

✓ Directions - 7 miles N. of downtown Fresno.
Take Hwy 99 (N.) to Shaw Avenue Exit,
turn east

UNDERGROUND
GARDENS

(need to request
more info. -
verify dates)

Bio. / Important Dates

- ✓ 1977. Nomination^{to} and subsequent placement on National Register of Historic Places.
- ✓ 1978. Nomination, approval to California Registered Landmark #916
- ✓ 1979. Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation.
Dedication of Underground Gardens as a California Registered Historical Landmark.
- ✓ 1906(?) Baldassar begins construction of the Underground Gardens (source: Travel + Leisure, July 1986)
- ✓ 1946. Baldassar dies at age 67. Had continued to work on Underground Gardens. Gardens left to Nathan Giuseppe.
- ✓ 1879. Baldassar born in Sicily.
- ✓ 1900. Baldassar comes to America. Works as a tunneler in Boston (source - 1923 Fresno Bee article.)
- ✓ 1973. Giuseppe leaves gardens to two sons, Ric + Joe.
- ? ✓ 1904. Baldassar moves to Fresno
- ✓ 1946. By the end of his life, he had dug more than 90 rooms, passages + courts

Bibliography

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- ✓ ③ 1975. Hillings, Charles "Human Mole's Man: 40 Years of Digging". LA Times. Mon., Nov. 3, 1975
- ⑨ 1975 — "Subterranean Labyrinth Monument to One Man". Santa Barbara News Press. Sun., Nov. 30, 1975.
- ✓ ⑤ 1976. Solomon, Paul "The Captain of Nitwit Ridge, the Underground Ordain and the Mortician's House". Mother Jones, Sept./Oct. 1976. pp. 9-13.
- ④ 1976. Toschia, Joseph "The Underground World of Beldasac Forestier". San Francisco Examiner Dec. 5, 1976. (also printed in The Coevolution Quarterly, Spring 1977)
- ✓ ① 1975. Kempewolf, Richard "Underground Housing". Science Digest 11/75 issue.
- ✓ ⑥ 1924. Thorburn, Joseph "Tunnel Artist Builds Cave Resort - Man of Forest Adopts Shovel to Realizing Dream". Fresno Bee May 3, 1924

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(10) 1978 — "Visiting a Most Involved and Yet Delightful Labyrinth." P.A. and E. Progress, 9.5.

(9) 1982 — "Majestic and Cool Underground World." The Daily News. Sat. June 26, 1982

(5a) 1980. Steinke, D.L. "Building a Dream in a Wheelbarrow." The Timberline Times. June.

(3a) 1986. Holmstrom, David. "Underground in Fresno: One Man's Subterranean Garden of Earthly Delights" Travel + Leisure. July. MW 10-12.

see also:

(and) Ludwig Gleason (writer of book on earthworks; gathered documentation of Underground Gardens for book.)
N.Y. Museum of Modern Art
11 W. 53 St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10019

(2a) 1977 Wampler, Jan All Their Own Schenkman Publishing Co. Cambridge, MA.

1974 Wampler, Jan "Balduasar Fontaine". Architecture Plus. July - Aug.

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1976 — ? Les jardins souterrains de Fresno (Looke ? article ?)
La Presse, Canada, Avril 1976.

Sources

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