The cellar today has no bulkhead access. A ladder or steep staircase once also gave access to the cellar via a trap door from along the east wall in the store, but the recent rehabilitation removed that trap door and ladder. Access today is from a cellar stair in the last bay of the wing, underneath the stair that rises to the second floor.

Under the wing of the building, two 19th-century wood-frame, 3-light, cellar windows fitted with vertical, one-inch-square iron bars are installed in the front wall. Although they must have once looked out on daylight, now they only furnish dark glimpses of the crawl space under the enclosed porch of the wing. The cellar contains the brick stack of a chimney and support for a hearth on the first floor (see below). This stack is situated where the main block and the wing meet. An unused coal furnace stands nearby, built by the Wm. H. Page Boiler Co. A coal bin also remains in the northeast corner of the basement. A coal shoot on the north side of the porch provided entrance for coal delivery.

Interior, First Story

The first floor plan of the building has evolved somewhat over time, as the commercial operations required more space. At first, the store evidently occupied only the first-story portion of the main block. Evidently a door was placed in the west wall of the store approximately where the present door is located, and this door gave access to a passage that connected the last bay of the wing, which would permit the storeowner living upstairs to enter or leave the store without leaving the building completely. This passage was closed on the west end by a door (still in place) that opened from the stairhall in the last bay. The floor also indicates where an inner wall that helped define this passage was placed. The other wall was the front wall of the wing before the open porch of the wing was enclosed. When the porch was enclosed in the 1920s, both walls defining the passage were removed and the entire area of the wing except the stairhall became a single room. While the passage remained in place, it defined a rear room the purpose of which may have been residential or may have been to function as an office for the store proprietor. Whether it had access to the passage is unknown, but it did have direct access from the stairhall through a door that still remains (Photos 26, 27). Today the first floor of the store is entirely given over to commercial purposes, except for the stairhall in the last bay of the wing. Until recently the front of the main block housed a cafe supported by the commercial kitchen in the rear addition. Today the cafe has become a bookstore and gift shop. (Photos 17,18,19,20)

In the rehabilitation, yellow pine replacement flooring was installed in the store area of the main block, while plywood flooring covered by wall-to-wall carpeting was installed in the wing. Inexpensive paneling installed in the 1960s was removed and the lath and plaster walls were covered instead by gypsum wallboard.

The store area was evidently heated by a large stove whose exhaust gases were ducted into a chimney that served both the main block and the wing. (A heat-exchanger system currently heats the entire building.) It appears unlikely that a fireplace or mantel was ever installed facing the store side of this chimney stack, but if

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

either was once present it or they were removed long ago and alterations to the wall have obscured any trace of them. The original door opening into the passage in the wing was long ago removed and left without a door, evidently to allow customers access to both sides of the floor. The present owner has installed a pair of new glazed doors (Photos 13,23).

The rear wall of the store area contains a doorway into the commercial kitchen and an opening into the passage in the rear addition leading to the bathroom and the rear entrance (Photo 21). During the rehabilitation a closed-up window opening was discovered in this rear wall, which offers further evidence that the rear addition was not part of the original construction. Near the southeast corner of the room, a heavy wooden beam projects about ten feet from the south wall into the room and is supported on the inner end by a heavy wooden post. These timbers mark the approximate location of the former stair to the second story. (Photos 20,21)

The first story of the wing is a single, large room used today as part of the gift shop (Photo 25). It contains the only fireplace on the first floor (Photo 11). This fireplace is of Victorian-era construction from hand-molded but kiln-fired, mid-19th-century bricks. It features a wide, shallow firebox with a segmentally arched top and no mantel or chimneypiece. The firebox had been filled in and covered over after the coal furnace was installed in the basement, and its exhaust flue was extended upward through the chimney stack. The firebox was restored during the 1998 rehabilitation.

One significant piece of store furniture remains in the building from the Buzby era. According to the present owner, one of the Buzbys' display counters stands in front of the back wall of the wing. The store furnishings had been sold at public sale years ago, but this wood and glass display counter of apparent 19th-century construction may have been in the store from before the elder Buzby acquired it (Photo 24).

Entrance Hall

The entrance hall for the residential apartment occupies the end bay of the wing (Photos 27,28). The hall extends from front to rear and the rear door (once an exterior door) leads to the small office room in the west end of the rear addition. From the front door facing the rear of the house, the main staircase rises on the right side to the second floor. This staircase appears to be original and complete, with a Victorian-era, heavy, turned newel post, a wide handrail, and turned balusters. A passage extends alongside and to the left of the staircase to the rear door. The left side of the passage includes two original, four-panel doors. The first door originally led to a passage that originally linked the stairhall with the store (see above). The second door, of the same design as the first, opens into the room that existed behind the passage until the 1920s (see above). Another door under the staircase provides access to the cellar. The original yellow pine floor and original baseboards and door trim also remain intact in the stairhall (Photo 10).

Interior, Second Story

The second story has always been residential. It has been a single apartment for many years, but whether it was always so seems likely but is not fully certain. The portion of the second floor situated within the wing is arranged as an L-shaped space that wraps around the stairhall. The staircase in the western bay rises in a straight flight from the first floor to the second floor. A short passage alongside the stair has existed since the house was built. It once led to a bathroom in the northwest corner of the floor, but that bathroom was removed during the rehabilitation and the space converted into part of a new and larger kitchen. During the

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

rehabilitation the passage along the stairs was widened by shifting the wall that defined it away from the stairs far enough to permit the construction of two new closets. A doorway between the closets leads into the major space in the apartment, the large L-shaped room mentioned above. This space serves as a living room, dining room and kitchen. From this space a doorway leads from the wing into the main block, where a passage extends nearly to the east wall. Two bedrooms are located on the north side of this passage (toward the front of the building), and both bedrooms have original closets. On the south side of the passage, an enclosed stair leads up to the attic, then a third bedroom follows, and finally a modern bathroom. This bathroom was installed during the rehabilitation; it takes up the narrow space originally occupied by a staircase coming up from the store below. Here, too, a shifting of the bedroom wall made the space for the bathroom somewhat wider than it previously was.

The rehabilitation of the building has preserved the original 10-inch-wide yellow pine flooring throughout the second story. The original upstairs walls are of plaster on lath construction. Inexpensive modern paneling was installed over the plaster during the 1960s. During the rehabilitation this paneling was removed, but half-inch thick plasterboard was installed in its place. Existing baseboard moldings, door surrounds, and other wood trim were preserved in the rehabilitation. Several original four-panel doors still occupy their original doorways. Several of these also feature 19th-century rectangular case iron rim locks and ebonized knobs.

Interior, Attic

The attic which is accessed by stairs from the second floor east-west hall is eight feet high at the peaks. One sash window with 6-over-6 lights is located on the north side; the south and west walls have sash windows with 4-over-4 lights. The window on the north wall is Gothic-styled with a curved top and wide muntions. A fire hatch is located on the west side of the commercial area roof.

Other Buildings and Structures

The remainder of the property includes a metal-sided pole barn (non-contributing) that stands 12 feet from the westerly end of the store building (Photos 2,3,6,16), on the site formerly occupied by a garage-barn-workshop from the period of significance. The former building was destroyed in a 1996 fire that also destroyed an outhouse that stood behind it. In March 2002, the two-hole outhouse (non-contributing) was rebuilt based on photographs taken prior to the 1996 fire (Photo 16). This outhouse includes one window with 6/6 sash. A remaining barn was in ruinous condition, beyond restoration, when the present owner purchased the property; that barn was dismantled, leaving the foundation. Its white cedar siding was saved for reuse in the rehabilitation of the store. Ruins of a one-story, rectangular, cement-block building (contributing site) probably dating from the 1920s stand toward the westerly end of the property. Although some believe that this building, now roofless, once served as an icehouse, the presence of several window openings would appear to rule out such a use for this building. Its purpose otherwise remains unknown at this time, but it clearly dates from the period of significance, being composed of cement blocks of the same type as those in the additions to the residential areas of the main building (photos 14,15).

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

Statement of Significance

Buzby's General Store, also known as the Chatsworth General Store, Buzby's Chatsworth General Store, or just Buzby's, has had a long association with commerce and social life in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, the largest-remaining, natural area on the eastern seaboard between Richmond and New England. Chatsworth is the principal village in the central part of the Pine Barrens, and is surrounded by largely undeveloped pinelands for several miles in all directions. Due to this isolation, the store for decades has served as a lifeline to many Pine Barrens residents by providing foodstuffs, hunting supplies, kerosene, animal feed, fabric, sewing items, and clothing. Owned by the Buzby family for nearly seventy years, the store was at many times the venue for public gatherings and social events for a large area of the Pine Barrens. As a locally significant economic enterprise, the store meets Criterion A in the area of commerce.

Historical background

The land that encompasses Chatsworth was part of the estate of Joseph D. Beers, a New York broker and a major investor in Pine Barrens property (1). His isolated landholdings became accessible to the outside world in 1862 when the track of the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad (D&RB) reached Shamong Township enroute to Atsion and Atco. The railroad established Shamong Station, as Chatsworth was originally named, laying out the street plan for a village and dividing it into lots, and in 1864, the year that Beers died, Shamong Station was described as containing one school, a liquor store, two sawmills, a few houses, a post office, a firehouse, and a general store (2). Benjamin O. Wade obtained title to approximately one acre on the southwest corner of First Street and Main Street (now County Route 563). As a consequence of the establishment of Shamong Station, Woodland Township, centered around Shamong Station, was established by the legislature in 1866 (3). Wade had the present general store and residence built for him in 1865, and he weathered the changing fortunes of the community and the railroad, running the store for the next thirty-two years (4).

Chatsworth, known as Shamong Station or Shamong until 1896, was a railroad town. The D&RB served the area from the early 1860s until the mid 1960s. With the line through Shamong Station completed in 1862, during the Civil War, one of the main sources of early revenue for the D&RB was to carry Union troops between New York City and Philadelphia. Then with the end of the Civil War in 1865, Ocean County experienced something of an economic boom. Many local sea captains who normally engaged in the coastal trade had amassed large sums ferrying war materials in the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac and James Rivers. Some of this money was now channeled into banking, real estate development and local industry in Burlington and Ocean counties (5). One result was an increased population in the area and demand for a new general store.

After the war the main emphasis in the Pine Barrens was on fruit culture. Peaches and grapes proved profitable in Hammonton, Egg Harbor City, and Vineland but attempts to grow peaches in this are proved ultimately a disaster. However, the Pine Barrens bogs proved ideal for the cultivation of cranberries, which also grew in the wild. In the mid-1840s artificial bogs were created there. In 1866 prices soared as a cranberry craze swept the northeastern markets. The price of land in the Pine Barrens increased accordingly. By the mid-1870s New Jersey was producing over half of the nation's cranberries. From the late 1860s to the early 1900s, a large share of this crop was sent to market over the railroads (6). During this period Shamong Station prospered because of its association with this trade.

The panic of 1873-79 hit the marginal Pine Barrens industries hard. The factories in nearby Pasadena closed. The depression greatly interfered with the railroad's plans for expansion and reorganization. Unemployment increased

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and some residents were forced again to live off the land. However, in the late 1870s the railroad received an unexpected boost. Previous solutions to developing the Pine Barrens had not been successful. In the late 1870s the Lakewood hotel boom began. By 1883 Lakewood was booming as a winter resort (7). At this time, the real estate holdings of Joseph D. Beers in Shamong Station, consisting of 25,000 acres, was held by Lewis Curtis, Beers' son-in-law and Beer's great grandchildren: Joseph Mary, Elizabeth, Maryann Lewis, George Washington Lewis Curtis, and Mrs. Jonathan Godfrey. Elizabeth married Charles Maurice Camille, Marquis de Talleyrand-Perigord and Duc de Dino. Josephine Mary married Emanuelle Ruspoli, Prince di Pogio-Siasa and Mayor of Rome. The daughter of Elizabeth Curtis and the Duc de Dino married Mario Ruspoli, stepson of Elizabeth's younger sister, Josephine (8).

To emulate Lakewood, the Beers heirs attempted to develop their Chatsworth property in the early 1890s when Mario Ruspoli was assigned as an attache to the Italian embassy in Washington. This allowed him to socialize with the newly divorced Marquise de Talleyrand-Perigord and numerous French and American connections. The Marquise decided the land could be developed as a privatehunting club for friends and associates. The Beers heirs established Chatsworth Park Co. and the hamlet of Shamong Station was renamed Chatsworth in 1896. The development took the name of the famous country estate of the Duke of Devonshire, a friend of Ruspoli (9). In 1895 a syndicate including Ruspoli built a clubhouse across from Union Forge pond (Chatsworth Lake on Route 532 W or Lake Ave.). The old mill pond (Union Forge pond) became an ornamental lake. For her guests the Marquise constructed a hotel with all amenities - fireplaces, English prints, porcelains, etc. (10). Mario Ruspoli also built a Queen Anne-style cottage on the lake. The cottage was called the "Princess House." Their son was born here in 1897 Buzby's wife, Myrtle, frequently cared for the Ruspoli's son when his parents traveled (11).

The years 1887 to 1893 marked the period of most extensive real estate promotions in the Pine Barrens. All were un-successful. The most notorious Pine Barrens development of this period was at Paisley, a village between Chatsworth and Tabernacle, and about 2.5 miles from Harris Station. Fourteen hundred acres were advertised as the "Magic City" (12). Over 3,100 lots were sold, but the settlement contained only a dozen houses and a ramshackle one story factory along unpaved streets (13). Nonetheless all of these activities brought people to Chatsworth by primarily by train.

Many people in Chatsworth were employed in the construction and maintenance of the hotel (clubhouse) and the "Princess House." During construction, workers stayed at the Shamong Hotel, today called the White Horse Inn, and later, guests also stayed there. Chatsworth boomed. Several new railroad sidings were built on the main line (New Jersey Southern Railroad, later the Jersey Central Railroad of New Jersey): Sandy Ridge between Harris Station and Atsion, and the Collins siding south of Atsion in 1900. Many local residents were employed by the railroad.

The Buzby's General Store

In 1897 Willis Jefferson Buzby, a Shamong Station (Chatsworth) native, purchased the building from Wade, operated the store, and lived in the residence. His father, Edward, had settled in Shamong in 1888. He was an employee of the New Jersey Southern Railroad (later absorbed by the Central Railroad of New Jersey) as were other members of the family. Edward and his family had lived in a house on the north side of the White Horse Inn in Chatsworth not far from the store (14). It is not clear whether Wade or Buzby added the rear "Feed" room that appears in a circa 1900 photograph of the store building (see historic photos).

With the reassignment of Prince Mario Ruspoli to Belgium in the late 1890s, social life diminished and the

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economic boom declined in Chatsworth. The settlement recovered somewhat in 1900 with restoration of the hotel, forming the Chatsworth Club, an exclusive organization. The Chatsworth Club investors converted the hotel begun by the Marquise into a clubhouse and Chatsworth became a winter resort. The club owned 8,000 acres and even built a tea pagoda (no longer standing) on the top of Apple Pie Hill (see Map C), one of the highest points (209 feet) in the Pine Barrens, then and even today. Nonetheless, Chatsworth declined quickly after 1904 when the Prince and his colleagues from New York and Philadelphia no longer visited the area (15).

The Beers heirs then attempted to turn Chatsworth into a bungalow community for the middle and lower middle classes. The Chatsworth Land, Title, and Improvement Co. was formed in 1904. A total of 5280 small lots were laid out along the lake. In 1908, Jonathan Godfrey, the husband of one of the Beer's granddaughters, conveyed his share of the Beers lands to the Chatsworth Estates Co. which plotted an area east of the railroad (16). In the fall of 1907 the Chatsworth Club was sold at a Sheriff's sale (17). In 1911 the Woodland Country Club was incorporated to operate the old clubhouse building and property (18). This, too failed. Not much later, around 1912, the building was destroyed by fire, probably an insurance fire (19). The Princess House was vandalized and eventually burned in the late thirties. After that Chatsworth reverted to more traditional Pine Barrens activities. The Prince still retained cranberry bogs under the management of a local agent. The aged Prince then disposed of his holdings in Chatsworth in 1940, after World War II began in Europe (20). Another development, Prosperity Park, begun in the 1920s, consisted of 18,000 lots 25x100 feet. Many were given as premiums with a new subscription of a Philadelphia paper (21). This had little effect on Chatsworth since few people moved here. The development existed on paper only. Vegetation was cleared from the land but nothing was ever built.

Through this period, Buzby's General Store continued to serve the local residents by providing the necessities of life for a wide area of the Pine Barrens. Before the turn of the century mail service to Chatsworth was provided by train. In 1914 the post office was moved to Buzby's, with Myrtle Buzby (Mrs. Willis Jefferson Buzby) as postmistress. When Myrtle Buzby died, the position of postmaster was given to Willis. The post office remained at Buzby's until 1934 when it was moved to Prince Street, and still later to Second street, its location today.

The 1920s brought many changes to Chatsworth. The Buzbys owned one of the first telephones in Chatsworth, which aided many in the community. The increasing popularity of the automobile and subsequently improved roads, created a need for gasoline. In 1921 the Buzbys were selling gasoline - Esso - to their customers, which included the local school system for its buses (22). Eventually there were three Esso pumps on the sidewalk in front of the store. In the late 1920s excursion trains brought people to the Chatsworth Club and the area once again prospered. The roads were paved in 1930 and electricity was brought to Chatsworth and the store electrified in 1932.

Buzby's General Store had no competition for a 10-mile radius. Although for a time there was another store in Chatsworth, customers continued to travel from Hog Wallow, Speedwell, Friendship, Jones Mill, and other local places in the pine barrens to shop at Buzby's. Among the items on the shelves that John McPhee would later report finding in his book *The Pine Barrens* were canned foods, soft drinks, crackers, cookies, cereals, sardines, Remington 12-gauge shotgun shells, Slipnot friction tape, Varsity gasket cement, and snuff. Up to 400 gallons of kerosene were sold a week, used for cooking, light, and heat (23).

Buzby's again benefited from this brief popularity. Records indicate the store was remodeled around 1921 (24) and again around 1935 (25). The front (northwest) angled corner door was added and large front windows installed. A prominent candy counter graced the east window area. The one-story rear addition, added sometime

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prior to 1900, used initially for storage of animal feed, was called the "Feed Room" (26). The property contained other buildings: a garage/workshop/barn, a barn, an outhouse, and an ice house. According to the late Katie Buzby, ice was cut from the Chatsworth Lake in the winter and stored in the ice house for summer use (27). Residents today continue to remark that Buzby's outhouse, a two-holer, was one of the cleanest in town and a white lace curtain always graced the window.

Buzby's General Store served a prominent role during the tragic death of Captain Emilio Carranza, Mexico's "Lindbergh," during a goodwill flight back to Mexico. On July 18, 1928, during a severe thunderstorm, Captain Carranza's plane crashed in the woods southwest of Chatsworth. His body was later recovered and taken to the garage at Buzby's, where it was laid on a wallpaper board and covered with a sheet. Detectives and a coroner arrived from Mount Holly, confirmed the body as Carranza's and sent it to Mount Holly. The Mexican authorities arranged to transport it to Mexico for burial (28). During this time Buzby's had one of the few telephones in the area. The Carranza tragedy kept the phone busy for days as visiting newspaper men phoned in their stories using Buzby's phone. Today a monument on Carranza Road marks the area where Captain Carranza crashed, and annual observances of the event are still held.

The period 1929-1940 saw the country in the Great Depression. People in the Pine Barrens were not affected to the extent of those in the cities. Those living in the Pine Barrens, the "pineys," were used to living off the land; their gardens provided fruits and vegetables which they preserved by canning while hunting for deer, rabbits, ducks, and other animals provided meat. There was an annual cycle of seasonal activities and short-term employments that allowed traditional pine barrens residents to achieve a livelihood in the absence of steady full-time jobs. Those who needed to or wished to continued this life style. Flour, sugar, coffee, tea, and clothing were the main products they purchased. For these necessities they depended upon Buzby's. Buzby's Store was responsible for the survival of more than one Pine Barrens family. Some debts were paid, some not (29). The Buzbys were revered by the local citizenry. The store was not only their source of foodstuffs and necessities of life, but it was also the social and communication center of the Pine Barrens. It was one of the few general stores in the vast Pine Barrens.

Willis Jefferson Buzby died January 4, 1939 (30). His wife, Elisa Myrtle Buzby, deeded the property to their son, Willis Jonathan Buzby on June 1, 1939 (31). Willis Jonathan, "Jack," had been born in one of the rooms above the store. He married the girl next door, Katie (Katherine) Ritzendollar, and as a wedding gift they received the house across the street (First Street) from the store. This had been Katie's grandmother's house (32). Jack and Katie Buzby had one daughter, Theresa. Together Jack and Katie ran the store serving the community. Jack traveled weekly by rail to Philadelphia for supplies to satisfy the needs of the local citizenry.

After World War II, the store remained the lifeline, social center, and communication center for many Pine Barrens residents. Buzby's was the source of information for a great area. When blueberry and cranberry farms expanded after the war, the busing of migrant workers into the area from as far away as Philadelphia began (33). Unemployed men women, and even children were gathered by a padrone - a leader - who usually owned a bus and transported them to the blueberry and cranberry farms to work. A stop at Buzby's store was always a necessity before returning to Philadelphia. In the 1960s, hunting was a popular activity, not for sport per se, but for food. Buzby's supplied the gunning/hunting clubs with shot gun shells in addition to providing foodstuffs for the club. The store also served as a weigh station for the deer catch. It truly was the heart of the Pine Barrens.

Although the population within the pine barrens is thought to have been at its highest in the middle of the nineteenth century—higher even than today—when the major rural industries of bog iron manufacture and

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glassmaking provided much employment, the collapse of these industries from the 1840s onward resulted in most people gradually moving to areas with employment opportunities. The work that remained in the Chatsworth area was primarily cranberry farming and lumbering—saw mills. The coming of the railroad in 1862 provided employment for many, as the railroad was used to transport cranberries and lumber. Other areas in the pines returned near to their colonial condition: desolation. employed many Chatsworth residents. Others lived off the land cutting cordwood, gathering pine cones, ground pine, laurel and holly for shipment to the cities. Hunting provided meat and gardens their vegetables and fruits. At one time Chatsworth had two general stores, three saw mills, two hotels, a railroad station, and many homes (34). The famed train, the Blue Comet, came through Chatsworth. In August 19, 1939 the Blue Comet derailed just west of Chatsworth. Thirty-two passengers and six employees were injured. Extremely heavy rain had washed out about 20 feet of roadbed (35). Train service to Chatsworth was terminated around 1975 (36).

Jack and Katie continued to run the store until Jack's health failed. They then retired to the house across the street. When Jack retired in 1966, local residents, Albert and Margaret Scheiss, purchased the store and continued to operate it until 1973 (37). They then sold it to Robert and Kathleen DePetris who ran the store from 1973 to 1976 (38). The store was then sold to a group - Gedeminas K. and Frances R. Gudaskus, et al. who owned the store until 1983 (39, 40) when it was purchased by Thomas and Charlotte Hedges, et al. (1983-1986) (41). In 1986 they sold it to a family consisting of Joseph, Mary, Michael, and Maryellen Triano (42) who operated it for a few years then leased it to Richard and Sarah Conrad who operated it until 1990. The Conrads wished to purchase the store but were unable to come to agreement with the owners. The Conrads then closed the store and auctioned off the furnishings. Few items remained - a few chairs, tables, and the candy counter which was of great sentimental importance to the residents of the community. Over the years the store was often referred to as the "John Wannamaker's of Chatsworth." (43).

Throughout the years, the store always was known as Buzbys. After being vacant for seven years, in 1995 the tax lien on the store was sold to an investment firm, the GTL Investors (Breen Corp.) of Bordentown, New Jersey. In 1996, Barnegat Light Press, Inc., of Barnegat Light, New Jersey, purchased the assignment of the tax lien and proceeded to foreclose. Title was obtained in 1998. Shortly after this, the barn/workshop/garage adjoining the store and the outhouse were destroyed by fire. Fortunately, local firemen saved the store, the town landmark.

Restoration of the store began in 1998. The work included removing the asbestos and aluminum siding. The original white cedar siding was restored or replaced as needed. Modern sash windows were replaced with six-over-six sash windows as seen in early photographs. The roof was replaced, the building was rewired and a new heating/air-conditioning system installed (geothermal). In the store the dropped ceilings and modern paneling were removed and the original ceiling and walls restored. To conform to current building codes, a handicapped bathroom and ramp were installed. A commercial kitchen was also installed. Floors were refinished or replaced as needed. The existing brick porch was removed and restored to wood as seen in the 1900 photograph. During the removal of the first floor modern paneling, original four panel Greek Revival doors were discovered and restored. The first floor hall was found to have maple flooring. After removal of layers of carpeting and linoleum the floors on the second floor were found to be the original wide board yellow pine. The original molded baseboards were rediscovered when the modern paneling was removed.

The store reopened in 1999 with a cafe, a gift shop, and second floor apartment. In 2002 the outhouse was reconstructed based on photographs taken before the fire. The ruins of the ice house remain on the property, as does the foundation of a barn.

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Jack Buzby died January 23, 1983 and his wife, Katherine, on December 7, 1996 ending the rein of the Buzbys in Chatsworth (44). They were known affectionately as the "King and Queen of the Pineys." Their only daughter, Theresa Buzby Wescott lived in Arizona until her death in 2000 (45). Now the Buzby name lives on only through its association with the Buzby's General Store and the store remains a landmark in Chatsworth, New Jersey, "Capital of the Pines."

END NOTES

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- (2) Census records of 1864. Burlington County Historical Society, Burlington, NJ.
- (3) Woodward, E. M., Major. History of Burlington County, NJ (1883), 508.
- (4) Deed of Land conveyed to Benjamin O. Wade from F. B. Chetwood and his wife, September 26, 1863. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 327, p. 311 et seq.
- (5) Baer, Christopher T., Coxey, William J., Schopp, Paul W. The Trail of the Blue Comet. West Jersey Chapter, National Railroad Historical Society, Palmyra, N.J. (1994), 50
- (6) Ibid., 150.
- (7) Ibid., 197-197.
- (8) Ibid., 133.
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) Ibid., 134.
- (11) DeMarco, J. Garfield. Videotaped interview with Katie Buzby, 1992. In the library of the author. (hereafter Buzby interview).
- (12) Baer, et al., 136.
- (13) Ibid., 136.
- (14) See Map A.
- (15) Baer et al., 197.
- (16) Ibid., 197.
- (17) Ibid.
- (18) Ibid.
- (19) Ibid.
- (20) Ibid.
- (21) McPhee, John & Curtsinger, Bill. The Pine Barrens. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, New York, N.Y. (1981), 127.
- (22) Personal communication with the late Theresa BuzbyWescott, daughter of Willis Jonathan and Katherine Buzby, 1997.
- (23) McPhee and Curtsinger, The Pine Barrens, 71-72.
- (24) Official Souvenir Program. Woodland Two-Hundred. Township of Woodland, Sept. 11, 1976. In the library of the author.
- (25) Issues of The Evening Bulletin, The Evening Courier, The Philadelphia Record, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 1935. Owned by the author.
- (26) Buzby interview.
- (27) Correspondence with Theresa Buzby Wescott, 1997. In the library of the author.
- (29) Buzby interview.
- (28) Ibid.

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- (30) Ibid.
- (31) Transfer of title from Willis Jefferson Buzby by his wife Elisa M. Buzby to Willis Jonathan Buzby, June 1, 1939. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 904, 109
- (32) Buzby interview.
- (33) McPhee, John and Curtsinger, Bill. The Pine Barrens. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, New York (1981) 80
- (34) Official Souvenir Program 1776-1996. Woodland Two-Hundred. Township of Woodland. Sept. 11, 1976. In the collection of the author.
- (35) Buzby interview.
- (36) Baer, Christopher T., Coxey, William J., Schopp, Paul W.The Trail of the Blue Comet. West Jersey Chapter, National Railroad Historic Society, Palmyra, N. J. (1994), 328.
- (37) Deed recorded Oct.1, 1966 transferring property from Willis Jonathan Buzby and his wife, Katherine, to Albert Scheiss and his wife, Margaret. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 1627, 138-140
- (38) Deed recorded May 25, 1975 transferring property from Albert Scheiss and his wife, Margaret, to Robert A. DePetris and his wife, Kathleen. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 1825, 562-564
- (39) Deed recorded August 20, 1978 transferring property from Robert A. DePetris and his wife, Kathleen, to Gedeminas K. Gudaskus and his wife, Frances R., and Mary E. Entwhistle. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 3202, 114-117.
- (40) Deed recorded January 1, 1983. Lynn C. Shepard, his wife, Virginia, and Mary E. Entwhistle to Gedeminas J. Gudaskas and Frances R., his wife, and Philip A. Cooper and Madge, his wife. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 2658, pp 174-175.
- (41) Deed recorded March 20, 1983 transferring property from Gedeminas J. Gudaskas and Frances R., his wife, Philip A. Cooper and Kaye, his wife, to Thomas M. And Charlotte F. Hedges, et al. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 1688, pp 54-57.
- (42) Deed recorded December 30, 1986 transferring property from Thomas W. And Charlotte R. Hedge, et al. To Joseph, Mary, Michael, and Maryellen Triano. Burlington County Register of Deeds, Book 3311, pp. 97-98.
- (43) Briggs, John G. "A Store Where Time Really Stands Still." Courier Post, June 15, 1980.
- (44) Davis, Tom. "Fading Heritage." The Press of Atlantic City. C11, August 8, 1995.
- (45) De Isasi, Christina. "Chatsworth Legend Kate Buzby is Dead." Burlington County Times. Dec. 17, 1996, A3.

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Buzby's General Store Burlington County, New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description

Buzby's General Store is located on Block 4802 Lot 1.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the westerly line of the Chatsworth-New Gretna Road (also known as Main Street or Route 563), (66 feet wide), and with the southerly line of First Street (66 feet wide), and extending thence

- (1) westwardly along the southerly line of First Street 250 feet to a point; thence
- (2) southwardly at right angles to First Street 150 feet to a point; thence
- (3) eastwardly and parallel with First Street 250 feet to a point, thence
- (4) northwardly at right angles to the last course herein and along the westerly line of Chatsworth-New Gretna Road (also known as Main Street or Route 563), 150 feet to the point and place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The lot currently associated with the property is the entire parcel that was historically associated with the property.

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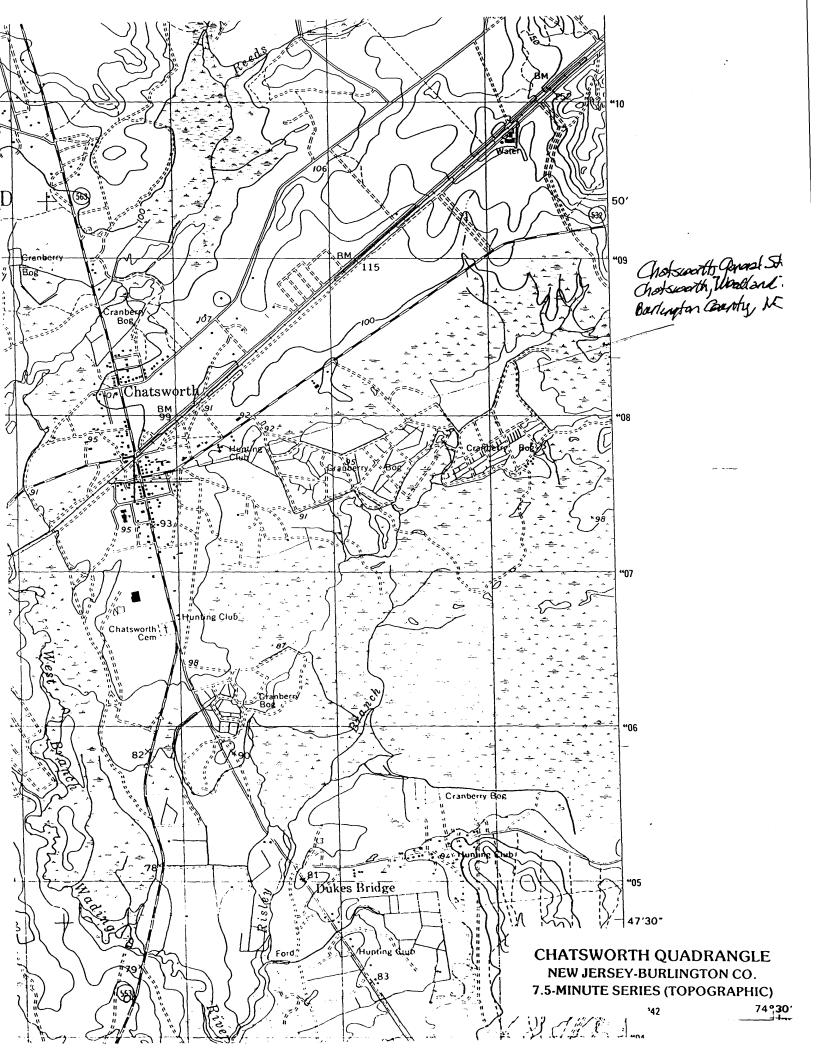
Photographs

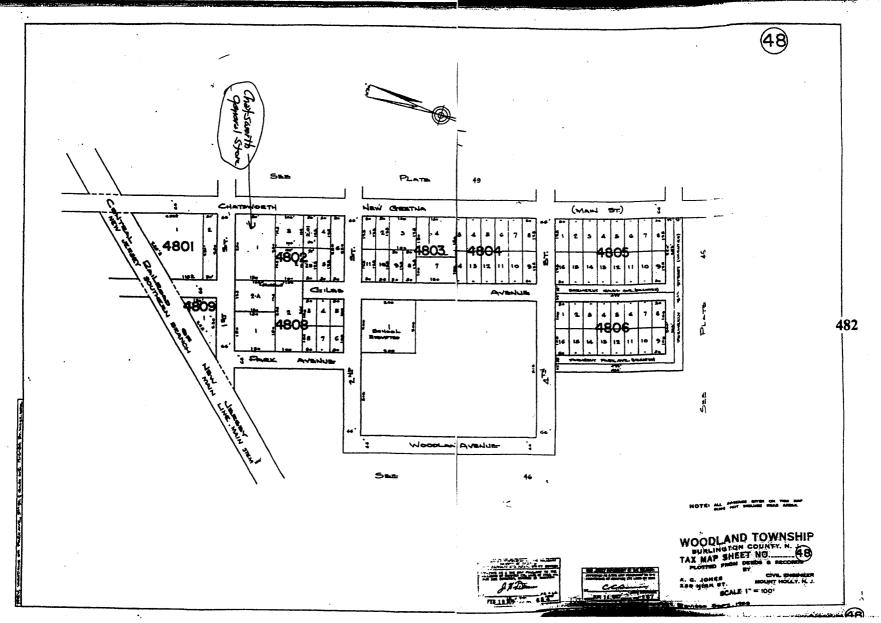
The following is the same for all photographs:

All photographs were taken by R. Marilyn Schmidt, April 2002. The negatives are held by Barnegat Light Press, Inc, PO Box 607, Chatsworth, NJ 08019-0607.

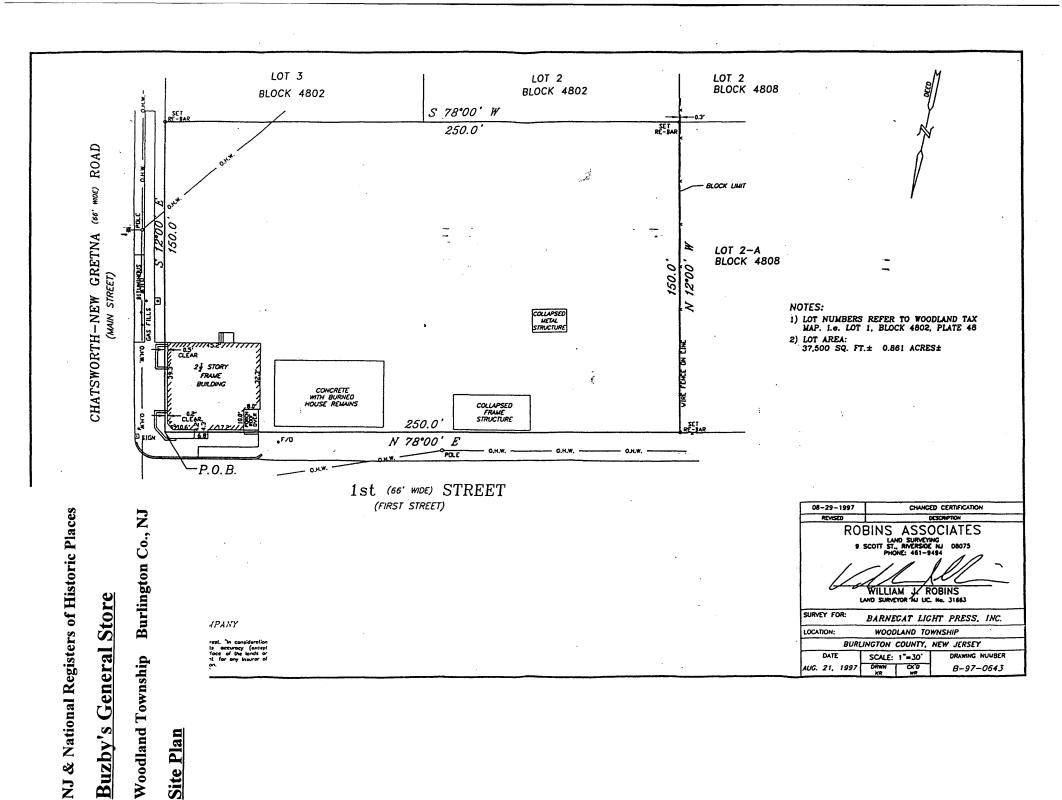
List of Photographs

Photo	
<u>No</u> .	Description
1.	View looking at north side of store.
2.	View looking southwest.
3.	View looking east.
4.	View looking west (east side of building).
5.	View looking northwest.
6.	View looking northeast.
7.	View looking east; store with south side addition.
8.	View looking east; foundation of store and south side addition.
9.	View looking east; foundation of porch and store.
10.	View looking baseboard in front hall of residence.
11.	View looking at fireplace in gift shop.
12.	View looking north from inside cafe showing transom windows.
13.	View looking at French doors separating gift shop from cafe
14.	View looking west at ruins of ice house.
15.	View looking north at ruins of ice house.
16.	View looking southwest at restored outhouse.

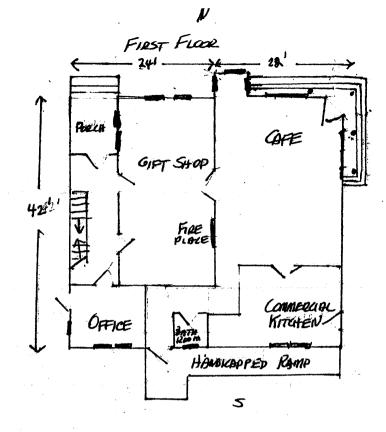




Tax Map



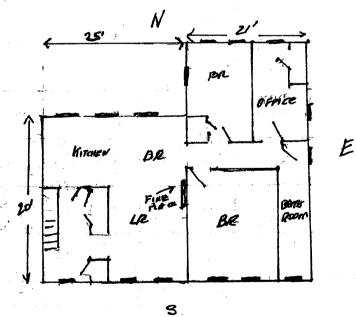
CHATSWORTH GENERAL STORE BURLINGTON COUNTY NEW JERSEY

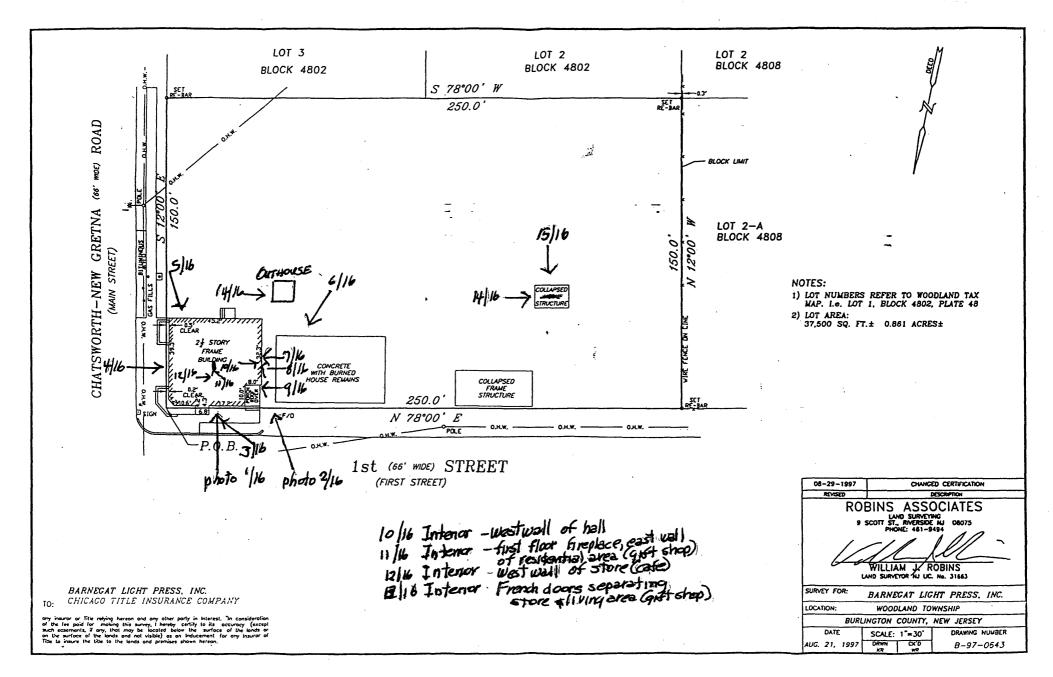


1/4" = 41

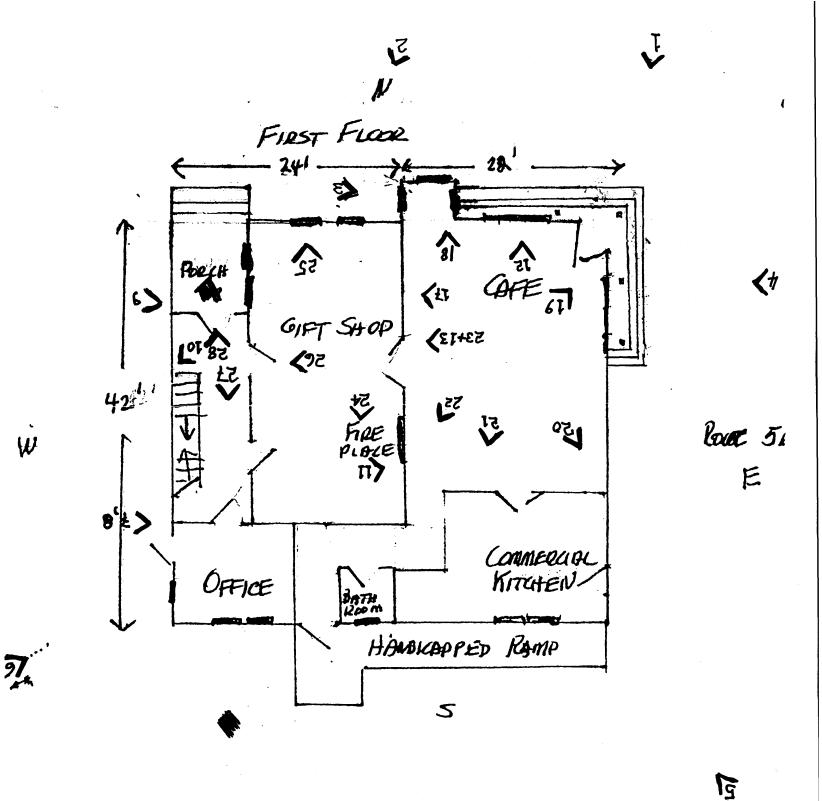
Box 563 E

SECOND FLOOR





Site Plan Location of Photographs

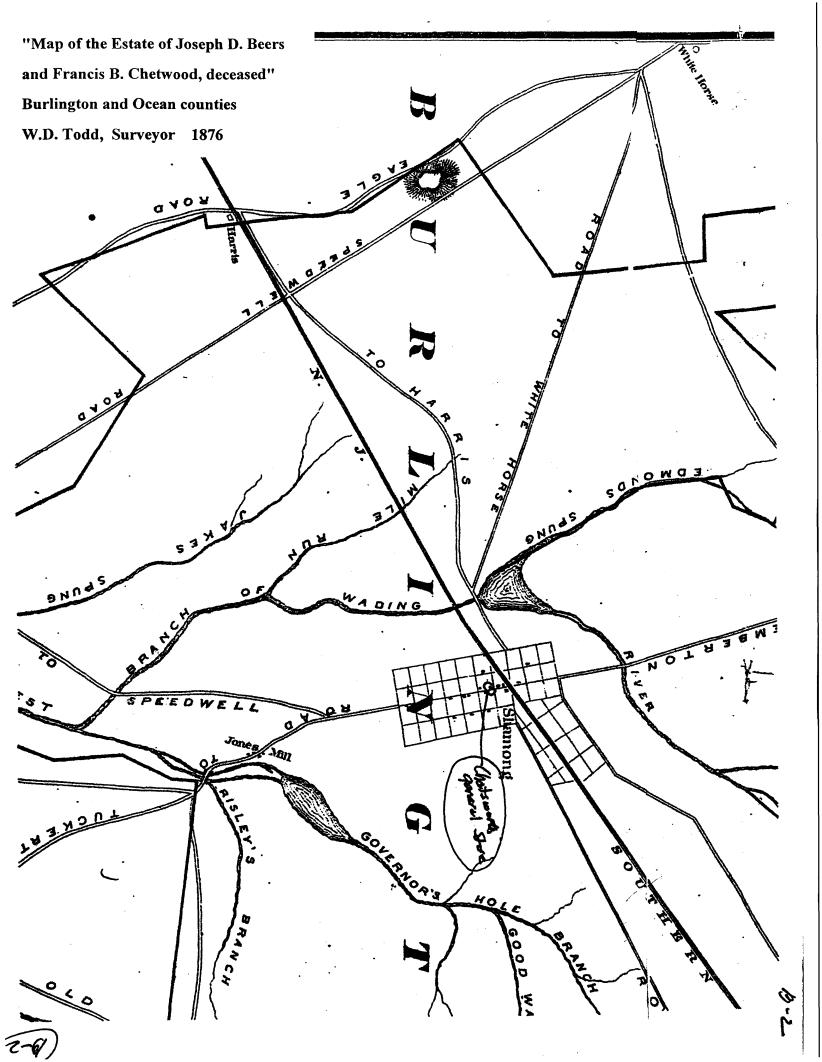


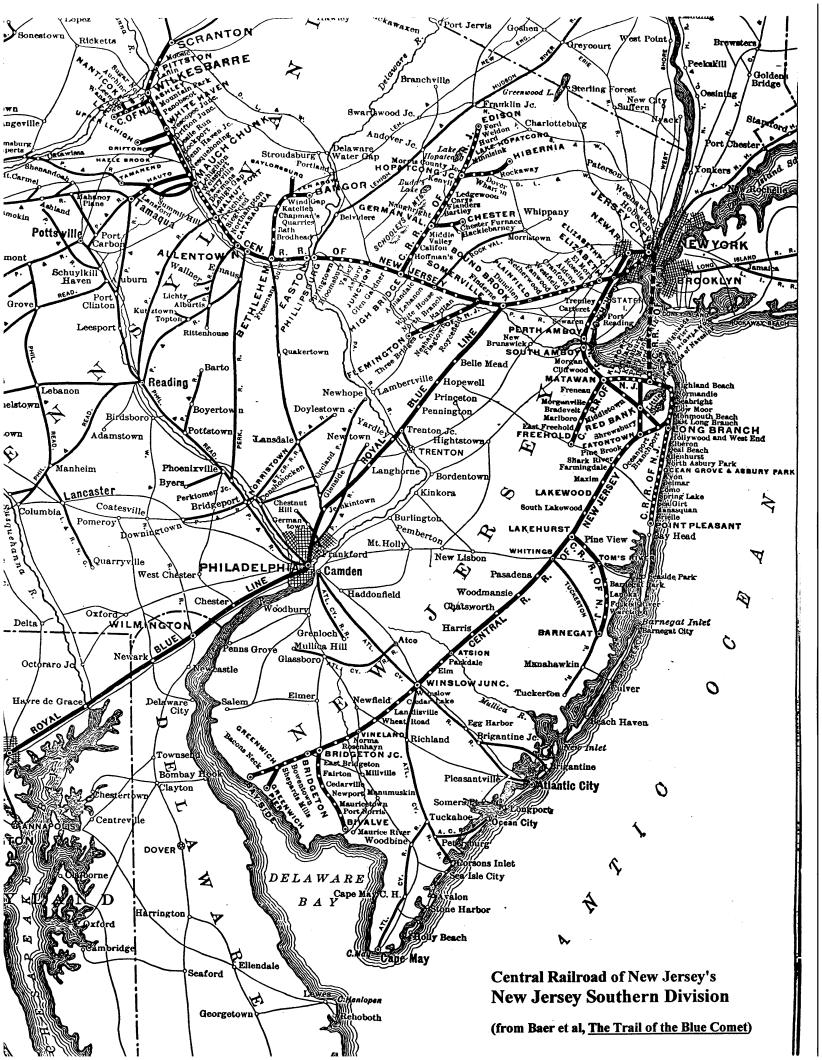
NJ & National Registers of Historic Places

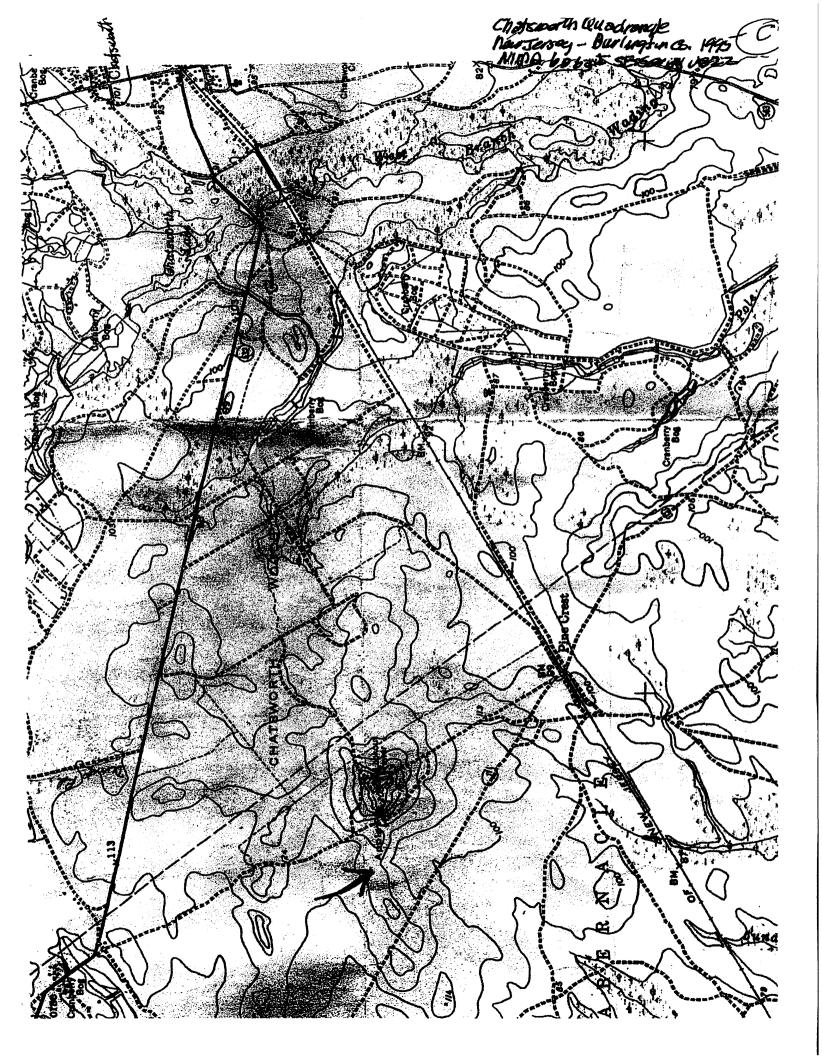
Buzby's General Store

Middletown Township Monmouth Co. NJ

Photo Locations







Big by's General Store Chotsworth Burlington County north side of store







Willis Jansthen Bushy

Ketherine Atgendoller Bushy