

Bio-graphy

1886 Fred Smith born in Ogema, Wisconsin.

1904 At the age of 18, Smith moved to Phillips.

He settled 120 acres in Phillips by homesteading, working over the years as a lumberjack, selling Christmas trees, and as a musician.

1938 Built Rock Garden Bar/Tavern.

c. 1949/ Retired from working as a lumberjack (because of arthritis)

1950 Worked in Rock Garden Tavern, which he had built to next to his house, and constructed statues in his

1963 spare time. The Concrete Park consists of ²⁰³ 225 separate folk art statues and plaques.

1963 - Smith sold Tavern.

1964 - Fred suffered a crippling stroke, and entered a nursing home a few years later.

1975 - Fred dies in a nursing home at the age of 89. ^{Honolulu} (Smithsonian article)
 The Kohler Foundation purchased the site, while the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts jointly funded restoration of the sculptures.
 (age 90 in 1975 - Maller article)

1977 - The Honolulis begin restoration work on the park.
 A wind storm damages much of the park. →

1977-1978 (Cont'd.) Restoration project involved moving
21 of the statues from property Smith had previously
sold.

1978 - The Kohler Foundation presents the deed for the Concrete
Park to the Price County Chairman.

1980 - Smith's Concrete Park nominated to the National
Register.

FRED
SMITH

Source - 104 Oxford Road
The Kohler Foundation Kohler, Wisconsin 53044

Daniel & Sharon Howlett
1435 N. 117 St.
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226 (414) 453-5378

County of Price (owner), Attn: Clarence Crengos, County Clerk
Price County Courthouse
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

Register of Deeds
Price County Courthouse
Phillips, Wisconsin 54555

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places - 1977
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Larry A. Reed, Local Preservation Coordinator.
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State St.
Madison, WI 53706
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9001 N. Greenbay Rd.
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Robert Auyt, Chicago photographer + publisher

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Bibliography

Kaufman, Barbara Wahl + Didi Barnett 1985 A Time to Reap p. 34.

———. "Grandpa Moses of Cement" Life

Crease, Robert and Charles Mann. 1983. "Backyard Creators of Art That Says: 'I did it, I'm here'". Smithsonian, August 1983, pp. 82-88.

Maller, Peter 1982 "Concrete Statues Around Park". Concrete International. January 1982, pp. 22-24.

Clock, George 1979. "One Man's Concrete". The Cultural Post. January / February 1979.

Blasiell, Gregg 1968. (article on the Smith sculptures)
Art in America. "The Grass-Roots Artist". Sept./Oct. pp. 24-41.

Honlett, Don and Sharon 1979 "Folk Heroes Cast in Concrete" Historic Preservation, June 1979, pp. 35-38.

Dawson, James Dale 1977 An Eccentric Guide to the U.S. N.Y.: Bantam.

Seldis Henry J. 1976. "Private Utopies of Eccentric Visionaries" Los Angeles Times Calendar. July 4, 1976

Stern, Jane + Michael 1977 Amazing America. N.Y. Random House

Exhibits

17

1985

A. Time to Reap

FRED SMITH

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ✓ Schuyt, Elffers, Collins Fantastic Architecture, Abrams, 1980, p. 233
- ✓ Walker Art Center, Naives and Visionaries, Dutton, 1974, p. 53-59
- ✓ Hemphill and Weissman, Twentieth Century American Folk Art and Artists, Dutton, back cover, 128
- ✓ Stern and Stern, Amazing America, Random House, 1978, p. 335

exhibit

Feb. 1979, presentation, Hunter College.
Don and Sharon Howlett

Sept. 1980, Hammer and Hammer American Folk Art Gallery, Chicago. (Photos by Robert Am Ft.)

periodicals

- ✓ Howlett, Don and Sharon, "Folk Heroes Cast in Concrete" Historic Preservation, June, 1979