

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

HABS No. MN-146-L

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP. V,  
3L-

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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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, ICE HOUSE

HABS No. MN-146-L

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MINN  
31-GRAPY,  
3L-

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1918.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Ice House 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** Unknown.
4. **Alterations and Additions**

**B. Historical Context:** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Ice House dates from about 1918, shortly after the first buildings were erected on the estate. Ice gathered from Trout Lake in the winter cooled food and beverages during the summer, standard procedure in the days before mechanical refrigeration was available. The Ice House probably functioned as such until about 1946, when the Rural Electric Association brought power to the area.<sup>2</sup> For further information, see the historical overview of the Joyce Estate in HABS No. MN-146.

### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

#### A. General Statement:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Author's interview with Joseph Waleski, Jr., Grand Rapids, 27 January 1987.

1. **Architectural Character** The Ice House is built into a hill on the bank of Trout Lake. Only the upper level of the structure, a gable roof low to the ground, is visible from the roadway. On the lake side, the building's full one-and-one-half stories are displayed. The building's function as a storage facility for ice dictated the simple, utilitarian design.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Deteriorated.

**B. Description of Exterior:**

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 16'0" by 18'0".
2. **Foundations** Concrete.
3. **Walls** Cast concrete. Board sheathing on gables is covered with gray-green, hexagonal, composition shingles.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Concrete walls are strengthened by turnbuckled tie rods, anchored by railroad rails. Gables are wood-frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** None.
6. **Chimneys** Sheet-metal vent at ridge.
7. **Openings**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors** A cross-buck, wood-board door with a high threshold is centered in the west wall. Opening on the lake shore to the east, a tripartite door of the same construction rises from the ground to the eaves. Both are trimmed with plain wood planks. Doors and trim are painted white.
  - b. **Windows and Shutters** None.
8. **Roof**
  - a. **Shape, Covering** Gable roof with hexagonal composition shingles and a metal ridge roll.
  - b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed rafter tails.

c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

**C. Description of Interior:**

**1. Floor Plans**

a. **Describe Floors** The Ice House interior is a single, rectangular room. The door from the west opens about two-thirds of the way up on the western wall; there is no floor at this level.

**2. Stairways** None.

**3. Flooring** Earth, covered with sawdust.

**4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes** Concrete walls; exposed rafters and board sheathing above.

**5. Openings**

a. **Doorways and Doors** No interior doors.

b. **Windows** None.

**6. Decorative Features and Trim** None.

**7. Hardware** None.

**8. Mechanical Equipment** None.

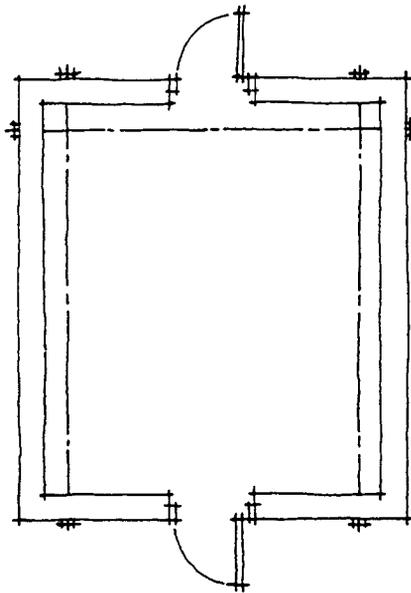
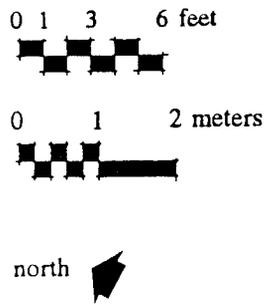
**D. Site:**

**1. General Setting and Orientation** The Ice House is built into a hill between the estate access road to the west and the lake shore to the east. Ice could be loaded from Trout Lake directly into the structure's tall east door. The Ice House is on the northern end of the Main Cabin Compound, not far from the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A), where the kitchen presumably required a steady supply of ice. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

**PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- A. Interviews:** See HABS No. MN-146.
- B. Bibliography:**
  - 1. Primary and Unpublished Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.
  - 2. Secondary and Published Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.
- C. Likely Sources not yet Investigated:** See HABS No. MN-146.

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



SKETCH PLAN: ICE HOUSE