

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

HABS No. MN-146-^ABB

HABS
MINN
31-GDRAP.V,
3AB-

PHOTOGRAPH
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, SEAPLANE HANGAR

HABS No. MN-146-^ABB

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1950.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Seaplane Hangar 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.¹
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** Unknown.
4. **Alterations and Additions** The Seaplane Hangar was demolished as a safety precaution by the Forest Service about 1986.

B. Historical Context: According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Seaplane Hangar was constructed in the early 1950s to house a seaplane owned by Beatrice Clotilde ("B.C.") Joyce, the daughter of the estate's founder, David Gage Joyce. B.C. used the aircraft to shuttle between her home in Chicago and the estate. While at the estate, her personal pilot customarily stayed in the Mary Louise Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-P).² It is unknown how long the hangar remained in use. The building was not maintained after the Forest Service acquired the Joyce Estate in 1974. In 1986, the Forest Service demolished, as a safety precaution, two deteriorating boathouses (HABS No. MN-146-AA) that stood just north of the Seaplane Hangar on the shore of Trout

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; A Zone of Plenty (Grand Rapids, MN: Grand Rapids Herald Review, 1922), 17.

Lake. During this period, the agency apparently demolished the Seaplane Hangar for the same reason. 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 Seaplane Hangar is a ruin, consisting of two sidewall concrete foundations, about 3 feet high, 30 feet long (east-west), and 40 feet apart (north-south), on the shore of Trout Lake. The two concrete walls share a rear (west) fieldstone retaining wall, running north-south. The stone wall stands about 4 feet high.

B. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located on the shore of Trout Lake at the south end of the Caretaker's Compound, the Seaplane Hangar formerly stood about 120 feet northeast of the Powerhouse (HABS No. MN-146-Z). 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.