

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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Telephone: 213/463-1629



February 26, 1987

Councilman Joel Wachs
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4802

Dear Councilman Wachs:

We want to introduce you, if you are not already aware of it, to a wonderful artwork and state historic monument in your district. We also want to make you aware of its potential destruction in 1987.

The front yard of John Ehn's motel in Sun Valley near the Burbank airport provides a mythical history of the Wild West. Old Trapper's Lodge consists of large sculpted characters and of rock and wooden tombstones—often combined in a single image—that John modeled after moving from the East in the 1940's. The statues are vividly painted and the tombstones and surrounding plaques vividly inscribed. Inside the motel office are old tools, animal skins, other collected memorabilia and museum quality assemblages.

Because of inheritance taxes, the family is being forced to sell a 2.6 acre site which includes the 2 lots which encompass the monument. Currently, interested buyers are not willing to allow the family to exclude the 2 lots from the sale.

John Ehn's Old Trappers Lodge, located at 10340 Keswick, Sun Valley, California 91352, is a State Historic Landmark #939. We have enclosed some information about the site including a map, site plan and newspaper articles. SPACES and/or the family would be more than happy to conduct a personal tour for you or your staff.

We hope that you will be able to suggest ways to save the site. We will call you to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director

cc: Rosemarie Farish, Old Trapper's Lodge