

File Medica

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028  
Telephone: 213/463-1629



December 7, 1988

Sandra J. Elder  
California State Office of Historic Preservation  
P. O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA. 94296-0001

Dear Sandy,

Happy Holidays!

Re: John Medica's Castles & Garden - California State Landmark #939

John Medica is selling his property and escrow is closing sometime in January 1989. All I know at this time is that it was bought as a second home by a lawyer in San Francisco who claims he wants to keep it as it is.

I have a few questions.....

- (1) who owns the historic plaque?
  - a. if the site is destroyed
  - b. if the site loses its status
- (2) is the owner obliged to have public access to the site as a condition of historic status?
- (3) is there a tax benefit in keeping the site as it is?
- (4) how much or how little "alteration" to the site would make it lose its status?
  - a. the gardens and the rockwork
  - b. a rather ordinary stucco house

---

Also, if it is possible to get the NRHP nomination forms and the acceptance letter for the Watts Towers and the Underground Gardens (both 1977) it would be much appreciated.

Lastly, does it make any sense to make the Towers a CA State Landmark? We could use the publicity. If there is some benefit for your office and it isn't too much work for you I could write a formal letter of inquiry.

My best,

Seymour Rosen  
Director