

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

HABS No. MN-146-Q

HABS

MINN

31-GRAP.V

3Q-

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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,  
B.C. CABIN

HABS No. MN-146-Q

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MINN  
31-GDRAP.V,  
3Q-

## 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 B.C 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** Unknown.
4. **Alterations and Additions** Fireplace added in the late 1940s; two shingle-sided, shed-roofed additions are to the rear (west). Curved ornamental porch railings are no longer extant.<sup>2</sup>

**B. Historical Context:** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., this cabin was built soon after completion of the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) and the first three sleeping cabins. It is apparently one of the seven "cottages" mentioned in an article about the estate in the Grand Rapids Herald Review on 7 August 1918. Prior to the death of David Gage Joyce in 1937, it was claimed by his only child, Beatrice Clotilde, for her exclusive use; the property inventory in his probate file, compiled in 1938, refers to "B.C. Cabin."<sup>3</sup> For further information, see the historical overview of the Joyce Estate in HABS No. MN-146.

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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, MN, 27 January 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Author's interview with Waleski, 1987; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce," 1938.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** 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 (east) steps and the massive chimney that rises along the south side.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 19'6" by 22'10".
2. **Foundations** Log post on concrete pier.
3. **Walls** Cabin walls are saddle-notched peeled logs, painted brown. The foundation beneath the main section is skirted with horizontal wood boards, also painted brown. Gable ends, in contrast, are sheathed with wood shingles and painted green. Wood shingles, painted brown, cover the rear (west) additions.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Original cabin: saddle-notched logs; wood-framed gable ends. Rear (west) additions: wood frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Nine concrete stairs lead to the front (front) porch; cobblestones decorate risers and sides. Some railing posts remain, but railings are gone.
6. **Chimneys** A large fieldstone and concrete chimney, added in the late 1940s, rises along the southern wall. A square clay flue projects from the top. A square, cream-colored brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises along the western gable, intersecting with the roof ridge.
7. **Openings**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors** A screen door leads into the front (east) porch. The door between the porch and the interior is missing. Plain boards trim the opening; a fillet molding projects above the lintel. Another door enters the southwestern room from the south side; this paneled wood door holds two glass panes.

- b. **Windows and Shutters** One-over-one sash windows flank the front (east) door. The north and south walls of each hold two one-over-one sash windows. There is a square window on the north wall of the rear (west) addition. The windows have plain board surrounds, with a fillet molding over the lintel. Sills project slightly.

## 8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** Gable roof with composition shingles and metal ridge roll; shed-roof additions to the rear (west), with 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 screened porch extends across the front (east). It leads to a large, rectangular room, apparently the extent of the original cabin. Two doors on the west wall of this room open into two rooms which were probably added later. The northern room was a bathroom. A lean-to addition further to the west, probably used for wood and other storage, is not accessible from the interior.

### 2. Stairways None.

### 3. Flooring Natural-finish wood plank flooring in the main room and porch; linoleum squares in the addition.

### 4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes Log walls and rafters are exposed in the main room and porch. The gable area and roof board sheathing have been painted white in the porch. Acoustical tile has been added to the ceiling of the main room, and also appears in the addition rooms. Modern pink and grey tile lines the bathroom walls. The room in the southwestern corner is lined with narrow, beveled paneling, painted white; some has been removed.

### 5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** A five-panel wood door separates the main room

from the southwestern room. The bathroom door is missing. Simple wood planks trim doorways.

b. **Windows** Simple wood plank surrounds; projecting sills.

6. **Decorative Features and Trim** A fieldstone and concrete fireplace dominates the south wall of the main room. It has a plain wood mantel over a rectangular metal firebox. A small stone hearth protects the floor.

7. **Hardware** None.

8. **Mechanical Equipment**

a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** None.

b. **Lighting** None.

c. **Plumbing** Fixtures have been removed or dismantled in the bathroom.

D. **Site:**

1. **General Setting and Orientation** B.C. Cabin is near the southern end of a row of residential cabins in the Main Cabin Compound. It occupies the crest of a hill overlooking Trout Lake to the south and east. Concrete and stone steps lead eastward down the hill to the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A) and other cabins. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

2. **Historic Landscape Design** A hedge, perhaps of rose bushes, encircles the front (east) and sides of the cabin. A forested area is to the rear (west).

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

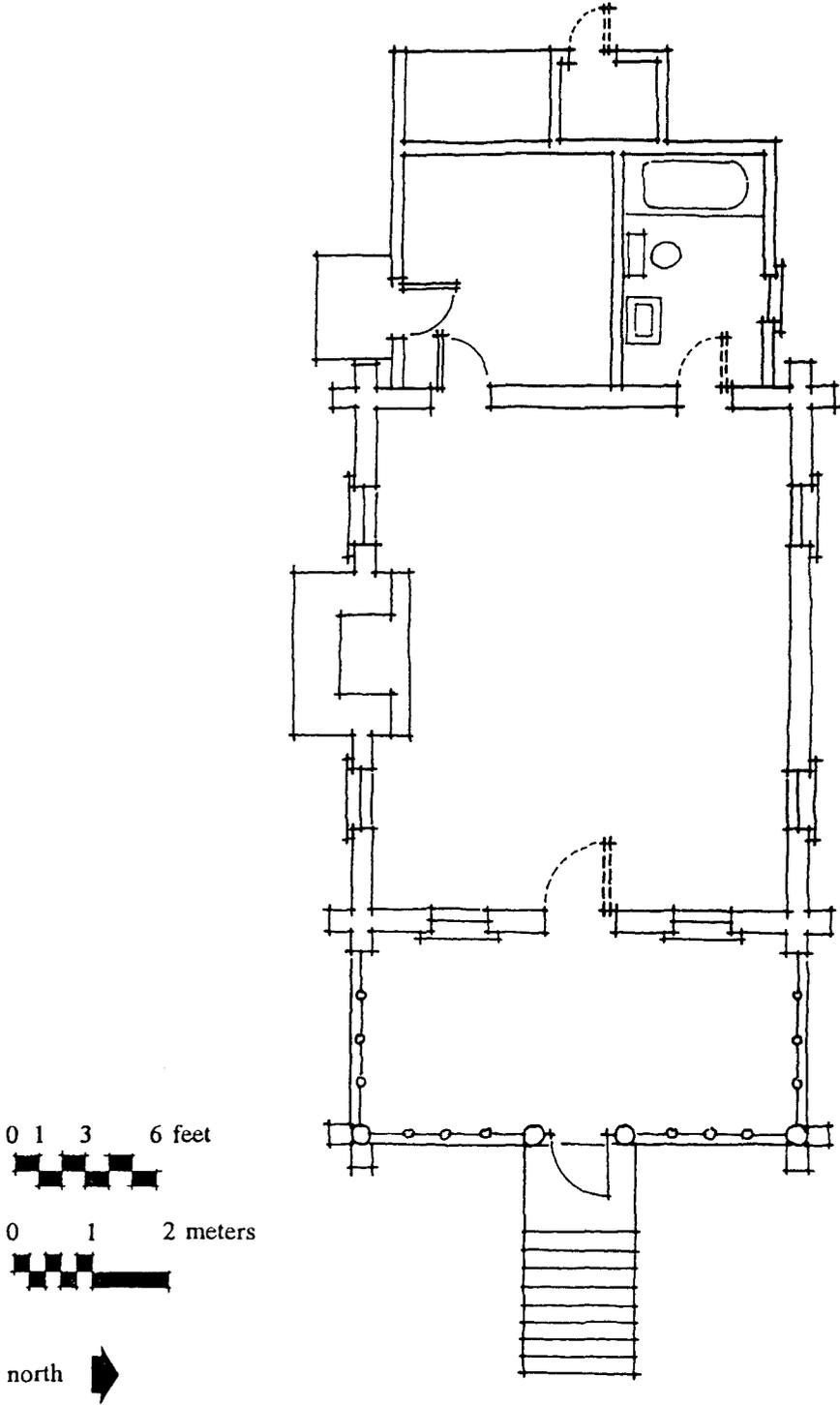
B. **Bibliography:**

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: B.C. CABIN