

Brown's Guide to Georgia

March 8, 1982

Seymour Rosen
Director
SPACES
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Dear Mr. Rosen,

Thanks for your letter in response to my article in the December, 1981, issue of Brown's Guide ("A Strange and Beautiful World"). Glad to hear that Andy Nasise in Athens and those folks in Kansas are taking some interest in Pope's Museum. I hope they can save what's left of the place, even if it does mean moving the sculptures out of Georgia. If nobody in this state is interested in preserving the work, then Georgia doesn't deserve to keep it.

You asked if I had any suggestions about preserving the Pope site or the other sites mentioned in my article. I think it might be worth your while to contact Mr. Peter Morrin, curator of 20th century art at the High Museum here in Atlanta. The High is Atlanta's major art museum, and Morrin is fairly new on the staff, but he seems to take an interest in works like the ones I wrote about. He was largely responsible for a recent exhibit at the High of wood sculptures by Carlton Garrett, one of the artists I wrote about. You can reach him c/o The High Museum, 1280 Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309; phone (404) 892-3600.

Should you contact Morrin, you might mention in particular the outdoor sculpture garden of Saint EOM (Eddie Owens Martin) in Buena Vista, Georgia. In my opinion, his place (known as "Pasaquan") is the next priority, after Pope's Museum, as far as Georgia folk art environments that should be preserved. EOM is getting up into his mid-70s, and he's very concerned that arrangements be made soon to assure that his remarkable ceremonial sculpture garden is preserved after he passes on. I think he'd be willing to sell the place to a museum or cultural organization, provided he'd be allowed to stay on there and continue as usual for the rest of his life. He's got about four acres of land, and the average land price in that area is not very high--two or three hundred dollars an acre or so. But the sculptures and painted temples built on the place are priceless. Morrin might know of some anonymous (or non-anonymous) art patron who'd be willing to put up \$50,000 or so in order that the High Museum, SPACES, or some other organization could buy it and agree to maintain it in perpetuity. I'll be glad to assist in such a transaction in any way I could. Should you or someone else from out of state want to come down and take a look at Saint EOM's place, I'd be glad to meet them here in Atlanta, drive them down to Buena Vista, and provide an introduction to Saint EOM. His place is worth a trip from California to see, I guarantee it.

Keep me posted.

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