

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

HABS No. MN-146-^A25

HABS
MINN
31-GRAP.V,
3AS-

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, MOORE LAKE CABIN

HABS No. MN-146-SS

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31-GRAP.V
3AS-A

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of Erection** Ca. 1925.
2. **Original and Subsequent Owners** In 1925, David Gage Joyce purchased the site of the Moore Lake Cabin from Thomas H. and Luella Y. Simmons, husband and wife. 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** No major structural alterations.

B. Historical Context: When wealthy Chicagoan David Gage Joyce constructed the first buildings for his summer retreat on the west side of Trout Lake in 1917, his estate enclosed about 2,600 acres. In following years, Joyce expanded the boundaries to 4,500 acres. One of his most scenic acquisitions, completed in 1925, was Moore Lake, located just to the southwest of Trout Lake. About 100 yards from the lake's east shore was a small island, comprising little more than one-half acre of ground. Near the eastern tip of this island, Joyce constructed a small cabin. Although the cabin's completion date is unrecorded, the building probably was erected shortly after Joyce purchased the site. Its wood-frame construction and drop-sided exterior are similar to that of the estate's Golf Course Pump House (HABS No. MN-146-~~MN~~), which was built in the mid-1920s. According to former Joyce Estate caretaker Joseph Waleski, Jr., the Moore Lake Cabin occasionally played host to Joyce's daughter Beatrice Clotilde ("B.C"), who, like her father, suffered from a drinking problem. During particularly excessive drinking binges, B.C., who was unable to swim, was deposited on Moore Island until she was considered

¹ Thomas H. Simmons and Luella Y. Simmons, Deed to David Gage Joyce, 9 October 1925, Deed Book 104, 418; "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.

sober enough to return to the Main Cabin Compound.² For further 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** This is a small, one-story, square-plan, wood-frame, hip-roofed building.
2. **Condition of Fabric** Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall Dimensions** Approximately 19'0"x19'0".
2. **Foundations** Concrete piers.
3. **Walls** Drop siding on wood frame with plank cornerboards; painted green.
4. **Structural System, Framing** Wood frame.
5. **Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads** Concrete stoop with single plank step on rotting wood risers.
6. **Chimneys** None.
7. **Openings**
 - a. **Doorways and Doors** Doorway centered on front (east); equipped with wood-frame screen door and five-panel wood door; painted green. Doorway trimmed with simple planks, painted green.
 - b. **Windows and Shutters** All windows are rectangular, inward-swinging casements, with 12 panes. Single windows flank the front (east) doorway. All other sides (north, west, and south) contain a bank of 4 windows.
8. **Roof**

² Author's interview with Joseph Waleski, Jr., Grand Rapids, 27 January 1987; Joyce Estate, 29 July 1993.

- a. **Shape, Covering** Hip roof with hexagonal composition shingles.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves** Exposed 2x4 rafter ends.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans

- a. **Describe Floors** The front (east) doorway leads into an undivided square room.

2. Stairways None.

3. Flooring Green jute carpet over floor boards.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finishes Varnished planks.

5. Openings

- a. **Doorways and Doors** Wood, five-panel door on front, with wood-framed screen door; painted green.

- b. **Windows** Simple plank surrounds, painted black.

6. Decorative Features and Trim Two metal brackets under each of the front (east) windows mark the location of window boxes, which have been torn off the building's exterior, leaving plank backing above the brackets.

7. Hardware None.

8. Mechanical Equipment

- a. **Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation** There is a stove pipe hole in the rear (west) interior wall, near the southwest corner.

- b. **Lighting** None.

- c. **Plumbing** None.

D. Site:

1. **General Setting and Orientation** Surrounded by white pine, the Moore Lake Cabin stands on an otherwise undeveloped island in Moore Lake, about 100 yards from the mainland. The cabin faces east, set back from the water about 85 feet. About 25 feet in front (east) of the cabin is a concrete-block fireplace with metal grate. For further information about the layout of the Joyce Estate, see HABS No. MN-146.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

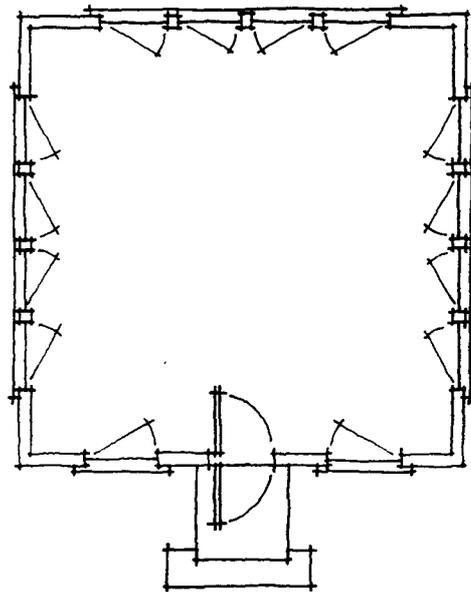
A. Interviews: See HABS No. MN-146.

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.



0 1 3 6 feet



0 1 2 meters



north

SKETCH PLAN: MOORE LAKE CABIN