

PH# 36236x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 24 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round, vintage 1911

AND/OR COMMON

Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Tilden Regional Park

CITY, TOWN

none

X VICINITY OF Berkeley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Contra Costa

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

X OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

X BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

X PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

117 Darrell Drive

CITY, TOWN

Glendale

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

No property title-land lease

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round was originally built in 1911 in New York by the Hershell-Spillman Company. It was first used in San Bernardino, California. From 1916 to 1927, the carousel was operated at Oceanside, California. Except for two years at Griffith Park in Los Angeles from 1935 to 1937, the merry-go-round remained in storage until it was installed at its present location at the entrance of Lake Anza in Tilden Park, Contra Costa County, in 1948.

This classic sixteen section, three abreast 1911 vintage carousel retains its 39 original hand-carved poplarwood animals. The variety of types of hand-crafted wooden animals is exceptional. In addition to horses, there are 13 other types of animals included in the menagerie: two giraffes, two roosters, two zebras, two frogs, a sea dragon, a tiger, a cat, a dog, a deer, a lion, a stork, a goat, and a pig. The frogs are unique examples of extremely rare carved wooded objects. The carousel was altered in 1950 with the addition of a fourth row of cast aluminum animals.

The interior cornice is entirely original, with 32 hand-painted decorative scenes. The outer cornice was altered also in 1950, enlarged (though retaining its 16 carved wood gargoyles), and decorated with 16 additional hand-painted scenic panels in the same style as those on the interior.

The carousel is driven by the same 7-1/2 horsepower Westinghouse electric motor as was first used, which has been altered by the addition of a fluid coupling to eliminate a clutch and the enclosing of gearboxes for safety. The smaller of the two band organs, placed at the center of the machine, was purchased at the same time as the machine, and was built by the Tonawanda Band Organ Company. A Wurlitzer 150 roll system was installed about 35 years because the Tonawanda music rolls were no longer. The larger band organ, located off to the side, was manufactured in Brooklyn, New York, by the B. A. B. Band Organ Company, in the same era as the carousel. It was brought from another carousel in Coney Island, New York, in 1948, and is embellished with ornately carved gilded scroll work, and one approximately two foot high painted figurine.

The entire facility is housed in a woodframe structure, the plans for which were designed in 1937 by J. Wilson of the Los Angeles Parks Department. It features a 5,000 square foot lamella dome of trussless construction.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☒ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#8

This carousel is a fine example of a particular genre of folk art. A work of art by any standards, this gay amusement device was a product of the golden age of carousels, a period between 1900 and the Great Depression before the onslaught of mass produced cast metal animals replaced the hand-crafted wooden ones. As this type of hand-craftsmanship died out during the Great Depression, the Tilden Park Carousel represents one of approximately five classic carousels in California and one of 16 in the western United States.

The beautifully carved wooden animals, hand-painted decorative scenes, and two gilded band organs playing lively music have thrilled about five million riders since the merry-go-round was moved to Tilden Park in 1948. The fanciful scenes adorning the panels around the center of the machine also date from 1911 while those on the crest around the outside were painted in 1950 by an itinerant artist who had been raised by a band of gypsies.

The social significance of this carousel derives largely from the fact that enjoyment of it cuts across all social-economic, cultural, and age differences. An important reason for preserving it is to insure its continued availability for the public's pleasure, since the relatively few remaining classic carousels are being steadily bought up by private collectors. The present setting of the carousel also has some socio-historic significance as well, since it is located in an area similar to the types of places where the first classic carousels were situated in their heyday, at the threshold of the countryside where picnic facilities and other outdoor enjoyments are readily available to families.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Source is John O. Davis, son of original owner, and book.

Frederick Fried, A Pictorial History of the Carousel, New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1964, p.72-75

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .16 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 0 5 6 5 4 2 0 4 1 9 4 9 4 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by the perimeter of a 7,000 square foot frame structure.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Wilson, member and researcher

ORGANIZATION

Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association

DATE

April 15, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1856 Spruce Street, #11

TELEPHONE

(415) 548-3481

CITY OR TOWN

Berkeley

STATE

California 94709

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL xx

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert M. Jones

8/5/76

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. Hurler

DATE

7/29/76

DATE

9.17.26

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round, vintage 1911

State California Working Number 8.24.76.4015

Contra Costa
76000480 Ref. No.

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
8.25.76

I would like to have seen the structure housing the carousel, but...

HISTORIAN

Accept
w.p. June
9/9/76

Carousel appears to be privately owned although situated in a regional park. 4th row of animals added in 1950. Moved several times. No photos of structure which housed carousel.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
8/27/76

Few (relatively) carousels remain in U.S. - their existence deserves protection.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
9-13-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Herry
9.17.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 11-2-76

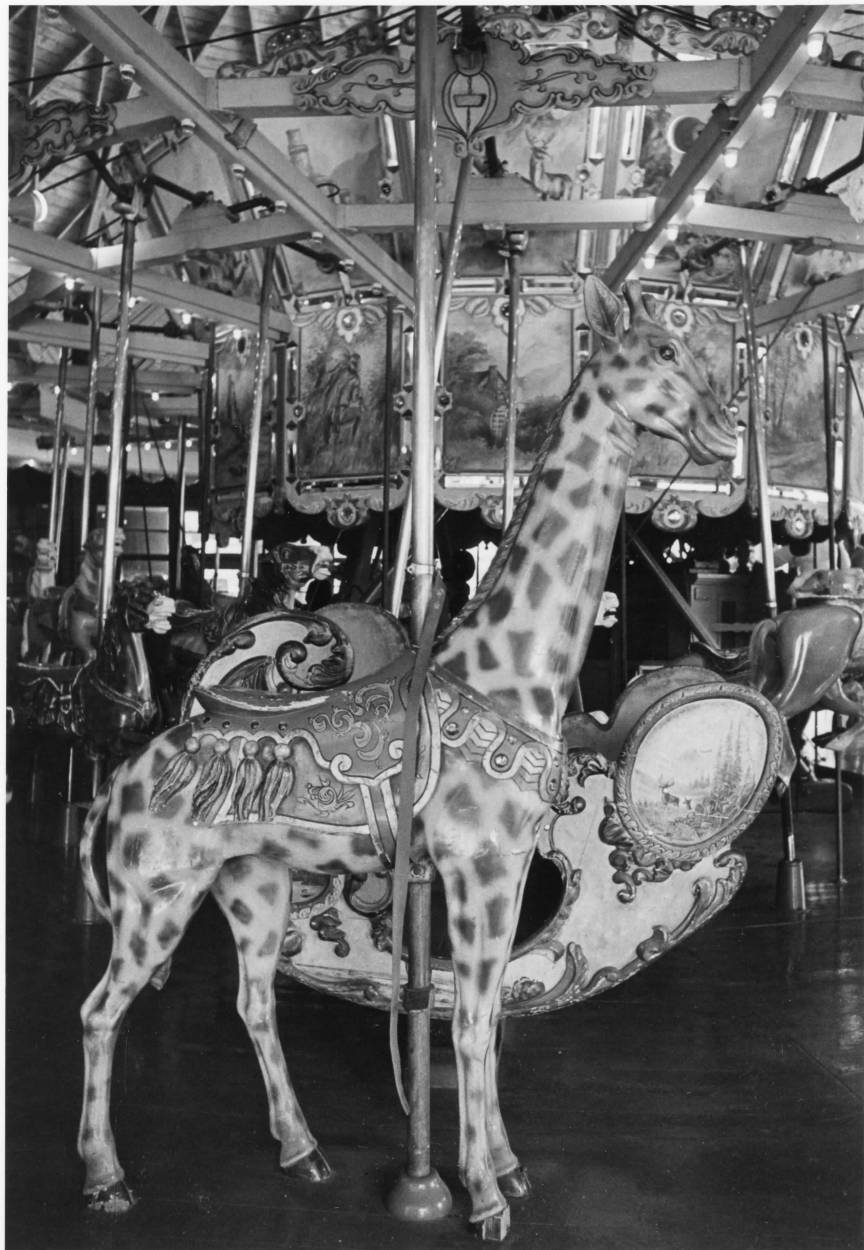
Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered SEP 29 1976

INT:2106-74

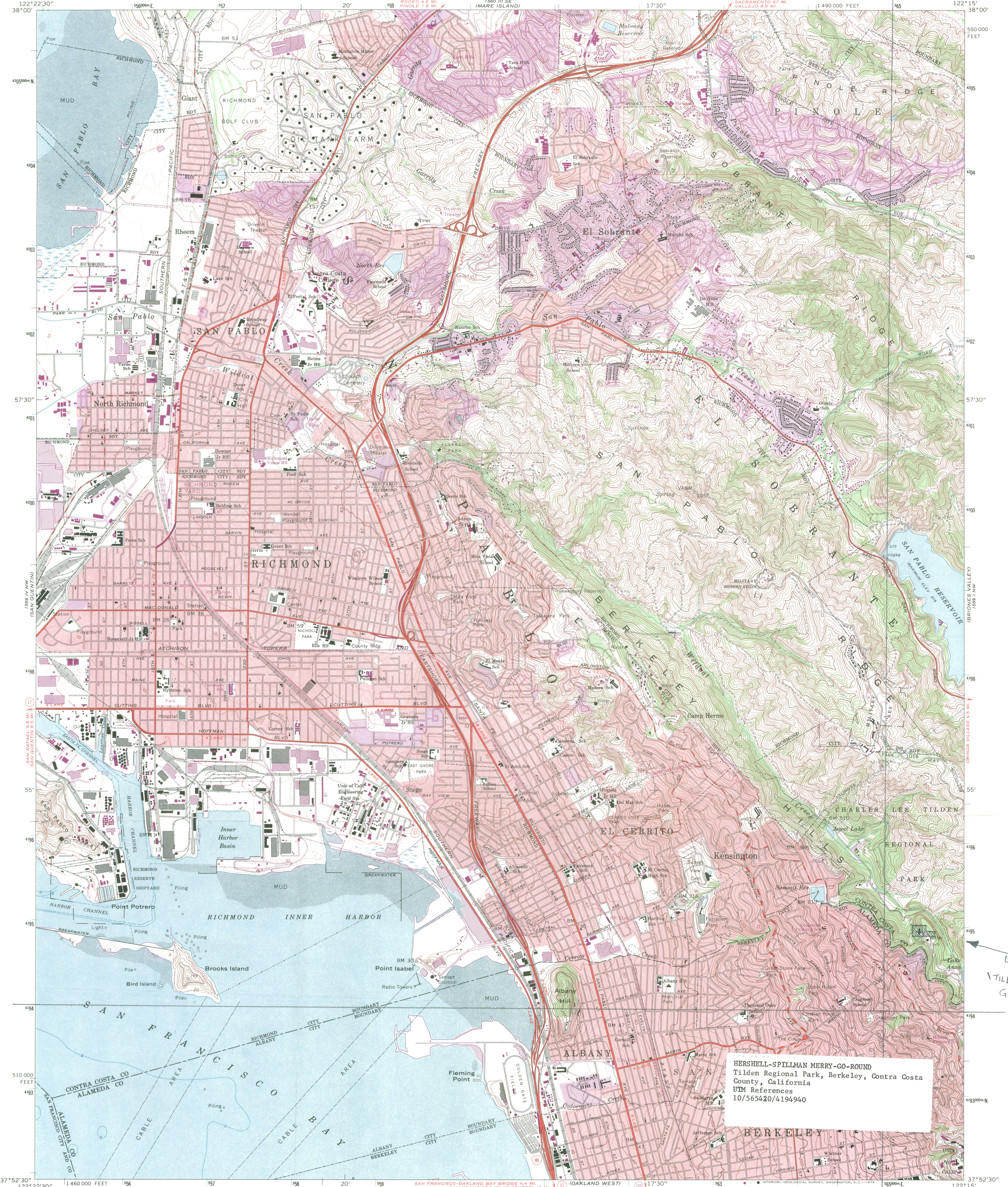




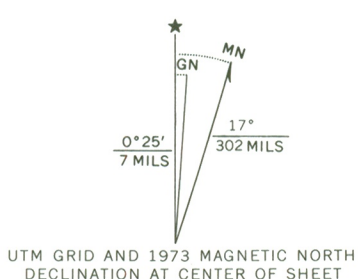








Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planetable surveys 1947. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1958. Field check 1959
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 5532 (1958)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1968 and 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24,000
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

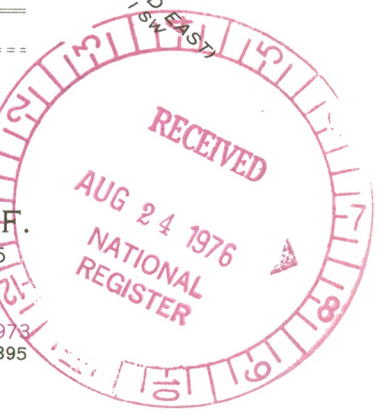
HERSHELL-SPILLMAN MERRY-GO-ROUND
Contra Costa County, California
UTM References
10/565420/4194940

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— State Route ———

RICHMOND, CALIF.
N3752.5—W12215.75

1959
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1974
AMS 1559 IV NE-SERIES V895

LOCATION OF
OBJECT
'TILDEN MERRY-
GO-ROUND'





National Carousel Roundtable

August 25, 1976

National Registry of Historic Places
U. S. Department of the Interior
18th and "C" Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: Mr. Charles Herrington

Dear Mr. Herrington:

The National Carousel Roundtable was organized and founded in 1973 for the purpose of preserving the American carousel, rapidly diminishing in number. These objects of American art, all hand-carved by native craftsmen and sculptors, are being purchased by antique dealers and speculators and broken up, selling the horses and animals as well as the paintings and rim carvings for enormous sums. At the current rate of destruction - six to eight carousels each year - it is estimated that by 1996 only those carousels in museums, publicly-owned and those preserved by landmark designation will remain.

One of the threatened carousels now applying for landmark security is the carousel at Tilden Park, Berkeley, California. This is a very rare four-row carousel made in 1912 by the Herschell-Spillman Company of North Tonawanda, New York. Since so very few of the great five and four row carousels still exist, it is important that each must be carefully guarded and treasured. The contract for this carousel expires on September 31st, 1976, and a controversy between East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors and the owner may not be settled by this date. Standing in the wings are the speculators and antique dealers hoping for the worst so that they can profit by any misfortune.

There is a strong movement by the residents of the Berkeley area who have formed a "Save the Tilden Merry Go Round Committee," and many public officials have come out strongly for the carousel.

The membership of our organization strongly urges your prompt action in accepting the nomination proposed by the California State Historical Resources Commission, and to grant landmark status to this endangered carousel.

With many thanks for our consideration,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick Fried

Chairman Conservation Committee

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered SEP 29 1976

Name

Location

Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round

Berkeley vicinity
Contra Costa County

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Cranston
Hon. John V. Tunney
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
Regional Director, Western
Region

PR Mott 9/30/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Herbert Rhodes
Director, Department of Parks
and Recreation
State Resources Agency
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

NR Data Sheet

DATE:
Reviewer

INITIALS: *HW*

NR

DOE SEP 29 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round

OTHER NAMES: Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round - SEC

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER E of Berkeley in Tilden Regional Park

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE California 06

VICINITY OF Berkeley

COUNTY Contra Costa code 013

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
<u>Substantially intact-1</u>	<u>Substantially intact-2</u>	<u>Substantially intact-3</u>
<u>unknown - 4</u>	<u>unknown - 5</u>	<u>unknown - 6</u>
<u>not applicable - 7</u>	<u>not applicable - 8</u>	<u>Not applicable-9</u>

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>DETERIORATED</u>	<u>RUINS</u>	<u>UNEXPOSED</u>	<u>Unexcavated</u>	<u>UNALTERED</u>	<u>ALTERED</u>	<u>Reconstructed</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>ORIGINAL SITE</u>	<u>MOVED</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
-------------	------------------	-------------	-------------	---------------------	--------------	------------------	--------------------	------------------	----------------	----------------------	------------------	----------------------	--------------	----------------

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- carousel (new word)

now-

SIGNIFICANCE:

<u>ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</u>	<u>CONSERVATION</u>	<u>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC</u>	<u>ECONOMICS</u>	<u>LAW/Gov't/politics</u>	<u>SCIENCE</u>	<u>health</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>LITERATURE</u>	<u>SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</u>	<u>recreation</u>
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>ENGINEERING</u>	<u>MILITARY</u>	<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>settlement</u>
<u>ART</u>	<u>EXPLORATION</u>	<u>MUSIC</u>	<u>OTHER (SPECIFY)</u>	<u>socio/cultural</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>PHILOSOPHY</u>		<u>urban & commun</u>
<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>	<u>INVENTION</u>	<u>POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</u>		<u>planning</u>

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

Hershell-Spillman Co.,

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1911

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1950; 1937

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) .16

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

✓ classic 16-section, 3-abreast. Hershell-Spillman.
Merry-go-round. ^{features} ~~Animals are~~ of hand-carved poplarwood
~~animals; some cast iron animals added, 1950~~
~~In 1950 a fourth row of cast aluminum animals added.~~
Inner ~~and~~ outer conical ^{with festive} ~~consists of~~ hand-painted scenes;
Housed in wood frame structure, built in 1937; ~~and~~ some
cast-iron animals added, 1950. Excellent

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Fine example of early 20th-century carousel, which,
although moved, ^{has been} located in Tilden Park since 1948.