

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028
Telephone: 213/463-1629



March 28, 1989

Jan R. Harbolt
6167 Tulane Road
Cincinnati, OH 45212

Dear Jan:

We know of your interest in folk art environments, and would like to let you know about a problem we're facing. 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. Please send us any articles you come across pertaining to folk art environments. Also, would you 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 listing you as the researcher, with a record of any restrictions that you wish to put on the use of the material. Any calls for your photographs will be referred to you.

We're worried that the sites are disappearing faster than we can record them, so we desperately need your help. You've demonstrated an interest in folk art environments by becoming a member of SPACES--now would you like some firsthand experience?

We're looking forward to hearing from--and working with--you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director

Terri Hartman
Researcher

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