

PRESS RELEASE

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SPACES (Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments) is happy to announce that John Medica's Garden in northern California has just been accepted as a state landmark. It has been added to California Registered Historical Landmark #939, 20th Century Folk Art Environments (thematic). Medica's Garden joins the environments of John Ehn, Grandma Prisbey, Miles Mahan, Albert Glade, Calvin Ruby Black, Emanuel Damonte, Duke Cahill, John Giudici and Art Beal in being awarded this honor.

John Medica's Garden is a unique, hand-made architectural and planted environment on a four acre site in northern California. Medica, a self-taught mason and rockworker, has built walkways, miniature castles, arches, grottos, planters, bridges, and a miniature "gold mine" with a railroad, all made of discarded chiprock from a nearby quarry. The site, built between 1955 and 1967, includes 28 stone buildings, most of which stand about 3 1/2 feet tall, 3 stone arches approximately 8 feet tall, 6 stone bridges, a swimming pool, and a miniature railroad.

Medica's Garden is a magical world and an extraordinary example of one individual's vision. Although it is not currently open to the public, SPACES is developing a trust to help the artist keep the integrity of the site in perpetuity as well as to open the site to visitors.

SPACES is a Los Angeles based national non-profit organization which exists to identify, document and preserve folk art environments in the United States. The activities of SPACES continue with renewed funding from the California Arts Council, and the L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, and through the contributions of its membership.

If you know of any environments, or if you would like to know more about the work SPACES is doing, please call 463-1629. * * * * *