

March 18, 1986

Camilo J. Vergara, Ph. (212) 222-6981

ARK UPDATE

Kea Tawana, the only folk artist in the Eastern United States to have built a work comparable in scope and conception to the famous Watts Towers of Los Angeles, "will never build again". Kea has worked for twenty years on her Ark, made by hand from the debris of more than fifty abandoned houses, banks, factories and public buildings in Newark. Now the Ark is to be demolished.

On March 17, Kea Tawana and Reverend J. Brown were called to meet with city officials Millard Monroe and Jack Joblonsky of the Department of Land Use Control, and Audrey Davison, the city attorney. Kea was told that she has to vacate the property by the week of April 13. After the meeting she was taken to sign up for welfare and told that the City will secure her a place to live. Thus, one of the most skilled individuals in the the City of Newark will be rendered idle, removed from her home and work, and given public assistance.