

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

HABS No. MN-146-^AMM

HABS
MINN

31-GRAP.V,
3AM-

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,
SPECIAL CABIN

HABS No. MN-146-^AMM

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1940.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Special 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** A rear shed-roofed lean-to, which extends to the southwest, might be a later addition.

B. Historical Context: According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the building was sited in a secluded part of the estate so that it could be a "special cabin" for "someone who wanted to be alone." Waleski states that it was "never used." Waleski also asserts that the cabin was constructed "in the 1930s." Unlike the other cabins, however, this building is not mentioned in the personal property inventory of the estate compiled in 1938 as part of David Gage Joyce's probate file. It probably was built shortly thereafter.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, 22 January 1987; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce: Final Decree of Distribution," 30 June 1938, Deed Book 144, 401-406, in Itasca County Recorder's Office, Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** This single-story, wood-frame, gable-front cabin is oriented on a northwest-southeast axis, with the front facing northwest. An enclosed, hipped-roof porch extends across the entire front end. Split-log siding covers all of the building except for a small shed-roofed section to the southwest, which is clad in wood drop siding. The entire exterior is painted brown, helping the building blend with the forest that closely surrounds it.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** 14'4" by 26'4", plus an 8'0" deep porch across the front (northwest), and a small lean-to on the southwest side.
2. **Foundations** Concrete piers.
3. **Walls** Split-log siding, with horizontal drop siding on rear lean-to, all painted brown.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Wood frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** At the front (northwest) entryway, a concrete stoop leads to two wood steps, painted green.
6. **Chimneys** Two metal pipe chimneys with sheet-metal caps project from the rear of the southwestern roof slope.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** Five-panel wood front(northwest) door; rear lean-to has wood-paneled door with three panes of glass.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** Jalousie windows flank the front (northwest) porch door; most glazing is gone. Pairs of top-hinged windows, with nine fixed panes, fill the side walls of the porch. A one-over-one double-hung sash window is on each side of the door leading from the porch to the main room, which has a pair of nine-pane, top-hinged windows centered

in each side wall. The rear (southeast) wall holds two six-pane casement windows. The lean-to has one square, single-pane, top-hinged windows on each exterior wall.

8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** Gable roof with sheet-metal ridge roll; hipped porch roof and shed roof on lean-to; all with composition shingles.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed rafter tails.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** A door leads from the full-width front (northwest) porch into the cabin's main room. Two doors in the back (southeast) wall of this room open into two small rooms. The northeastern room, which has a metal closet pole and built-in shelves, apparently served as a walk-in closet. The southeastern room was the bathroom. The lean-to on the cabin's southwest side is only accessible from the exterior.

2. Stairways None.

3. Flooring Wood floorboards.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes Plywood; roof rafters and board sheathing are exposed on the porch. The lean-to is unfinished.

5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** Plain board trim.
- b. **Windows** Plain board trim.

6. Decorative Features and Trim None.

7. Hardware None.

8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** Wood louver vent in gable ends. Stove once in southeast corner of main room is gone.
- b. **Lighting** None.
- c. **Plumbing** A water heater remains in the back southeastern room; bathroom fixtures have been removed. A metal tank, painted brown, is strapped to the back exterior wall; its function is not known.

D. Site:

- 1. **General Setting and Orientation** Situated near the shore of Trout Lake on the southwestern side of Larson's Point, this cabin is set apart from the estate's other residential structures, which are clustered at the Main Cabin Compound about one-quarter of a mile to the southeast. It stands in the southeastern corner of the Recreation Area, just south of the Tennis Court (HABS No. MN-146-^AEL). For further information about the layout of the Joyce Estate, see HABS No. MN-146.
- 2. **Historic Landscape Design** The Special Cabin is now practically hidden by woods. It is uncertain if this was the original intent, or the result of minimal maintenance in recent decades. A narrow grass path leads to the cabin from the north. A hill rises immediately behind the cabin to the east.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

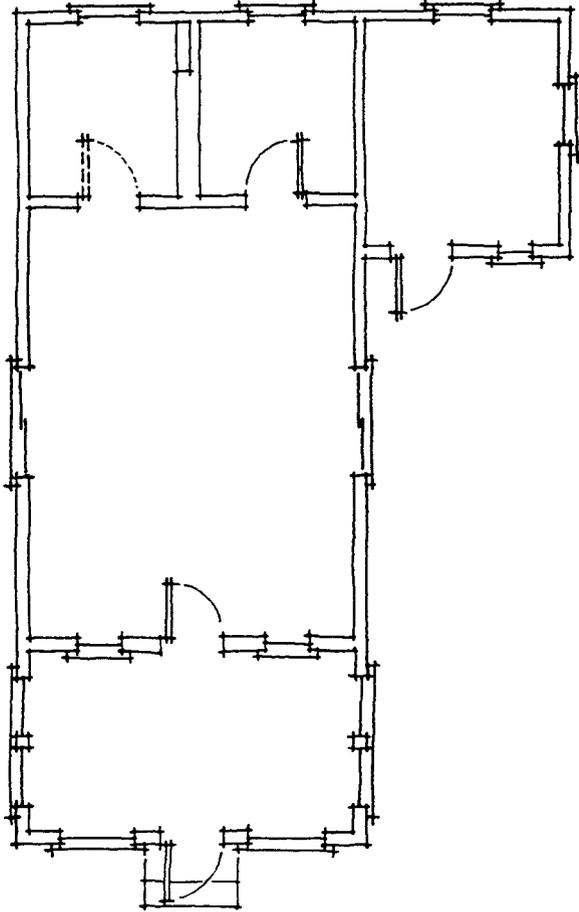
A. Interviews: See HABS No. MN-146.

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.



0 1 3 6 feet

0 1 2 meters

north

SKETCH PLAN: SPECIAL CABIN