

Joe D. Tanner COMMISSIONER

Henry D. Struble DIRECTOR

## Department of Natural Resources

## PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC SITES DIVISION

270 WASHINGTON ST., S. W. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334 (404) 656-2754

July 2, 1981

Seymour Rosen, President Saving & Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments 1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Mr. Rosen:

We have referred your letter of June 22, 1981, to our state historic preservation office and they have located a folk art environment in which you might be interested.

The folk art environment is known as Howard Finster's Garden Museum, and it is located between Trion and Summerville in Chattooga County. The Rev. Finster began his garden in 1947 and is still working on it. According to Susan Hunter Smith, who surveyed it in 1979 as part of our Chattooga County field survey, the garden is a "synthesis of junkyard, Christian Sanctuary and amusement park, revelling in the Rev. Finster's personal visions." It consists of a "glass bottle house, a 20' tower of hubcaps, paths mosaiced in Biblical injunctions, roadside confessionals and shrines, overhead network of daily tid-bits, pieces of mirror and glass reflecting the sun's rays, a serpent mound, chicken house, dogpen, fishpond, vegetable garden, garage and house." We have negatives on file, if you need actual photographs (Chattooga C-91, Roll R. Frames 27-36, Roll S. Frames 1-6).

In the future, we would recommend that you correspond directly with Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian, State Historic Preservation Section, Room 701, 270 Washington St., SW, Atlanta, GA 30334. Mr. Cloues also recommended that you contact Ms. Randy Jones at the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation,

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ll Baltimore Place, NW, Atlanta, GA 30308, about publishing a notice in their  $\underline{Rambler}$  newsletter. We do not have a mailing list or newsletter.

Thank you for your inquiry. Good luck with your project.

Sincerely,

HENRY D. STRUBLE

Director

HDS/pdm Enclosure

cc: Richard Cloues

Incl: Mo on Howard Fristeis Garden Museum

Esther - Tell them we would like to purchase 2 copy of Missing Pieces - Georgia Folk Art 1770-1976 for our archives