

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 Wit Ridge	Cambria, CA 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)

CALVIN AND RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

Length and Cost of Project

Map and Legend

General Description of Environment

General Condition of Artwork

Recommendations for Restoration

Cost of Restoration

CALVIN AND RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

Estimated Length of Project

18 Months

Estimated Cost of Project

Total

\$91,203.00

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 Repair

2,465.00

Sign Repair

635.00

Doll Restoration

500.00

Total

\$91,203.00

CALVIN AND RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

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. ^{Within the environment} There are about sixty dolls carved ^{from} ~~of~~ redwood and pine, painted and dressed, ~~throughout the environment,~~ ^{are} the majority of them on the stage of the Fantasy Doll Show, which also displays ^a quite a number of Calvin Black's paintings, ^{as well as} ~~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 dry-washer 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~~ ^{residence} Ruby Black ~~lives~~. Calvin is deceased.

Condition of Artwork

As a total environment, Possum 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 ^{have} ~~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 ^{HAMPTON} ~~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 a project of this kind could be instrumented in Ruby Black's lifetime.

On-site Restoration Plan

It is our feeling that ^{eventually} ~~sooner or later~~ the work will have to be removed from the desert, but some stabilization program should be implemented 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 ^{should} ~~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 steel 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

18 Months

Estimated Cost of Stabilization

\$91,203.00

CALVIN & RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

MERRY-GO-ROUND REPAIR

<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>\$/UNIT</u>	<u>#UNITS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CEMENT FIBERGLASS ROOFING	ROOFS	15.00	30	450.00
4x8 Plywood AD	WOOD	20.00	10	200.00
WRATHANE		5.00/100	50	250.00
2x4" PILES	Weathering	3.32/ft	200	64.00
2x6" PILE		1.50	300	150.00
2x4" Channel		1.60	500	300.00
2x4" Tubular Aluminum		7.75	200	141.00
Pillar Block BEARINGS		20.00	10	200.00
1" Aluminum Rod		3.60	150'	60.00
Red Oxide Paint				150.00
Porch & Deck		8.10	30	300.00
MISC.				200.00
				<u>\$2465.00</u>

SIGN REPAIR

<u>MATERIALS</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>\$/UNIT</u>	<u>#UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2x2 Galvanized ALUM.	CHART	7.25	3	\$21.75
20 gauge	Sign Expansion	10	20	200.00
2x4				
WRATHANE	Wheel Replacement	7.50/ft	150'	750.00
Porch/Deck Board	WOOD pressure	10.00/ft	20 ft	200.00
	Repairing	7.00/ft	10	100.00
				<u>\$1271.75</u>

CALVIN & RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

<u>LABOR</u>	<u>RATE/MONTH</u>	<u># MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CONSERVATOR	\$1,500	18	\$ 27,000.00
CONSERVATOR	\$1,500	18	27,000.00
CARPENTER	\$1,200	12	14,400.00
LABORER	\$1,000	12	12,000.00
			<u>\$ 80,400.00</u>

BUILDING RESTORATION

<u>MATERIALS</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>\$/UNIT</u>	<u># UNITS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4x8 Plywood	ROOF	15.00	80	1200.00
2x4 PINE	STUDS	.32/lf	1500'	480.00
(2x4 "	Decking, Plate	.50/lf	1200'	600.00
44 PLYWOOD	New Leaf	4.00	44	1760.00
1x2 PINE	TRIM	.18	1,000	148.00
SHINGLES	ROOF	25/24	2524	825.00
7/8 PAPER	ROOF	10.00/roll	8	80.00
CEILING BOARD	FENCING	15 /PER	60	300.00
20x4 SHEET PILE	POLE	15.00	30	450.00
1x12	Building Connection	3.70/ft.	300	210.00
WRATHING	WOOD BRACE	5.00/ft	100	500.00
First Floor Pine		10.00/ft	50	500.00
ETHERER PORCH	PAINT TRIM	25 /24	2	50.00
DECK				
DECK BLINDS		2.50	2	50.00
				<u>\$ 7,203.00</u>

CAVIN & RUBY BLACK'S POSSUM TROT

MERRY-GO-ROUND REPAIR

MATERIAL	USE	\$/UNIT	#UNITS	TOTAL
CORRUG FIBERGLASS ROOFING	ROOFS	15.00	30	450.00
4x8 Plywood AD	WOOD	20.00	10	200.00
WRATHANE		5.00	50	250.00
2x4" PILES	Weather Vane	\$1.32/ft	280	64.00
2x6" PINE		1.50	300	150.00
2x4 Aluminum	"	\$1.60	500	300.00
RT. Angle				
2x4 Tubular Aluminum	"	\$1.75	280	141.00
Pillar Block BEARINGS		\$20.00	10	200.00
1" Aluminum Rod		\$1.60	100'	60.00
Rust Proof PAINT				150.00
Porch & Deck		\$10	30	300.00
MISC.				200.00
				<u>\$2465.00</u>

SIGN REPAIR

MATERIALS	USE	\$/UNIT	#UNIT	TOTAL
4x4 GALVANIZED ALUM. 20 gauge	CHARIOT	\$20	3	\$60.00
WELD ROD	Sign Repairment	\$10	20	200.00
2x4	Wheel Replacement	\$1.50/ft	150'	75.00
WRATHANE	WOOD PRIMER	\$10/yard	20 yd	200.00
Porch/Deck Sand	Repainting	\$12/yard	10	120.00
				<u>\$635.00</u>

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BUILDING RESTORATION

<u>MATERIALS</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>\$/UNIT</u>	<u># UNITS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4x8 Plywood	ROOFS	15.00	80	1200.00
2x4 Pine	STUDS	.32/ft	1500'	480.00
(2x4 "	DECKING, PLATE	.50/ft	1200'	600.00
44 PREFAB TRUSSES	NEW ROOF	\$40.00	44	1760.00
1x2" PINE	TRIM	\$.18	1,000	145.00
SHINGLES	ROOFS	\$33/sq	25 sq.	825.00
TAP PAPER	ROOFS	\$10/roll	8	80.00
CEMENT BLOCKS	FENCING	\$5 /PER	60	300.00
30x4 SHEET PILE	ROOFS	15.00	30	450.00
1x12	Building Connection	\$3.70/ft	300	210.00
BRAYTONS	WOOD MISCELL	\$5 /yd	100	500.00
ROOF FLOOR PAINT		\$10/44	50	500.00
EXTERIOR PORCH & DECK	PAINT TRIM	25 /yd	2	50.00
DOOR BLINDS		\$25	2	50.00
				<u>\$ 7,203.00</u>

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- ③ General Description of Environment
- ④ General Condition of Artwork
- ⑤ Recommendations for Restoration
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Building Repair 7,203.00

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Sign Repair 635.00

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500.00

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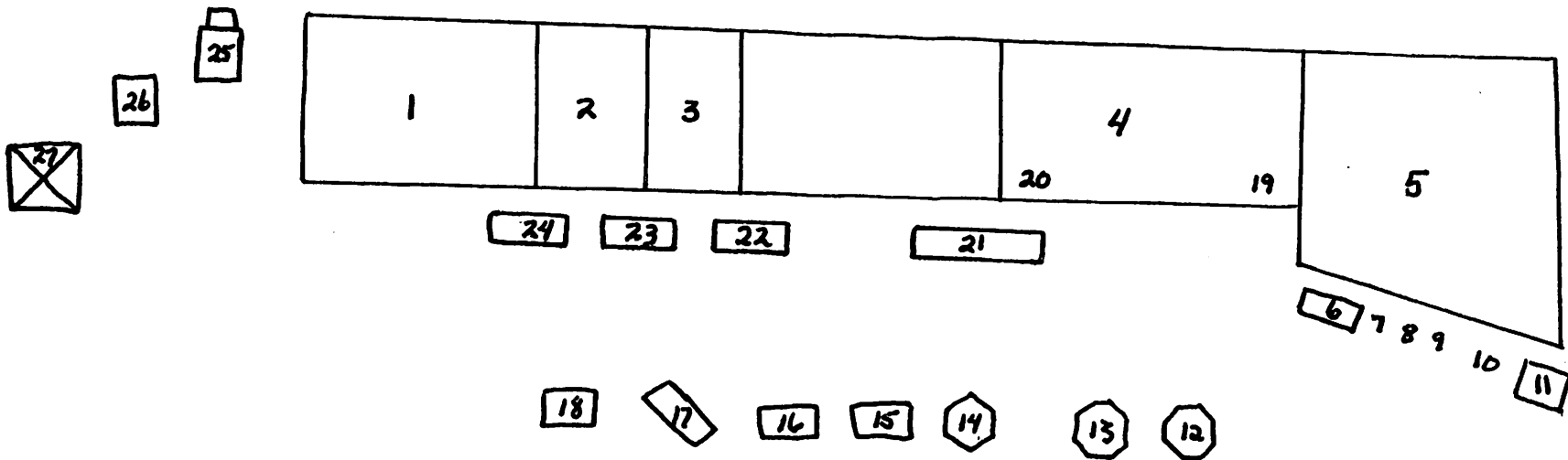
Calvin & Ruby Black's Possum Trot

LEGEND

1. Fantasy Doll Show
2. Stage Stop
3. Possum Trot News
4. Possum Trot Shop
5. Rock Shop
6. Hearse
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

14. "Grocery Girl" dancer
15. Helen
16. Rhoda
17. Ferris Wheel
18. Stage Coach
19. 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

13.



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