

5 August

Ms. Donna Schober  
Arizona State Parks  
Historic Preservation Section  
1688 West Adams Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Ms. Schober,

I am writing to bring Grover Thompson's Sunnyslope Rock Garden to your attention, to inform you of SPACES's work with folk art environments, and to reestablish contact with your office; We had some correspondance with William Perreault in 1981/2.

SPACES is a nonprofit, national organization which identifies, documents and attempts to preserve folk art environments. (See the enclosed information.) Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts, here in our own backyard, is probably one of the most famous sculptural environments in the world, along with Ferdinand Cheval's Palais Ideal, in France.

Beginning in 1978, SPACES identified just over 200 such environments in the United States; four in the state of Arizona, of which Grover Thompson's Sunnyslope Rock Garden is one. We recently received a telephone call and letter from Mirra Meyer, Visual Arts Community Development, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, about Grover Thompson's Garden.

Ms. Meyer is concerned about its preservation. She is currently photographing the Garden, keeping us informed and completing a survey form about the site. She may write an article about the site for our Spring 1987 Newsletter. It was she who informed us that Rudy Turk of the University of Arizona, Tempe is planning a 1987 exhibition of artifacts from the Garden.

The present owner of The Garden, Marian Blake, also wants to see it preserved and honored. She seems to be looking for assistance. We are in touch with her also.

We felt you should know about this site. We are not alone in feeling it has cultural merit. You may want to explore with the owner the idea of nominating the site for state and or national landmark status. Should you wish to contact her, she lives at the site: Ms. Marion Blake, 10023 N. 13th Place, Tucson, AZ 85020.

We predict that articles and the upcoming exhibition will stir interest in the site, and may help Ms. Blake's preservation efforts.

We hope this information is of interest to you. We will keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen  
Director

Jocelyn Gibbs  
Associate

encl.

P. S. Does the State of Arizona have its own nomination forms for state landmark status? May we receive one, in case Ms. Blake needs our assistance? Do you publish a newsletter? May we be put on your mailing list? Thank you. You should have received our latest newsletter in June.