

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028

Telephone: 213/463-1629



19 September 1988

Governor Mike Hayden  
Governor's Office  
300 S.W. 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Hayden:

SPACES is a national organization concerned with preserving and documenting large-scale environmental folk art including such sites such as the National Register Monument (1977) S. P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden in Lucas, Kansas. Kansas is especially blessed with these environments.

We just received a phone call from Wayne & LouElla Naegele, owners of the Garden of Eden, who told us that the property is for sale. Of course we hope that a sympathetic buyer who would responsibly maintain the site can be found.

The Naegeles have respected the site while it has been in their charge. The Garden of Eden is a splendid site known all over the world. It draws over 20,000 tourists each year to Lucas and it would be a great loss to the state if it was destroyed or turned into a Disneyland by people less sensitive than the current owners.

In New Mexico the U. S. Park Service took over another National Register Monument, "Pop" Shaffer's Hotel, for their local headquarters, thereby protecting the hotel from the bulldozers. Shy of a private, sympathetic buyer who would maintain the site, we hope that the town of Lucas or the Federal or State government would take an interest in this site. Candidly speaking, we are at a loss of what we can do from this distance and hoped that you could use your good offices to protect this Kansas treasure.

Should you wish to contact the Naegeles, following is their address and phone number:

Wayne & LouElla Naegele  
S. P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden  
2nd and Kansas Avenue  
Lucas, Kansas 67648  
(913) 525-6395

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen  
Director

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**cc: Wayne and Louella Naegele  
Town of Lucas  
Dorothy L. Ilgen, Executive Director, Kansas Arts Commission  
Jennie Chinn, Kansas State Folklorist  
Joseph W. Snell, Kansas State Historical Society  
National Register of Historic Places  
Kansas Grassroots Art Association**