

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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April 19, 1989

Mr. Geoff Gephart
Indiana Arts Commission, 6th Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Gephart:

You wrote to us quite awhile ago to let us know about Pastor Alan Moody's "Garden of Memories." We've tried to get in touch with Pastor Moody to no avail. Would you happen to have any further information on the Garden? It sounds like a marvelous environment, and we'd love to know more.

Since we last corresponded, SPACES has been hastening its efforts to identify and document folk art environments because we're facing a particularly unfortunate problem: Many of the visionaries responsible for folk art environments are getting older, and some have recently died. This makes our job a lot harder, as the creators are the primary sources of information and documentation about the environments. Also, as a result of their advanced ages and deaths, the sites are disappearing or are being destroyed.

In an effort to document the environments, would the Indiana Arts Commission be receptive to a grant application for a Indiana resident/organization or member of an organization outside the state--such as SPACES--to conduct a survey of the sites and prepare documentation? The documentation could then be kept in the Arts Commission's archives (and, ideally, would be available to the public) as well as the archives of an organization such as SPACES. We feel very strongly that records of these environments need to be compiled so that people all across the country can benefit from the builders' imagination and vision.

If you publish a newsletter or something along those lines, would you please add us to your mailing list? Your department should have recently received our newsletter. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director



Terri Hartman
Researcher