

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028
Telephone: 213/463-1629



February 11, 1987

Mr. Tim Ero
Assistant Director, Art Department
Mount Union College
Union Avenue
Alliance, Ohio 44601

Dear Mr. Ero:

Louise Hines suggested we write to you concerning the work of Lewis Smith. From the photographs taken by Ned Casale which Louise Hines sent us, it looks like Smith is a very remarkable environmental artist.

SPACES is a nonprofit arts organization concerned with identification, documentation and preservation of folk/art environments. Enclosed is some information about us, so that you may know a little bit more of what we do.

Louise said that you are interested in the site, and that you might be able to help. Some very specific things you and/or your students can do include almost any kind of documentation.

- 1) Take whatever photographs you can. Get professional quality photographs and slides—both black-and-white and color.
- 2) Find someone, possibly someone who is already close to the artist, or someone who is empathetic, who can audiotape an oral history of the artist.
- 3) Help to complete the enclosed "Environmental Field Survey Form."
- 4) Do videodocumentation.
- 5) Make a site plan.
- 6) Inventory the work. Describe each piece.
- 7) Involve students with the site and with the artist.

2/2 Mr. Tim Ero

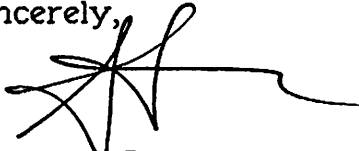
Please keep us informed; please let us know what is happening with the site. It looks like a wonderful exhibition could be mounted combining photographs of the site with individual paintings.

We understand that the artist has no family, and that, although he is in good health, he is over ninety years old. His site is in acute danger. At the very least, documentation needs to be done.

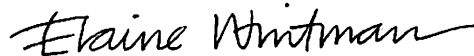
Please feel free to call us if you have any questions, or if we can help in any way. There are only certain things that we can do from a distance, but we are very happy to do what we can. We encourage you to make efforts of any kind to document and preserve this site. SPACES can offer practical advice and examples of preservation efforts nationwide. There are precedents.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. This letter is, we hope, only the beginning of documentation and/or preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Seymour Rosen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Seymour Rosen
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elaine Wintman', written in a cursive style.

Elaine Wintman
Assistant Director

Enclosures

cc: Louise Hines