

File May

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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June 3, 1986

Mr. Tony May
Department of Art
School of Humanities and the Arts
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0089

Dear Tony:

Thanks for your letter. I'm afraid Mary has forgotten much information that would be historically important and (at least to me) has refused to give names or phone numbers of family members who might have information. Regardless of that, what could be done now includes the following:

- A. Site plan of the lot—especially the built-up back yard (this means fairly accurate measurements). Could you get some architectural or surveying students involved?
- B. Chronology of the sculpture—some are dated; other dates would have to be researched.
- C. Inventory or analysis of objects according to materials and construction (including both found objects and objects created by John)—for example, the front fence is reinforced concrete with seashells; the Western Wall is covered with African motif paintings.
- D. Interview John's friends and/or neighbors—it would take a certain amount of research and perseverance to ascertain who would be the most likely candidates for these interviews.
- E. Photodocumentation—as large film size as possible, not necessarily "artistic" shots but shots documenting each specific area. It is also essential to take overview shots for contextual coverage. First priority is B&W, though both color slides and B&W would be nice.
- F. Videotaping the site—a videotaped walkthrough would be great; nobody's done this that we know of.

I have some photos taken in the 1970's, xeroxes of personal papers that Mary lent me, and National Register forms. I will be leaving town June 6 for three weeks and will call you when I return. Best of luck in seeing this project through.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director