

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH0684562

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 19 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 27 1978

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

Mission Beach Roller Coaster or "Earthquake"

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1978

OHP

AND/OR COMMON

Belmont Amusement Park Roller Coaster

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3000 Mission Blvd. Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

San Diego

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

41

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE

04

COUNTY

San Diego

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of San Diego

William D. Evans

STREET & NUMBER

202 "C" Street

AND

MBA Incorporated

998 West Mission Bay Drive

CITY, TOWN

San Diego, CA. 92109

VICINITY OF

San Diego, CA. 92109

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

1222 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Diego,

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register No. 90

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

City Administration Building, Planning Department

CITY, TOWN

San Diego

California 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 "Earthquake" is a wooden roller coaster structure with an irregular footprint approximately 100 by 500 feet. The tracks total about 2,800 lineal feet, creating a graceful curvilinear manmade topography reaching a height of 75 feet. The structure is oriented with its length along a north/south axis paralleling the beach strand between the Pacific Ocean and Mission Bay.

From the east, close and distant views of the entire structure's extent are afforded. They show the vertical curvature and interlacing structural network of the tracks. Accompanying the tracks is a wooden footpath for maintenance purposes. One can see that the track reaches its highest points at each end with various intermediate rises and plateaus. The curved "Belmont" entrance sign is located off center left, mounted on the structural framework below a corresponding curved section of track.

The honesty of the roller coaster structure is emphasized by its economical use of materials and simple construction methods. The framework is constructed utilizing a series of cross-braced and buttressed vertical timbers. The basic elements include a typical vertical component consisting of two 6"x 6" wood posts spaced about eight feet apart. Each post is built up of members spliced end to end extending past the top wooden girder supporting the tracks to a continuous wooden railing. The two posts are connected with 2"x 6" horizontal wood ties spaced approximately ten feet apart vertically. Each ten foot bay is "X-braced" with 2"x 6" wooden members. The post splices are approximately 2½ foot long 2"x 6" pieces of wood, and all of the mechanical connections are accomplished with steel lag bolts or machine bolts.

This basic vertical component is spaced about eight feet on center along the length of the track, rising and falling in height according to the vertical curvature of the tracks. Connecting the vertical components are continuous 2"x 6" horizontal wooden members which are located at the connections of the component cross ties and posts and also at the midpoint between them.

"Flying Buttresses" are used for lateral stability and to resist the horizontal component of the external forces exerted by the roller coaster cars when making turns. The buttresses are wooden members generally emanating from the top girder and extending diagonally down to a post braced horizontally back into the main body of the structure. The economy of materials is expressed here by doubling the use of the buttress posts as supports for a lower, perimeter lane of track.

The tracks are rolled steel which are braced laterally to each vertical post. Various banks and curves are located throughout the length of the ride.

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PAGE one

Accessory to the basic roller coaster structure is a tunnel-like building located on its west side. The building houses the ticket booth and mechanical equipment, and provides a stopping place for the cars when loading and unloading passengers. The building is open on two ends with a wood frame and gabled roof, sheathed with corrugated metal and wood siding. A portion of the building was repaired in 1957 after a fire in 1954. It has been painted various colors from time to time.

As mentioned above, "Earthquake" is located in a beach setting. The beach is a narrow, sandy spit between the Pacific Ocean and Mission Bay. The structure is located in the Northeast Corner of Belmont Amusement Park. Nearby is the Mission Beach Bathhouse building, completed in 1925. It contains a larger than Olympic size swimming pool, The Plunge, which is still in use. The Earthquake and the Bathhouse building are the only remaining structures left in the park.

The "Earthquake" Roller Coaster location is also the Southwest corner of the main street intersection in the Mission Beach Community. This intersection — Mission Boulevard, running north to south, and Ventura Place, starting from the beach and extending east — is the hub for vehicle transportation. It provides the only access to "Old Mission" to the south and is the main terminus for beachgoers arriving from the east.

The surrounding development in Mission Beach is a mix of the original single family beach cottages and small scale commercial strip buildings, and the new redevelopment consisting of low rise multi-family buildings. Development is now limited to 30 feet high.

The consistently low building scale, coupled with the flat topography of the strand, has allowed for the roller coaster to continue to serve as a visual metaphor of the community's recreational spirit. The openness of Mission Bay and park areas to the east also allow this important visual quality to be retained.

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 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Prior and Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1925, Earthquake is an operable roller coaster, retaining its structural integrity and thus serving as an excellent example of a historically exhilarating kinesthetic and visual experience. It is one of two remaining older generation, wooden-scaffolded coasters on the West Coast. Typical of this kind of structure, which was once widespread throughout the nation, it is now one of the few remaining recreational facilities of its type. Only five of these older roller coasters are left in the Western United States. Earthquake's structure is the most visible symbol and, together with the Mission Beach Bath House, the last remaining vestige of the Mission Beach Amusement Center, which was a widely celebrated product of John D. Spreckels' ambitious development activities in San Diego between 1887 and 1926. The noted Spreckels sugar heir was considered to have been a major element in the reversal of San Diego's declining economy in the last decade of the nineteenth century.

Roller coasters developed from eighteenth century Russia's giant ice slides, a series of high, ice-covered hills for sledding. French engineers adapted the idea for an amusement ride with wheels at the end of the eighteenth century, and the concept spread throughout Europe. In the early 1880's, the roller coaster was introduced to America at Coney Island. At the peak of the U. S. roller coaster boom in the 1920's and 1930's, there were over 1500 coasters in this Country. During the 1950's and 1960's, many of the old wooden coasters were torn down to make way for redevelopment, and many have burned down over the years. A new wave of roller coaster building is currently taking place in theme parks as a result of a resurgence of public interest in the amusement rides. The new rides are generally metal structures, many in a recently developed corkscrew design. The total number of roller coasters in the U. S. today is only about two hundred.

The "giant dipper" opened July 4, 1925 with hundreds of people standing in line for the opportunity to ride on it. It was constructed in the Mission Beach Amusement Center by Prior and Church, builders of the Venice roller coaster. The entire Amusement Center was conceived and developed by John D. Spreckels, who engaged architect Lincoln Rogers and his associate F. W. Stevenson to draw up a comprehensive plan. At its opening on May 29, 1925, the Amusement

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Center included the Mission Beach Bath House with a 60' x 175' indoor sea water swimming pool, the Mission Beach Ball Room with a dance pavilion and cafe, the Mission Beach Roller (skating) Rink, the Luna Park Fun House, an exact reproduction of Le Palais des Joies in Paris, a carousel specially built in New York, and a paved parking area for over 1500 autos. Spreckels intended the Amusement Center to be an elaborate attraction. The pool was said to be the largest in the country, the Fun House the first of its kind in the U. S., the carousel the largest brought to California, and the roller coaster the largest on the West Coast.

The general manager of amusements and concessions for the Mission Beach company was Herbert S. Burns. Burns had been Florenz Ziegfeld's stage manager at the New Amsterdam Theater in New York for two rooftop revues, and then director of the Ziegfeld Follies for a year. For the gala opening of the Amusement Center, he composed the words and music for the "Mission Beach Fox Trot," which was performed by the 14-piece Mission Beach Symphonic Dance Orchestra. (The orchestra traveled to Los Angeles two nights before the opening to perform this piece on Radio Station KFI.) Dinner was served to over 400 people, including U. S. Senator Samuel Shortridge, while thousands attended the opening night celebrations. Bathing beauties from the Hal Roach Studios in Hollywood decorated the natatorium. Governor Friend W. Richardson sent State Senator Ed P. Sample to represent him in making the dedicatory address for the Bath House and Ball Room. Sample stated that the Amusement Center was "the latest and one of the most important contributions of John D. Spreckels to the upbuilding of San Diego." (San Diego Union, May 30, 1925.)

John D. Spreckels (1853-1926) arrived in San Diego from San Francisco in 1887 when the local land boom was dissipating and the City had inadequate port facilities, no direct railroad connection to the East and no control of its water supply. After the City gave him a free franchise to build a wharf in San Diego Bay, he started acquiring property in the area. At one time or another over the next 40 years, he owned the entire south side of Broadway from the Bay to the Plaza, as well as all of Coronado and North Island. He also acquired the Southern California Mountain Water Company, the San Diego Electric Railway which he rebuilt and rerouted, and the Union-Tribune newspaper and the First National Bank. In addition, he completed the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway, the Lower Otay Dam and the

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Hotel del Coronado when the originators of these projects ran into financial difficulty. He built the San Diego Hotel, the Union Building, the Spreckels Theater and the Golden West Hotel in Downtown San Diego and the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

The Mission Beach Company, a subsidiary of the J. D. and A. B. Spreckels Securities Company (owned jointly by John D. Spreckels and his brother Adolph), had completed the initial development of the Mission Beach community between 1914 and 1925 with the construction of a bridge to San Diego proper, boardwalks along the ocean and bay shorelines, streets, and sewer, water, and electric lines. Spreckels' San Diego Electric Railway Company had completed a street car line across the bridge to Mission Beach in 1924. In 1925, a terminal was completed across Mission Boulevard from the Amusement Center with a pedestrian subway leading to the front of the Bath House. Spreckels built the Amusement Center at a cost of approximately two and a half million dollars to stimulate real estate sales and attract passengers to the street car. Amidst the flat expanse of scattered beach cottages, the Amusement Center was a focal point, even more so at night with lighting totaling 40,000 candlepower.

After John Spreckels' death in 1926, the family company donated the Amusement Center to the City of San Diego by way of the State Park Commission. In 1937 title was transferred to the City with a fifty-year lease for the City to run the Amusement Center. In 1939 the State gave the City full title to the Amusement Center. The name was changed to Belmont Park in 1954 when the City negotiated a twenty-year lease with Jack Ray, a Canadian amusement park designer who redesigned the Park with an emphasis on family entertainment. Ray renamed the Park for a friend in Canada who had introduced him to amusement parks. That same year, the roller coaster, which was owned by the Mission Beach Coaster Company, caught fire and had to be closed down. Unable to make the repairs, the Coaster Company declared bankruptcy in 1957 and sold the roller coaster to Ray, who reopened it. Ray died in 1965, and in 1969 his widow sold the remainder of the lease to William D. Evans who renewed the lease in 1974.

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PAGE four

The Earthquake Roller Coaster and the Bath House are the only remaining structures in the amusement park. By October 1977, the City of San Diego had allowed the demolition or removal of all of the other structures and rides, including the carousel. Since that time, the City has decided to demolish the roller coaster to allow for a "passive" park. The renewed operation of the roller coaster would significantly enhance the proposed park redevelopment by providing a unique recreational facility unavailable elsewhere in San Diego County. Retention of the roller coaster would also maintain a landmark representing the recreational spirit of the development of the Mission Beach community by John D. Spreckels.

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San Diego Evening Tribune, November 22, 1977, B-1.

San Diego Reader, February 10-16, 1977, p.1.

San Diego Union, May 25, 28 & 30, 1925, June 7, 1925, July 5, 1925,
January 1, 1926.

"Tail spinning" Sunset (July 1976), pp.70-71.

"Those Roller Rides in the Sky" Time (July 4, 1977), pp.36-37.

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Ventura Place, proceed south approximately 600 feet to a point located along the eastern property line. Then turn to the west and proceed 200 feet due west, then turn to the north and proceed due north 600 feet to a point on the northern property line of the amusement park located on the southern side of Ventura Place. Then turn to the east and proceed along the northern property line back to the point of beginning.

PACIFIC

OCEAN FRONT WALK
STRANDWAY

ROLLER COASTER
MISSION BEACH AMUSEMENT CENTER

MISSION BLVD.

SAN FERNANDO PL

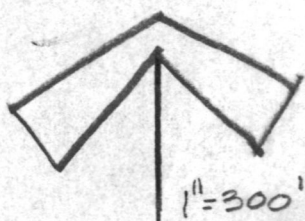
West MISSION BLVD.

Santa Barbara Cove

Bonita Cove

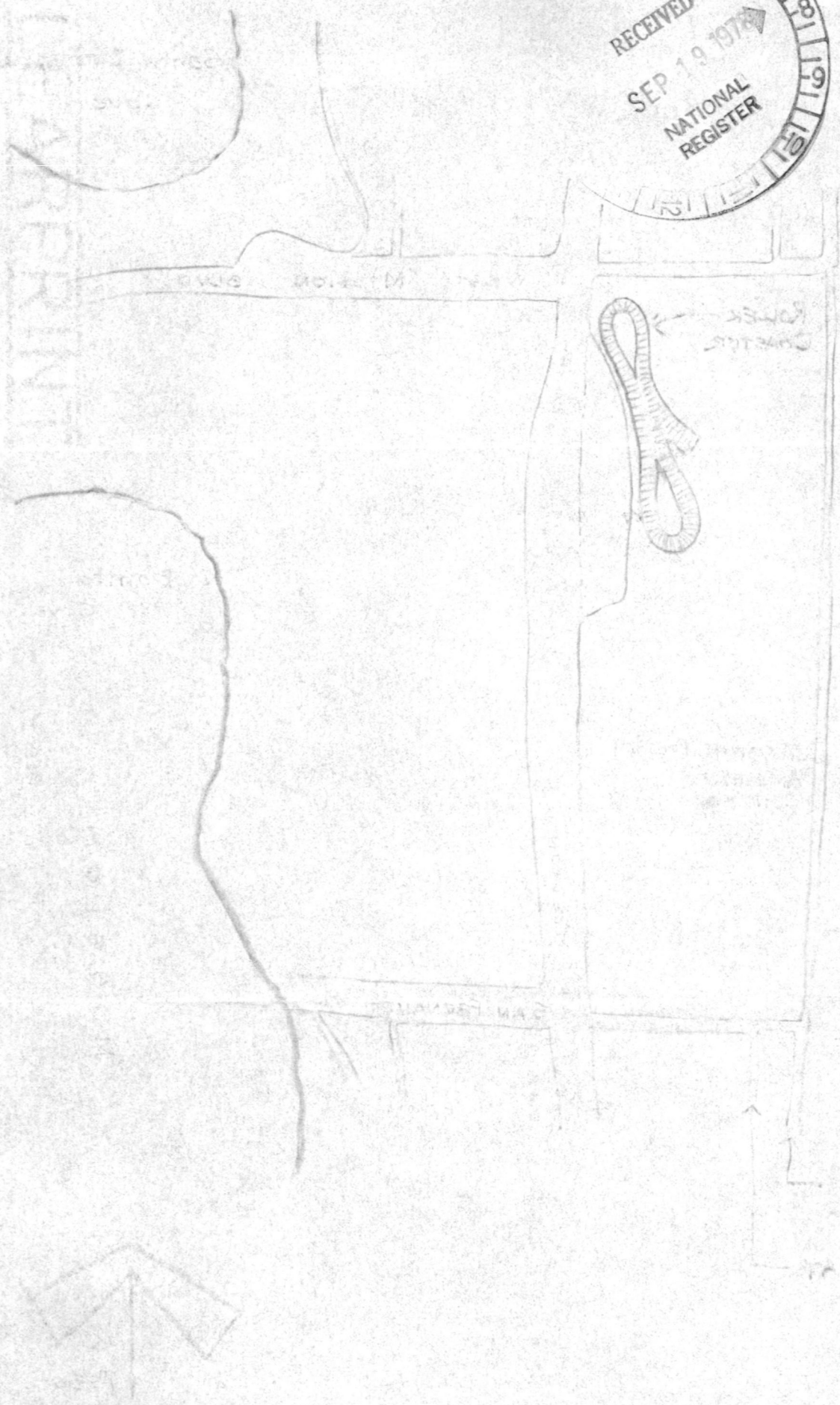
SEA

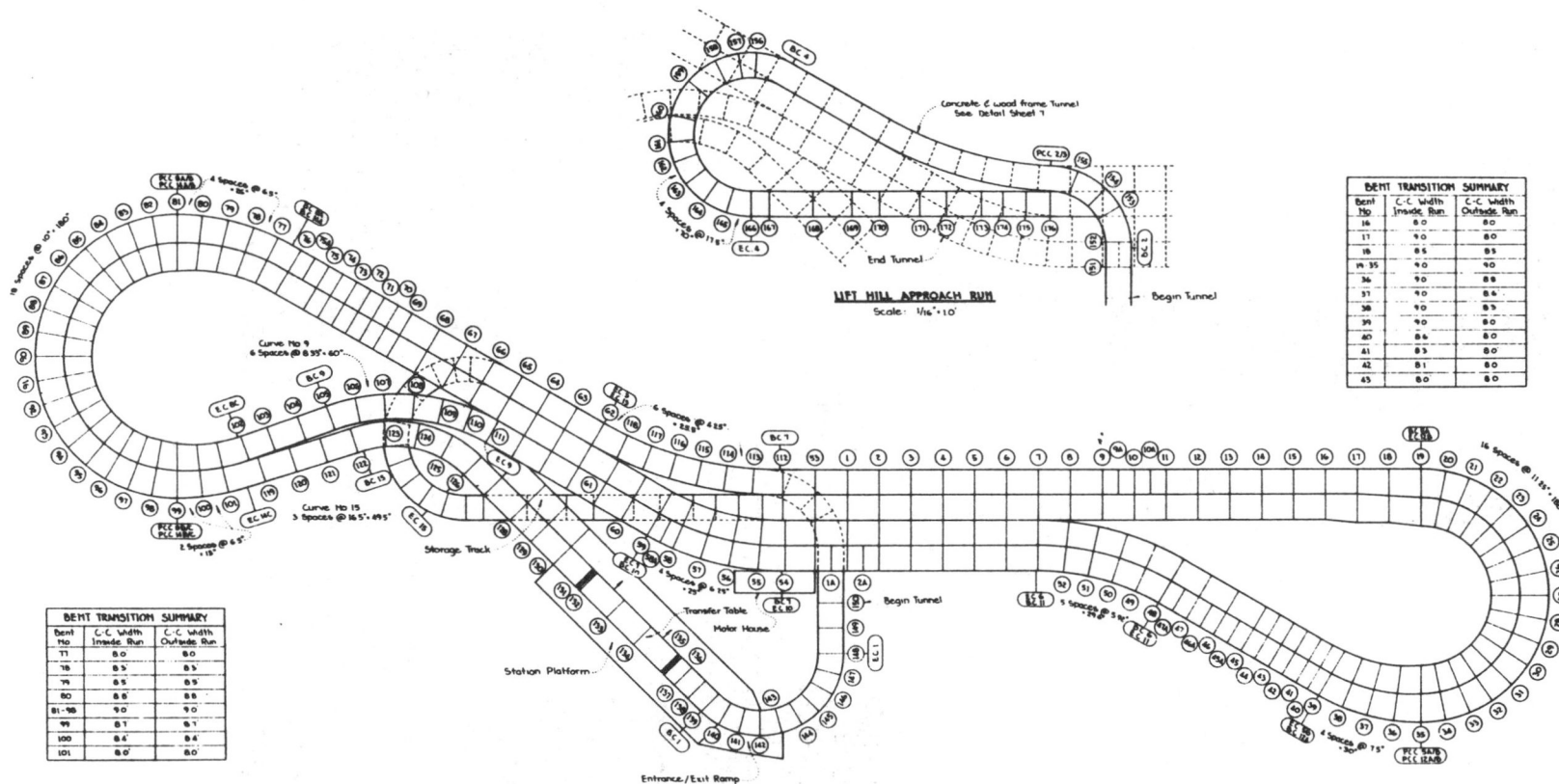
MISSION



SKETCH MAP - MISSION BEACH ROLLERCOASTER

DEC 27 1978





BENT TRANSITION SUMMARY		
Bent No.	C-C width Inside Run	C-C width Outside Run
77	8.0	8.0
78	8.5	8.5
79	8.5	8.5
80	8.8	8.8
81-88	9.0	9.0
89	8.7	8.7
90	8.4	8.4
101	8.0	8.0

NOTES

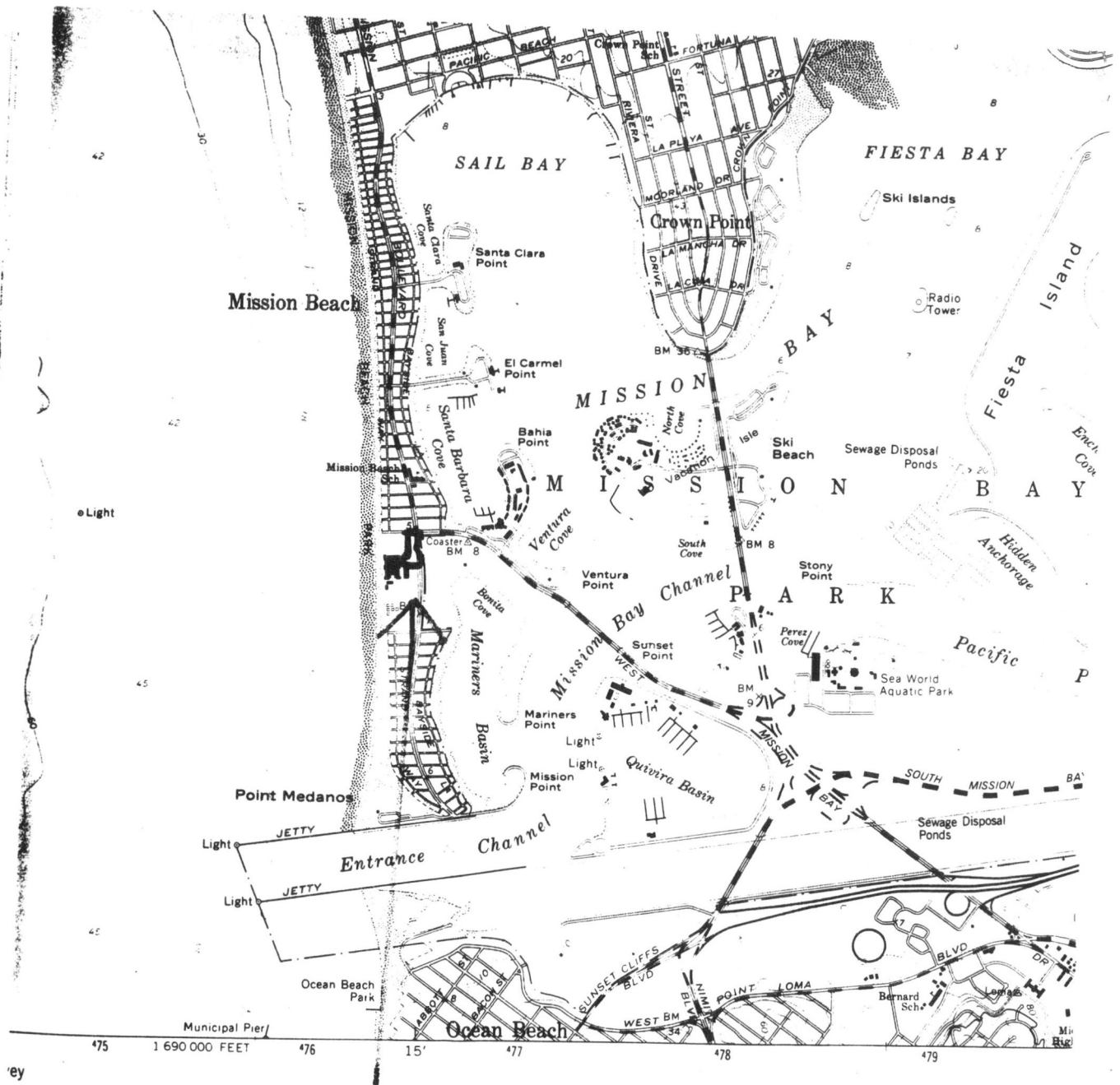
1. Typical bent width is 8.00 feet except as noted in Bent Transition Summary.
2. Lift hill approach run from bent no. 150 to bent no. 172 is in below grade concrete walled channel - see detail Sheet 7. Track through this section is supported by concrete and/or redwood piers buried in beach sand. Benches shown along this section support overhead trackage and/or serve as tunnel framing members.
3. All bent widening is toward inside of curve. Outermost uprights remain at 1.00 feet from layout line.

BENT PLAN

Scale: 1/16"=1'0"

BENT TRANSITION SUMMARY		
Bent No.	C-C width Inside Run	C-C width Outside Run
16	8.0	8.0
17	9.0	8.0
18	8.5	8.5
19-35	9.0	9.0
36	9.0	8.8
37	9.0	8.6
38	9.0	8.5
39	9.0	8.0
40	8.6	8.0
41	8.3	8.0
42	8.1	8.0
43	8.0	8.0

Horizontal cross-section plan of the Mission Beach Roller Coaster. (Save the Coaster Committee, 1984)



Mission Beach Roller Coaster, San Diego,
California
LaJolla Quadrangle
UTM References:
11/476 580/3625 810

Property

Mission Beach Roller Coaster

78000753

State

CA.

Working Number

9.19.78-4093

TECHNICAL

Photos

7

Maps

2

UTM incorrect

CONTROL

9.20.78

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Roller coaster is architecturally significant as a structure reflecting building technology of its type, one of a few remaining. Historic significance lies in its association with the wealth and development of the Mission Beach Community by prominent sugar heir John A. Spreckels. Negative public comments center on safety and expense of structure as it now exists. Why isn't bathhouse included? Call state.

HAER

Inventory

Review

Significant structure - with or without the bath house

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
W. R. Ruce
12/20/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

DEC 27 1978

Federal Register Entry

2.6.79

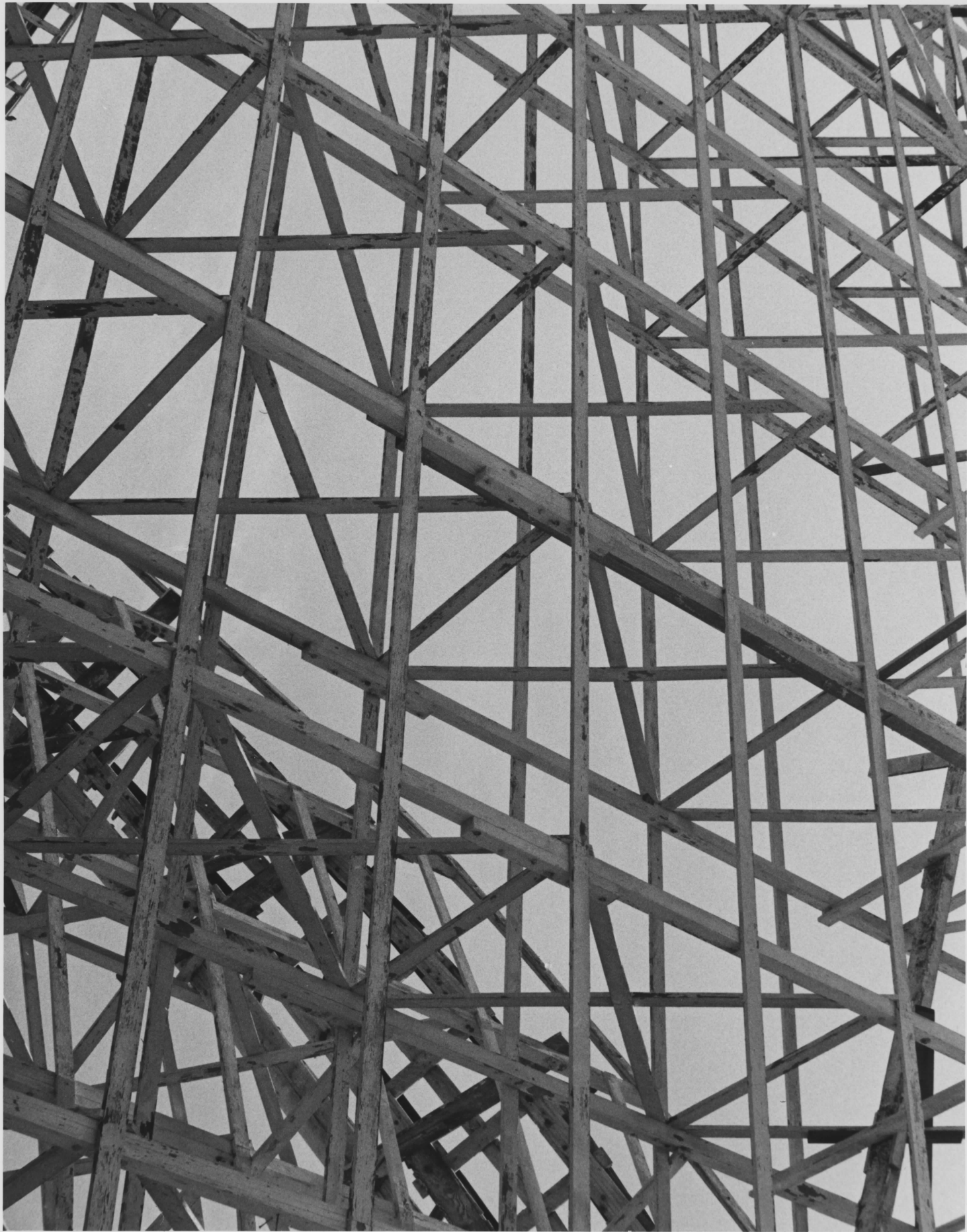
Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Mission Beach Roller Coaster, view from north-
west showing tracks and "terminal" building.
(Save Our Heritage Organization, 1978).











View of entrance to "Earthquake," the Mission Beach Roller Coaster, showing highest portion of the structure. (Save Our Heritage Organization, 1978).

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Mission Beach Roller Coaster

County, State

San Diego, CA

Reference Number

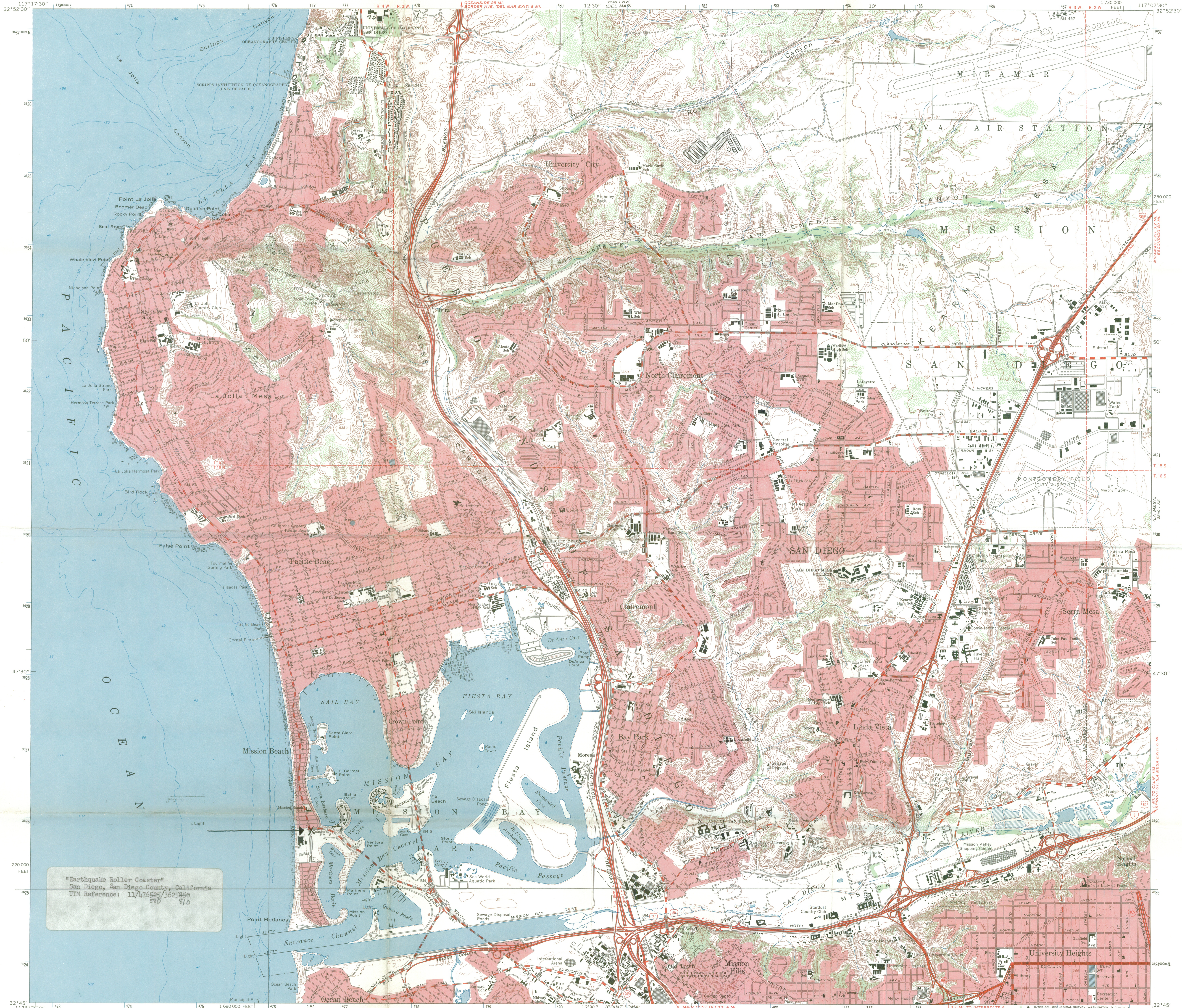
78000753

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (missing #2)

☐ USGS Map



"Earthquake Roller Coaster"
San Diego, San Diego County, California
UTM Reference: 11N76525/3625950
580 810

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and City of San Diego

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial

photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Supersedes map surveyed 1938-1939, revised 1953

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 5060 (1966)

and hydrographic surveys 1928 and 1934

This information is not intended for navigational purposes

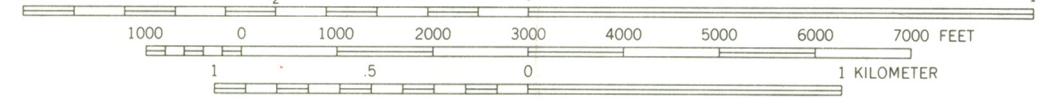
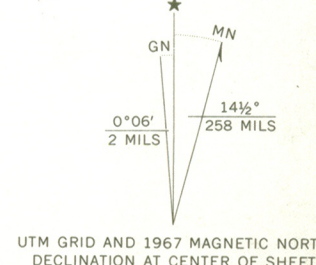
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 6

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

zone 11, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS 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 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate route	U. S. Route
	State Route

LA JOLLA, CALIF.
SW 1/4 LA JOLLA 13 QUADRANGLE
N3245—W117075/7.5 X 10

1967

AMS 2549 1 SW—SERIES V895



REPORT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



To the Honorable Mayor and City Council

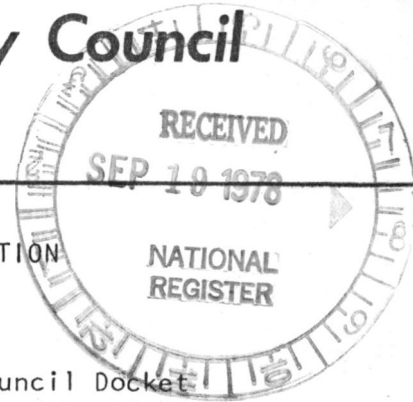
From the City Manager

DATE ISSUED: November 11, 1977

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Belmont Park Status Report

REFERENCE: Two Manager's Reports of April 19, 1977; Council Docket of April 20, 1977, Item 403; Council Docket of April 27, 1977, Item 208; Manager's Report of June 3, 1977; Council Docket of June 8, 1977, Item 104; Manager's Report of October 28, 1977.



BACKGROUND:

On June 8, 1977, after testimony on "The Viability of Retaining the Carousel and Roller Coaster" in a mixed active/passive park on the Belmont Park site, the City Council voted to allow M.B.A. Inc., the former lessee of Belmont Park, to remove its carousel and roller coaster, and directed the City Attorney's office to execute a contractual agreement between the City and M.B.A. Inc. for such removal and for payment of past rent owed.

DISCUSSION:

In accord with the terms of that contractual agreement which was entered into on June 8, 1977, M.B.A. Inc. has paid \$99,455.52 in satisfaction of rent owed, plus interest, and has begun removing all fixtures on the site, with the exception of the roller coaster, under a Coastal Commission Permit issued October 21, 1977. In the absence of contrary direction from Council, the City Manager will send written demand to M.B.A. Inc. to take all steps necessary including securing the necessary Coastal Commission permit(s) to remove the roller coaster within 90 days.

Respectfully submitted,


John W. Johnson,
Deputy City Manager

Mendoza/DR/RB



THE CITY OF

SAN DIEGO

CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 202 C STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92101

RECEIVED
AUG 14 1978
R.P.m.

OHP

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER
236-6363

August 11, 1978



Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Ref: Mission Beach Roller Coaster
3000 Mission Boulevard
San Diego, CA

Dear Dr. Mellon:

Per your communication of July 31, 1978, (attached) in regard to the State Historical Resources Commission's consideration of the Mission Beach Roller Coaster for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and your request to make comment, please be advised of the following:

The San Diego City Council, on June 8, 1977, directed M.B.A., Inc., the former leasee of Belmont Park, "to remove its carousel and roller coaster". See attached City Manager Report to Council dated November 11, 1977.

In light of the above action, you are informed that the City of San Diego currently opposes designation of the Mission Beach Roller Coaster as a historical site.

Sincerely yours,


John W. Johnson
Deputy City Manager

JWJ/pf

Attachment

cc: Paul Foxworthy



THE CITY OF

SAN DIEGO

CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 202 C STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92101

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER
236-6363

September 13, 1978

Mr. William Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

This is in regard to property known as the Mission Beach (Belmont Park) Roller Coaster. On September 1, 1978, the State of California Historical Resources Commission nominated that property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. State staff indicates the paperwork containing the nomination will be forwarded to your office in the very near future.

It is my understanding that there is a 30-day comment period before final action is taken to include the site in the Register. The City of San Diego may wish to comment on the appropriateness of the Mission Beach (Belmont Park) Roller Coaster's inclusion in the Register. I would appreciate your forwarding the materials required for the City to make that comment to: Mr. Jim Gutzmer, Development Division Superintendent, Conference Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101.

Sincerely,

Sue Williams
Deputy City Manager

JG/lk

cc: Park & Recreation Director
Council Representative Anderson
Development Div. Superintendent

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D SEP 19 1978

called Sue Williams & apprised
her of our notification &
commenting procedure.
Will send them cc of
notification 9.28.78

INITIALS

BH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811
(916) 445-8006



September 13, 1978

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attention: Charles Herrington

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We submit Mission Beach Roller Coaster for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is located in San Diego County in the 41st California Congressional District.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Knox Mellon".

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation

enclosure

sje



October 6, 1978
San Diego, CA

FR 10-3-78
Rec'd 9-19-78
Mission Beach
Roller Coaster

Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

It was with utter amazement and a sickening in the pit of the belly that I learned today that the local politicians are at it again, this time trying to get this awful, hazard-ridden wooden roller coaster in Belmont Park (San Diego) as a National historic item. This would mean a feather in the hat of the old Nixon crowd. Mr. Evans refused to pay taxes to the city while he ran the coaster as a toy, and during this period he was financing the Nixon ticket to the tune of many thousands of dollars. Never openly of course.

Also Mr. H. Arnholdt Smith, former president of the swindled and bankrupt empire including the U. S. National Bank was and is a close pal of Mr. Evans. The roller coaster area has long been known as the "shooting gallery" where the bums, dope addicts and rowdy trouble makers congregate for nefarious purposes. It has been YEARS since decent, law abiding citizens have gone near that place, YEARS!

In a time of rapid growth, the older people, families without private cars sure could use that area as a parkland, a place for family recreation. It is narrowing down to the point that the people have only Balboa Park, with few if any places in comfortable distance where families can go for picnics, ball games and out of door recreation, and in a very short time there will be nothing left in this area to put a family recreation park, only the very rich in La Jolla, Rancho Santa Fe and other such places will have access to beaches and playgrounds.

And do you believe for one minute that the greedy politicians in this city would pay for any upkeep on Belmont once the U. S. Government took over and made this a "historical site" Of course not, but the rest of the country's taxpayers would be paying for the upkeep and the same old problems that drove the decent people out of there years ago would still prevail.

While I know that not enough people realize what is happening to old Belmont (most people thought it was already settled that it was to go for a family type recreation area) so the only opinions against this becoming a U. S. Governmental landmark will be those of the politicians who have plenty to gain by not letting the people know what they are up to.

We so sorely need every cent that is possible for the Government to spend on our National Parks, the acquisition of more land for future use, it does seem mighty strange that such a thing as an old ramshackle, unsafe firetrap like the roller coaster would even rate consideration by those with enough brains to get out of the rain. A National monument for the dope addicts, the wretched rapists and dirty old bums that loiter and live there? Who is putting something over on old Johnny Q. Public who has to foot the bills? Our silly, wishy-washy mayor? Mr. Evans & company? Are they so afraid of the minority group that use this area for their own dirty tricks that they cannot say NO? It was not the heavy losses that closed this

filthy place down, it was because no one in his right mind would go there expecting anything but a shot of dope or risk a mugging and worse. Why not go to the man on the street, old Joe Blow who knows and tells it like it is? To whom did you listen? Certainly not the people who have lived, paid taxes and tried to keep this area a home-like decent place to raise their families...and we are still in the majority - the politicians believe that it is their oyster to use and abuse as they see fit, and to permit them to deprive future generations of open spaces and recreation area within a short bus ride is a very vicious attempt to shove more horse shit down our throats.

I am indignant about this move, it seems unbelievable after we had been led to believe that there was to be family recreational areas in Belmont Park, something that would benefit the entire area. Mission Beach ~~is~~ has already become so crowded that families have no hope of using it during the hot months, Pacific Beach and La Jolla have become private beaches and the public cannot get to the water or beaches except at a very few spots...and unbelievable crowds prevent any recreational use....and the next beaches are out of reach of those without private cars....a beautiful Olympic sized swimming pool and smaller ones for children would be a monument to good government and people would gladly pay a fee to use such a place, properly policed and directed it could be a lasting monument - and who needs that old fire trip of a coaster? The cost of putting it in safe condition for public use would be astronomical, and the Government pay the salaries, the pensions, etc, etc. for the maintenance people? Absurd, outrageous....and I could go on and on and sputter and it will mean nothing. This I am sure has already been decided and the little sop that 'subject to public comment' would be the deciding factor rates right along with all the other hot air blowing out of the GOP trough and the pigs who wallow in it together. Corrupt? Who kids who? It is sadly shameful that this could even be entertained in view of the greater needs for the greater population. I suppose saddened is more what one feels than anything else, trapped without recourse, and it is no wonder that 90 percent of the high school and all but perhaps 1 percent of the college students look upon our glorious representatives in Gov't as a pack of thieves, wolves and greedy liars...take a private poll among them sometime....never, never has the majority felt so little confidence in this government as they do today....wonder why? The syndrome is in the realm of things like Belmont Park, Tomsen Park and his elected henchmen and Mr. Vesco etc. etc. there is not room enough to list them all and name the since one by one - but get this straight....the public is on to them as never before and are tired, very tired of footing the bill for the politico's little private schemes.

INITIALS	177
DATE	10-17-78
No add res	
DATE RECEIVED	OCT 11 1978
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	

FR 10-3-78

Rec'd 9-19-78

October 6, 1978

Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
U. S. Department of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Mission Beach
Roller Coaster
San Diego, California

Gentlemen:

It stands there, a monstrous hulk with its rotting wood. The children climb on it. Will it really take the senseless death of one of them to make people realize that this "historic" eyesore is extremely dangerous?

It could be a park, with landscaped parking areas - a beautiful public area with direct access to the beach.

Even if tax dollars were spent for the guard patrols to keep the children away, and for the replacement of the rotted wood, and the upkeep so it wouldn't be quite so ugly, those same tax dollars could be used for far better things.

There is a time when some things old must give way to new and better things for the good of humanity. This is one of them. Please do not include the old rotted wooden roller coaster at Mission Beach in San Diego in the National Register of Historic Places. The people on the San Diego Historic Site Board could then realize a serious mistake, and do something constructive about it.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Welch

Mary A. Welch
831 Avalon Court
San Diego, California 92109

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

OCT 12 1978

DATE REC'D

(NAME OF PROPERTY NOT RECORDED)

NP, FS, SHPO List

DATE ACCESSIONED 10-17-78

INITIALS

KTP

Roller Coaster May Be Voted 'Historic'

The wooden roller coaster at Belmont Park is one of the sites in 11 states nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

A spokesman for the keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., said addition to the register can help provide some tax benefits and federal funds for maintaining and restoring historic places.

The nominees, the spokesman said, are subject to public comment until Oct. 13 before decision is made on including them in the register.

Interested persons may write to the Keeper of the National Register, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The roller coaster was for many years one of the main attractions of Belmont Park, built in 1921 by the Spreckels family to entice developers and real estate buyers to then-desolate Mission Beach area.

Shortly before World War II, the park was given to the city and in 1954, the city leased the park to a man named Jack Ray. When he died, his wife sold the last five years on the lease to William Evans, who also owns the Bahia and Catamaran hotels.

Because of heavy losses, the park was abandoned more than a year ago, but the roller coaster was designated a historic site by the San Diego Historic Site Board.

FR 10-3-78

Rec'd 9.19.78

Richard W. Amero
1787-1/2 Torrance St.
San Diego, CA 92113

Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archaeology &
Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

October 6, 1910

Dear Sir:

The Roller Coaster at Mission Beach
in San Diego should not be placed on the National
Register of Historic Places because:

It is not unique. There are many
roller coasters in the country, of wood and of steel,
which have the same undulating shape.

It is not useful. To use it in its
present condition is hazardous. To repair it by
rebuilding it with new timbers, in stages or all at
once, is no more historic preservation than building
a human being out of spare parts.

It is not famous because it is old.
Everything that has existed is historic as long as
it is remembered or written down; but this does not
mean we should live with all the visible remnants of
the past piled together in an enormous garbage heap.

History changes because it is a
living process. People, buildings and structures
die because they are decayed. We keep mementos of
the past, such as pictures, letters and books; but
we put bodies in the grave.

History refers to a time and place.
It is a context in which all parts fit.

In 1926 the Mission Beach roller coaster was part of such a context. People from all walks of life enjoyed fun and games at the Mission Beach Amusement Center. Mission Beach at the time was a collection of rolling sand dunes far from the center of population.

In 1978 the situation is different. The Mission Beach shore is lined with houses. There is not enough parking for the people who live there. During the beach season, which in San Diego is year-round, far too many people descend on the beach on weekends and holidays. An even greater number stays away to avoid the inevitable hassle. In the nighttime, rowdies, dope dealers and prostitutes take over.

We cannot roll back the years to the effervescent twenties; but we can adjust to the seventies and make room for the eighties and nineties. The Roller Coaster does not belong; even as a relic or piece of sculpture. Eventually it is going to fall apart like the famous One Horse Shay in Oliver Wendell Holmes' poem. With the foresight with which a forester gets rid of deadwood, we should tear the Roller Coaster down before it does unpardonable injury.

The grounds of the amusement center can become a small landscaped park for the enjoyment of families and children. As the grounds improve, the adjoining honky-tonk establishments will change. Everyone in San Diego . . . businessmen, tourists and taxpayers . . . will benefit.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Amero
Richard W. Amero

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE RECD	OCT 12 1978
(If not a new listing, check box)	
NP, FS, SHAD List	
(If not a new listing, check box)	
DATE TO BE RECD	10-17-78
INITIALS	KTP

October 9, 1978

To Keeper of the National Register,

I strongly urge you to
include the following in the
National Register of Historic Places:

The Roller Coaster
Mission Beach
San Diego, California

Engine House # 3
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Thank You,

JoL. Kelley

Mission Beach
Roller Coaster
FR 10-3-78

30 day
9-19-78

KATHLEEN KELLEY-MARKHAM
4281 WITHERBY STREET
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

Feb 3-78

Oct. 9, 1978

To: Keeper of the
National Register:

As a member of various
historic preservation organi-
zations, I strongly urge
you to include both the
^{Missouri}
^{Beck} Roller Coaster, Belmont Park
in San Diego and the
^{Feb 3-78} Batchelder House of Pasadena
in the National Register
of Historic Places.

Thank you.

Yours in preservation,
Kathleen Kelley-Markham

FR 10-3-78
Rec'd 9-19-78

Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

10/9/78

Mission Beach
Subject: WOODEN ROLLER COASTER - SAN DIEGO

Dear Sirs:

By chance we saw an article in the newspaper that suggested interested persons write regarding the addition of the roller coaster to the National Register.

We want to recommend a NO VOTE. We would like to see it removed - harsh but true.

Our interest is that of native San Diegans of 40 years. We live about 20 miles from the roller coaster and own an 11 unit apartment building 11 blocks away. If anyone likes to save things, it is us. We appreciate and respect the past; old buildings, cars, furniture, coins, historical sites, etc.

But, eventhough the roller coaster gave us (and our kids) many a thrill, its time has past. Without the cars and screaming riders, it remains an extreme, skeletal eyesore today. Not even a paint job (it would be expensive for sure) would make it right. We also feel it might be unwittingly helping to frustrate the efforts of the beach community to 'cleanup and be attractive' like days past.

We would like to offer an alternative to how it should be remembered. Closeby is the City lifeguard/and other landmarks and past events (photographs) headquarters where this could be exhibited. If any funds are allocated perhaps a collection of photographs of the roller coaster and other landmarks could assembeled in this lifeguard building - make it a representative historical Mission Beach exhibit. The roller coaster is only one memorable item from the past - how about the old Mission Beach Ballroom, amusement park, pictures of the old wooden boardwalk, etc.

We would like to see parks, grass and the surf when we drive by - unlike a lot of beaches in California, in San/Diego there is little "open space" and clearing the old amusement park and rollercoaster would provide a beautiful view of the surf.

Sincerely,

James B. Allen

Mr. James B. Allen II
4034 Apore Street
La Mesa, CA 92041

Darlene Allen

Darlene Allen

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
OCT 18 1978
DATE REC'D
NP
DATE OPENED 10-19-78
INITIALS LTP

FR 10-3-78

Rec'd 9-19-78

Mission Beach Roller Coaster



October 9, 1978

Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Sir:

Why are you making our roller coaster a National Landmark when the majority of the citizens of the community wish to have it demolished because it is an eyesore? The city of San Diego does not wish to accept the expense or the liability of maintaining it.

Its being made a landmark is the work of a few self-serving individuals and there has never been any public support for it.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Wagner

BLW/k

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE RECD OCT 18 1978

NP (ATTACHED)

(ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN 10-19-78

INITIALS LTP

FR 10-3-78
Rec'd 9-14-78

710 York Court
San Diego, 92109 Ca.
October 9, 1978

Keeper of the Register
Office of Archaeology and Historical Preservation
U. S. Dept. Interior, Wash. D.C. 20240

Dear Sir: Please do not place the Roller Coaster,
Belmont Park, San Diego, Ca. on the list of
Historical Preservation. I have lived almost
within its shadow for forty years. It is an
unsightly gaunt structure, through the years it operated
its raucous noise was a constant annoyance
to residents near by. In my opinion, to designate
the Roller Coaster a Historic Site, Structure, Monument
or whatever would be a mockery to the work of
your important organization. Removed, land on
which it rests could be restored to needed
Park uses.

Most Sincerely yours
Florence Christman

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D OCT 18 1978

NP

DATE FIELD TAKEN 10-19-78

INITIALS LTP

FR 10-3-78 10 October 1978
Rec'd 9-19-78

Dear Sir,

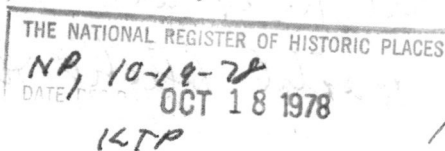
I am writing in regard to the proposed inclusion of the old roller coaster at Belmont Park Mission Beach in San Diego, CA into the National Register of Historic Places.

While the roller coaster is, admittedly, old (1921) and it did occupy the prominent spot in a park created to foster the development of the Mission Beach area. The expected development did occur, but I would term it trivial rather than historical. Mission Beach has to be one of the ugliest, hodge-podge areas in all San Diego and, perhaps, it is fitting that it be represented by an ugly, rusty, paint-peeling, wood-rotting eyesore.

To designate that mess will be to perpetuate the coastal blight that

was allowed to occur in the period after 1921. It would be far far better for future generations if the thing were torn down and converted into the only seaside park in that area.

I realize that you have no direct control on what might happen to that property in the future, but you will indirectly control what will not happen should the roller coaster be placed on the National Register. Please take a look at a picture of the roller coaster or, better yet, come look for yourself. I feel certain that you will agree that inclusion of the roller coaster as an Historical Place would be a disservice to the people of San Diego.



Sincerely yours,
Barbara Gardner

Dear Sir: - Mission Beach FR 10-3-78
Roller Coaster Rec'd 9-19-78

As a nearby resident of the Belmont roller coaster, and speaking for others in the area, it is hard to believe the roller coaster would even be considered "historic". Old ugly, termite eaten, used by boys to sleep under, yes, but nothing of interest to add to history or appeal to the sky line. If it disappeared it would be no loss to the city, the people or the area, just junk that takes up valuable property and an eye sore to the area.

Please take a real look and save many things really historical, this is just a blight & cost to tax payers.

Thank you,

Eleanore Jansen

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
OCT 18 1978
DATE RECD
NP
DATE FOR 10-19-78
INITIALS KTP



THE CITY OF

SAN DIEGO

CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 202 C STREET • SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92101

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER
236-6363

October 26, 1978

National Register of Historic Places
Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attention: Ms. Barbara Handy

Gentlemen:

The City Council of the City of San Diego has directed that this letter be submitted to respectfully appeal the nomination of the Mission Beach Roller Coaster as a historic structure to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the opinion of the City of San Diego that the roller coaster does not meet the criteria for the National Register, and it is recommended that the nomination be denied.

In our opinion, the roller coaster, as part of the area known as the Belmont Amusement Park, has nostalgic value, and if still part of the amusement park, might have historic value. However, the roller coaster now stands alone, and it is our opinion that by itself, it does not possess sufficient merit to be a historic structure. It is not the last roller coaster of its type, although that is not significant under the criteria. What is significant is that without the surrounding amusement park, it is not different from any other roller coaster of its or any other generation. Every structure built is somehow typical of the time period in which it is built, but there must be more than that to meet the Register's criteria in any way.

The roller coaster, as an individual structure, does not represent a particular historical period, nor has it contributed to the broad pattern of local, state or national history. The late John D. Spreckles is the person connected with building the amusement park and the roller coaster. It was but a small part of his specific contributions to the development of San Diego, intended to promote land sales and encourage usage of his trolley car line which once ran to the site.

The roller coaster also fails to meet the criteria that it embodies distinctive architectural characteristics or that it represents a type, period or method of construction. As wooden roller coasters of similar types continue to be constructed, it would seem that any architectural significance is in the design drawings rather than the structure itself.

Mission Beach Roller Coaster

Fed. Reg 10-3-78

rec'd 9-19-78

TRA 9-27-78

Finally, there is no element of cultural heritage to be preserved by the roller coaster as an individual structure. Roller coasters have always been the very visible symbol of one form of recreation: fairs, carnivals, amusement parks and so forth. Only the larger entity can be considered as historically significant, especially when both the number of amusement parks and visually identical roller coasters are increasing. At the public hearing on this appeal before the City Council, a citizen noted that he felt the State Commission had been motivated by the excellence of the writing in the nomination, rather than looking deeply enough at how well the criteria were addressed: The City Council of the City of San Diego concurs and requests that the nomination be denied on the grounds that the roller coaster, as an individual entity, does not qualify as a historic site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Williams".

SUE WILLIAMS
Deputy City Manager

JG/b

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **OCT 31 1978**

(ATTACHED)

()

()

DATE /C/ R/

INITIALS

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT:

Mission Beach Roller Coaster.

TO/FROM:

Bill Herrington

DC

DATE:

11-17-78

ADDRESS:

San Diego

PHONE:

.

STAFF MEMBER:

Handy

DIVISION:

NR

REPORT:

Mission Beach
Roller Coaster

city owns property
indiv. owns structure

Herrington wanted to know
status of nomination - Effect
of listing - particularly interested
in ~~penal~~ penalties attached to
demolition.

CK Pending

Handy 11-8-78
Branham for Helovick
11-9-78
Hunt
11-9-78

H32-NR

NOV 21 1978

Ms. Sue Williams
Deputy City Manager
City Administration Building
202 C Street
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Ms. Williams:

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed listing of the Mission Beach Roller Coaster, San Diego, California, in the National Register of Historic Places. *County*

The National Register will review your comments concerning the significance of the property during the review process and will provide a copy of your comments to State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Knox Mellon, Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Resources Agency, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811.

If the property is accepted for listing in the National Register, notice will be placed in the "Federal Register." If additional information is needed to complete the evaluation, or if it is determined that the property does not meet the National Register criteria for evaluation (section 60.6 of 36 CFR Part 60), the nomination will be returned to the State with explanatory material.

We appreciate your participation in the National Register commenting process.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

cc: Dr. Knox Mellon, California SHPO

bcc: Director's Reading File
NR

FHR: BHandy:mjd

353-6401 11/6/78

BASIC FILE RETIANED IN NR

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Mission Beach Roller Coaster

TO/FROM: Aaron Gallup

DATE: 12/22/78

ADDRESS: Calif. SHPO

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: Saxe

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Ray asked me to find out from Aaron what the plans are to nominate bathhouse in addition to roller coaster.

Aaron said sponsors are working right now on amendment to add bath house ^{+ boardwalk}. Recommends listing roller coaster.

I told him Ray had mentioned that bathhouse might be sent as ~~as~~ separate new nomination, not just amendment. He will discuss w/ Ray.

Meanwhile - Ray recommends accept as is without bathhouse. Coaster is threatened by ~~both~~ deterioration. ~~and~~ ~~de~~ Think now that City intends to restore coaster for recreational use.

Saxe

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered DEC 27 1978

Name

Mission Beach Roller Coaster

Location

San Diego
San Diego County

Also Notified

Honorable S.I. Hayakawa
Honorable Alan Cranston
Honorable Bob Wilson

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Knox Mellon
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Our park planning goes awry

By EVONNE SCHULZE

Several years ago, Mayor Wilson proudly bestowed the title, "America's Finest City" on San Diego. We are blessed with a wonderful climate and beautiful ocean, but nature alone does not a fine city make. Look to the north and see Los Angeles. Abundant sun and a beautiful coastline were not enough to save Los Angeles from its urban doldrums.

And merely repeating the slogan does not secure our elevated position. Today, San Diego politicians, with Prop. 13 stuffed in their hip pockets, suddenly seem determined to destine us to the fate of Los Angeles.

It is our past leaders, not our current leaders, who are responsible for the quality of life we enjoy in San Diego today. These past leaders dreamed about, planned and built Balboa Park, Mission Bay, Presidio Park and a network of parks and recreational services throughout the city.

But what are our current City Council members dreaming about and planning today? It behooves us to look closely at their plans, for today's plans are tomorrow's city.

Drastic cuts in next years Park and Recreation operating budget are

OMBUDSMAN

being shaped. A nearly \$2 million cut is now on the drawing board.

Mayor Wilson has called for a review of park standards, and the new standards presented reflect the notion that San Diego cannot afford to maintain its current level of park service. "Reduce the standard" is the command being given. "Build less and build smaller neighborhood park facilities." Also, a massive fee structure for park and recreation services is now being constructed.

Where will all these plans take us? We will see playground programs eliminated, recreation centers with closed doors, and more and more people squeezed onto shrinking plots of grass. We will pay for tennis, pay for meeting rooms and pay for grass on which to play ball. We tolerate the coin-operated kiddie rides in front of supermarkets that private industry has provided us, but can we accept coin operated swings in our parks? Is this to be the future of "America's Finest City?"

The City Council clearly seems to be faltering in its commitment to preserve what we have and to insure our place as one of tomorrow's fine cities. When questioned about the direction it is taking, one hears Prop. 13 hysterically quoted.

We must remind them that on the

same ballot with Prop. 13 was Prop. C. Prop. C also passed. It directed the city to purchase and thus preserve canyon lands for future San Diegans. The importance of open space, green space, recreation and quality of life was strongly reaffirmed by San Diegans as they marked yes for C. This was also a clear message to our council.

Prop. C helps us to understand the meaning of the Prop. 13 phenomenon. Prop. 13 was not a license to institute new taxes and call them user fees. It was not a license for the council to abandon San Diego to the fate of Los Angeles. It was a cry for help from the people who were feeling panicked to see that inflation was robbing them of a quality of life they wished to preserve.

Do our elected officials understand? Can they rise to the challenge? The initial responses by our government do not look very positive. Mayor Wilson will soon have to remove his "America's Finest City" plaque and dust off the old "City in Motion" slogan, for we will be going down!

Evonne Schulze is director of community education for the San Diego Unified School District and was an unsuccessful candidate for the City Council in last year's election.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Mission Beach Roller Coaster		2 OTHER NAMES: Earthquake Belmont Amusement Park		3 date of entry: DEC 27 1978	4 county code: 073			
5 LOCATION street & number 3000 Mission Blvd.		city / town San Diego	vicinity of Roller Coaster	state CA	county San Diego			
6 NPS REGION: Western								
7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☒ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name) <u>public private</u>				8 ADMINISTRATOR:				
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL		10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO	11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 41	12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☐ STATE ☐ FEDERAL				
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		15 ACREAGE ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION				
16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown		17 features: <table border="0" style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9 </td> </tr> </table>				INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7	EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8	ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9
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18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO				
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 _____				
22 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		23 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		24 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐				
25 architectural style(s):		26 architect:		27 master builder:				
28 engineer:		29 landscape architect / garden designer:		30 interior decorator:				
31 artist:		32 artisan:		33 builder/contractor:				
34 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:								
35 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP								

MISSION BEACH ROLLER COASTER
(Resource Name)

76000753
(Reference Number[s])

11 / 03 / 2017
(Date Form Completed)

SAN DIEGO
(County)

CALIFORNIA
(State)

WACC
(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING _____ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED _____ 3. NHL Y 4. TR _____ 5. MRA _____ 6. OVERSIZED _____ 7. NPS UNDOCUMENTED _____ 8. DOE- OWNER OBJECTION _____ 9. RESTRICTED _____

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ();
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ();

2. _____
(Cause for Removal)

(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

02 / 27 / 1987
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If Multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If Multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

(Target Date)

COMMENTS: (Where found or source of replacement)

(Date Found/Replaced)