SPACES 1979 documentation, survey program of five California sites Conducted by Don and Sharon Howlett

NAME

LOCATION

* Old Trapper's Lodge

Sun Valley, CA

Los Angeles County

* Grandma Prisbrey's
Bottle Village

Simi Valley, CA

Ventura County

Possom Trot (dismantled)

San Bernardino County

* Art Beal's Nit

Cambria, CA

Wit Ridge

San Luis Obispo County

* Driftwood Charlie's World of Los Art Winterhaven, CA Imperial County

*Four of 10 California State Landmarks all number 939 designated under Twentieth Century Folk Art Environments (Thematic)

Length and Cost of Project

Map and Legend

OGeneral Description of Environment

(General Condition of Artwork

Recommendations for Restoration

Cost of Restoration

Estimated Length	of Project		18 Months
Estimated Cost of	Project	Total	\$91,203,00
			P
Labor	·		
2 Conservators	\$1,500/month	18 months	54,000.00
1 Carpenter	\$1,200/month	12 months	14,400.00
1 laborer	\$1,000/month	12 months	12,000.00
			\$80,400,00
Building Repair	·		7,203.00
Merry-Go-Round Re	pair_		2,465.00
Sign Repair			635.00
Doll Restoration			500,00
		Total:	\$91,203.00

General Description of Environment

Calvin and Ruby Black started a rock shop in 1953, and augmented it with wind-driven merry-go-rounds and a Fantasy Doll Show to attract tourists. There are about sixty dolls carved of redwood and pine, painted and dressed, throughout the environment, the majority of them on the stage of the Fantasy Doll Show, which also displays quite a number of Calvin as well as Black's paintings, and also his workshop. Outside, besides the island of eight wind-driven merry-go-rounds - each with its own dolls - are wooden stage coaches, trains, a totem pole, wishing well, hearse, and antiques, including a gold drywasher and sharpening stone. Dolls and wagons, wind vanes and other objects adorn the rooftops. There are also painted signs and a fenced area with collected rocks next to the building that still serves as a rock shop and where Ruby Black'sla Calvin is deceased.

Condition of Artwork

As a total environment, Posaum Trot is in terrible condition. Exposure to desert weather has stripped the clothes

from the dolls displayed outside, and winds have blown apart the wind-catching elements of the merry-go-rounds and vanes. Nearly all wood parts are rotted, and painted surfaces have faded and peeled. The buildings are in poor condition, with roofs falling in. There is dust and sand everywhere inside. The Dolls in the Fantasy Doll Show have been covered with plastic and are generally in good condition, except for dirt and water stains from spring moisture and leaky roofs. The rock shop has no water or electricity, and by most standards is unlivable. It is also filthy. These conservators guess that there are a good number of Calvin's paintings and other objects underneath the rubble.

Recommendations for Restoration

Our instincts tell us that the best preservation plan for this incredible environment would be to remove it from the ravages of the desert to a secure place like the Smithsonian Institution, similar to the James Hapton project. There are two problems with this. One would be to find a suitable organization and space for it, and the other would be to convince Ruby Black of the advisability of such a project. It is not likely that approject of this kind could be instrumented in Ruby Black's lifetime.

On-site Restoration Plan

It is our feeling that somer or later the work will have to be removed from the desert, but some stabilization program should be implamented until that can occur. This can be done in several stages and will take about eighteen months.

1. Building repairs: All buildings need new roofs and for walls to be straightened. Rotted wood would be replaced and original wood scraped, sealed, and repainted. New fences, doors, and some windows need to be installed.

Materials Estimate \$7,203.00

2. Repair and preventative reconstruction of merry-go-rounds:

Each merry-go-round needs a new roof and other carpentry
repairs, sealing and painting. Wind-driven elements need
to be reassembled, replacing steet with aluminum, and replacing or repairing all gears and bearings.

Materials Estimate \$2,465.00

3. Repair of signs and other wood construction:

Materials Estimate \$ 635.00

4. Repair and redressing of Dolls:

Materials Estimate \$ 500.00

* Conservators' note:

Of all the sites we looked at in California, Possum Trot is the one most in need of immediate attention. Without a stabilization program of some kind, nearly all merry-go-rounds and dolls displayed outside will deteriorate past the point of restoration. Restoration is always preferred over later recreation of the environment, so please move soon on this one!

Estimated Length of Stabilization

Estimated Cost of Stabilization

18 Months

\$91,203.00

CAIVIN & RUBY BIACKS POSSUM TROT MERRY-GO-ROUND REPAIR

MATERIA!	USE	\$/AVIT	# <i>UVITS</i>	TOTA/
CURULIIX FIBERCHES	Rocks	15100	30	450,00
188 Plyion AD	W00	20,00	10	250.00
axlo Pices		9,32/17	280 300	150,00
Pt Engle	Wentu june	9,60	500	300.00
Pilher Block BEAPINGS 1." Cillewinson Red	<u> </u>	1.75	200 100	200,00
Porch & Dech		310	30	150,00
Misc.	:		4	200.00
			. F	

SIGN REPAIR

MATERIALS	USE	\$/UNIT	#UNIT	TOTAL
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21/2	While Heplacourt	1.54/	1501	75,50
Purh Dood Frank	Repentry	116/024 114 yr	10 94	120,00
				\$635.00
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	47.			
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LABOR	RATE / MONTH	# MONTAS	TOTAL
CONSERVATOR	11,500	18	\$ 27,000.00
CONSERVATOR	\$1,500	18	27,000,00
CARPENTER	11,200	12	14,400.00
LABORER	\$1.000	12	12,000.00
			\$ 80,400.00

BUILDING RESTORATION

MATERIALS	USE	\$ /wit	# UNITS	TOTA/
218 Phones P PINE DXL	Roots STIDS Decking, Plater	15,00 .32/1=1 .50/1=1	80 1500' 1200'	1200,00
HY PAPER PROE	TRIVI ROCKS POOKS	170.00 15/18 10/1/Roll	1,000	1740,00 145,00 825,00 80,00
1X12 UKATHONE THE PLOOP BUY	February Carloty Grands Wood Freschie		20 30 30 100 50	300.00
EMERICA PORCA?	para min			50,00
DOOR BLANKS		3.05	7	5000
			7	7,203,00
		46.		
<u> </u>				46

CAIVIN & RUBY BIACK'S POSSUM TROT MERRY-GO-ROUND REPAIR

MATERIAL	USE	\$/AVIT	#411/5	TOTA/
CURULIIX FIBERCHES	Roofs	15100	30	450.00
18 Plywood AD	WOOD	20,00	10	250.00
2x4" Piles		3,32/47		150,00
Ret, Congle	Weater 0	me \$,60	500	300.00
2xy Inhelitar alun Pillan Block BEAPINGS		\$ 20,00	100'	200,00
Les et Akon Facet Porch & Deck		810	30	150,00
Misc.			d	200.00
				•

SIGN REPAIR

MATERIALS	USE	\$ / UNIT	#UNIT	70141
HE DELYMIKED Alum.	CHERIOT	920	3	\$60 00
MAD Hay gange	Seper Rejestioner	1912	20	200.00
(3.6. 4.1.5	Wheel Replacement	9.59/	150	75,00
Puch Dear Frent	Weel Replacement Wood presence Repontry	114 4	10 94	100,00
				\$635.00
	47•			

CONSERVATOR \$1,500 18 27,000,00 CARPENTER \$1,000 12 14,400.00 LABORER \$1,000 12 12,000.00 MATERIALS USE \$\frac{1}{2}\text{Will HWITS TOTA/}{\text{VIS FILLS \$1,000.00}} MATERIALS USE \$\frac{1}{2}\text{Will HWITS TOTA/}{\text{VIS FILLS \$1,000 30/FF 1500' 480.00}{\text{2}\text{2}\text{VIS FILLS \$1,000 44 17,000 400.00}{\text{4}\text{PIPER PROSE PROSE \$1,000 44 17,000 400.00}{VIS FEACULY \$1,000 \$1,0	LABOR	RATE / MON	th # 1	MONTAS	TOTAL
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LABORER \$1.000 12 12,000.00 BUILDING RESTORATION \$9,400.00 MATERIALS USE \$ WIT # UNITS TOTA/ W. P. P. D. STILDS 15,00 80 1200.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW JOHN 1000 600.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW LACK \$10.00 44 1720.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW LACK \$10.00 44 1720.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW LACK \$10.00 44 1720.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW LACK \$10.00 44 1720.00 A. P. P. P. B. TRISC NEW LACK \$10.00 44 1720.00 A. P. P. P. C. T. S. T. C. T. S. J. S. C.	CONSERVATOR	\$1,500		8	27,000,00
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MATERIALS USE \$/WIT # UNITS TOTA/ LIVE PLANT STILLS 15,00 80 1200.00 RIY PLANT STILLS 32/FF 1500' 480.00 AY PRINT DECKNY, PLATE 50/FF 1200' 600.00 APPRINT PLANT NOTE FOR 145.00 APPRINT PLANT ROOTS 15,00 A	LABORER	\$1.000	<u> </u>	2	12,000.00
MATERIALS USE \$/wit # UNITS TOTA/ 418 PHYLICOP ROOTS 15,00 80 1200.00 274 PINE STUDS 132/FT 1500' 480.00 41 PHERIS FROM NEW LACK 40.00 44 1760.00 113" LEE TRIVILLE 150/FT 1800' 825.00 114 PHYLIC FROM ROOTS 15,00 44 1760.00 115" LEE TRIVILLE 150/FT 1800' 825.00 115" PHYLIC ROOTS 15/FT 60 300.00 115" PHYLIC ROOTS 15/FT 60 300.00 11512 PHYLIC ROOTS 15/FT 100 500.00 11512 PHYLIC ROOTS 15/FT 100 500.00 11512 PHYLIC PHYLIC ROOTS 15/FT 100 500.00 11512 PORCH 1500 155000 55000				<u> </u>	\$ 80,400.00
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Length and Cost of Project

Map and Legend

General Description of Environment

General Condition of Artwork

Recommendations for Restoration

Cost of Restoration

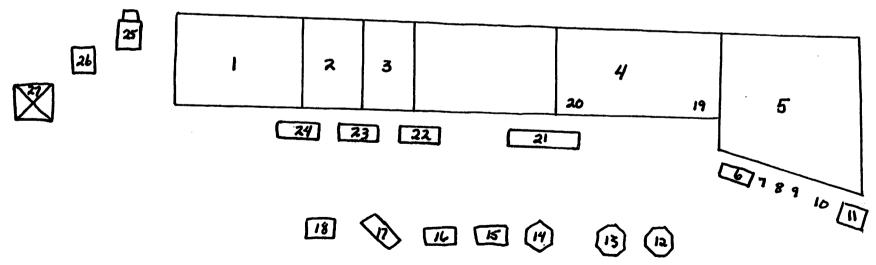
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Calvin & Ruby Black's Possum Trot

LEGEND

- Fantasy Doll Show
- 2. Stage Stop
- 3. Possum Trot News
- Possum Trot Shop
- 5. Rock St 6. Hearse Rock Shop
- 7. Sharpening Stone
- 8. Gold Dry Washer
- 9. Palm King
- 10. Hi Ho Cowboy
- 11. Big Chief
- 12. Merry-go-round
- 13. The Skating Rink

- "Grocery Girl" dancer
- 15. Helen
- Rhoda
- Ferris Wheel
- 18. Stage Coach
- Covered Wagon
- 20. Roman Chariot
- 21. Totem Pole
- 22. Stage Coach
- 23. Hell's Cargo Stage Coach
- 24. Helen M. Covered Wagon
- 25. Water Shed
- 26. Well and Wind Pump
- 27. Shed



General Description of Environment

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* Conservators' note:

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