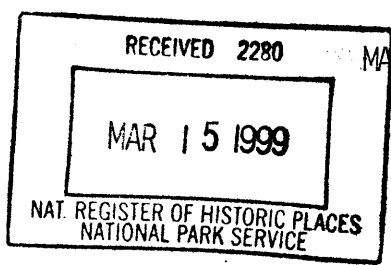


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



451

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 Chase, Charles F. and Ruth, House

other names/site number Judge Whitmore House

2. Location

street & number 110 West Ninth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Atlantic N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cass code 029 zip code 50022

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.)

Patricia Osherskin DSHP 3-8-99

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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 commenting 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 4/15/99

'Chase House
Name of Property

Cass County, IA
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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STUCCO

roof ASBESTOS

other WOOD

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.
[X] 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.

Criteria Considerations

(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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1915

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Yule, Clarence

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):

- 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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
[X] Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Cass County, IA Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	3 3 15 60	45 85 1 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	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 John Fleming

organization N/A date October 8, 1998

street & number 403 Olive Street telephone (712) 243-2742

city or town Atlantic state IA zip code 50022

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 Mildred King

street & number 1805 Bryn Mawr Circle telephone (712) 243-1973

city or town Atlantic state IA zip code 50022

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

**Chase House
Cass County, IA**

Description

Built on the northeast corner of West Ninth and Locust Streets, this very striking Prairie Style dwelling is nestled in a magnificent setting, with a sloping hill to the west or Locust Street side of the house. The front side faces West Ninth Street. The Chase House has maintained, over the years, most of its well defined Prairie Style features, and remains one of the finest examples of Prairie School Architecture in Atlantic.

The Chase House of Atlantic, Iowa, designed and built in 1915, is a two-story, stucco-on-frame, Prairie Style dwelling inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, with a hipped roof, an enclosed front porch and a full basement. The roof has wide, overhanging eaves, and there are ribbons of casement windows on the front and back of each story of the house. These windows are in two groups of six. The front porch roof has overhanging eaves similar to the main roof of the house. Both roofs are covered with asbestos shingles. There are three pairs of casement windows on the west, second story side of the dwelling. The east side contains the chimney and a stairway addition built by the second owner, Judge T. C. Whitmore, who converted the single dwelling into two apartments during the mid-1930's. This conversion didn't alter the Prairie Period characteristics of the interior woodwork. The changes made by Judge Whitmore resulted in the original stucco being removed and replaced. Steel lath was installed to replace the wooden lath that had originally been used. The roof was replaced with asbestos shingles. The property contains a two-car garage, which was originally attached to the house by a back porch, or possibly a pergola. The garage resembles the house with numerous Prairie Style characteristics, and is reached by a driveway on the east side of the house.

The 1931 Sanborn Insurance Map of Atlantic shows the original exterior lines of the Chase House. This map clearly shows the garage being attached to the northeast part of the house. A one-story connection between these two structures was either a type of back porch, a pergola, or a combination of the two. The first floor of the dwelling contains a large living room on the south side of the house, which takes up approximately one-half of the floor space on the main level and is highlighted by lovely wood trim. The fireplace is situated between two handsome bookcases on the east side of the living room. The dining room was located in the northwest quarter of the main floor, with the kitchen being located in the northeast quarter. A staircase was situated between the kitchen and the living room with the back door being to the east of the stairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Chase House
Cass County, IA

Description (continued)

There was an opening to the living room from the staircase area. In general, the first floor of the Chase House was an open floor plan arrangement as the living and dining rooms flowed into one another, with the kitchen being primarily an enclosed space. The door to the front porch is a fine example of Prairie Period art glass. The front porch itself may have originally been an open one. The second floor contained four bedrooms and the bathroom is located in the west middle of the top floor. Numerous trees lined both the Locust and Ninth Street sides of the property. Trimmed shrubs parallel the first floor casement windows on the south side of the house. The northwest part of the property contained a fish pond that many older residents of Atlantic still fondly recall. The two-car garage contained state-of-the-art door openers.

In the mid-1930's, the single dwelling Chase House was converted to apartments. The first floor dining room and kitchen were eventually made into two bedrooms. A bathroom was added between these rooms and the kitchen was relocated to the area previously containing the stairway and back door entrance. The living room has been changed very little over the years. Walls were added to the middle of the main floor to create two hallways. The largest hallway runs from the kitchen to the front door. A smaller hallway separates the two bedrooms and leads to the bathroom. The former opening to the living room, off the old stairway, has been removed. The second floor apartment is reached by the stairway addition to the east side of the house. The former southeast bedroom is now a living room. There's a small fireplace located in the east wall of this room. The old northeast bedroom is now a dining room and kitchenette. The other two bedrooms and the bathroom remain the same. There is a hallway leading from the door of the upstairs apartment to the bathroom. The beautiful interior woodwork remains in both apartments. A new back door entrance was created for the downstairs apartment as the garage was no longer attached to the house. The principle change to the basement resulted in the stairs being relocated. Judge Whitmore thought the downstairs apartment would be quite adequate for his retirement years, and the upstairs apartment would bring in needed rental income.

The setting of the Chase House remains a lovely one to this day. The dwelling retains its distinctive and striking Prairie Style look, and this wonderful house continues to grab the attention of anyone passing by this architectural treasure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Chase House
Cass County, IA

Statement of Significance

The Chase House, constructed in 1915, is locally significant under criterion C because it is the best example of a Prairie Style house in Atlantic; very possibly one of the best examples constructed in southwest Iowa. The high integrity of its Prairie Style design makes the Chase House a real architectural gem for the city of Atlantic. The years have not dulled its defining features. In fact, preserving and restoring this fine example of Prairie School architecture only adds to the architectural significance of the Chase House.

Historical background and significance

In June 1914, Ruth Chase purchased the lot for the Prairie Style house from Dr. F. W. Porterfield for \$2,500. The Porterfield house was torn down to make room for the new Chase home. There was an article in the March 4, 1915 edition of the Atlantic News-Telegraph concerning the Chase home. It stated that Clarence Yule, of the firm Yule & Williamson, architects of Creston, Iowa, who are drawing the plans for the new home to be erected by Charles F. Chase and wife at Ninth and Locust, was in Atlantic today on business connected with the job. Throughout 1915, there were other similar references in the Atlantic News-Telegraph to Yule being in Atlantic on professional business. Yule had at least two partners, at different times, in his Creston office, W. R. Williamson and Alfred Waldo.

Clarence Yule was born in 1886 in Somers, Wisconsin. He studied architecture at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois during the years 1905-07. His architectural career took him not only to Creston, but also to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Chicago, Illinois and Des Moines, Iowa. Yule's training in Chicago was during the period when the Prairie School architects dominated the scene there. He may have learned from such Prairie Style masters as Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan, Walter Burley Griffin, and others. Charles and Ruth Chase, desired a Prairie Style dwelling for their new home. Clarence Yule provided them with a fine design to satisfy their wishes.

The March 4, 1915 edition of the Atlantic News-Telegraph also contained a notice to contractors advertisement concerning the Chase House. This ad stated that the plans and specifications for the Chase residence may be found at the Blaugas office in Atlantic. The contract was divided into four parts - general, plumbing, electrical and painting. The bids were later to be opened at the Blaugas office at 2:00 p.m., March 24, 1915. The ad further stated that any reputable contractors desiring to bid on his work may do so during the allotted time period. The ad was placed in the newspaper under the name Chas. F. Chase.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Chase House
Cass County, IA

Statement of Significance (continued)

The Chase family moved into their new home on November 1, 1915 as stated by a short article in that day's newspaper. This Atlantic News-Telegraph article also related that the new Chase House is one of the best appearing residences in that section of Atlantic.

Charles and Ruth Chase, along with their son, Edwin Percy Chase, founded the Atlantic News-Telegraph and turned it into one of the finest small town newspapers in the Midwest. E. P. Chase went on to capture the Pulitzer Prize for the best editorial of 1933 - an amazing accomplishment for an editor of a rural Iowa community newspaper. E. P. Chase lived with his parents in their fine Prairie Style home from 1915 to 1924. Edwin "Percy" Chase married in 1924 and moved to another house with his new bride. Thus, the architecturally significant Chase House was the home for nearly a decade of a future Pulitzer Prize winner.

In 1911, Charles and Percy Chase became partners in the operation and management of the Atlantic News-Telegraph. This partnership lasted until the death of Charles in January of 1927. At that time, Percy became the sole publisher and editor of the newspaper. He fulfilled these roles quite masterfully until his retirement in 1937.

Under the leadership and guidance of Percy Chase, the Atlantic News-Telegraph flourished. The newspaper had a circulation of 4,000 in a town of 6,000. There were two editorial staff members, plus Chase, and twenty correspondents.

E. P. "Percy" Chase was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the best editorial of 1933 for his editorial "Where Is Our Money?" This Great Depression era editorial was concluded and answered by Percy Chase with the very succinct phrase: "We spent it."

Percy Chase also found time to be a president of the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and chairman of the Cass County Republican Committee. He was also very active in numerous Iowa newspaper associations. Chase was instrumental in starting the Atlantic Business and Professional Women's Club.

A number of editorials and columns written by Percy Chase were used by many newspapers throughout the country, even long after he had retired from the Atlantic News-Telegraph. The greatest achievement of Edwin Percy Chase in journalism will be his winning the Pulitzer Prize during his time as the editor of a small town newspaper in Iowa.

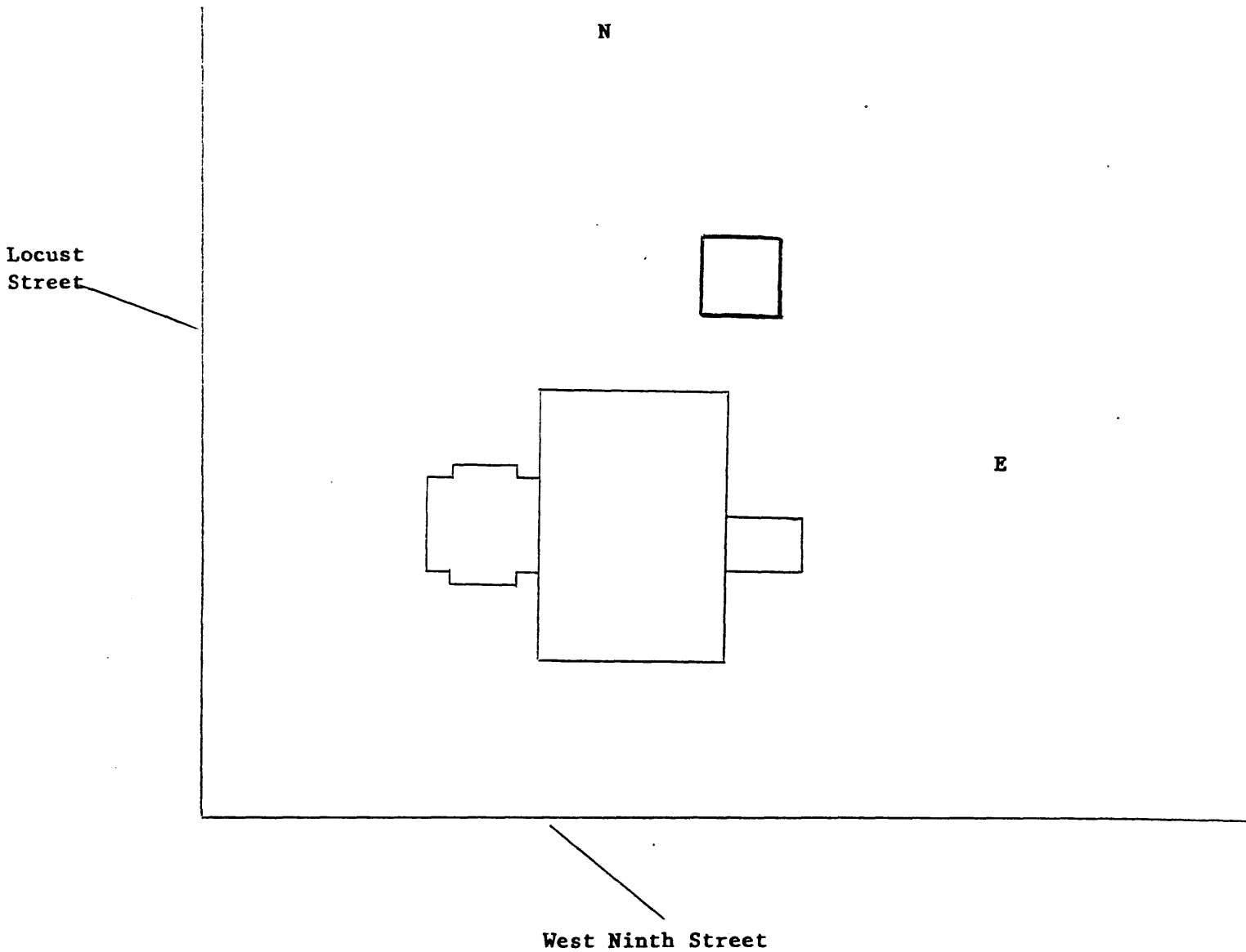
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Chase House
Cass County, IA

House and Garage
110 West Ninth Street



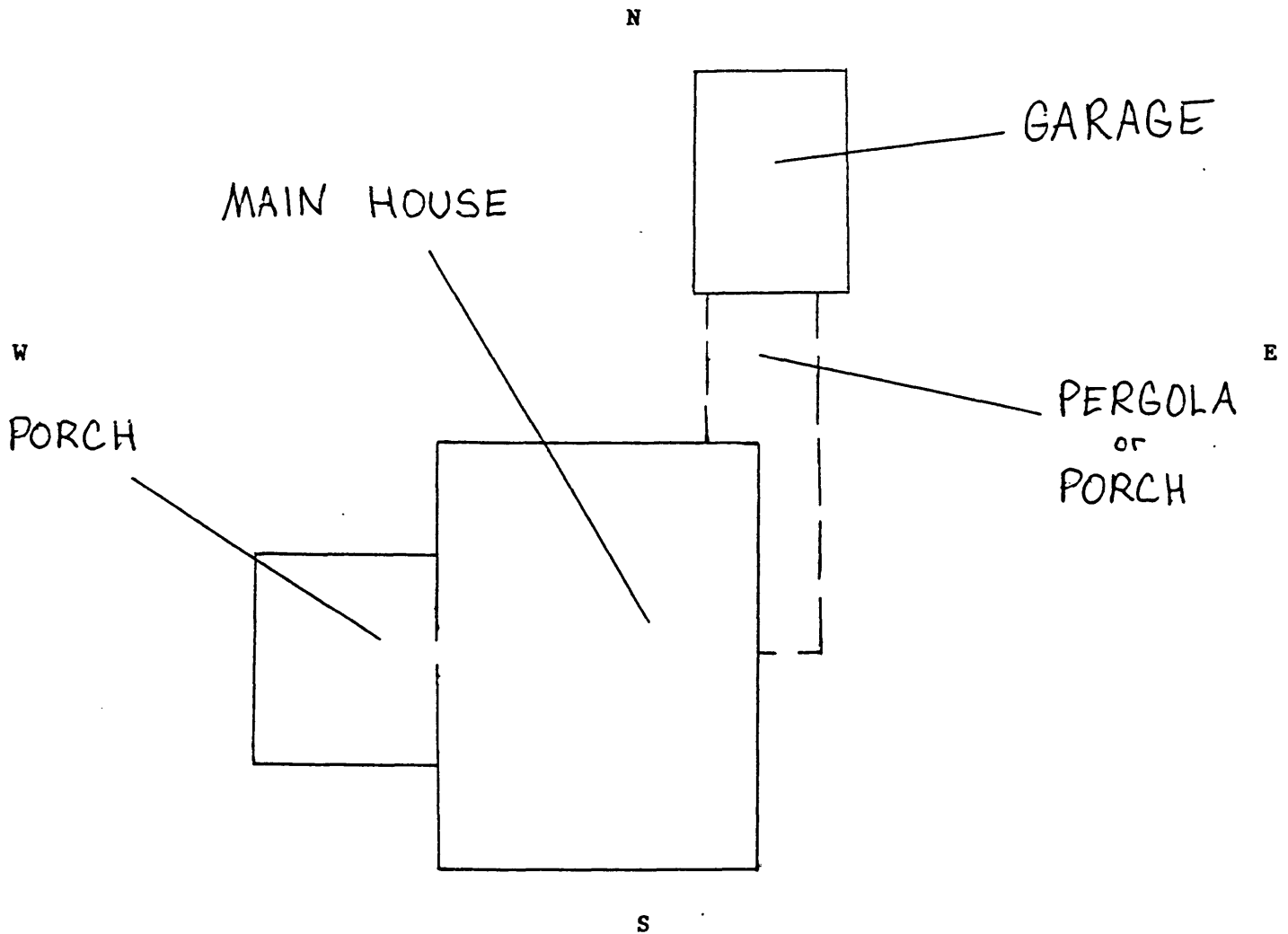
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Chase House
Cass County, IA

Original Exterior Lines



Source: 1931 Sanborn Insurance Map of Atlantic, IA.

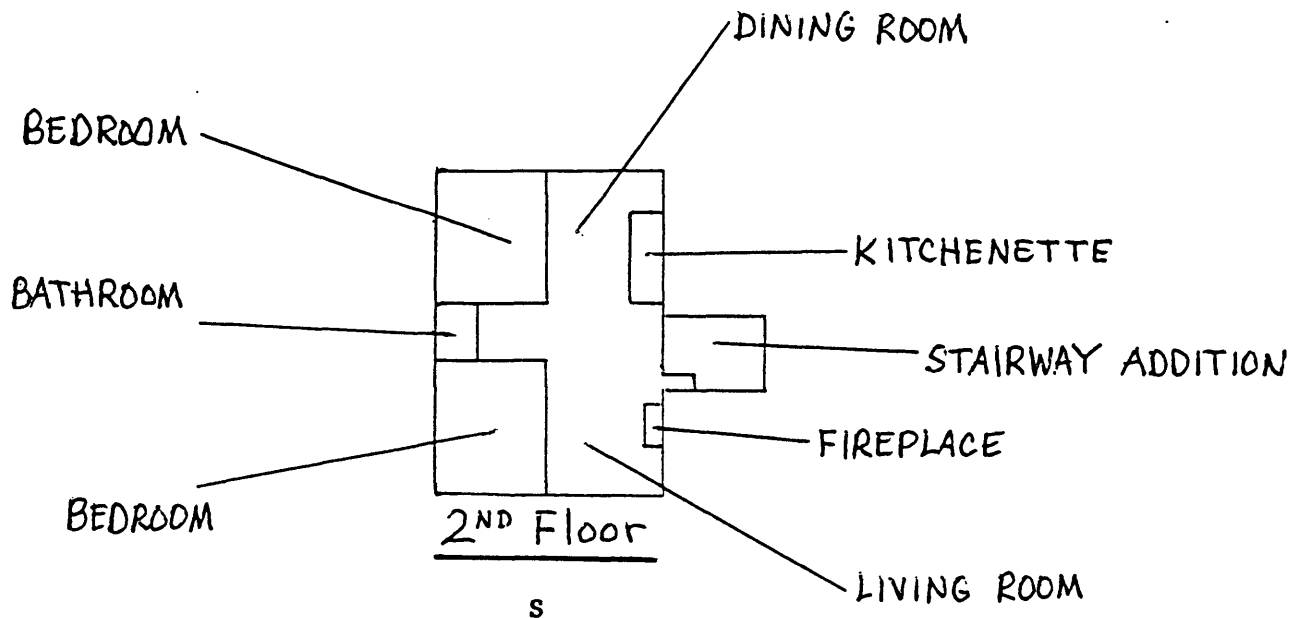
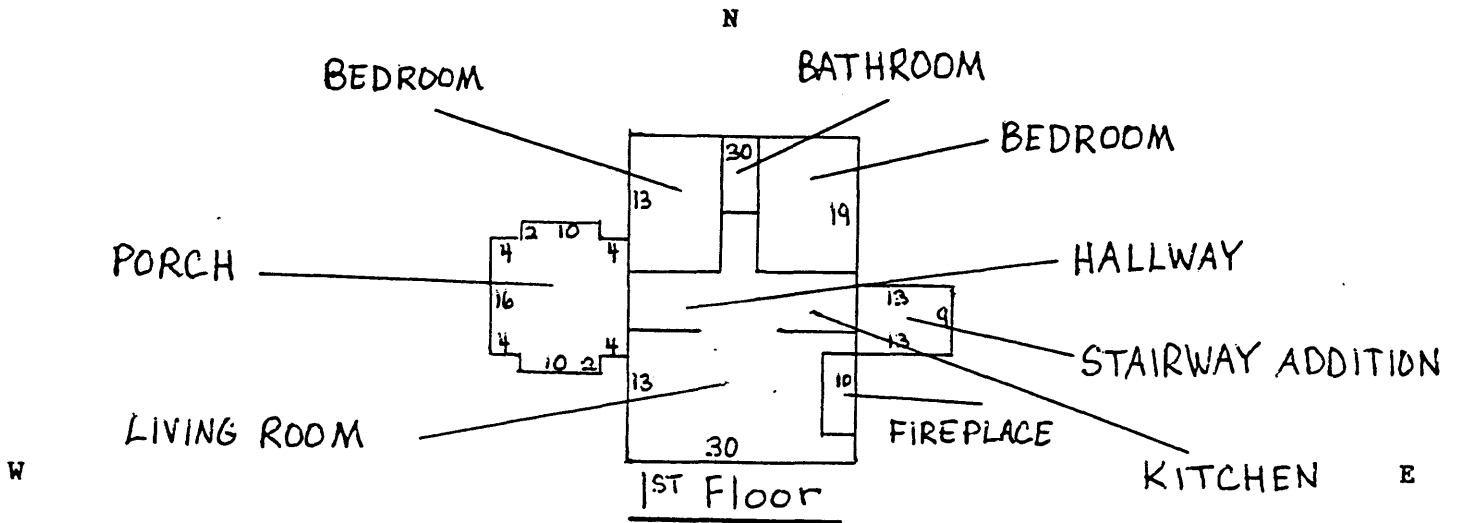
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Chase House
Cass County, IA

Current Floor Plans



Source: Cass County, IA Courthouse.

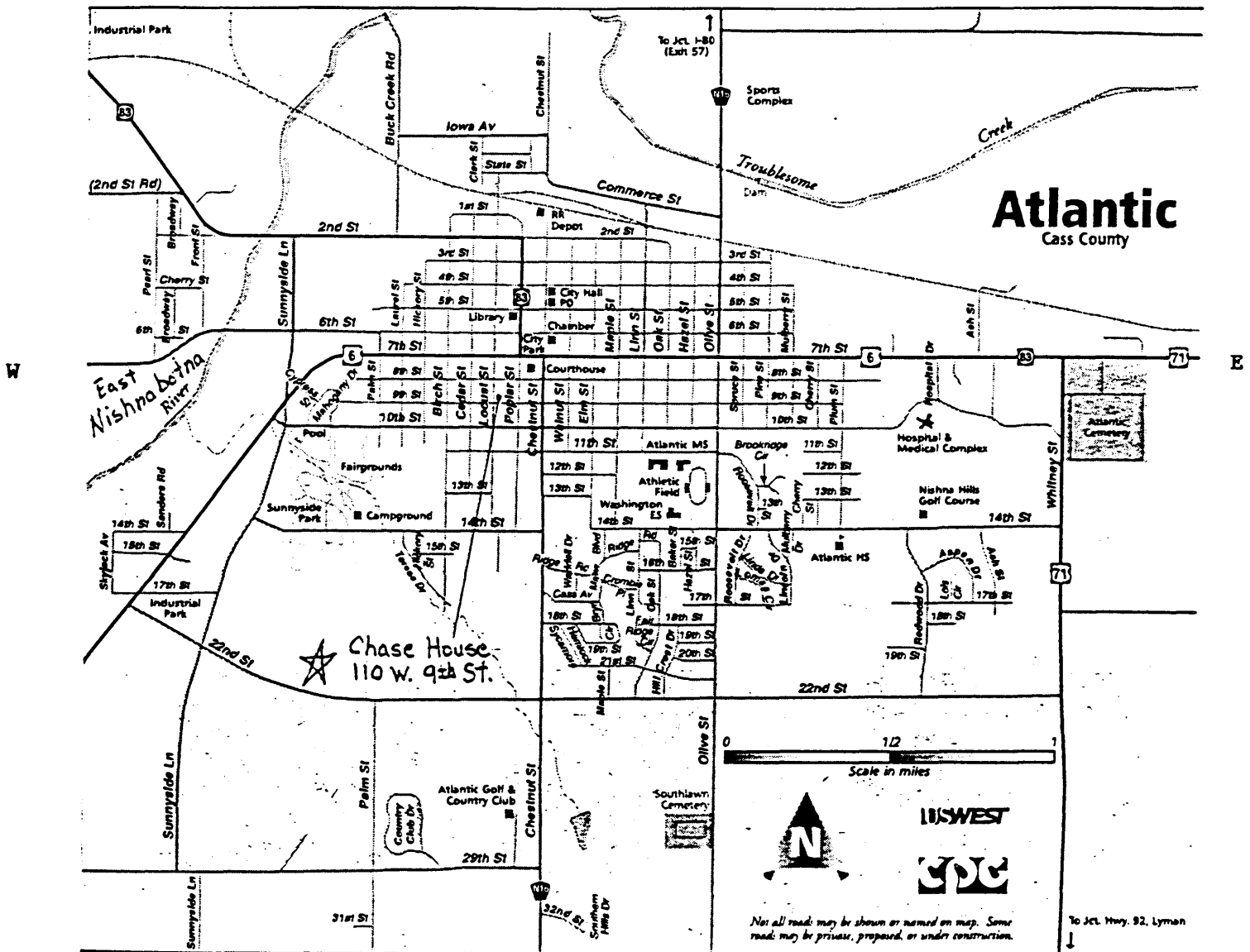
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Chase House
Cass County, IA

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 9

Chase House
Cass County, IA

Bibliography

Atlantic News-Telegraph on Microfilm. Carnegie Public Library, Atlantic, IA.

Verbal boundary description

Legal W90, Lots 7-8 & W4Ft., N30Ft., E50Ft., Lot 8, Block 68.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Chase House.