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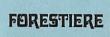
CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

TO

BALDASARE FORESTIERE

1879-1979

Self-taught Designer, Engineer, Architect, Sculptor, Ecologist, Horticulturist and Builder





UNDERGROUND GARDENS

5021 W. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93705

DEDICATION of the

FORESTIERE
UNDERGROUND
GARDENS

as a

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK



8:00 P.M. Friday, October 12, 1979 Fresno, California

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places July 14, 1977

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places October 28, 1977

Nomination for California Registered Historical Landmark January 6, 1978

Approved as a California Registered Historical Landmark January 6, 1978

Authorization for Registered Historical Landmark number and casting of Bronze Plaque with the following text:

Here, beneath the hot, arid surface of the San Joaquin Valley, Baldasare Forestiere (1879-1946) began in the early 1900's to sculpt a fantastic retreat. Excavating the hardpan by hand, he created a unique complex of underground rooms, passages and gardens which rambled throughout a ten-acre parcel. His work is being preserved as a living monument to a creative and individualistic spirit unbounded by conventionality.

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 916

Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Rick Forestiere Family, October 12, 1979.

SIGNIFICANCE

"The significance of the underground house and gardens complex lies in its uniqueness, its ecological sophistication and its statement of individual creativity. It has educational value, which derives from all three of these dimensions....The environment is sculptural, but creates definite spaces with architectural merit."

Galen Cranz, PhD; UC Berkeley State Historical Documents

"I'm fascinated by the untutored genius that appears now and then, even in the humblest of people, driving its host against all odds to do what he must. Rodia of Watts. Gaudi of Barcelona. Forestiere. Speculation about the source of such gifts inevitably leads to confrontation with the unanswerable; but it also gives us, I think, our best reason for hope."

Malcolm Wells, Architect A Technical Analysis

"This is a cultural monument, which fully deserves public support - education, conserving some of the best quality in man."

Egbert de Vries, PhD. U. of Pittsburg, Penn.

"Every once in a while a very unusual and extraordinary person comes alive in a very usual and ordinary place; and after a little while, leaves a lasting reminder of his having been there."