

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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March 28, 1989

**Mr. Thomas M. Wolf, Education Coordinator
Ohio Preservation Office
1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Several years ago you sent SPACES information about folk art environments in Ohio, including Hartman's Historical Rock Garden, Baughman Memorial Park, and Harry Andrews' Handmade Rock Castle (do you happen to know why the Rock Castle was rejected by the National Register?). Your information was valuable, and since that time we've been able to compile quite a bit of documentation on those sites. We've now run into another problem, and need help.

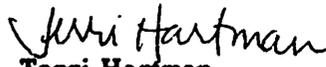
Many of the visionaries responsible for folk art environments are getting older, and some have recently died. In addition to being extremely unfortunate, this makes our job a lot harder, as the creators are the primary sources of information and documentation about the environments. Also, as a result of their advanced ages and deaths, the sites are disappearing or are being destroyed.

Thus, it's crucial that we intensify our efforts to identify and document environments across the nation; if these works are not documented, their creators' imagination and visions will not be acknowledged. We need your help. We are especially interested in information you may have about Ohio sites, but we also need information about sites throughout the country. Do you have new information on the above sites or know of any others? Please send us any articles you may come across on folk art environments. Also, do you know anyone who would be willing to go to a site and document it? We would supply a documentation form; basically, documentation involves writing a description (including the site's current condition and an interview with the owner, if possible) and taking photographs. The information will be put in the SPACES archives crediting the researcher, with a record of any restrictions he or she might wish to place on the use of the material. Any calls for photographs will be referred to the photographer.

We're worried that the sites are disappearing faster than we can record them, so we desperately need help. We've enclosed our latest newsletter to give you an idea of the projects we're involved with these days, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Seymour Rosen
Director**


**Terri Hartman
Researcher**