

Joyce Estate, Joyce Cabin
Chippewa National Forest Road 2144,
3 miles north of County Road 335
Grand Rapids vicinity
Itasca County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-146-B

HABS
MINN
31-6DRAP.V,
3B-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOYCE ESTATE, JOYCE CABIN

HABS No. MN-146-B

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31-GRAP.V,
3B-

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** 1917.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Guest Cabin and nearby buildings through the services of Simeon D. Patrick, who purchased the land as an intermediary. In 1917, Joyce acquired title in his own name. After Joyce's death in 1937, the property passed to his wife Beatrice Rudolph and daughter Beatrice Clotilde. In 1946, two years before her death, Beatrice Rudolph conveyed full title to Beatrice Clotilde, who retained ownership until her own death in 1972. In 1973, the Nature Conservancy purchased the property and resold it at cost the following year to the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service for incorporation into the Chippewa National Forest.¹
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Guest Cabin was built of native pine logs by local carpenters during the estate's first season in 1917. F. L. Norman served as construction foreman, overseeing "Pete Richland, along with Mr. Rupert and Mr. Holm." Overall project supervision was the responsibility of Simeon D. Patrick, a Grand Rapids resident who had formerly worked as a timber cruiser for the Joyce Family's Itasca Lumber Company.²
4. **Alterations and Additions** Wood-frame, shed-roof section on rear (west) is an apparent early addition. According to a photograph dated ca. 1925, the front (east) porch steps once had curved bentwood railings, which were removed at an undetermined period. Since 1986, the roof has collapsed in shed-roofed section,

¹ S.D. Patrick, Deed to David G. Joyce, 9 May 1917, Deed Book 35, 103; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce, Final Decree of Distribution," 30 June 1938, Book of Deeds 144, 401-406; Beatrice Rudolph Joyce, Deed to Beatrice Clotilde Joyce, 3 July 1946, Deed Book 167, 249 (all the foregoing in the Itasca County Recorder's Office, Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids, MN); "Former Joyce Estate Is Dedicated to Public," Grand Rapids Herald Review, 14 October 1974.

² Author's Interview with Joseph Waleski, Jr., Grand Rapids, MN, 27 January 1987; "Will Build Home on 'Big Trout,'" Grand Rapids Herald Review, 14 March 1917.

and all sink, toilet, and plumbing fixtures have been removed.³

- B. Historical Context:** Located in the Main Cabin Compound immediately to the north of the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A), this building was constructed during the estate's first season in 1917 for the use of David Gage Joyce and his wife Beatrice Rudolph. Consequently, it was known as the "Joyce Cabin." After David Gage's death in 1937, his wife continued to use the cabin each summer until her own death in 1948. Thereafter, it became a general guest cabin.⁴ For further information, see the historical overview of the Joyce Estate in HABS No. MN-146.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural Character** Of simple rustic design, this single-story, front-gable cabin, rectangular in plan, is built of saddle-notched peeled logs. A screened, tuck-under porch spans the entire front (east) side. Cobblestones set in concrete ornament the front steps. The Joyce Cabin closely resembles the Guest Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-C) immediately to the north.
- 2. Condition of Fabric** Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall Dimensions** Approximately 16'8"x20'6" with a 16'8"x9'0" front (east) porch.
- 2. Foundations** Log post.
- 3. Walls** Cabin walls are saddle-notched, peeled logs, painted brown. Gable ends, in contrast, are sheathed with wood shingles, painted green. Wood shingles, painted brown, cover the rear (west) addition.

³ Stuart MacDonald and Jeffrey A. Hess, HABS\HAER Inventory Card for Joyce Cabin, 1986, in MacDonald and Mack Partnership and Jeffrey A. Hess, "Cultural Resource Overview, Joyce Estate," prepared for Chippewa National Forest, 1987; Joseph Waleski, Jr., Photograph Album; both in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters building, Cass Lake, MN.

⁴ Author's interview with Waleski, 1987.

4. **Structural System, Framing** Original cabin: saddle-notched logs; wood-frame gable ends. Rear addition: wood frame.
 5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Four concrete stairs lead to the front (east) porch; cobblestones decorate risers and sides. Railings consist of log posts with 2"x4" banisters, in deteriorated condition.
 6. **Chimneys** Corbel-capped, cream-colored brick chimney rises from roof of rear (west) shed-roofed addition, piercing rear gable peak of log-cabin section.
 7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** A screen door, with log surrounds, leads into the front (east) porch. The door between the porch and the interior is missing; the interior doorway is trimmed with plain boards. Two doorways are in the rear (west) wall of the main interior room. Both are trimmed with plain boards; both are missing doors. One enters a bathroom in the northwest corner; the other enters a storage room in the southwest corner.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** Rectangular windows with one-over-one double-hung sash flank the front (east) door. Similar windows are on the north and south walls, two on each side. Most of the sash lacks glazing. Each room in the rear (west) shed-roofed section has a single square window with single-paned fixed sash on its exterior wall.
 8. **Roof**
 - a. **Shape, Covering** Gable roof (east-west axis) with composition shingles and metal ridge roll; rear (west) shed-roof addition has composition shingles.
 - b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed log rafter tails.
 - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.
- C. **Description of Interior:**
1. **Floor Plans**
 - a. **Describe Floors** A full-width screened porch extends across the

building's front (east). It leads into a large room, apparently the original extent of the cabin. Doorways connect the main room to a storage room in the southwest corner and a bathroom in the northwest corner. These rear rooms have no direct access to each other.

2. **Stairways** None.
 3. **Flooring** Natural finish plank flooring in the main room, porch, and southwest storage room; torn-up linoleum tile over plank flooring in the northwest bathroom.
 4. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes** In main room and porch: varnished, exposed log walls and rafters with varnished planks in gable ends. In northwest storage room: horizontal wood siding and plastic tiling, both falling off walls to expose stud framing.
 5. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** A screen door leads into the front (east) porch. All interior doors have been removed.
 - b. **Windows** Simple wood plank surrounds with projecting sills.
 6. **Decorative Features and Trim** None.
 7. **Hardware** None.
 8. **Mechanical Equipment**
 - a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** A stove pipe hole in the rear (west) gable end of the main room marks the former location of a heating stove.
 - b. **Lighting** None.
 - c. **Plumbing** None.
- D. Site:**
1. **General Setting and Orientation** Overlooking Trout Lake about 200 feet to the east, the Joyce Cabin is located in the center of the Main Cabin Compound, directly north of the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A). For further

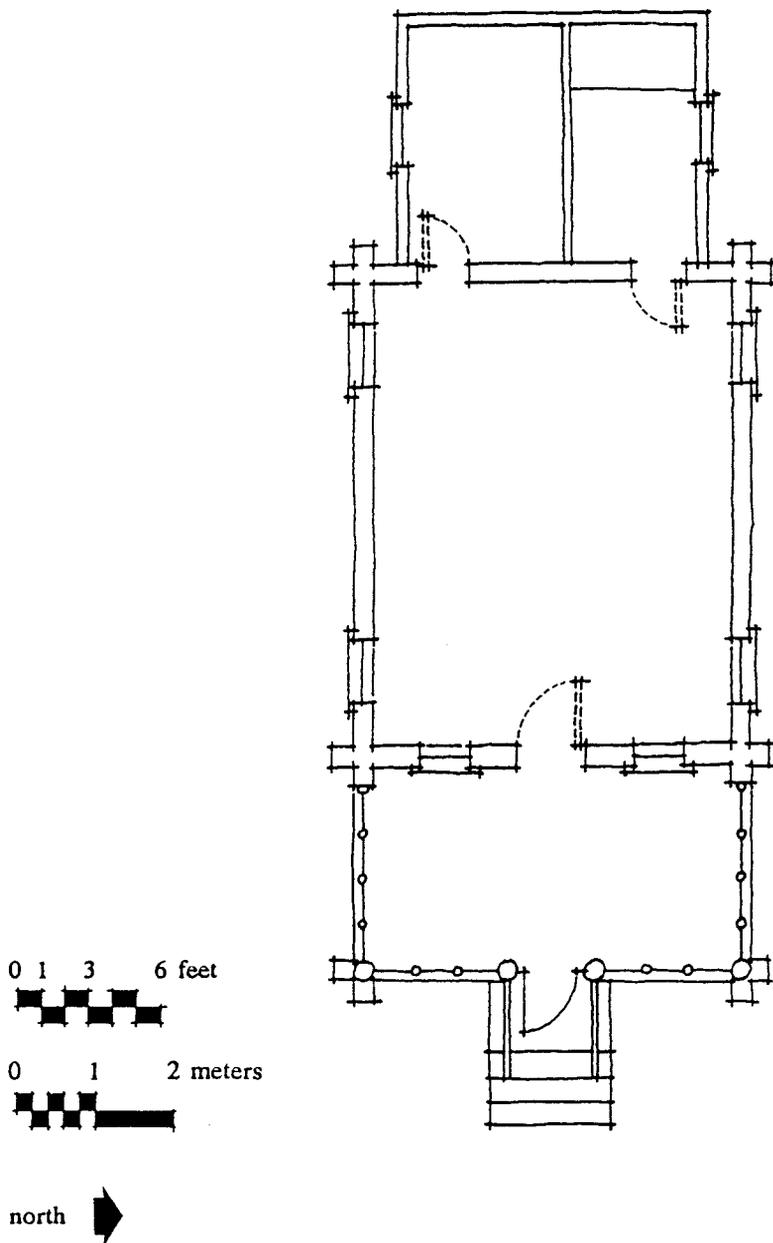
information, see the historical narrative about the Joyce Estate in HABS No. MN-146.

2. **Historic Landscape Design** When the estate was in active use, the Joyce Cabin's front grounds was a grassy lawn dotted with native conifers. Approximately 50 feet in front (east) of the cabin was a narrow flight of cobblestone steps leading to a circular depression, about 40 feet in diameter, ringed by flower beds and ornamental plantings. In the center of the depression was a flower bed containing a birdhouse on a tall metal pole. The birdhouse has been removed, and all landscape features are now overgrown. Behind (west of) the Joyce Cabin was a narrow grassy lawn bordered by a wooded hill leading to a second tier of sleeping cabins. This area still resembles its historic condition.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. **Early Views:** A photograph, dated ca. 1925, documents the original construction of the Joyce Cabin's front (east) side, and the landscaping of its front grounds. another photograph from the same period shows the north side of the front (east) porch, indicating that this feature once had curved bentwood railings. Both photographs are in Joseph Waleski, Jr., Photograph Album, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN.
- B. **Interviews:** See HABS No. MN-146.
- C. **Bibliography:**
 1. **Primary and Unpublished Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.
 2. **Secondary and Published Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.
- D. **Likely Sources not yet Investigated:** See HABS No. MN-146.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION See HABS No. MN-146.



SKETCH PLAN: JOYCE CABIN