

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
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Telephone: 213/463-1629



January 30, 1986

Mr. Al Head, Executive Director
Alabama State Council on the Arts
323 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Head:

We thought that you would like to know that Ave Maria Grotto, a sculptural environment by Brother Joseph Zoetl in Cullman, Alabama, has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of only seven sites in the United States to be awarded this honor (see page 3 of the enclosed newsletter). Our most recent newsletter further describes the grotto (see page 1), and we hope that you will consider publishing an article about it in *site-arts*. If you should need further information, please feel free to contact me and/or Linda Byer, author of the nomination that brought the site its honor (City of Huntsville Planning Department, P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, Alabama, 35804).

However, it is not simply the possible publication of an article that prompts me to write this letter. We have heard of other environments in Alabama, including one near Montgomery which is comprised of acres of broken Greek statues and other classical kinds of ruins. If the examples of other states are any indication, there are probably dozens of sites in Alabama which could be identified.

SPACES is a national non-profit organization concerned with the identification, documentation and preservation of American folk environments. It would be wonderful to identify some of these spaces in Alabama, and to give these places the recognition they deserve. Possibly SPACES and ASCAH can collaborate in some way to give proper acknowledgement to some of these people.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hope that we can begin some kind of working relationship.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen, Director

cc: Joey Brackner
Linda Bayer
Brother Augustine Campion
Sharon Heflin

Enclosure