

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

HABS No. MN-146-J

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V
3J-

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,
GUN ROOM

HABS No. MN-146-J

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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 Gun Room 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** Two small, wood-frame, shed roof sections have been added to the rear (west side) of the Gun Room. There is no interior door connecting the Gun Room and the addition; access to the addition is through an exterior door near the northwestern end of the Gun Room.

B. Historical Context: According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., this structure dates from the early 1920s. A gun house is included in the inventory of property for David Gage Joyce's probate in 1938. The building was apparently used to store guns, ammunition, and fishing tackle during the entire period that the Joyce family maintained the estate. Hunting and fishing were favorite activities of the Joyces and their guests.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, 27 January 1987; "In the Matter of the Estate of David Gage Joyce," 1938.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** This single-story, gable-front structure is oriented to the road to the east. Although apparently not dating to the first few years of the estate's development, the saddle-notched log construction places the Gun Room among the first generation of buildings at the estate, before wood framing was adopted.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** 14'9" by 16'10".
2. **Foundations** Concrete and stone.
3. **Walls** Gun Room walls are saddle-notched peeled logs, painted brown. Vertical boards, painted green, fill gable ends. Three metal pipes extend from the eastern end of the northern wall; their function is unknown. The rear additions have concrete-block and horizontal pine-board walls; their western walls are partly dug into a hill.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Gun Room: saddle-notched logs; gables framed with dimension-cut lumber. Additions: wood-frame and concrete-block structure.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Small concrete stoop before front (east) door.
6. **Chimneys** None.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** The front doorway is placed to the left (south) of center on the front (east) side. It is filled by double-leaf, wood-panel doors and double-leaf screen doors, trimmed by plain wood boards. A wood-plank door provides access through the eastern wall of the rear addition. Doors and trim are painted green.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** A two-over-two sash window is to the right of

the door on the front (east) side. The north wall holds a two-pane awning window; the south wall appears to have had a single pane window. The northern wall of the addition holds a window opening. Glazing is gone in all windows. Plain wood boards, painted green, trim the openings.

8. Roof

- a. **Shape, Covering** Gable roof with composition shingles, metal ridge roll.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed rafter tails.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** Single, rectangular room.

2. Stairways None.

3. Flooring Wood floor boards in Gun Room; cast concrete in additions.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes Gun Room: unfinished, exposed log walls; rafters and board sheathing above. Additions: concrete block and unfinished wood framing.

5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** Wood plank trim.
- b. **Windows** Wood plank trim.

6. Decorative Features and Trim Gun racks and shelving are attached to the north wall.

7. Hardware None.

8. Mechanical Equipment None.

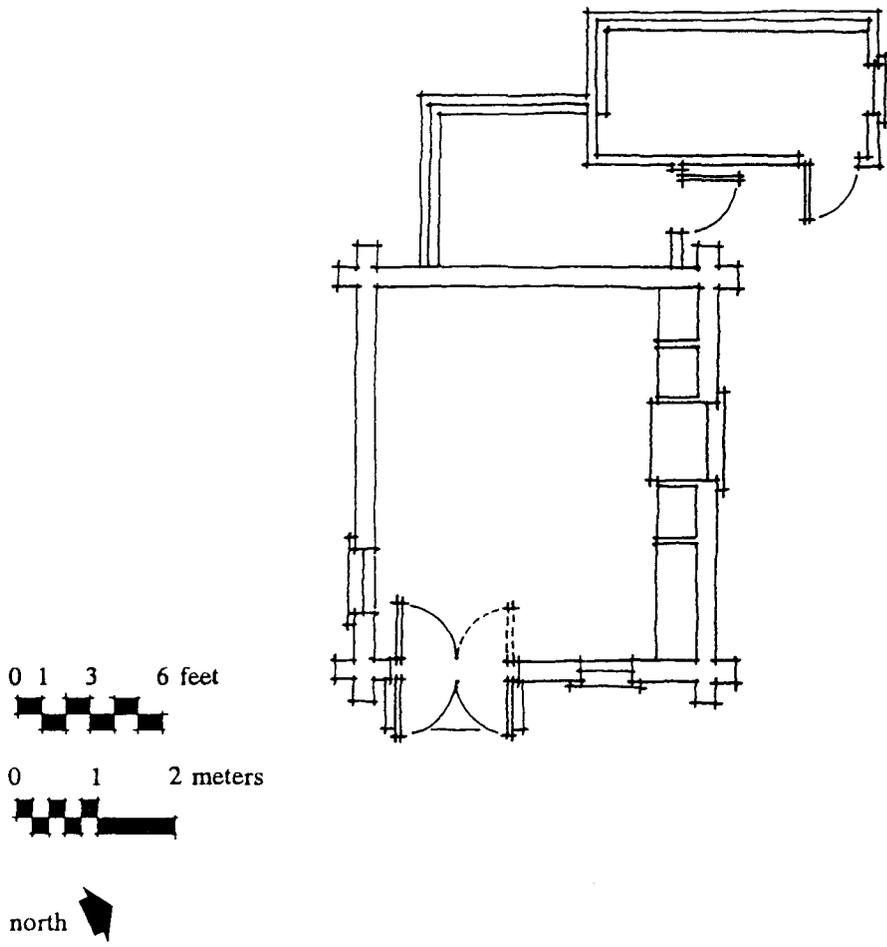
D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located in the northeast corner of the Main Cabin Compound, the Gun Room is on the west side of the road leading to the Main Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-A), situated a short distance to the southwest. The additions to the Gun Room are slightly dug into a hill, which rises to the west. 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.



SKETCH PLAN: GUN ROOM