

Joyce Estate, Farmhouse (Caretaker's Cabin)
Chippewa National Forest Road 2144,
3 miles north of County Road 335
Grand Rapids vicinity
Itasca County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-146-^AEE

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V,
3AE-

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, FARMHOUSE (Caretaker's Cabin)

HABS No. MN-146-EE

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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 Farmhouse 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.¹
3. **Builders, Contractors, Suppliers** According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Farmhouse was built of native pine logs by local carpenters during the estate's first season in 1917. F.L. Norman served as construction foreman, overseeing "Pete Richland, along with Mr. Rupert and Mr. Holm." Overall project supervision was the responsibility of Simeon D. Patrick, a Grand Rapids resident who had formerly worked as a timber cruiser for the Joyce Family's Itasca Lumber Company.²
4. **Alterations and Additions** The interior has been significantly remodelled. The front screened porch is a later addition.

- B. Historical Context:** As reported by the Grand Rapids Herald Review of 14 March 1917, initial plans for the Joyce Estate called for the construction of a "barn" and "farmhouse" before the end of the year. An early photograph documents that both these structures

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; "Will Build Home on 'Big Trout,'" Grand Rapids Herald Review, 14 March 1917.

were built of logs.³ Although the original barn was later replaced by a wood-frame structure (HABS No. MN-146-~~FF~~), the log Farmhouse still survives. Because it served as a residence for the estate's year-round caretaker, it became known as the "Caretaker's Cabin." It continued to be occupied by a caretaker after the Joyce Estate was acquired by the Nature Conservancy in 1973, and then by U.S. Forest Service in 1974. It was finally vacated in 1986. Subsequently, the front (east) foundation failed, making examination of the interior hazardous. 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** The building's rectangular plan consists of three sections: a central gable-roofed log building; a shed-roofed, wood-frame front porch, which extends across the entire front (east) side; and a shed-roofed, wood-frame, shingled section to the rear. Most walls are painted brown; trim is painted white. It is the only cabin on the estate to have a basement.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Poor (foundation failure beneath east wall).

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Main log section, 31'0" by 17'6"; wood-frame rear section, 31'0" by 10'4"; front porch, 31'0" by 7'10"; all measurements approximate.
2. **Foundations** Cast concrete, painted green, beneath log and rear sections; porch foundation obscured by shingled apron.
3. **Walls** The log section has saddle-notched peeled logs, with wood-frame, wood-shingled gable ends. The logs and shingles are painted brown, except for the logs on the front (east) wall, which have a natural varnish coating. Wood shingles, painted brown, cover the rear section. The wall beneath the porch screens consists of narrow beveled and beaded vertical wood siding, painted green; the porch foundation is hidden by wood shingles, painted brown.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Log and wood frame.

³ "Will Build Home on 'Big Trout"; Joseph Waleski, Jr., Photograph Album, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN.

5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Two concrete steps lead to the front porch door; risers and sides are ornamented with fieldstones.
 6. **Chimneys** Three small chimneys project from the rear shed roof. The two near the south end are made of concrete block, with tile and metal flues extending above. A metal pipe chimney is near the roof's northwest corner.
 7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** A wood and glass door, painted white, is located near the northern end of the porch front (east side). Three doors lead from the porch into the log section; one has been filled in with panelling. A door to the basement is approached by exterior stairs on the building's north side.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** Casement windows on the porch swing to the interior. On the east wall of the log section, four one-over-one double-hung sash windows open onto the porch. Two one-over-one double-hung sash windows are in the south wall of the log section. The north wall had a similar configuration, but the western-most window was removed and replaced by a smaller square window; shingles fill in the remaining space. The south wall of the rear section has a one-over-one double-hung sash window. Two square windows, hinged at the bottom to swing into the building when open, are on the west wall. Another square window is on the north end of the rear section. Windows are trimmed with plain boards, painted white. A small screened opening is in the north gable end.
 8. **Roof**
 - a. **Shape, Covering** Gable over log section, with north-south axis; shed roof over front porch and rear section. Composition singles, sheet-metal ridge roll.
 - b. **Cornice, Eaves** Project slightly from wall plane.
 - c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.
- C. **Description of Interior:**
1. **Floor Plans**

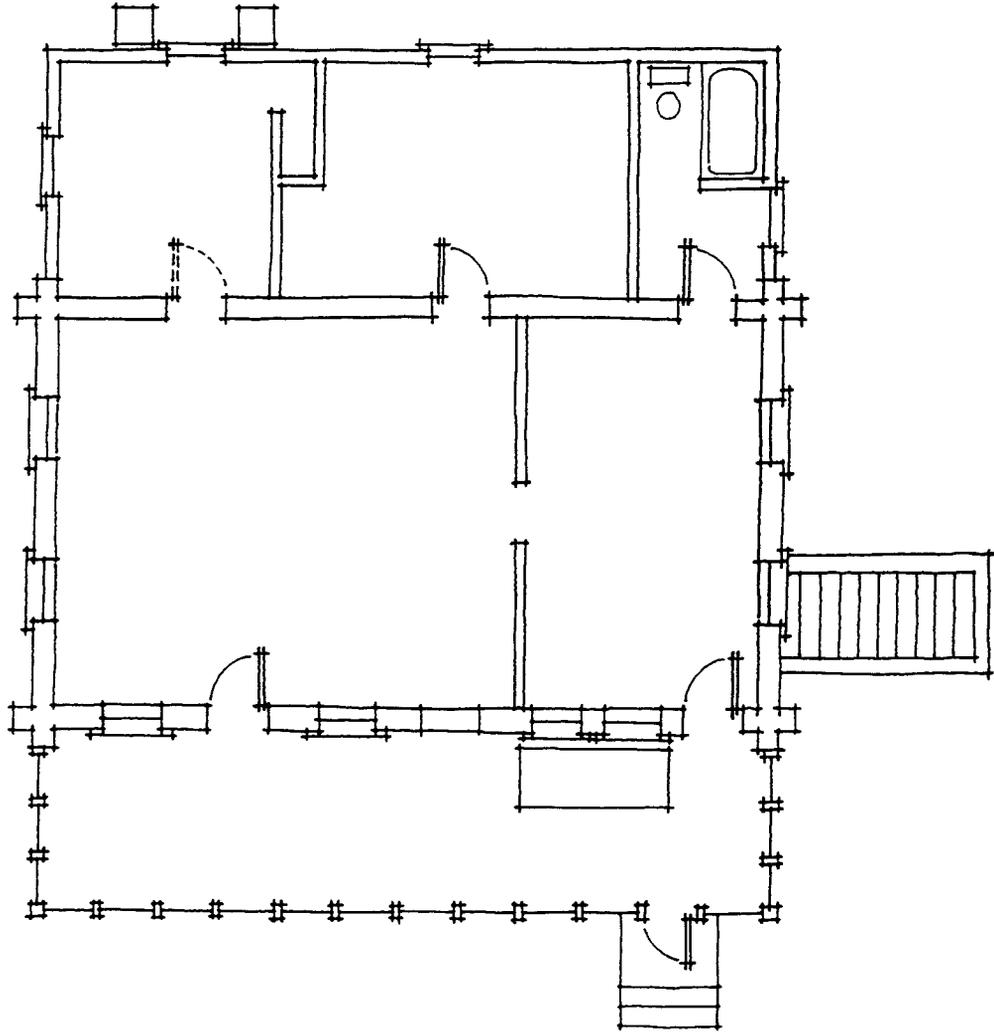
- a. **Describe Floors** The front porch extends across the entire front (east) side. Three doors once led into the log section; the center door has been filled in. The log section has been partitioned into two rooms, connected by a doorway. The northern room is about half the size of the room to the south. A doorway through the west wall of the northern room gives access to a bathroom in the northern end of the rear frame section. Two doorways on the west wall of the larger room in the log section enter on two small rooms in the center and southern end of the rear section. A room is partitioned off in the northwestern corner of the basement.
 2. **Stairways** A stairway, which leads from the porch into the basement, was largely destroyed when the eastern foundation wall collapsed. An exterior stairway descends to the basement's north side.
 3. **Flooring** Wood floorboards, painted white, are on the porch. The rest of the main level has wood and resilient flooring. The basement floor is concrete.
 4. **Wall and Ceiling Finishes** Gypsum wallboard and ceilings; tile on bathroom walls.
 5. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** Wood panel doors with wood surrounds.
 - b. **Windows** Modern wood trim.
 6. **Decorative Features and Trim** None.
 7. **Hardware** None.
 8. **Mechanical Equipment**
 - a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** The furnace is probably located in the northwestern room of the basement; inspection was not possible due to hazardous conditions caused by foundation failure.
 - b. **Lighting** Removed.
 - c. **Plumbing** Removed.
- D. **Site:**

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Located in the Caretaker's Compound, the Farmhouse is one of several farmstead-like structures that cluster around a circular yard about 100 feet in diameter. Standing on the west side of the yard, the building looks across at the Wood Shed (HABS MN-146-HH) to the east. About 100 feet further east is Trout Lake. Immediately behind the Farmhouse to the west is a hill covered with native birch and other hardwoods. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.
2. **Historic Landscape Plan** A photograph of the Farmhouse (see Part III.A below), taken shortly after its completion, shows a level front (east) yard with a scattering of birch or poplar saplings. To the north is a small log shed and a log barn; to the east, across the yard, is a small log privy. All of these buildings were removed at an undetermined date. The hill side behind (west of) the Cabin is densely forested with hardwoods and a few conifers.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. **Early Views:** An undated photograph, taken shortly after the Farmhouse's completion in 1917, documents original construction. It shows the side-gabled log building without its full-width front porch. The photograph is in Joseph Waleski, Jr., Photograph Album, in Chippewa National Forest Headquarters Building, Cass Lake, MN.
- 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.



0 1 3 6 feet



0 1 2 meters



north



SKETCH PLAN: FARMHOUSE