



John Medica's Castles & Garden

- 1900 John Medica was born 6 April in Austria (now Yugoslavia) into a poor farming family.
- 1922 John Medica migrated to the United States. He worked as a logger in Eureka in Northern California and Oregon.
- 1943 John Medica bought 103 acres of land in Sonoma County.
- "I got 5,000 chickens without a nickel. I got all the feed without a nickel. Everyone liked me."
- 1955 Medica began his garden, building walkways, bridges and wells of masonry and rockwork; he was self taught in both skills. His materials were discarded chiprock obtained from a nearby quarry.
- "Just two hands or an iron bar to move a rock an inch at a time."
- 1967 John completed construction of the major portion of his work.
- "People hear by word of mouth, 35 to 50 people a day came in the summer."
- 1976 John's work was included in the exhibition In Celebration of Ourselves, curated by Seymour Rosen, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. John's work was also included in the book of the same name, which was published in 1979.
- "I invented everything, no pictures. It was all my imagination."
- 1985 The Medica site was nominated for inclusion in California Registered Historical Landmark No. 939 Twentieth Century Folk Art Environments in California (thematic).
- 1986 The nomination was successful, and John Medica's Castles and Garden was given California Landmark status. 1987 - Plaque status was awarded.
- "You have to work many years. If you don't start, then when you are 60, 70, 80 like me you don't have anything to show for it. It's pretty good for one man, huh?"
- 1987 Board of Supervisors - Sonoma County - pass resolution recognizing John Medica's Castles and Garden as a Sonoma County folk art landmark.

"I never believed all these beautiful things could ever happen to me!"