

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
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March 28, 1989

Dr. Gene Metcalf
School of Interdisciplinary Studies
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio 45056

Dear Gene:

We haven't gotten much further in our documentation of Ohio folk art environments since we last had contact with you. Unfortunately, though, we're now facing a distressing problem. 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 new 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 about folk art environments. Also, would you--or any of your colleagues or students--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 wishes 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 your 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