

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

HABS No. MN-146-^ARR

HABS
MINN
31-GDRAP.V,
3AR-

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,
TRAP HOUSE

HABS No. MN-146-RR^A

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Unknown.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** The site of the Trap House was included in a parcel of approximately 2,600 acres conveyed to David Gage Joyce by the Itasca Lumber Company in 1917. 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** Trap House equipment no longer in place.

B. Historical Context: According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., this small poured-concrete structure served as a trap house for target shooting. Its construction date is unknown. The estate's founder David Gage Joyce maintained a small arsenal for hunting and target shooting. A probate inventory of his fire arms at the estate, compiled in 1938, lists over 30 shotguns, rifles, and revolvers.² The Trap House was probably built before Joyce's death in 1937. For further information about the Joyce Estate, see the historical overview of the complex in HABS No. MN-146.

¹ Itasca Lumber Company, Deed to David G. Joyce, 19 December 1917. Torrens File No. 964; "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 "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce, Final Decree of Distribution," 30 June 1938, Book of Deeds 144, 401-406, Itasca County Recorder's Office, Itasca County Courthouse, Grand Rapids, MN; author's interview with Joseph Waleski, Jr., Grand Rapids, 22 January 1987.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** This diminutive, rectangular, poured-concrete structure, approximately 3'6" in height, has solid walls to the southeast, southwest, and northwest. The northeast side is open to launch targets. The structure's shed roof slopes from northeast to southwest. A bitumen roof coating is largely deteriorated.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 7'10" by 7'3".
2. **Foundations** Concrete.
3. **Walls** Concrete.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Concrete.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** None.
6. **Chimneys** None.
7. **Openings** No wall to the northeast.
8. **Roof**
 - a. **Shape, Covering** Shed roof, deteriorated bitumen covering.
 - b. **Cornice, Eaves** None.
 - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

- C. Description of Interior:** The interior dirt floor is bisected (northwest-southeast) by a piece of 3"x12" lumber lying flat on a concrete pad. The lumber apparently served as a base for target-throwing equipment.

D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located almost one mile south of the Recreation Area, the Trap House is the most isolated structure on the estate. It stands in an open field near the shore of Trout Lake, about 200 feet east of the estate's main entry road. For further information about the layout of the Joyce Estate, see HABS No. MN-146.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

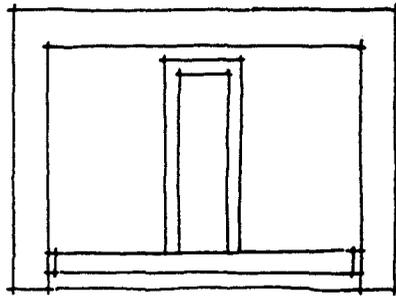
A. Interviews: See HABS No. MN-146.

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.



0 1 2 3 feet



0 1 meter



north

SKETCH PLAN: TRAP HOUSE