

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

HABS No. MN-146-K

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP.V,  
3K-

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
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,  
LAUNDRY

HABS No. MN-146-K

HABS  
MINN  
31-GDRAP.V  
3K-

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1922.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Laundry 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** Unknown.
4. **Alterations and Additions** The building was previously located south of the Gun Room (HABS No. MN-146-J); it was moved to its present site after 1937. At an undetermined date, its side (southeast and northwest) windows received sliding sash.<sup>2</sup>

**B. Historical Context:** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., this building was constructed in the early 1920s to serve as a darkroom for the estate's founder David Gage Joyce, who was an amateur photographer. Originally, it stood just south of the Gun Room (HABS No. MN-146-J). At some time after Joyce's death in 1937, it was moved about 150 feet north to its present location, and converted into a laundry.<sup>3</sup> Stripped of all laundry machinery, the building now stands vacant. For

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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, 27 August 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Author's interview with Waleski, 1987.

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** Facing northeast, the Laundry is a simple, unornamented, one-story, rectangular-plan, gable-front building of shingle-sided, wood-frame construction.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

### **B. Description of Exterior:**

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 10'4"x12'4".
2. **Foundations** Concrete piers.
3. **Walls** Board sheathing with green-painted wood shingles in the gable end and red-painted wood shingles below.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Wood frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Two concrete steps without railings.
6. **Chimneys** A metal pipe with a conical cap protrudes from the rear (southwest corner) of the roof, slightly below the ridge; it probably served as a vent for a clothes dryer.
7. **Openings**
  - a. **Doorways and Doors** A doorway is centered on the front (northeast). It has simple plank surrounds, painted green, and a single-leaf wood door, also painted green. The door features two horizontal panels below and six fixed panes above.
  - b. **Windows and Shutters** On each side of the front (northeast) door is a square, single-pane, awning window. The southeast and northwest sides of the building have a single, rectangular window opening equipped with sliding sash. All windows have green-painted, wood-plank trim.

8. **Roof**

- a. **Shape, Covering** Aligned on a northeast-southwest axis, the gabled roof has a sheet metal ridge roll and green, hexagonal, composition shingles.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Slightly overhanging eaves.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. **Description of Interior:**

1. **Floor Plans**

- a. **Describe Floors** The front (northeast) door leads into a single, small room that once contained laundry equipment.

2. **Stairways** None.

3. **Flooring** Wood boards painted gray.

4. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes** Plywood walls and ceiling painted white; natural finish wainscot and trim.

5. **Openings**

- a. **Doorways and Doors** The single exterior doorway has natural finish, plank surrounds.
- b. **Windows** Natural finish plank surrounds with slightly protruding sills.

6. **Decorative Features and Trim** A single, unfinished, plank shelf is mounted to the top of the wainscoting along the southeast wall in the east corner.

7. **Hardware** None.

8. **Mechanical Equipment**

- a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** Gray metal fuse box centered on rear (southwest) wall.
- b. **Lighting** None.

- c. **Plumbing** Disconnected metal pipes run along the lower portion of the wainscoting on the southeast wall; other pipes protrude from floor.

**D. Site:**

- 1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located at the northeast end of the Main Cabin Compound within easy walking distance of the residential cabins, the Laundry stands on the west side of the estate's main entrance road, overlooking Trout Lake to the northeast. On its three other sides, the building is crowded by a young growth of conifers and hardwoods. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

**PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

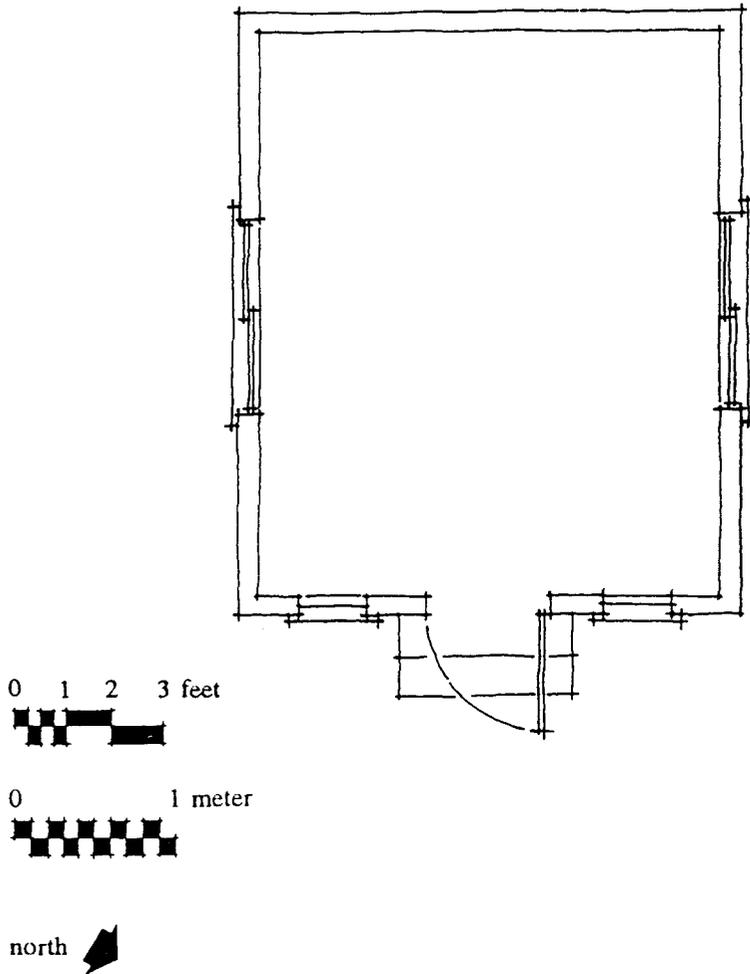
**A. Interviews:** See HABS No. MN-146.

**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: LAUNDRY