

1699

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 15 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clase, Nicholas P., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Capitol Hill Road N/A not for publication
city, town New Sweden N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04762

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 9/8/89 SHPO 9/8/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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] 10/16/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Family Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Maine Swedish Log House

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother Hewn Log Walls

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Nicholas P. Clase House is a one-story with attic log and frame dwelling constructed in two parts. Both the broad three-bay log section and its later offset frame addition are sheathed in weatherboards. A rubble stone foundation supports the entire building.

The south facing front elevation features an engaged porch supported by three (originally five) round log posts. It shelters a symmetrical fenestration pattern that consists of a two-leaf door and flanking sidelights as well as wide two-over-two double-hung sash windows. These openings are framed by molded caps. A pair of brick flues rise through the roof ridge on either side of the broad central hall.

Four windows occupy the east end of the log block. These symmetrically placed units include, on the first story, unusual (for New Sweden) double one-over-one windows framed by a single surround and more typical two-over-twos in the attic. Three similar doubled windows are located along the north wall, and the east end pattern is repeated on the west wall except where the frame wing has disturbed the configuration.

The wing's date of construction is not positively known, although a documentary photo postcard of New Sweden postmarked in 1908 shows its existence at that time. It is narrower but of equal height to the log section and is attached to the latter's southwest corner. A door is located on the east end where it is covered by the porch and the south side features a pair of two-over-two windows and a hip roofed enclosed vestibule. There are two windows and a door in the west end and a trio of two-over-twos along the north side. A large frame barn was formerly attached to the southwest corner of this wing, an element that gave the connected complex a decided telescoping appearance.

The interior of the Clase House is arranged in a manner that is consistent with other Swedish log houses of the period. Entrance is made into a narrow vestibule which, in this case, has a corner stair to the loft. Flanking the vestibule to the west is the kitchen and to the east a pair of small bedrooms. Occupying the middle bay of the north side is the living room. With the exception of the northeast bedroom all first floor rooms in the log block are accessible from the vestibule. The summer kitchen consists of one large open room with a tool room and pantry at the west end.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1874

Significant Dates

c. 1874
c. 1908

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Nicholas P. Clase House, which was probably built after 1874, is a little altered example of the modest log houses erected by the Swedish immigrants who settled in three Aroostook County townships beginning in 1870. These buildings represent a wholly unique tradition of construction in Maine. For these reasons the Clase House is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C.

Nicholas P. Clase (1821-1902) was among the first group of settlers who arrived in New Sweden on July 23, 1870. He and his fellow colonists were part of an experiment sponsored by the State Legislature to encourage foreign immigration to Maine following more than a decade of population decline resulting from out migration to the west. Each head of a Swedish household was given 100 acres of land, five of which were to have been cleared of trees, and a State built log house. Clase and his family settled in what became the village center of New Sweden on a lot which tradition maintains was the first one drawn by the colonists.

In its September 2, 1874, the Presque Isle newspaper Sunrise published an account of a visit to the Swedish colony. Included in this report was a detailed enumeration of the settlers, livestock, the dimensions of their buildings, number of children, and number of years in residence. Clase's entry shows that his farm included twenty-two acres of improved land. He also owned a number of animals. After his death the property descended to his daughter Agnes (Clase) Anderson and subsequently to her children. it was occupied until recently by her son Evald Anderson and has since passed to his niece.

At the time of the Sunrise article, Clase's house was recorded as being 28 feet by 18 feet in dimension, a very common size according to the list. This suggests that it was probably one of the original State built houses (which were said to be 28 feet by 16 feet). The existing house, which is 24 feet by 38 feet, is clearly a replacement of the earlier one, a fact that is

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hede, Richard, ed. Centennial History of Maine's Swedish Colony 1870-1970.
New Sweden, ME: New Sweden Historical Society, 1970.

Presque Isle Sunrise. September 2, 1874.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.43

UTM References

A

1	9
---	---

5	6	6	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	9	8	8	3	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

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

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

B

--	--

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

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

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies a 1.43 acre parcel of the larger 67 acre tract of which it is a part. (New Sweden tax map 188, lot 135.) See the attached map for the specific boundary.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to embrace only the existing building and its immediate surroundings. This is based on the fact that the historic appearance of the adjoining farm has been lost and the significance of the property is wholly related to the architectural uniqueness of the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1989
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

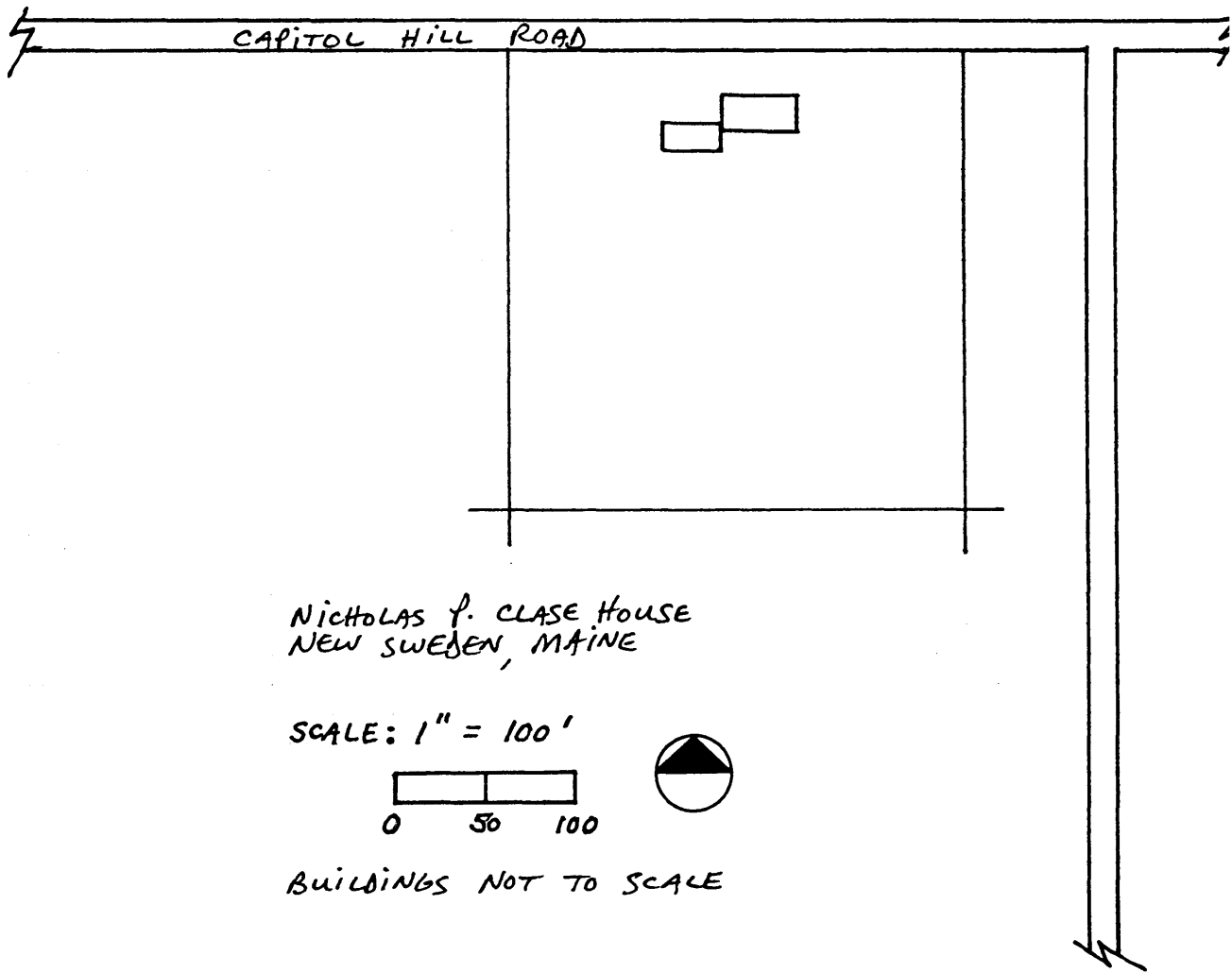
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

evident from the method of log construction which is restricted to the Swedish built houses alone. Descriptions of those dwellings provided by the State reveal that they were built of an inferior method of round log construction similar to contemporary Maine logging camps. The Swedes, on the other hand, erected permanent houses which display well crafted log joinery, log interior partition walls and basements. In addition to the method of construction itself, the interior plans also reflect a much different approach to the arrangement of space. The Clase House, like a number of other examples, utilizes a narrow entrance hall with doors leading into flanking kitchen and bedroom spaces and a living room or parlor located between the two.

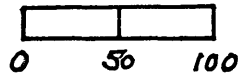
Like the previously listed "Timmerhuset" (N.R. 8/23/73) and the Larsson-Ostlund House in the Lars-Noak Historic District (listing pending), the Nicholas P. Clase House illustrates a truly unique tradition of building in Maine. While a number of these houses survive in the New Sweden area, few have retained the integrity of the Clase House.



CAPITOL HILL ROAD

NICHOLAS P. CLASE HOUSE
NEW SWEDEN, MAINE

SCALE: 1" = 100'



BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE