

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

HABS No. MN-146-<sup>^</sup>XL

HABS  
MINN  
31-GRAP.V,  
3AL-

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PHOTOGRAPH  
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,  
TENNIS COURT

HABS No. MN-146-EL

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MINN  
31-GRAP.V,  
3AL-A

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Unknown.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1916, David Gage Joyce secured the site of the Tennis Court and surrounding features 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** Overgrown.

**B. Historical Context:** No historical information is available about the Tennis Court. For general information about the Joyce Estate, see the historical overview of the complex in HABS No. MN-146.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural Character** Tall chain-link fencing encloses the rectangular court to the north, west and south; the east side is open. A gate is situated in the middle of the southern end. Small-scale I-beams form the horizontal and vertical supports for the fence. Ball finials ornament the verticals at the corners and the

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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.

beams flanking the gate. Other verticals are topped by fineals with a swirled groove pattern. The net stretched from east to west, but only the eastern post appears to be extant. The court surface is completely overgrown; it may have been clay.

**2. Condition of Fabric** Very poor.

**B. Description of Exterior:** See "Architectural Character" section above.

**C. Description of Interior:** Not applicable.

**D. Site:**

**1. General Setting and Orientation** The Tennis Court is located south of the main entry road, on the southeastern edge of the Recreation Area. The Special Cabin (HABS No. MN-146-MM) is in a wooded area to the south. The shore of Trout Lake runs near the Court's western edge. Following standard tennis court design, the line of play was oriented north-south to minimize the effect of the sun's rays. For further information, see HABS No. MN-146.

**2. Historic Landscape Design** The land to the east of the Tennis Court is slightly elevated, forming what might have once served as a spectator area. The Court is not fenced on this side.

**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.