

SPACES Saving and Preserving Arts & Cultural Environments
 1804 North Van Ness
 Los Angeles, CA 90028 (213) 463-1629

office use: USGS 7.5 _____
 State _____
 Site _____

ENVIRONMENT FIELD SURVEY FORM

SPACES is a nonprofit arts organization concerned with the identification, documentation and preservation of America's contemporary folk art environments. This form has been prepared by SPACES as part of a national survey of environments. It is intended to serve as a basic information sheet on an individual site. Any additional information may be added or attached to this sheet. Fill in as much as you can. Please send SPACES a copy of this form, along with xeroxes of any photographs or printed materials.

Please attach overview photo

Site Map: Please sketch aerial view of environment

direction of camera _____
 date of photo _____

N

ARTIST

Name BEATRIZ CADENA Telephone () N/A

Address 601 Pecan Street City/State/Zip Del Rio, Texas 78840

Birthdate 2/3/1903 Birthplace Musquiz Coahuila, Mexico Date of death 12/5/69 Place of Death Del Rio, Texas

Is the artist still living on the site? yes no Is the artist still working on the site? yes no

Biographical information (schooling, occupation, awards & recognition including dates)

Mrs. Cadena didn't work outside of the house. She had three children - 2 boys and 1 girl.

Local knowledgeable contact: Val Cadena Telephone (210) 775-3153

Address 601 Pecan Street Del Rio, Texas 78840

Sources of additional biographical information City newspaper and family

ENVIRONMENT

Name(s) of site Whitehead Memorial Museum

Dates of construction 1940 to 1969 Factual date Estimated date
 Recon. Oct 92 to Dec. 92

Street Address 1308 South Main St. Town/City Del Rio,

County Val Verde State/Zip Code Texas 78840

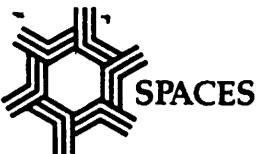
If located in a rural area, give clear directions to site from major highway _____

Address not for publication Address may be publicized

\$2.00 Adults
 .50 kids

Is the site open to the public? yes no If yes, state hours and fees Tues -Sat 9 AM -4:30 PM

Does the artist encourage visitors? yes no



SPACES Field Survey Form

ENVIRONMENT (continued)

Description of surrounding area: rural suburban urban other _____

Description of environment: dwelling structure object garden other _____

Present use of site: residence business other _____

PRESENT CONDITION (check appropriate line and explain choice _____)

Excellent (structurally sound, well-maintained) Good (structurally sound, needs routine maintenance)

Fair (needs repairs other than routine maintenance)

Deteriorating (needs major structural repairs; not a reference to weathering objects)

Ruins (some residual evidence) Destroyed (no evidence of site)

Preservation threats to site; check and explain choice _____ None at this time

Weather Vandalism Deterioration of site or materials Inappropriate alteration

Long range plans for area (e.g., redevelopment) Other

Description of site (Include materials used, general appearance, number of acres, type of terrain, landscape features. Attach other sheets if necessary)

The Exhibit is housed in a 30 ft. by 40 ft. metal building with a cement foundation. The building is now equipped with heat and Air-Conditioning. The exhibit is put together with 3/4 in. ply-wood brick and is supported with metal saw-horses. Every thing is covered in brown paper sprayed with gold paint. All trees and plants were hand-made. There is a running stream that has fish. The appearance at this time is excellent. It was damaged very badly but has been repaired.

What is the local attitude toward the site (give sources for conclusion) Awe-inspiring, unbelievable-

This comments are from our visitors.

Present owner/custodian Whiterhead Memorial Museum Telephone (210) 774-7568

Address 1308 South Main Street - Del Rio, Texas 78840

Other local persons, organizations involved with the site (Name, Address, Telephone)

Lee Lincoln, Whitehead Memorial Museum 1308 So. Main St.
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Existing sources of information about the site (oral history, surveys, books, articles)

Family

Potential sources of site information (e.g. local newspaper, historical society, college)

Local Newspaper, former school children and family

Is there other work off site? yes no If yes, please explain _____

ADDITIONAL SITE INFORMATION (awards, newspaper articles, inclusion in other surveys, comments)

None at this time. Exhibit has just been opened at the Museum and had not been seen by the public for 20 years.

Preparer of this form /organization Lee Lincoln

Address 1308 South Main Street

Telephone 210 774-7568 Date _____

Site photographer _____ Telephone () _____

Address _____

Please feel free to duplicate this form and/or to add any other information.

BEATRIZ CADENA
601 Pecan Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840

February 3, 1903 Musquiz, Coahuila, Mexico

December 5, 1969 Del Rio, Texas 78840

At the age of 37 Mrs. Cadena started working on her Nacimiento. For the last 30 years of her life it was her life work. She would work on it at all hours of the day and night. Every family vacation was spent looking for the right figurines. They came from Monterrey, Saltillo, Mexico City, Guadalajara and San Francisco. In 1962 the Nacimiento had gotten so large that the family had to build her a special room. She wouldn't let any one else work on her exhibit. She would work it and re-work it until she got the right effect. She would take artificial trees cut them into smaller parts and make the right size tree that she wanted. She would also take plastic plants put them on metal stakes and also make her own trees. She was very artistic and every piece had to fit in size shape and form. Not one piece is out of proportion.

In June of 1969 before she died she said she now had her exhibit the way she wanted it. When she died in December 1969, the family decided to lock the door to her special room. When they did this they did not notice that the roof was leaking on the exhibit and the left side of the exhibit was damaged pretty badly. It was then that the family decided to donate the exhibit to the museum.

Due to the size of the exhibit the museum had to build a new building to house it. It took the museum about five years to get the funds together accomplish this. On October 6, 1992 the Board of Trustees voted to go ahead with the project.

After cleaning, repairing and painting all the buildings and figurines that go with the exhibit, we only lost 4 sheep and one man out of hundreds that are part of the exhibit.

The original guard-rail that was used in her special room, is in use in our special display. The exhibit itself is 32 ft. long, 10 ft. high, 20 ft. deep and has 1,287 items, 605 figurines, 8 1/2 yards of satin, a running stream and 10 camp fires.

This is an awe-inspiring display. Even after reading this you will not be able to understand it till you see it. Seeing it is worth a thousand words.