

Joyce Estate, Mary Louise Cabin (Pilot's Cabin)
Chippewa National Forest Road 2144,
3 miles north of County Road 335
Grand Rapids vicinity
Itasca County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-146-P

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V,
3P-

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, MARY LOUISE CABIN (Pilot's Cabin)

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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 Mary Louise 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** Shed-roofed additions to rear (west) appear to be later additions.

B. Historical Context: According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., this building was completed shortly after the construction of the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) and the initial three sleeping cabins. It apparently is 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." When David Gage Joyce's daughter Beatrice Clotilde ("B.C.") was a girl, the cabin was frequently used by her Chicago friend Mary Louise -- hence the name, "Mary Louise Cabin." After about 1950, when B.C. acquired a seaplane for trips between her home in Chicago and the estate, the building was customarily assigned to her pilot.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 1918.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** This single-story, front-gable cabin, rectangular in plan, is constructed of saddle-notched peeled logs. A tuck-under porch -- formerly screened -- spans the entire front (east) side. Cobblestones set in concrete ornament the front steps and a cream-colored, brick chimney rises above the gable peak in the rear (west).
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 19'0"x22'9", with a full-width front (east) porch, 9'0" deep. There are two rear (west) additions. The first, centered on the rear (west) wall of the main cabin block is 14'6" (north-south) x 10'3" (east-west). The second is attached to the rear (west) wall of the first addition; it measures 4'0"x4'0".
2. **Foundations** Log posts on concrete piers.
3. **Walls** The walls of the main block are peeled, saddle-notched logs, painted brown; gable ends are wood frame, clad in wood shingles, painted green. Rear (west) additions are wood frame, clad in wood shingles, painted brown.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Log framing for front (east) porch and main cabin block; wood framing for additions.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Eight concrete steps, decorated with fieldstone sides and risers, lead to central doorway of front (east) porch. Steps have wood railing posts, but no banisters. Porch has wood trellage skirting.
6. **Chimneys** A cream-colored brick chimney with corbelled cap is centered on the rear (west) wall of the main cabin block.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** Central doorway (without door) leads from stoop to front (east) porch. It aligns with doorway into main cabin block, also missing door. Exterior porch doorway is trimmed with logs; exterior

cabin doorway is trimmed with simple planks.

- b. **Windows and Shutters** Single, rectangular window openings frame doorway between porch and cabin. There are two similar openings on the north and south sides of the main cabin block. These openings contain one-over-one, double-hung sash that is missing its glazing; their exterior trim consists of simple planks, painted green. The main rear (west) addition has single, square window openings on its north and south sides. These windows contain single-paned, fixed sash, with simple exterior plank trim, painted green.

8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** Main cabin block has a front-gabled roof covered with composition shingles and a sheet metal ridge roll. Rear (west) additions have shed roofs, sloping west, covered with composition shingles.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed log rafter ends on main cabin block.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** Through a central doorway, a full-width front (east) porch leads into a large, rectangular room, apparently the extent of the original cabin. There are two doorways in the room's rear (west) wall. The doorway to the north leads into a bathroom, while the one to the south connects with a bedroom or storage room, equal in size to the bathroom. There is no direct connection between the two rear rooms. The bathroom has a five-panel wood door; the other doorway is missing its door. The rear rooms do not have direct access to the small addition on the building's rear (west). This small room, which shelters a disconnected fuse box, is entered through an exterior doorway on its rear (west) wall. This doorway is missing its door.

2. Stairways None.

- 3. **Flooring** Exposed wood boards in porch, main room, and southwest, rear room; pressed-wood tile in bathroom.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes** In main room: exposed log walls and rafters, with horizontal wood siding in gable ends; all varnished. In bathroom: aqua-colored plastic tile and horizontal wood siding, with similar siding on ceiling. In southwest, rear room: horizontal wood siding on walls and ceiling.
5. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** Interior doorways are trimmed with simple wood planks. The bathroom doorway contains a five-panel wood door.
 - b. **Windows** Simple plank surrounds with slightly protruding sills.
6. **Decorative Features and Trim** None.
7. **Hardware** On front (east) porch, there is a metal track for folding wood shutters, which are no longer in place.
8. **Mechanical Equipment**
 - a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** Two metal vent stacks protrude from roof of main rear (west) addition.
 - b. **Lighting** None.
 - c. **Plumbing** A bath tub is framed into the rear (west) wall of the bathroom; all plumbing has been removed.

D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located just north of B.C. Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-Q), Mary Louise Cabin stands in the middle of a row of cottages on a crest of a hill that overlooks the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) to the east. The cabin is connected to the lower area by a pathway with stone steps. The area immediately behind (west of) Mary Louise Cabin is densely forested with native hardwoods and conifers. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

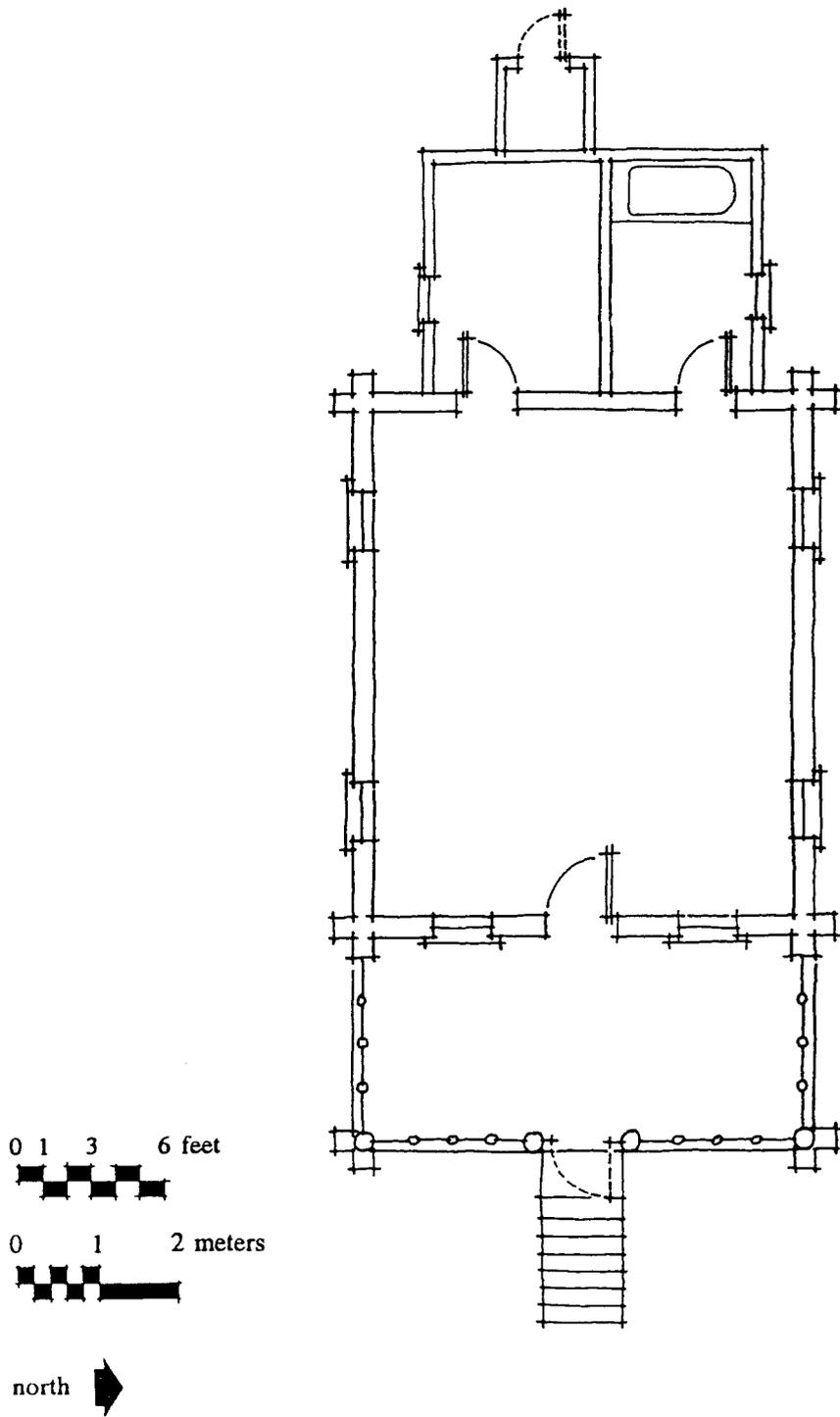
- A. Interviews:** See HABS No. MN-146.

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: MARY LOUISE CABIN