



Romano Gabriel's Garden - Destroyed 1978

You are invited to join SPACES, a nationwide organization concerned with recognition and preservation of America's monumental folk art environments. Very few of the approximately 300 environments located across the country are not threatened by urban sprawl, vandalism, commercialization, natural erosion or bureaucratic neglect. SPACES hopes to catalyze the efforts to preserve these fragile environments through a five-fold program.

1. Identification and documentation of all sites.
2. Identification or development of state and local organizations to assume responsibility for preservation of sites within their region. Develop a national clearinghouse and constituency.
3. Development of resource information related to the documentation, preservation, restoration and maintenance of folk environments, including applicable Federal legislation, National Register procedures, sources of funding, methods of organizing community support, etc.
4. Development of a reference library of photographs, oral histories, maps, printed material and related documentary information, etc.
5. Development of public education and information programs such as lectures, exhibitions and publications, to support local programs.

SPACES has twenty years of hands-on experience with folk art environments and has been currently successful in helping the California Office of Historic Preservation nominate to the National Register of Historic Places a thematic proposal of ten sites "Twentieth Century Folk Art Environments in California". But such success will of necessity be limited and localized without a national constituency. The gradual destruction of a rare and important part of America's culture, its folk art environments, will continue without concerted public efforts. Your support is needed. Please join us. Members will receive a newsletter, periodic information and a chance to participate in an important, joyful and solvable project.