

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028

Telephone: 213/463-1629



June ??

Councilman Joel Wachs
District 2
Los Angeles City Hall
200 Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4802

Dear Councilman Wachs:

Re: John Ehn's Old Trappers Lodge-California State Landmark #939

Early in February, I called your office to alert you of a possible loss of an internationally know art environment, and California State Landmark in your district. I followed up with a letter and packet of information on February 26, 1987. Subsequent calls put me in touch with Patti Wilson, who assured me of your/her interest, "but we are terribly busy." After more calls I was promised "we will get back to you after the election." When I called after your re-election I was told "....we are preparing for a meeting. Call in a few weeks." After a few weeks I was told "we are terribly busy with some organizations who feel they didn't get enough money on some city grants. Is there really a panic? I don't know what we can do. Have you tried Cultural Affairs? We'll get back to you the first chance."

The Cultural Heritage Commission only had some 2 1/2 minute slots for us to make a statement at a Commission Meeting-but beyond that "we can't really do anything beyond granting City status. Have you tried your councilman?" Ms. Wilson acknowledged that things move faster and have more chance of consideration with the interest of the local councilperson.

It is now 5 months after the original contact and neither the Ehn family or I know of any visit to the property by anyone in your office. I understand how many ways you and your staff are pulled. But, there are to few monumental art objects in Los Angeles of any quality to casually let

another one disappear or fall into disrepair. We have had some interest in parts of the collection, from the Museum of American Folk Art in New York, and other museums and a few other organizations all outside of Los Angeles. I would think that the City of Angels who already has a black eye in their disregard of the Watts Towers would be sensitive in their handling of other works of environmental art.

You have the reputation of being the person most knowledgeable and concerned with the arts and the site is in your district. We don't know if in fact the site will intrigue you or in fact if any help from your office is possible.....but it deserves a chance. At least, a constituent who is willing to donate a \$100,000 plus gift to the City deserves some attention.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director-SPACES

Rosemarie Farish
Old Trappers Lodge

Enclosed: Los Angeles Times Article
Copy of February 26, 1987 Letter