

SPACES *institute*

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Ms. Linda Warren

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Dear Ms. Warren,

RE: Irene Gibson Hall of OK

I have been involved with the still burgeoning field of Folk Art Environments for some forty years and the Director of SPACES for thirty. I am considered a expert on the field.

I learned about Irene Gibson Hall through a unique underground of scholars, artists and collectors fascinated with this genre of art. Certainly one of of the most prominent sites in Oklahoma, Ms, Gibson's gender, imagination and choice of elements added to the uniqueness of the site. Her inclusion in the Folk Art In Oklahoma exhibition in 1981 acknowledges how early her acceptance was by the academy.

I visited the site in 1977 and 1981 and met with the artist. For a woman who avoided the spotlight her work was well known and applauded by those knowledgeable and dedicated to the field. Irene's humor, lack of pretensions and dedication to her involvement of over 41 years - was impressive. We added what material we could gather to our archives.

Upon Ms. Hall's death, I was more than pleased that the Kansas City Art Institute thought enough of the material, to make such a lot of space available for what was a undetermined time. Since a universal complaint of institutions is the lack of storage space.

Since the 1980's there has been a sea-change of knowledge and popularity about these sites in the United States - the inventory of well known sites has gone from a few dozen to 900 or so, there are thousands of books - theses - articles - papers - videos - movies. Attendance at exhibitions, events, and at sites is over 15,000,000. At least 17 sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Complete sites have been accumulated and reconstructed by museums. Considering that this art was done simply for a sense of joy, street prices have become obscene.

My best,

Seymour Rosen

Director - SPACES