

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

HABS No. MN-146-AA

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP.V  
3AA-

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PHOTOGRAPH  
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, WINTER BOATHOUSE

HABS No. MN-146-AA

HABS  
MINN  
31-GRAP.V  
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### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1920.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Winter Boathouse and nearby facilities 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** The Winter Boathouse was demolished by the Forest Service in 1986 as a safety precaution.

**B. Historical Context:** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Winter Boathouse was constructed in the early 1920s to permit winter storage of the Joyce Family's recreational flotilla. As a published account noted in 1922, the Joyce Estate contained "a fleet of speedy pleasure boats, Evinrude boats and power boats." A photograph, dated ca. 1925, shows the structure perched on the shore of Trout Lake, immediately north and west of a summer boathouse, which was built over the water. The two boathouses apparently remained in use until the early 1970s, when the Joyce Family relinquished ownership of the property. In 1986, both boathouses were

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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.

demolished by the Forest Services for safety reasons.<sup>2</sup> The site of the Winter Boathouse is marked by a series of concrete footings along the shore. 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** The Winter Boathouse is a ruin consisting of concrete footings by the shore of Trout Lake.

### **B. Site:**

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located on the shore of Trout Lake at the south end of the Caretaker's Compound, the Winter Boathouse formerly stood about 100 feet northeast of the Powerhouse (HABS No. MN-146-Z). For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

## **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- A. Early Views:** A photograph, dated ca. 1925, indicates that the Winter Boathouse was an unornamented, one-story, wood-frame, gable-front structure with clapboard siding. The photograph is 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Author's interview with Joseph Waleski, Jr., Grand Rapids, MN, 27 January 1987; A Zone of Plenty (Grand Rapids, MN: Grand Rapids Herald Review, 1922), 17. The photograph is found in Joseph Waleski, Jr., Photograph Album, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN. The demolition of the boathouses is discussed in William F. Spinner, Forest Supervisor, Chippewa National Forest to Dorman Lehman, Director, Itasca County Historical Society, 23 April 1986, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building.

Joyce Estate,  
Winter Boathouse  
HABS No. MN-146-AA  
Page 3

**D. Likely Sources not yet Investigated:** See HABS No. MN-146.

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