

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
**MAY 10 1977**  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED **JAN 31 1978**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Hezekiah Chase House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER U.S. ~~Route~~ 202

CITY, TOWN Unity VICINITY OF 1st Hon. David Emery ---NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Waldo CODE 27

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Stanley McCorison

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Thorndike VICINITY OF STATE Maine

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Waldo County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Belfast STATE Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hezekiah Chase house of 1826 is a solid two and a half story rectangular brick building of Federal period and style with a gable roof and two internal end chimneys. The roof is shingled and the foundation is of stone.

The main facade faces east and is five bays wide and two stories high. The five windows across the second story are evenly-spaced and today are two-over-two double hung. The first story features a central fan doorway with side-lights and a pair of windows to each side.

The north and south elevations of the Chase House are two and a half stories high and three bays wide. The half story contains a single window, while each the other stories each contains three. All windows in the house have louvered shutters.

At the northern end of the west (rear) facade a wooden ell and barn are attached. The ell consists of a center-chimney frame cape with clapboard siding which dates from c. 1810 (?). This cape was built by Chase's father and it was attached to the Federal house at the time the latter was built. The ell is five bays wide, one story high with central doorway and two windows to either side, each of them today two-over-two. Between the ell and barn is a connecting one-story shed. The barn is a large frame clapboarded structure with gable roof.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Set well back from the street with a gracious gradually sloping lawn in front, the Hezekiah Chase house stands out dramatically among its neighbors on the quiet main street of the rural community of Unity. A late brick Federal structure, it displays a dignity impressive <sup>^</sup>its simplicity which conveys the traditions of its Quaker *in* heritage.

A cellar hole behind the house marks the site of the home of Stephen Chase, a Quaker from Durham, Maine, who settled in Unity in 1782. His son, Hezekiah, a more worldly man, who gradually broke away from the religious tenets of his father, inherited the property and built the present house. Industrious and honest, he was highly respected and active in the community and was always referred to as "Judge Chase".

His son, Joseph Chase, a man of dogged determination, was burdened by debt during his life. His father had married for a second time late in life a woman much younger than himself who was given a lifetime use of the property. In addition Joseph, although inheriting the farm was required to pay each of five sisters a share of the inheritance. This he did but only with great labor and deprivation for his wife and family.

George Colby Chase, son of Joseph, grew up in the old brick house. Born in 1844, he attended local schools and, at least partly through the sympathetic encouragement of his mother, the former Jane Dyer, acquired a love of scholarship. As early as the age of 17 he taught school on a part time basis in the neighboring town of Thorndike. Beginning in 1862 he studied at the Maine State Seminary in Lewiston, a Freewill Baptist institution. During his time there it was concluded to organize a college which was named after Benjamin E. Bates a Boston capitalist who had done much to encourage industry in Lewiston. George Chase entered Bates college with the second class in 1864. In spite of ill-health and problems of adjustment he graduated valedictorian of his class in 1868.

After a year of teaching in New Hampshire he returned to Bates as instructor in Greek while attending the theological seminary. Deciding at the end of the year to abandon study for the ministry he became Professor of English at the tiny college. In June of 1872 he married a college friend, Emma Millett, and built a large home in Lewiston in which his parents and other family members lived at one time or another.

Always dedicated to the interests of the college he devoted much of his free time and some of his own money to fund raising efforts <sup>in</sup>its behalf. In 1894 his single minded devotion was rewarded by election to the presidency of Bates College.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vickery, James B., III, A History of the Town of Unity, Maine. Manchester, 1954 .

Chase, George M., George C. Chase, A Biography. Riverside Press, 1924.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	473600	4939880	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian  
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Charles S. Shelton, Jr.

TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 5/5/77

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Muntz DATE 1 31 78  
~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~ **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

ATTEST: Charles S. Shelton, Jr. DATE 1-31-78  
~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The institution of which he became the leader was in a precarious state, suffering in the midst of a financial depression with a pitifully inadequate endowment. During his term of service he promoted the attendance of women at the college, installed a Dean of Women and enlarged female dormitory facilities. He obtained a major contribution of \$150,000 to the endowment fund, partly through a Carnegie Grant of \$50,000. Building after building went up on the campus with gifts he was able to obtain from various individuals. Students in his regime remember Dr. Chase for his sympathetic understanding and open hospitality. Forced by failing health to retire in 1917, he left behind him a firmly established, highly respected institution of higher learning. He died in 1919.

His boyhood home in Unity, to which he was always devoted stands as a monument to this gentle scholar and wise administrator.