

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

HABS No. MN-146-<sup>A</sup>EC

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP.V,  
3AC-

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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, OIL HOUSE

HABS No. MN-146-CC

HABS  
MINN  
31-6 DRAP. V  
3AC-A

### 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 Oil House 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 Oil House was demolished after the U.S. Forest Service acquired the Joyce Estate in 1974.

**B. Historical Context:** The construction date of the Oil House is unknown. It apparently stored fuel for the Joyce Family's powerboats, maintained in nearby boathouses (HABS MN-146-AA). Since the boathouses were built in the early 1920s, it seems reasonable to assume that the Oil House was erected during the same period. The Oil House is mentioned by name in a probate inventory of David Gage Joyce's estate, compiled in 1938. The Oil House survived until at least 1972, when it is listed under the name of "Gasoline Storage Shed" in an appraiser's report of the Joyce Estate.<sup>2</sup> The structure was demolished after the U.S. Forest Service acquired the Joyce Estate in 1974. For further

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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; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce," 1938; Leonard L. Hedman, "An Appraisal of Joyce Estate," ca. 1972, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN.

information, see the historical overview in HABS No. MN-146.

## **PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

### **A. General Statement:**

1. **Architectural Character** The Oil House is a ruin, consisting of a concrete wall about four feet high and 14 feet long (north-south). At the north end of the wall are two concrete supports that apparently once held a fuel tank. The supports are approximately four feet high and six feet apart (north-south).

### **B. Site:**

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located on the shore of Trout Lake at the south end of the Caretaker's Compound, the Oil House formerly stood about 210 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.