

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUL 4 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Carrousel at Glen Echo Park

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

MacArthur Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Glen Echo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE
24

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

031

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 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Capital Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20242

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Park Service List of Classified Structures

DATE

1977

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Historic Resource Services Division, National Capital Region, NPS
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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 carrousel at Glen Echo Park (formerly Glen Echo Amusement Park) consists of a suspended stage and canopy divided into 18 bays or segments. It contains 52 carved wooden animals in three concentric rings around the stage and two decorated circus chariots with fixed wheels, each having two seats. The animals include 39 horses, four ostriches, four rabbits, and a single deer, tiger, giraffe, and lion, all bearing fanciful saddles with colorful saddle blankets and harnesses. The carrousel and its accompanying Wurlitzer Band Organ are housed in a 12-sided building with a segmented domed roof.

The canopy of each of the 18 identical segments of the carrousel consists of a vaulted ceiling terminating on the inner end at an arched tympanum containing a cartouche with a shell and laurel leaves as decoration. Below each tympanum are supporting gold wooden foliated corbels. Below the corbels is a rectangular mirror in a gesso frame angled downward to reflect the animals and their riders. Separating the mirrors between segments are vertical foliated moldings bearing electric light bulbs; these moldings align with overhead beams, similarly lighted, extending out between the vaulted ceiling bays. Between the corbels and the mirrors is a lighted horizontal molding, and below the mirrors is a colorful festoon molding from which more light bulbs are suspended. Where the bays intersect, the festoon is broken by winged cherubs' heads in cartouches.

The wooden outer cornice of the canopy is elaborately carved and painted. It features 18 carved court jester heads in cartouches alternating with 18 gold gesso-framed mirrors. These motifs are tied together with exuberant curved baroque moldings. Electric light bulbs surround the cartouches and the gesso frames and line the underside of the curved molding along the bottom of the cornice. Each finely carved jester has a white face with a red or blue ruff and sleigh bells attached to its hair. The bottom molding is broken by a festoon of flowers below each jester and a classical head framed in laurel leaves beneath each mirror.

The mechanical operation of the carrousel is similar to that of post mills. The entire carrousel is supported by a vertical post braced by two cross-trees which are in turn braced by quarter bars between the post and cross-trees. As in mill construction, all of these members are jointed and bolted. At the top of the post is a thrust bearing to which is attached a series of iron tie rods descending in a diagonal manner. The carrousel is suspended from these rods, which attach to the 18 radiating canopy support arms. The centermost ends of these wooden arms are attached below a ring gear which is bushed from the central post. This gear meshes with 18 pinion gears at the ends of 18 horizontal cranks which, through double offsets, cause the two inner rings of animals suspended from them to rise and fall. Attached below these 18 radiating horizontal beams is a large sectional cast iron annular gear which is driven by a pinion gear atop the main vertical driveshaft. Power is applied to this shaft from an electric motor through a pair of bevel gears and a belt drive. There is a friction brake adjacent to the large pulley of the belt drive.

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Lighting is supplied by three commutator rings located inside the annular drive gear, immediately below the 18 radiating arms. This allows all lights to burn regardless of the rotation of the carrousel (up to approximately 4.75 rpm).

The exterior of the carrousel house is suggestive of a 12-sided barn with large double doors at each bay. Each door contains glass panels and is bordered by overhead transoms and sidelights. The bays are separated by piers of stone up to approximately five feet and brick for another five feet. Jutting out from each pier is a wooden brace which supports a hammerbeam that rests on the upper portion of the pier. The hammerbeams support the lower, outer roof around the perimeter of the building as well as the 12 arched rafters of the raised central domed roof. These rafters consist of 2x6s bolted together and curved to form the vaulted line of the dome. To them are attached purlins supporting roof joists to which is attached sheathing forming the substructure for a composition shingle roof (not original). A wood-shingled drum fills the vertical space between the lower, outer roof and the central vaulted dome, which is bell-shaped in profile. The dome is topped by an ornamental metal finial.

A Wurlitzer Military Band Duplex Orchestral Organ, style no. 165, is located on one of the 12 interior walls of the carrousel house and accompanies the operation of the carrousel. Although this is probably not the organ originally installed, it is contemporary with the carrousel and an exceptionally fine example of such organs.

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		Entertainment

SPECIFIC DATES 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gustav and William Dentzel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Glen Echo carrousel is significant as an exceptionally fine example of the art of carrousel building. Of some 200 carrouseles in the United States of approximately the same vintage, it is among the top six or seven in quality. It appears to be the only carrousel of its age and quality remaining in its original location.

The carrousel was built in Philadelphia in 1921 by the firm of Gustav and William Dentzel, one of America's most prominent carrousel makers. Shortly thereafter it was shipped to the Glen Echo Amusement Park, which operated from the turn of the century until the late 1960s, and became a principal feature beloved by generations of Washington area children.

When the amusement park closed, the carrousel was sold to a Virginia collector. Aroused Glen Echo citizens raised the \$80,000 necessary to repurchase it for retention in the community. Shortly after the U.S. Government purchased the park property in 1970 for administration by the National Park Service as Glen Echo Park, the Park Service accepted title to the carrousel and the responsibility for maintaining and operating it. It continues in active use.

Of the Glen Echo Park features remaining from the amusement park period, only the carrousel and its house are presently judged to possess significance under the National Register criteria. The present environment of the carrousel does not contribute to its significance and is therefore excluded from this nomination.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Frederick Fried. "Last Ride for Carousel Figures?" Historic Preservation, July-September 1977.
- Benjamin Levy. "Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac." National Park Service Division of History, 1977.
- "Return of the Glen Echo Carousel." Home/Life, The Washington Star, March 13, 1977, pp. 12-13.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1
UTM REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 1 8 3 1 4 7 0 0 4 3 1 4 9 6 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The carrousel and its house are located in the center of Glen Echo Park. The National Register boundary coincides with the outer perimeter of the carrousel house.

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 Gary Scott, Historian
Nicholas Veloz, Curator

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Region, National Park Service

DATE

March 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

TELEPHONE

(202) 426-6660

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20242

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature] 4-9-80

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

[Signature] Acting Fed. Representative

DATE

4/21/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

7-4-80

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

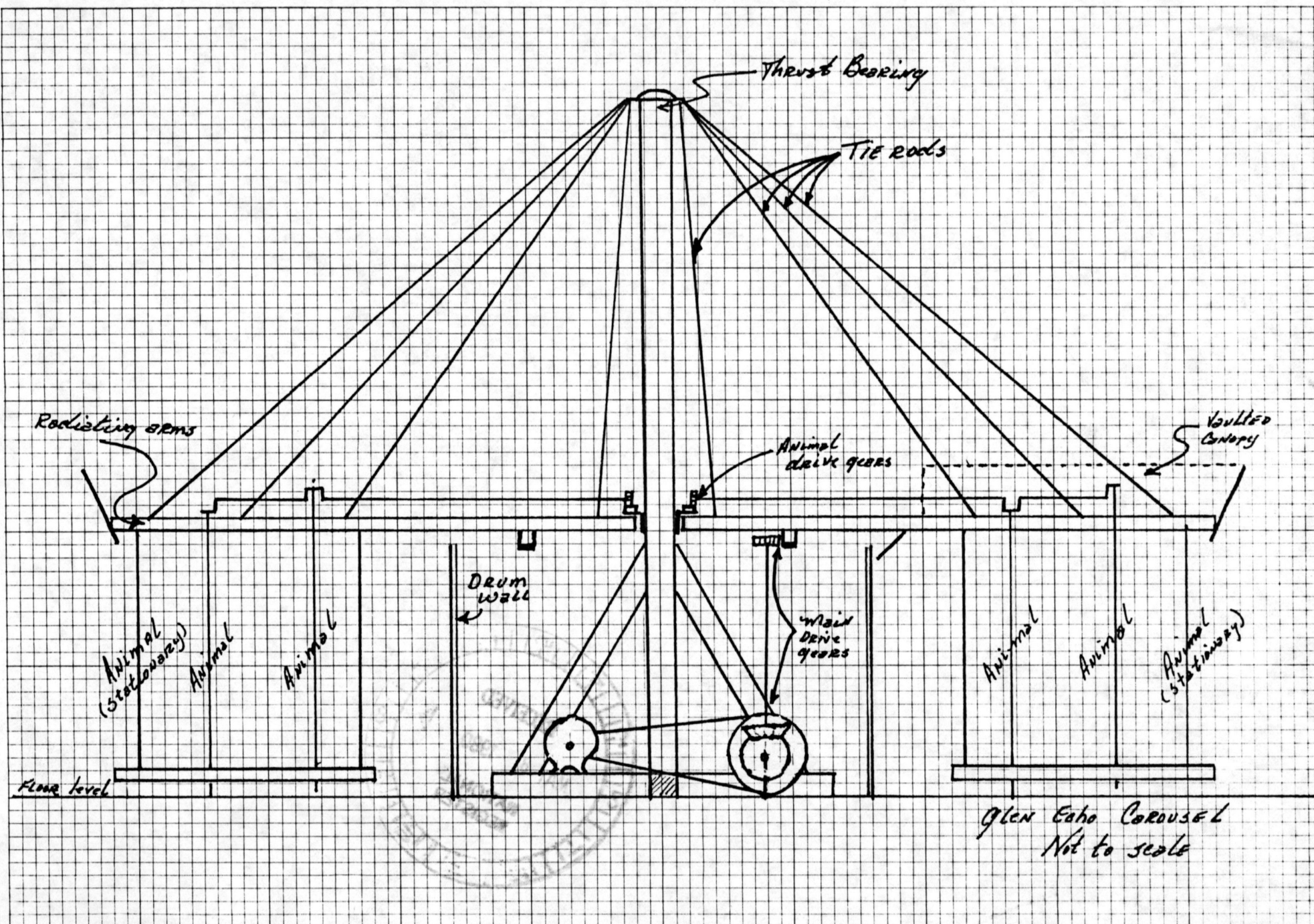
[Signature]

DATE

7-1-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator





JUL 4 1980

Property

Carroussel at Glen Echo Park

State

MD, Montgomery

Working Number

5.8.80.1298

80000351

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept.
Safe
7-1-80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
Safe
7-1-80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered

JUL 4 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.2.82

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

8600351
6

350



JUL 4 1980

Carrousel at Glen Echo Park - House
National Park Service 1977

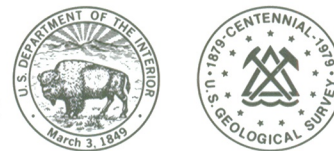
MAY 8 1980



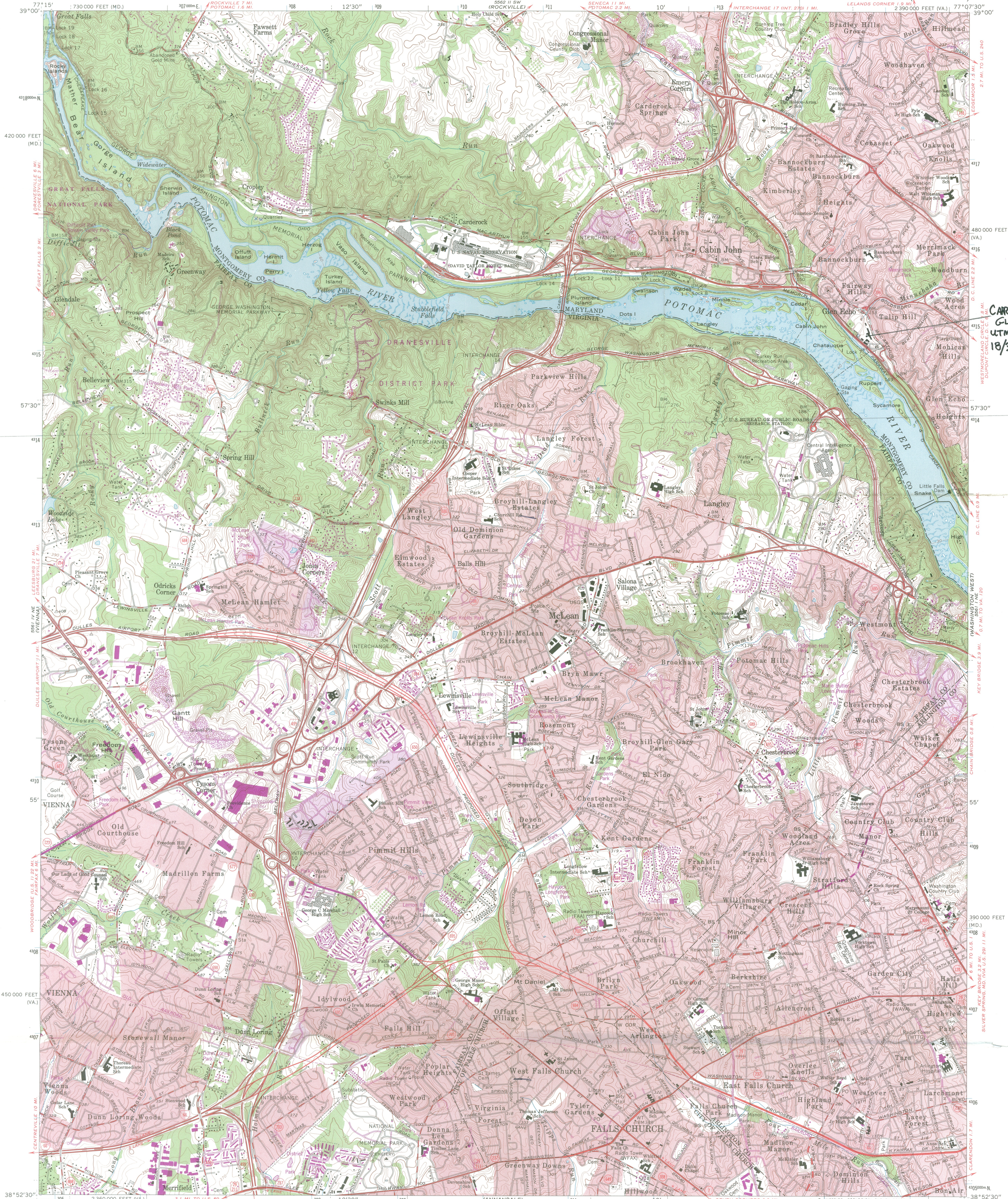
JUL 4 1980

Carrousel at Glen Echo Park MAY 8 1980
National Park Service 1977

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



FALLS CHURCH QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, NCPS, and WSSC
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system,
north zone, and Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 8 meters south and
26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark
buildings are shown

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest
information available from the controlling authority

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
VIRGINIA

FALLS CHURCH, VA.-MD
N3852.5-W7707.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 5561 1 NW-SERIES V834

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1980
NATIONAL
REGISTER

JUL 4 1980



H32-NCR(PHR)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
1100 OHIO DRIVE, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

1980 APR 15

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Cultural Resources
From: Acting Regional Director, National Capital Region
Subject: National Register nomination, Carrousel at
Glen Echo Park

The subject nomination, including form, map, diagram, and photographs, is enclosed.

An earlier version of this nomination was reviewed and approved by your staff in June 1978. We subsequently revised it to more accurately describe the carrousel's mechanical operation and highlight its significance, but no substantive changes have been made. The nomination is now ready for your signature and transmittal to the National Register.

Robert Horton

Enclosures





JUL 4 1980



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32(565)

APR 22 1980

Memorandum

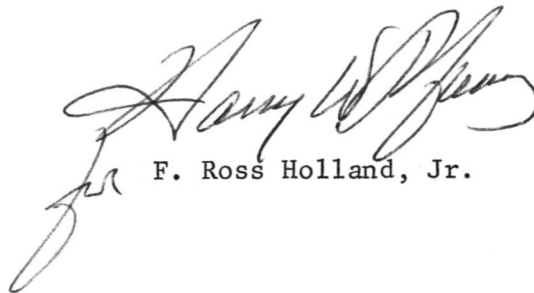
To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places,
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

From: Federal Representative, National Park Service

Subject: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed is the nomination "Carrousel at Glen Echo Park," National Capital Region of the National Park Service, submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in compliance with Executive Order No. 11593.

We are also requesting that an immediate determination of eligibility be made under the provisions of 36 CFR 63.3 for pending 106 compliance action. Please send a copy of the determination notice to Ms. Amy Schlager of the Advisory Council. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.


F. Ross Holland, Jr.

Enclosure



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	APR 23 1980
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE ACTION TAKEN _____	
INITIALS _____	

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

10/1/80

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10/1/80

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Nicholas Veloz, Curator

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Region, National Park Service

DATE

March 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

TELEPHONE

(202)426-6660

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20242

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Henry W. Jones, Acting Fed. Representative

DATE

4/21/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MARYLAND

Date Entered JUL 4 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Chautauqua Tower	Glen Echo Montgomery County
Carrousel at Glen Echo Park	Glen Echo Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
Honorable Michael D. Barnes
Mr. David F. Hales, Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and
Parks
Mr. F. Ross Holland, National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. J. Rodney Little
John Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

NR

7/23/80

Byers/mjd

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.