

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

HABS No. MN-146-M

HABS
MINN
31-GDRAP.V,
3M-

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,
MAID'S CABIN

HABS No. MN-146-M

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V,
3M-

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 Maid's 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** Unknown.
4. **Alterations and Additions** A shed-roofed section appended to the rear (west) of the cabin appears to be a later addition.

B. Historical Context: It presumably took a significant number of servants to maintain the "casual" lifestyle at the Joyce Estate. Given its name, the Maid's Cabin apparently housed one or more of the female staff. According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., it was built shortly after the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) and the first three sleeping cabins were completed. It is probably one of the seven "cottages" mentioned in the Grand Rapids Herald Review of 7 August 1918, which noted that "the D. G. Joyce resort on Trout Lake is now nearing completion." The building is mentioned by name in Joyce's probate inventory, compiled in 1938.² For further information, see the historical overview of the Joyce Estate in HABS No. MN-146.

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; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce," 1938.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** A hipped-roof porch extends across the front (east) of this single-story, gable-front, log-frame building. A wood-frame, shed-roofed section to the rear (west), probably a later addition, covers the back (west) wall and projects to the south, beyond the south wall of the front section. The Maid's Cabin is identical in plan to the Butler's Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-0) immediately to the south. Unlike the Butler's Cabin, however, the Maid's Cabin has log framing, instead of wood framing, for its main block.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Main building, 14'10" by 16'9"; front porch, 14'10" by 5'11"; rear section, 22'0" (north-south) by 11'0"; all measurements approximate.
2. **Foundations** Log posts on concrete piers.
3. **Walls** Main building: peeled, saddle-notched logs, painted brown, with frame gables clad in wood shingles, painted green. Front (east) screened porch: plywood, painted red. Shed-roofed rear (west) section: wood frame with wood shingles, painted brown.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Main building: saddle-notched logs. Other sections: wood frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Fieldstone stoop with four concrete steps; no railings.
6. **Chimneys** None.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** A doorway, without door, opens into the porch from the exterior. A five-panel wood door, painted green, separates the porch from the main room. Both of these openings are situated left (south) of the gable's central axis. The rear (west) shed-roofed section also has a front (east) entrance opening onto the exterior; it is equipped

with a five-panel, wood door, painted green. Plain boards trim all doorways; a fillet molding edges lintel tops.

- b. **Windows and Shutters** On the main log-cabin section, single window openings occur on the north and south sides, and on the north half of the front (east). On the shed-roofed section, single openings occur on the south and east sides, and on the north half of the rear (west). The rear window in the shed-roofed section contains a single pane in fixed sash. All other windows feature one-over-one, double-hung sash. All window surrounds are simple planks.

8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** A gable roof on an east-west axis covers the main section; it has a metal ridge roll. The front (east) porch has a hipped roof; the rear section has a shed roof, sloping to the west. All are covered with composition shingles.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed rafter tails.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** The Maid's Cabin has a main central room with a doorway (without door) in the rear (west) wall leading into a small bathroom in the north half of the shed-roofed section. The bathroom, in turn, communicates with a second room in the south half of the shed-roofed section by means of a doorway in its south wall; this opening has a five-panel, wood door. The doorways have simple plank surrounds.

2. Stairways None.

- 3. **Flooring** Wood plank flooring in all areas except bathroom, which has rotting green carpet.
- 4. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes** Main room: varnished exposed logs, with white-painted plywood in gable ends and ceiling. Bathroom: gray plastic tile and wood paneling on walls; white acoustic tiles on ceiling. Rear room off bathroom:

wood paneling on walls; white acoustic tiles on ceiling.

5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** Doorways trimmed with simple wood planks. Only surviving interior door is five-panel, wood door between bathroom and small room.
- b. **Windows** Plain board surrounds with slightly projecting sills.

6. Decorative Features and Trim None.

7. Hardware None.

8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** The bathroom contains a tipped-over, disconnected water heater.
- b. **Lighting** Removed.
- c. **Plumbing** A bathtub remains in place in the north rear room; other fixtures have been removed.

D. Site:

- 1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located in the Main Cabin Compound, the Maid's Cabin is north of the Butler's Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-O) at the northern end of a row of residential cabins strung along the crest of a wooded hill. The Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) and other cabins and outbuildings are below the hill. For further, see HABS No. MN-146.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Interviews: See HABS No. MN-146.

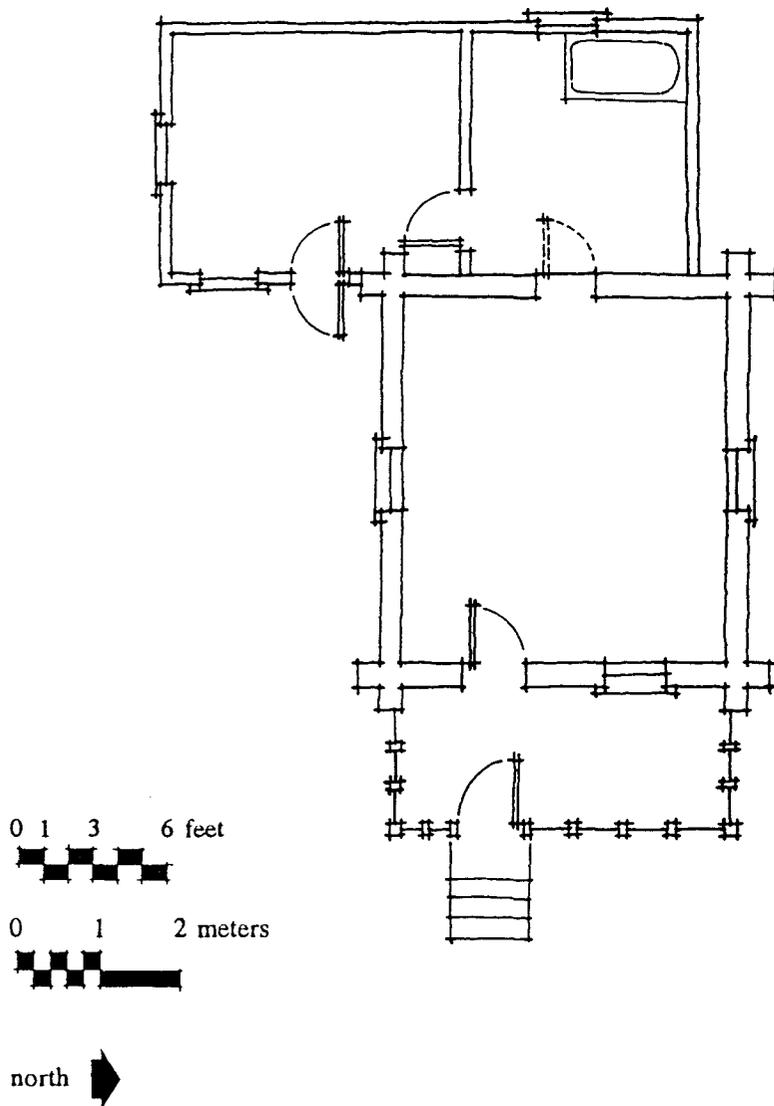
B. Bibliography:

- 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: MAID'S CABIN