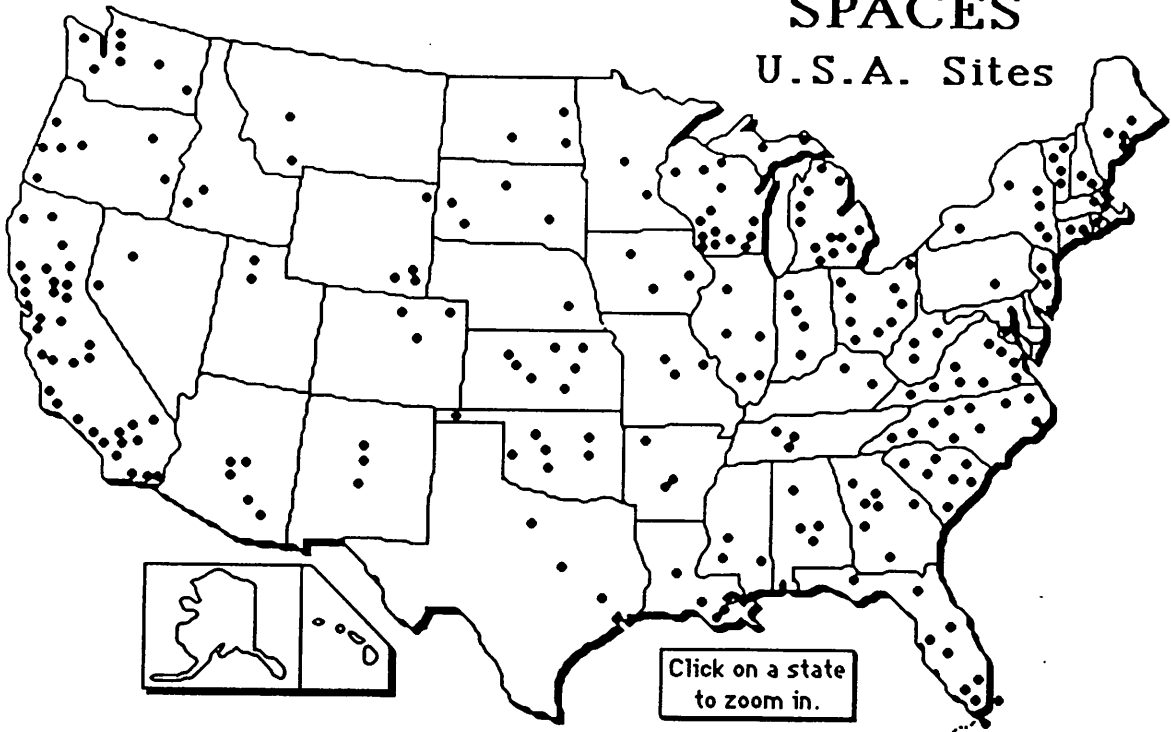




# SPACES

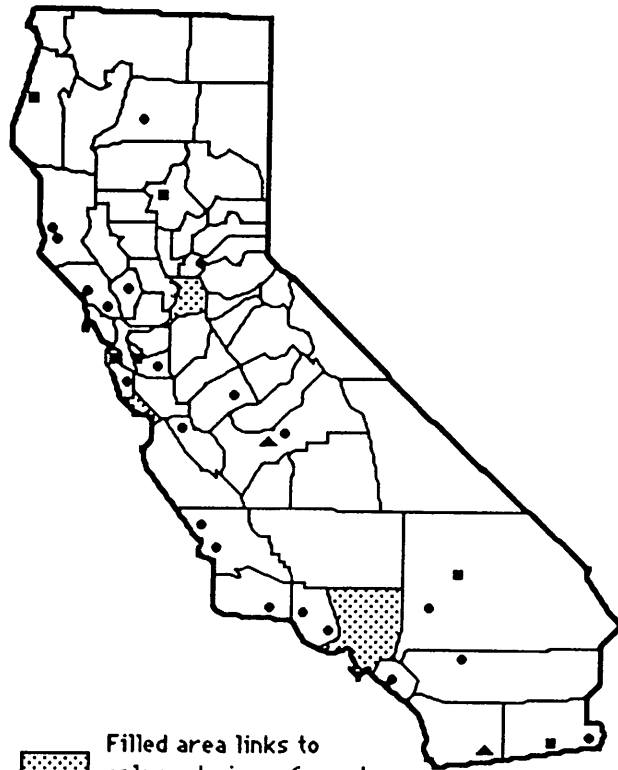
## U.S.A. Sites



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[BACK TO INTRODUCTION](#)

## California



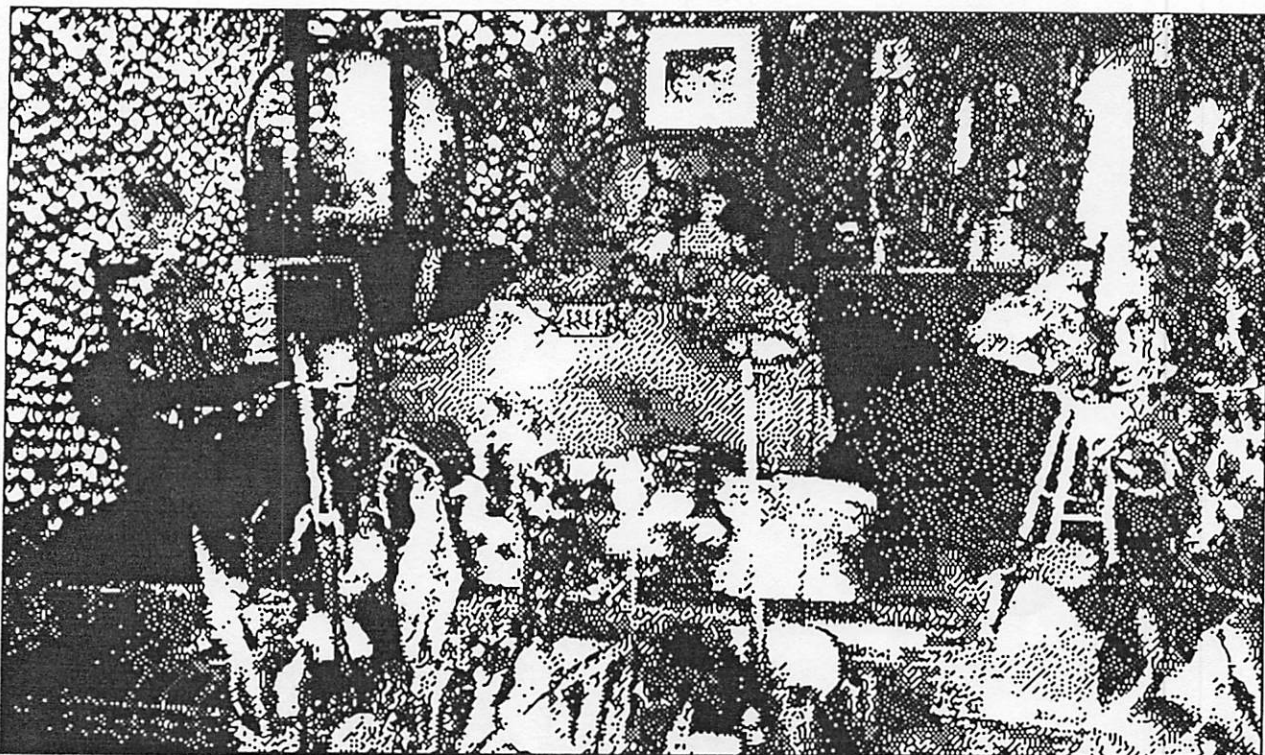
Create Site



- Site
- ▲ National Register
- Destroyed



Filled area links to  
enlarged view of county



Tressa Prisbrey, Bottle Village

[More Info...](#)

[Back to State Map...](#)



#### Artist

Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey

California

Exists? ☒ Yes Open to public? ☐ No

#### Info Source

#### Description

##### Bottle Village

Tressa was born on January 19, 1896 to Catherine and Matthew Shafer in the small farming community of Easton, near Wells, Minnesota. In 1912, at the age of 15, Tressa married 52 year old Theodore Grinolds. Sometime in the late 1920's Tressa left her husband, with some of her seven children, and settled in Minot, North Dakota.

After Grinold's death in the 1930's, Tressa moved to Simi Valley where she married Al Prisbrey in 1947. In the 1950's Tressa took the wheels off the family

#### Contact

#### Notes

California Landmark #939  
B&W & color photos - site plan there is a great film available. 30 min  
May only be seen from street while the site is being restored.

Site Stack



1974	Show Attendance	202,616	Times shown	7	Toured?	Yes
Exhibition:						
Naives & Visionaries						

Institution	Dates	Attendance
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN	Dec 1, 74 - 1/26, 75	70,000
Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH	Oct 25 - Dec 7, 1975	11,550
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA	Jan 14 - Feb 22, 76	90,325
Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX	Apr 16 - May 9, 1976	6,000
La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, CA	Jun 12 - Jul 25, 76	10,414
Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX	Sep 3 - Oct 3, 1976	6,327
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI	Nov 21 - Dec 26, 76	8,000

**Environmental Artists**

S. P. Dinsmoor, James Hampton, Jesse Howard, Tressa Prisbrey, Simon Rodia, Herman Rusch, Clarence Schmidt, Fred Smith, Louis C. Wippich,

**Curator(s)** Martin Friedman, Gregg Blasdel

**Photographer(s)** Gregg Blasdel, Robert Lautman, Seymour Rosen, Gerald Stableski, Rob Stapleton, Eric Sutherland

**Catalog?** Yes - we have **Ancillary Activities**

**Theme**

**Note**

Total Exhibits	1	Total Attendance-shows selected	202,616	Showings selected	7
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<u>Author(s)</u> Rosen, Seymour	<u>SPACES LIBRARY?</u> Yes
<u>Story Title</u>	In Celebration of Ourselves

City San Francisco, Publisher California Living Books  
Date 1979 Mag Title  
Photographer(s) Seymour Rosen ISBN No: 0-89395-007-6 Hardbound  
Description 235? b&w 75? col . 34 CA environ, + other non-traditional arts - graffiti, decor cars/vans/motorcycles, hairstyles, costume, tattoo, murals, fairs,  
Category Book Language English Pictures? y Environments? y  
W Environment/Artist Exhibit Review Book Review  
 Art Beal, Kermit Bishop, Cal & Ruby Black, Peter Mason Bond, Al Butler, Duke Cahill, Emanuelle "Litto" Damonte, Sanford Darling, John Ehn, Herman Fayal, Baldasare Forestiere, Dr. Kenneth Fox, Romano Gabriel, Antioch Garau, John Giudici, Albert Glade, George Herzak, Milt Hopkins, Charles Kasting, John Medica, Edward Mathews, Miles Mahan, C.C. Miller, Tressa Prsbrey, Helen Saavedra, Simon Rodia, Otto Roehrick, Tom Sehgrue, Henry Silverio, Bob Zuver,

<u>Author(s)</u> Rosen, Seymour	<u>SPACES LIBRARY?</u> Yes
<u>Story Title</u>	I Am Alive

City Los Angeles Publisher Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Date 1966 Mag Title  
Photographer(s) Rosen, Seymour ISBN No: None  
Description catalog of exhibit of non traditional arts  
Category Catalog Language English Pictures? y Environments? Y  
W Environment/Artist Exhibit Review Book Review  
 Simon Rodia, Watts Towers, various store front churches, custom cars-vans-motorcycles

<u>Author(s)</u> Rosen, Seymour - Paul Laporte	<u>SPACES LIBRARY?</u> Yes
<u>Story Title</u>	Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

City Los Angeles, Publisher Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Date 1962 Mag Title  
Photographer(s) Seymour Rosen ISBN No: none  
Description Watts Towers show at LACMA  
Category Catalog Language English Pictures? y Environments? y  
W Environment/Artist Exhibit Review Book Review  
 Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

<u>Author(s)</u> Beljon, J.J.	<u>SPACES LIBRARY?</u> Yes
<u>Story Title</u>	Bouwmeestersters van morgen

City Amsterdam Publisher Pantoskoop, Wetenschappelijke Uitgeverij N.V.  
Date 1964 Mag Title  
Photographer(s) misc. Seymour Rosen ISBN No: none  
Description Sculpture & experimental architecture  
Category Book Language Dutch Pictures? y Environments? Y  
W Environment/Artist Exhibit Review Book Review  
 Simon Rodia, Watts Towers

<u>Country</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name of site</u>	<u>Pics?</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Action</u> JB
US	California	Los Angeles,	Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts		
<u>Artist Name</u>	Simon Rodia			<u>Living/Dead?</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D
<u>Address</u>	1763 107th St. Los Angeles, CA				
<u>Site Description</u>					
<p>The most famous environment in the US. Giant, airy lacework towers, whose apparent fragility masks internal strength, reinforced with steel bars covered in concrete inlaid with glass, porcelain tiles, cups, shells, etc. Reminiscent of Gaudi. Some have suggested (Posen and Ward, etc.) that Rodia's inspiration derived from central tower-like structures (giglio) frequently appearing in Italian plazas. Preservation efforts are underway as of 8/88. Listed on National Register of Historic Places 1977. In Celebration of Ourselves; we have pics B&amp;W - Color - Tape - Films available #1 LA detail map</p>					
Exist? Y e	On map? y	Time Line	Born Feb. 25, 1985	Date of death	1/1/65
<u>Map No.</u>	CA/LA 1	<u>Open to public?</u>	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rodia, Simon - CA	

**Author(s)** Rosen, Seymour **SPACES LIBRARY?** Yes  
**Story Title** In Celebration of Ourselves

**City** San Francisco, **Publisher** California Living Books  
**Date** 1979 **Mag Title**  
**Photographer(s)** Seymour Rosen **ISBN No:** 0-89395-007-6 Hardbound  
**Description** 235? b&w 75? col . 34 CA environ, + other non-traditional arts - graffiti, decor  
cars/vans/motorcycles, hairstyles, costume, tattoo, murals, fairs,  
**Category** Book **Language** English **Pictures?** y **Environments?** y  
**W Environment/Artist** **Exhibit Review** **Book Review**  
Art Beal, Kermit Bishop, Cal & Ruby Black, Peter Mason Bond, Al Butler, Duke Cahill, Emanuelle "Litto" Damonte,  
Sanford Darling, John Ehn, Herman Fayal, Baldasare Forestiere, Dr. Kenneth Fox, Romano Gabriel, Antioch Garau,  
John Giudici, Albert Glade, George Herzak, Milt Hopkins, Charles Kasling, John Medica, Edward Mathews, Miles  
Mahan, C.C. Miller, Tressa Prisbrey, Helen Saavedra, Simon Rodia, Otto Roehrick, Tom Sehgrue, Henry Silverio,  
Bob Zuver,

**Author(s)** Rosen, Seymour **SPACES LIBRARY?** Yes  
**Story Title** I Am Alive

**City** Los Angeles **Publisher** Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
**Date** 1966 **Mag Title**  
**Photographer(s)** Rosen, Seymour **ISBN No:** None  
**Description** catalog of exhibit of non traditional arts  
**Category** Catalog **Language** English **Pictures?** y **Environments?** Y  
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Simon Rodia, Watts Towers, various store front churches, custom cars-vans-motorcycles

**Author(s)** Rosen, Seymour - Paul Laporte **SPACES LIBRARY?** Yes  
**Story Title** Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

**City** Los Angeles, **Publisher** Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
**Date** 1962 **Mag Title**  
**Photographer(s)** Seymour Rosen **ISBN No:** none  
**Description** Watts Towers show at LACMA  
**Category** Catalog **Language** English **Pictures?** y **Environments?** y  
**W Environment/Artist** **Exhibit Review** **Book Review**  
Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

**Author(s)** Beljon, J.J. **SPACES LIBRARY?** Yes  
**Story Title** Bouwmeestersters van morgen

**City** Amsterdam **Publisher** Pantoskoop, Wetenschappelijke Uitgeverij N.V.  
**Date** 1964 **Mag Title**  
**Photographer(s)** misc. Seymour Rosen **ISBN No:** none  
**Description** Sculpture & experimental architecture  
**Category** Book **Language** Dutch **Pictures?** y **Environments?** Y  
**W Environment/Artist** **Exhibit Review** **Book Review**  
Simon Rodia, Watts Towers

**Author(s)** Bishop, Robert **SPACES LIBRARY?** Yes  
**Story Title** American Folk Sculpture

**City** New York **Publisher** E. P. Dutton  
**Date** 1974 **Mag Title**  
**Photographer(s)** **ISBN No:** 0-525-48060-9.  
**Description**  
**Category** Book **Language** English **Pictures?** y **Environments?** y  
**W Environment/Artist** **Exhibit Review** **Book Review**  
S. P. Dinsmoor, James Hampton, Simon Rodia, Rodney Rosebrook, check for more

Country Site State County Name of site Pics? ☒ Action ☐ JB

US California Los Angeles, Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

Artist Name Simon Rodia Living/Dead? ☐ D

Address 1763 107th St. Los Angeles, CA

Site Description

The most famous environment in the US. Giant, airy lacework towers, whose apparent fragility masks internal strength, reinforced with steel bars covered in concrete inlaid with glass, porcelain tiles, cups, shells, etc. Reminiscent of Gaudi. Some have suggested (Posen and Ward, etc.) that Rodia's inspiration derived from central tower-like structures (giglio) frequently appearing in Italian plazas. Preservation efforts are underway as of 8/88.

Listed on National Register of Historic Places 1977. In Celebration of Ourselves;  
we have pics B&W - Color - Tape - Films available #1 LA detail map  
date entered

Exist? ☒ On map? ☒ Time Line Born Feb. 25, 1985 Date of death 1/1/65

Map No. CA/LA 1 Open to public? yes ☒ Rodia, Simon - CA

Author (s) Rosen, Seymour	SPACES LIBRARY? Yes
Story Title	In Celebration of Ourselves

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Author (s) Beljon, J.J.	SPACES LIBRARY? Yes
Story Title	Bouwmeesterters van morgen

City Amsterdam Publisher Pantoskoop, Wetenschappelijke Uitgeverij N.V.  
 Date 1964 Mag Title  
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Description Sculpture & experimental architecture  
Category Book Language Dutch Pictures? y Environments? Y  
Environment/Artist Exhibit Review Book Review  
 Simon Rodia, Watts Towers



<b>Author (s)</b> Rosen, Seymour	<b>SPACES LIBRARY?</b> Yes
<b>Story Title</b>	In Celebration of Ourselves

**City** San Francisco, **Publisher** California Living Books

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**ISBN No:** 0-89395-007-6 Hardbound

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Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts

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