

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
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Telephone: 213/463-1629



March 22, 1989

Wayne Lawson, Executive Director  
The Ohio Arts Council  
727 East Main Street  
Columbus, OH 43205

Dear Mr. Lawson:

SPACES is a national nonprofit arts organization dedicated to documenting and helping preserve large-scale folk art environments. Ohio is especially rich with these environments. You should have recently received our latest newsletter, which will give you an idea of the type of projects we're involved with.

Although folk art environments have often been dismissed as the commonplace work of untutored artists, there are currently eight environments on the National Register of Historic Places, and the phenomena has become the subject of popular and academic enquiry. We have discovered—through research and happenstance—ten folk art environments in Ohio.

Unfortunately, most of the people whose imagination and creativity are responsible for the sites are getting on in years and won't be around to talk to us forever. That's why we think it's crucial to begin identifying and documenting the environments right now. A map and descriptions of the Ohio sites are enclosed.

Is there somebody on the Arts Council who is familiar with folk art environments and would be able to help us with our work in Ohio? We are trying to amass as complete a record as possible of all the environments in the United States, so any leads or information would be helpful.

Yet another question: In an effort to document the environments, would the Ohio Arts Council be receptive to a grant application for an Ohio resident/organization or member of an organization outside the state—such as SPACES—to conduct a survey of the sites and prepare documentation? The documentation could then be kept in the Arts Council's archives (and, ideally, would be available to the public) as well as the archives of an organization such as SPACES. Again, we feel very strongly that records of these marvelous environments need to be compiled so that people all across the country can benefit from the builders' imagination and vision.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen  
Director

Terri Hartman  
Researcher

Enclosure