

STATUS REPORT

August 1980

Dear Co-Petitioner:

This is an update on our continuing efforts to secure the preservation of the Forestiere Underground Gardens in Fresno, California.

A total of 181 pages of supporting signatures representing 285 California cities, 38 states and 25 countries, as petitioners during the last 10 months, have been submitted to date to various preservation officials and politicians:

Jerry Brown, Governor of California
915 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jim Costa, Assemblyman
State Capitol, Suite 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cecil Andrus, Sec. of the Interior
'C' St. Between 18th & 19th Sts. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204

Daniel Whitehurst, Mayor of Fresno
2326 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Knox Mellon, Hist. Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

John Frisbee, Dir. Endangered Properties
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave. N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Alan Cranston, US Senator
229 Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Bill Sugaya, Dir. Western Regional Off.
National Trust for Historic Preservation
681 Market Street, Suite 859
San Francisco, CA 94105

Chris Delaporte, Director
Heritage Conservation & Rec. Ser.
440 'G' Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Historic Off.
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811


As suggested by many of you during your visit here, we contacted the officials above for assistance and direction in our preservation difficulties. But to date response has either been unfavorable or none at all. It is unthinkable that the Gardens was simply given National Register and State Landmark designations to be allowed to subsist with benign neglect and then let die with a semblance of dignity and honor.

Almost 4,000 of your signatures have been submitted attesting to the worthiness of the preservation of the Gardens as a unique historical resource of irreplaceable value; worthy not only of its recognition as official National Register and State Landmark listings; but also worthy of every assistance required to guarantee its future preservation.

We have vigorously sought preservation loans, grants and loan-grant combinations from every level known to us. We have pledged our 50% interest as security for assistance in acquiring the opposing unsympathetic interest (for the \$220,000 as conveyed by the opposing attorney) with the additional pledge of repayments based on a percentage of revenues generated. We have repeated spelled this out clearly in many discussions, in correspondence and/or in cover letters accompanying the petitions we submitted.

But the future of the Gardens remains clouded. Without your continued support, it is doubtful that preservation officials and politicians (listed above for your information) will address the urgency of this joint preservation effort. With hopeful optimism, we continue our quest for ways and means to secure the future of the Underground Gardens for future generations.

Sincerely,


Rick Forestiere - 5021 W. Shaw Ave. - Fresno, CA 93711