

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

HABS No. MN-146-H

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V,
3H-

PHOTOGRAPHS
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,
ROOT CELLAR

HABS No. MN-146-H

HABS
MINN
31-GRAPY
34-

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** 1917
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Root Cellar 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** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr, the Root Cellar was constructed during the estate's first season. At this time, construction was under the general supervision of Simeon D. Patrick, with F.L. Norman serving as foreman.²
4. **Alterations and Additions** There are no documented alterations; the structure appears to be in its original condition.

B. Historical Context: According to Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Root Cellar was built during the estate's first season, which contemporary newspaper accounts document as 1917.³ Conveniently situated near the kitchen door of the Main Cabin kitchen (HABS No. MN-146-A), the structure stored produce from the estate's Garden (HABS No. MN-146-V) some distance to the north. It later was used for general storage, and is now vacant.

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.

³ Author's interview with Waleski, 1987; "Will Build Home on 'Big Trout,'" Grand Rapids Herald Review, 14 March 1917.

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** Of essentially utilitarian design, the Root Cellar is built into a hill that rises behind (to the west) of the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A). Only the structure's east wall, made of concrete and trimmed with fieldstone, is exposed.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** The main room is rectangular in plan, measuring about 7'8" wide and 10'6" deep. The entry vestibule is 2'10" wide and 5'0" deep. The maximum ceiling height is 6'5".
2. **Foundations** Concrete.
3. **Walls** The structure's concrete walls are covered with earth, except the front (east) side. The top and sides of this visible wall are curved and trimmed with a band of fieldstone. The wall has traces of faded white paint.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Cast concrete.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** None.
6. **Chimneys** The interior is vented by a tile pipe.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** The only door, oriented to the east, is made of diagonal drop siding, backed with vertical boards. The surround is of plain boards. The door and trim are painted green; much of the paint has peeled.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** None.

8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** Arched, covered with dirt, grass, and brush.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** None.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** A narrow vestibule leads into the small, rectangular cellar.

2. Stairways None.

3. Flooring Concrete.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes Concrete, painted white.

5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** The door between vestibule and cellar is made of diagonal drop siding, backed with vertical boards, painted white.
- b. **Windows** None.

6. Decorative Features and Trim Shelves that once lined the cellar have been removed.

7. Hardware None.

8. Mechanical Equipment None.

D. Site:

- 1. **General Setting and Orientation** The Root Cellar is located about 25 feet behind (west of) the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A), near the door accessing the kitchen. Only the Root Cellar's east wall is visible; the rest of the structure is built into a hill. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

2. **Historic Landscape Design** Built into a hillside covered with native birch and other hardwoods, the Root Cellar fronts, on the east, a strip of level ground, approximately 25 feet wide, that runs north-south behind (west of) the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A). This area was apparently maintained as a narrow lawn, although it is now overgrown. Hexagonal concrete tiles form a path between the front (east) door of the Root Cellar and the rear (west) kitchen door of the Main Cabin.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

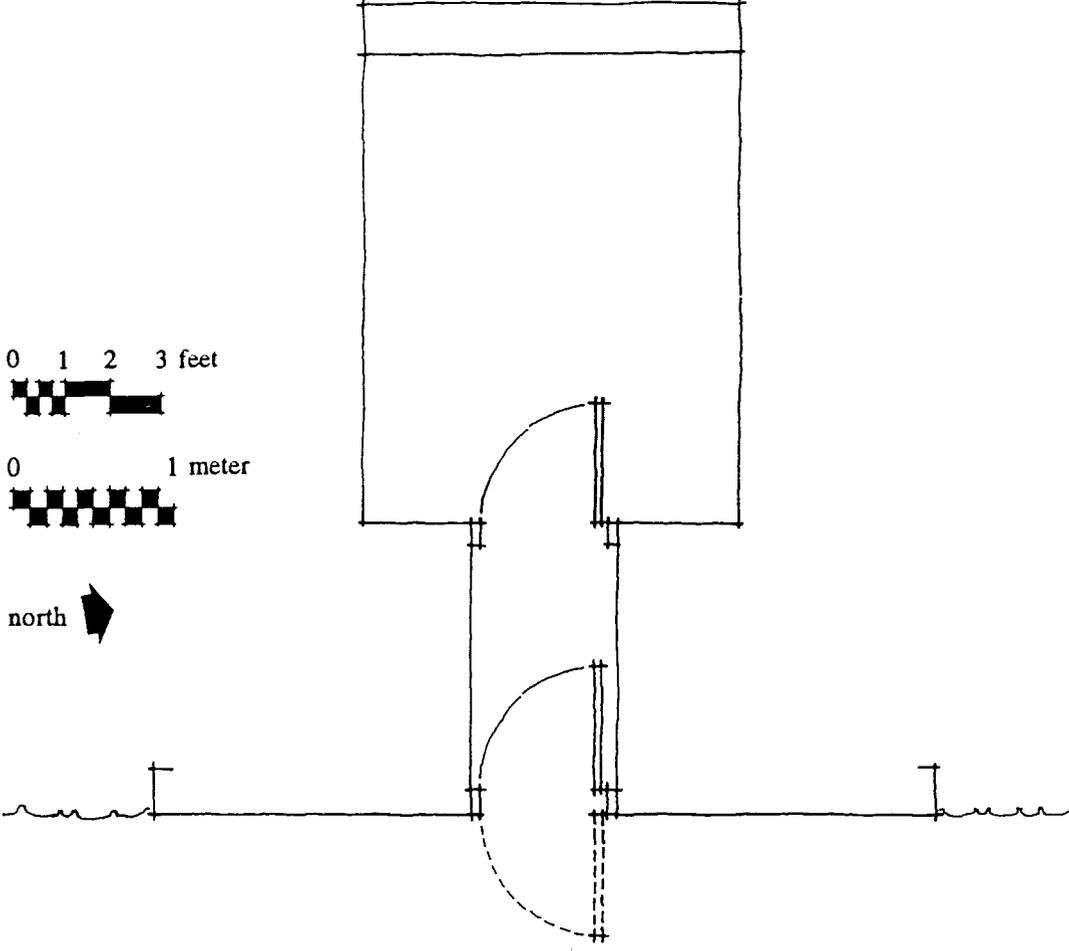
B. Interviews: See HABS No. MN-146.

B. Bibliography:

1. **Primary and Unpublished Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.
2. **Secondary and Published Sources** See HABS No. MN-146.

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

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



SKETCH PLAN: ROOT CELLAR