

New Orleans Museum of Art



Diamond Jubilee 1911-1986

January 21, 1987

Dear Mr. Rosen:

In response to your letter of December 22, we do not have any written materials describing the information which you are interested in. However, I thought it might be useful for you if I attempt to answer the questions here.

Sister Gertrude Morgan's house was located in the lower ninth ward of New Orleans. It was a simple, white, clapboard frame house, with a small gallery (front porch) looking out on a fenced-in, small yard which was completely covered in four-leaf clovers. Attached to a post on the front gallery was a sign "The Everlasting Gospel Mission 14:6 Revelations."

The interior of the house consisted of three or four rooms, the front room being used as a prayer meeting room for the small worship services she conducted. The walls, floors, ceiling, and furniture were all painted white. All the straight back and folding chairs had handmade white cloth covers on them. On the wall was an art work by Sister Gertrude of a human eye with the following message: "There's an al [sic] seeing eye watching you."

The use of white, in all likelihood, refers to the fact that Sister Gertrude considered herself as the bride of Jesus, and she always was dressed in white herself, including her dress, stockings, shoes, and hat.

I hope that this information will be of some interest to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Fagaly', written in a cursive style.

William A. Fagaly
Assistant Director for Art

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WAF:ab

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Thanks - 1/27/87