

Joyce Estate, Golf Course  
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>00

HABS  
MINN  
31-GRAP.V,  
3A0-

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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:  
GOLF COURSE

HABS No. MN-146-<sup>A</sup>00

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP.V,  
3A0-

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1925.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Golf Course and adjacent 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** Overgrown; new picnic tables.

**B. Historical Context:** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the pitch-and-putt Golf Course was completed about 1925, with the design assistance of "a golfer associated with the Grand Rapids course." An undated, printed scorecard indicates that the course's total yardage was 469, with nine par-three holes ranging in length from 35 yards (Hole 1, "Joyce's Doom") to 74 yards (Hole 9, "The Rancho").<sup>2</sup> The course was watered by a nearby Golf Course Pump House (HABS No. MN-146-PP) on the shore of Trout Lake. For further information about the Joyce Estate, see HABS No. MN-146-A: Joyce Estate, Main Cabin, Part I.B.

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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, 22 January 1987; Joseph Waleski, Jr. and Donald Boese, "The Joyce Estate," Grand Rapids Companion, ed. Donald L. Boese (Grand Rapids, MN: Grand Rapids Centennial Committee and others, 1991), 196; The Nopeming Private Golf Course, Trout Lake, Minnesota: Official Score Card, n.d., in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** Situated in the estate's Recreation Area, the Golf Course occupies a triangular piece of relatively flat land between the estate's main entry road to the northeast and northwest and Trout Lake to the south. The site is now completely overgrown, but some traces of the course remain, including a sand trap and a water hazard. A few older pines and deciduous trees probably date from the course's inception; other trees and bushes have grown up since the course was abandoned. The area is currently used as a camp site, and picnic tables have been added.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Overgrown.

B. **Description of Exterior:** Not applicable.

C. **Description of Interior:** Not applicable.

### D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** See above. For further information about the layout of the Joyce Estate, see HABS No. MN-146.
2. **Historic Landscape Design** An undated aerial photograph of the course, shows lawn-like greens and grass fairways, dotted with conifers and sandtraps (see Part III, A below). The photograph also shows a single row of conifers along the course's southern boundary by the shore of Trout Lake.

## PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. **Early Views:** Undated aerial photograph, looking east, in Rolf T. Anderson, The Joyce Estate: A Reuse Study (St. Paul: Chippewa National Forest and Minnesota Historical Society, 1989), 26; shows lawn-like greens and grass fairways, dotted with sandtraps and conifers.

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.

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

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