

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

RECEIVED
JUN 20 1991

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. Type all entries.

1. Name of Property CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER

historic name

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 834 SURF AVE at W. 10TH ST. | | not for publication

city, town BROOKLYN | | vicinity

state NEW YORK code NY county KINGS code 047 zip code 11224

3. Classification

Ownership of property	Category	Number of resources within property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☐ building(s)		4 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☒ structure	1	objects
	☐ object	1	4 Total

Name of related multiple property listings: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, this property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

6/13/91
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ see continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain):

Patrick W. Andrus

6/25/91

Signature of keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and Culture
Outdoor recreation

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)
Recreation and Culture
Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
no style

Materials(enter categories from instructions)
foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other wood, steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cyclone Roller Coaster, also known simply as the Cyclone, was built in 1927 on a 75- by 500-foot lot at the intersection of Surf Avenue and West 10th Street in Coney Island, Kings County, New York. According to roller coaster terminology, the Cyclone is classified as a gravity ride of the wood-track twister type (a compact configuration that turns on itself). The ride's three trains, two of which can run at the same time, consist of three linked cars which accommodate eight riders each. A motor-driven chain hoisting mechanism pulls the cars up to the first plunge; thereafter, the trains travel on their own momentum, reaching speeds up to sixty-eight miles per hour and maintaining velocity over the three thousand feet-length of track. The Cyclone remains at its original Surf Avenue location as a featured ride of the Astroland Amusement Park, and is the only roller coaster to remain in operation at Coney Island, a seaside area of Brooklyn which was once dominated by the carnival-like atmosphere of amusement park rides and attractions.

The Cyclone's structure is a steel framework of vertical I-beam posts connected by horizontal tie bars and diagonal cross-bracing members secured by riveted steel plates. This scaffolding-like system supports the wooden track and railings, following the twister-type configuration as it executes six fan turns and nine drops. The ride ends within a tunnel-like frame enclosure, as brakes slow the forward progress of the trains and return them to the coaster's starting point at the loading platform. Renovations to the Cyclone in 1939 reduced the height of the first drop by five feet; in addition, some of the coaster's curves were realigned at that time to provide a quicker, more jolting ride. The only other alterations to the structure itself involve routine maintenance repairs and replacement of deteriorating parts over the years.

[X] See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Avenue at W. 10th St.
Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Incandescent lights, some of which are attached to the structure by original curved lightposts, follow the Cyclone's contours. Illuminated metal letters, produced by Manheimer & Weiss of New York, spell out "CYCLONE" on each side of the ride's highest peak. More recent signage, advertising "ASTROLAND" in painted letters, has been erected above the historic signage, but does not obscure it. Another sign, apparently dating to the Cyclone's renovations of circa 1939, is affixed to the structure on its Surf Avenue side and vertically spells out "CYCLONE" in neon letters of a modernistic typeface.

The ride's starting platform, entered via a ticket sales area on West 10th Street, is sheltered by a steel arch-framed, gable-roofed canopy whose open sides feature segmental arcades. Incandescent bulbs outline the shelter's architectural features, illuminating the passenger waiting area as well as the coaster operator's station. The Cyclone's original mechanical system was built by Eisenberg Brothers of Brooklyn and housed in a machinery room adjacent to, and partially underneath, the starting platform. The modern mechanical system (installed at an undetermined date) is currently housed in this room. Other resources within the property's historic boundaries include two non-contributing storage sheds beneath the coaster's southern loop and two non-contributing souvenir stands/ticket sales booths (post-dating the period of significance) along the Surf Avenue boundary. The open spaces between the coaster and its historic property boundaries are currently paved and used primarily for storage of building materials and as private parking. The boundary is delineated by a surrounding non-historic metal chain-link fence.

The Cyclone's setting has been altered to some extent due to a decline in the number of amusement parks operating at Coney Island. Its eastern boundary is now marked by the New York Aquarium's parking lot, where originally an amusement park or ride once stood. Originally, the Cyclone was built as an individual ride for Jack and Irving Rosenthal. It remains an individual ride today under license to the owners of Astroland Amusement Park; their park, with its collection of rides, is just across West 10th Street from the Cyclone (to its west). Astroland helps to provide a carnival-like atmospheric setting similar to that which historically characterized much of Coney Island.

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The Cyclone Roller Coaster
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

improved transportation networks -- railroad service from Brooklyn and the Ocean Parkway -- brought larger crowds and improved facilities to Coney Island. Grand hotels and restaurants arrayed on the shoreline accommodated wealthy vacationers. In addition to bathing in the ocean, they enjoyed Coney's man-made attractions --three large racetracks, mechanically-driven rides, and technologically-advanced structures like the 300-foot Iron Tower (originally the Sawyer Tower at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia). The "Switchback Railway," the first modern roller coaster (in the sense of cars mounted on wheels and run on rails), premiered at Coney Island in 1884.

Around the turn of the century, Coney Island was transformed by the introduction of the enclosed amusement park. By 1894, there were dozens of separately owned individual rides, but the following year Captain Paul Boyton opened Sea Lion Park, a group of rides and attractions one enjoyed after paying an admission fee at the entrance gate. During the next decade, Coney Island's three most famous enclosed parks opened: Steeplechase Park, Luna Park, and Dreamland. These parks popularized thrilling mechanical rides, including big roller coasters and ferris wheels, and developed elaborate pavilions to house other amusements and sideshows. Throughout Coney Island and intermingled with the enclosed parks, individual rides (such as the Barrel of Love and the Hoop-la) continued to attract thrill-seekers, while food vendors, typical carnival games and midway features further enlivened the scene. The typical summer Sunday afternoon crowd averaged around 100,000 people. With the completion of subway lines around 1920, lower-income visitors paying the five-cent fare) could afford to vacation at Coney Island for the first time. The elegant restaurants, already suffering the effects of Prohibition, were gradually replaced by stands offering cheaper fare. The best known example is Nathan's Famous, which began selling "red hots" (hot dogs) in 1916 for just a nickel. By 1925, this democratization of Coney Island brought the average summer Sunday afternoon attendance to over one million.

Following its introduction to Coney in 1884, the roller coaster was an immediate success, and became an integral component of the Coney Island experience. Descended from eighteenth century Russian ice slides and refined with carriages on artificial hills in nineteenth-century France, early coasters developed rapidly under the guidance

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Avenue at W. 10th St.
Brooklyn, Kings County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

of inventors in the United States after the Civil War. "Artificial Sliding Hills" and "Artificial Coasting Courses" in the 1870s gave rise to the "Switchback Railroad" and other modern coasters at Coney Island. Whether built as an individual ride or as part of a larger amusement park, roller coasters continued to develop throughout the early twentieth century; competition among inventors and builders led to innovations and features which improved the ride's thrills and safety. When constructed in 1927, the Cyclone was a state-of-the-art, wood-track coaster with steep inclines and declines, fan turns along the 3000-foot figure-eight track, and a top speed of sixty-eight miles per hour (far exceeding the average of thirty to forty miles per hour). The Cyclone, like most successful individual rides, attracted customers through its size (ninety-one feet high at "The Big Drop," and occupying a lot 75- by 500-feet), a prominent location adjacent to both the Riegelmann Boardwalk and a station of the elevated train system, and blatant self-promotion (large, illuminated signage).

The amusement parks and other attractions at Coney Island began losing popularity only after World War II; through that period, even wartime blackouts did not dim the spirited play which characterized the area. Soon after the war, however, several of the rides and large parks were destroyed by fire. These losses, combined with a reduction in vacationers (the result of the well-documented exodus from the city to the suburbs after the war), led Coney Island to lose its prominent position as New York's "playground." Neglect, poor planning, and additional fires over recent decades have led to the loss of many more of the resources which characterized Coney Island's recreational resort culture. Of the nearly two dozen coasters which once operated at Coney, only the Cyclone remains intact and in operation today.

The most significant alterations to the property took place in 1939, when the first drop was lowered three feet, the tracks were slightly realigned to increase the ride's speed, and modernistic neon signage, spelling "CYCLONE" in a vertical format, was attached to the structure on its Surf Avenue side. Since that time, replacement-in-kind of deteriorated wood members and repainting as part of a regular maintenance program have been the only significant alterations to the structure. A non-historic storage building and souvenir/ticket sales booths have been introduced within the historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Avenue at W. 10th St.
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

property boundaries, but their small scale and non-permanent character do not detract from the property's overall integrity. The Cyclone Roller Coaster still conveys the excitement of the coasters once so prevalent at Coney Island; it remains a rare, significant survivor of the earlier era.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of significance

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Recreation

1927 - 1941

1927; 1939

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Keenan, Vernon (engineer)

Baker, Harry C. (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cyclone Roller Coaster, built in 1927 for entrepreneurs Jack and Irving Rosenthal at Surf Avenue and West 10th Street, is historically significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of Coney Island as New York's premier amusement park entertainment center from the 1880s through World War II. The last functional roller coaster at Coney Island, where more than twenty others once operated, the Cyclone is also the only surviving wood-track coaster at Coney Island. Since its original construction, the integrity and configuration of the Cyclone has remained essentially intact, although maintenance has necessitated replacement-in-kind of some structural elements. As a rare surviving example of the mechanized amusement park rides which once abounded at Coney Island during its heyday, the Cyclone Roller Coaster is a symbolic, functioning reminder of the area's history as a mecca of outdoor recreation.

Coney Island's reputation as a recreational spot and vacationing destination first originated in the mid-nineteenth century, when small seaside hotels provided New Yorkers with an escape from the summer heat of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Beginning in the 1870s,

[X] See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kasson, John F. Amusing the Million: Coney Island at the Turn of the Century. New York: Hill & Wang, 1978.

Kyriazi, Gary. "In Search of the Ultimate Roller Coaster." Town & Country. (July 1977), 100.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. THE CYCLONE Designation Report (LP-1636), by David M. Breiner. New York: City of New York, 1988.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 18 586420 4491860
Zone Easting Northing

C
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

D
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the **Cyclone Roller Coaster** is shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled "The Cyclone Roller Coaster."

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Cyclone Roller Coaster, also known simply as the Cyclone, is situated on a 75-by 500-foot lot historically associated with the resource. The lot is located at the intersection of Surf Avenue and West 10th Street in Coney Island, Kings County, New York.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

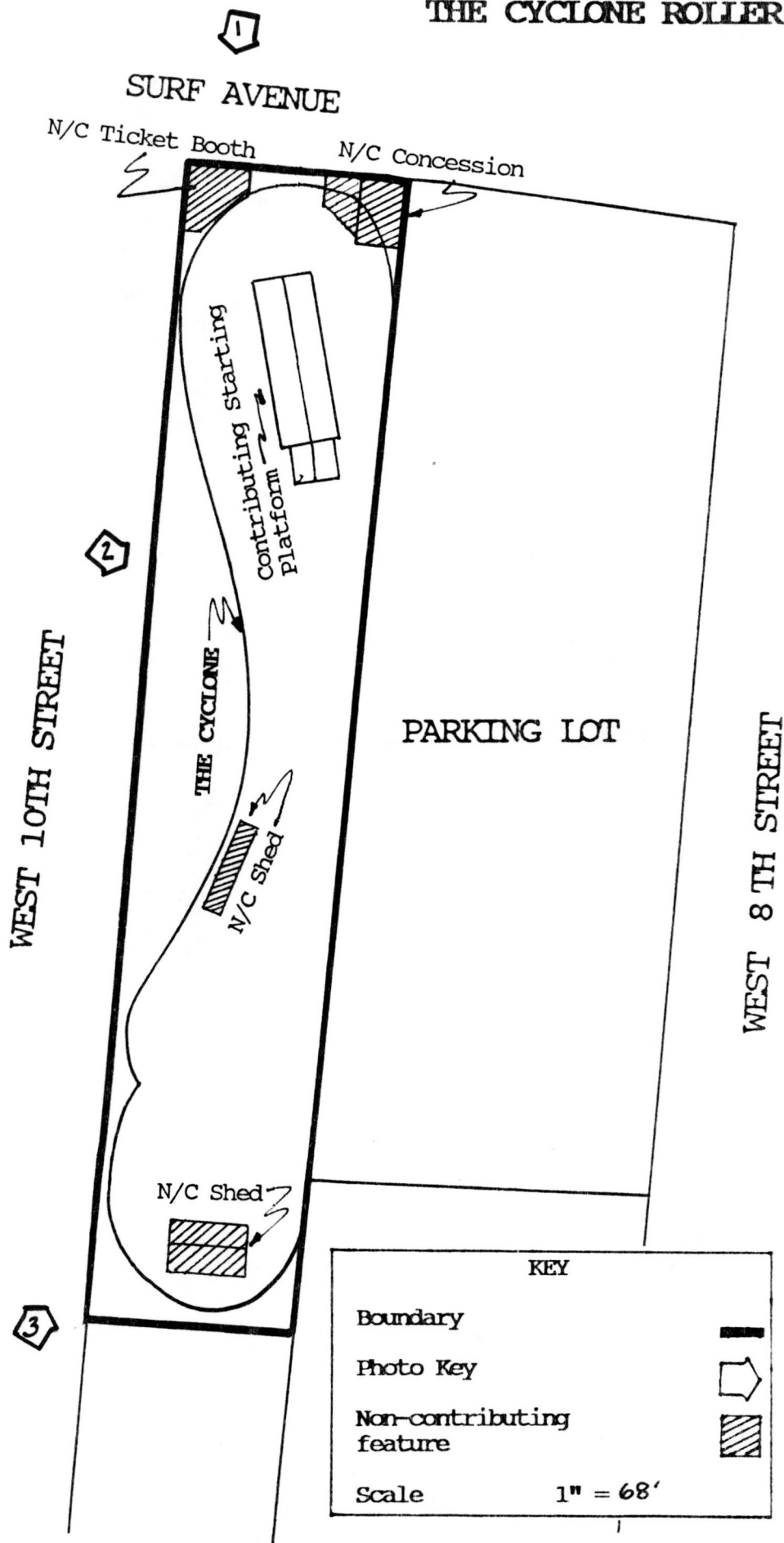
name/title Leslie A. Giles/ John A. Bonafide

organization NYS Office of Parks, Rec., & Historic Pres. date June 10, 1991

street & number E.S.P. Agency Bldg. 1 telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state NY zip code 12238

THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cyclone Roller Coaster
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Kings

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/91

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/11/91

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/25/91

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/4/91

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000907

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: y

✓ ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/25/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Historically significant early 20th century
roller coaster - the only surviving wood track
roller coaster at Coney Island. 15 day
Fed. Register comment period has been waived,

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

DATE 6/25/91

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER
CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN, KINGS CO., NY
PHOTO BY: M. BERGER CO.
NEG. AT: 415 OCEAN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11218
VIEW: 1, VIEW SOUTH ALONG W. 10TH ST.
1990

W. 10TH FROM CYCLONE LOOKING TOWARD BOARDWALK



THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER

CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN, KINGS CO., NY

PHOTO BY: M. Berger Co.

NEG. AT: 415 OCEAN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11216

VIEW 2: VIEW SOUTH ACROSS "THE BIG DROP"



THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER
CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN, KINGS CO., NY
PHOTO BY: M. Berger Co., 1990
neg. at: 415 OCEAN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY !!@!*
VIEW: 3, VIEW NORTH ALONG W. 10TH ST.

STREET LEVEL VIEW OF CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER LOOKING
NORTHEAST FROM W. 10TH ST. NEAR CONEY ISLAND BOARDWALK



THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER

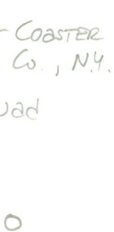
CONEY ISLAND, BROOKLYN, KINGS CO., NY

PHOTO BY: M. BERGER CO.

NEG. AT: 415 OCEAN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11218

VIEW: 4

CONEY ISLAND QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE



UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH



NEW YORK

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty..... Light-duty.....

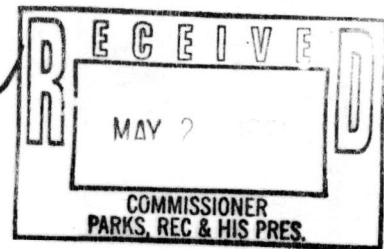
Medium-duty..... Unimproved dirt =====

○ State Route

CONEY ISLAND, N. Y.—N. J.
SW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4030—W7352.5/7.5
1966



**ACE REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**



May 14, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001



Dear Mr. Lehman:

I am writing this letter in support of the Coney Island *CYCLONE* being listed in the National and State Registries of National Monuments. As a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts for the past eight years and the Regional Representative for the Maryland and Washington, D. C. area for the past year, I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support this nomination.

The Cyclone was the third roller coaster I had ever ridden in my life before joining ACE in 1983. In fact, it is of particular significance to me for the simple reason that until that time I was not a coaster enthusiast at all, however, after riding the cyclone several times in 1982, I became an ardent coaster buff. The cyclone has all of the ingredients that make it one of the classic thrill rides of all time.

For over six decades and countless generations this great ride has stood the test of time and remains one of the best roller coasters every built. In recent years, many have tried to duplicate its unique character and classic design, but in spite of their efforts, it will always stand alone among its many pretenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support in considering the Coney Island Cyclone as a National Historic Landmark and I sincerely hope that you will continue to allow millions of people in the coming generations to enjoy this one-of-a-kind thrill ride.

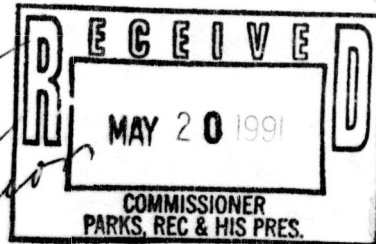
With sincere appreciation,

Lisa M. Giguere
1623 Carriage House Ter.
Silver Spring, MD 20904

cc: Ray Ueberroth
Milton Berger

6108 Sherman Drive
Woodridge, Illinois 60517

5 tokens
62
May 15, 1991



Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

I am writing to support the efforts of Mr. Milton H. Berger to have the ~~Cyclone~~ roller coaster at Coney Island listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

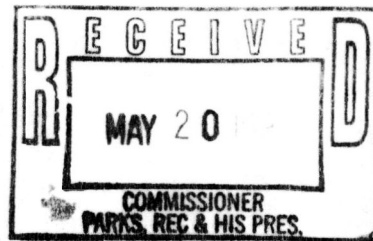
Since its opening over sixty years ago, the Cyclone has thrilled millions of riders and has never known a serious accident. It has enjoyed the highest of profiles having been featured in many movies and videos. One such video is simply entitled "Cyclone". It is a living symbol of the history of amusements in America and is as much a part of New York City as the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty.

In addition to its historical significance, it is an outstanding roller coaster. I have been riding coasters since 1948 and have found none better than the Cyclone.

I support any and all efforts to heighten the awareness and assure the preservation of the Cyclone. It is my hope that placement in the Registers will be the first step toward National Landmark status for this great ride.

Very truly yours,

John C. Page
Promotional Director - American Coaster Enthusiasts



SAMUEL HORWITZ
COUNCILMAN, 33RD DISTRICT, BROOKLYN
DISTRICT OFFICE
2971 OCEAN PARKWAY
BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11235
(718) 646-5550

THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007
566-4959

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN OF
GENERAL WELFARE
AND HOMELESS
MEMBER OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
TRANSPORTATION
HOUSING & BUILDINGS
AGING

REPLY TO:
☐ CITY HALL
☐ DISTRICT OFFICE

*5 taken
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action*

May 15, 1991

Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

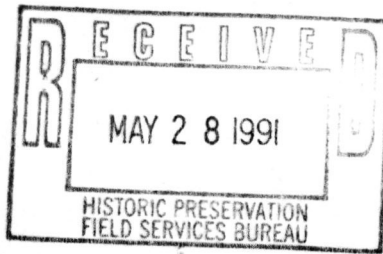
As the Councilman who represents the Shorefront Community which includes Coney Island, I urge you to consider the request of the ~~Cyclone~~ Roller Coaster to be designated as a National Monument.

The Cyclone Roller Coaster is one of the last wooden structures and is considered to be the most famous individual ride in the outdoor amusement industry in the United States. The Cyclone is the only operating roller coaster in New York City and is important to the economy of Coney Island, Brooklyn and New York City.

Your favorable consideration of the request for designation in the National Register and the State Register will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
SAMUEL HORWITZ
City Councilman



Stoken
al



7306 N. Winchester
Chicago, Illinois 60626
May 16, 1991

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Please accept this letter as one of strong support for national monument designation for the Coney Island ~~Cyclone~~ roller coaster. This ride is an historic treasure, as well as a shining example of early 20th Century Americana.

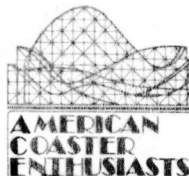
As you are no doubt aware, the Cyclone is the last remaining roller coaster at Coney Island, which in more halcyon times boasted a number of classic wooden roller coasters. Moreover, the cyclone design is generally considered by roller coaster enthusiasts to be the classic in the field of coaster architecture.

In conclusion, this unique ride is not only considered by many experts to be the number one roller coaster in America, but at the same time it still makes a vital contribution to the daily economy of Coney Island, Brooklyn and surrounding areas, such as Brighton Beach.

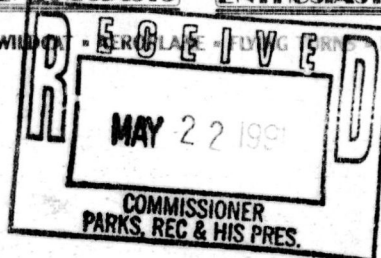
Sincerely,

Martin P. Moltz

Martin P. Moltz



CYCLONE • COMET • THUNDERBOLT • TORNADO • RACER • JACK RABBIT • WILD CAT • BERRILL • FLYING HORSE • BOBS • THRILLER • SHOOTING STAR • CYCLONE



1001 Jerome Avenue
Bronx, New York 10452
U.S.A.

May 16, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

J. Steiner
upper
action

Re: The Cyclone Roller Coaster, 834 Surf Avenue at West 10th St.
Brooklyn, New York Co.

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Permit me to congratulate you on the job your office is doing in considering the Cyclone for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

In preserving these American treasures, we are ensuring that generations to come may be privileged to enjoy the architecture and structures our generation deemed too valuable and too important to destroy or replace. The Coney Island Cyclone now as a national landmark certainly deserves to be placed on this list so that not only New Yorkers, but people from all over the world can always take pride and pleasure in visiting this world famous coaster. Although its classic structure has served as a prototype for other coasters, being an American Coaster Enthusiast for the past thirteen years and having ridden over 300 coasters throughout the world, I can say with complete confidence, knowledge and sincerity that all others fall short. The Cyclone is a traditional coaster, by that I mean, it is a twister, it still uses its original trains and operates the same way it did in 1927. People come from all over the world to see and ride this legendary "mother" of coasters which is a boost to the City's economy. I have travelled throughout America and Europe and experienced chills and thrills on other world-class coasters but the most fascinating coaster ride by far is still the Cyclone, a mere subway ride away in Coney Island.

Your consideration in adding this national treasure to your list is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Colleen A. Whyte

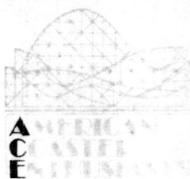
Colleen A. Whyte
Vice President

RECEIVED

MAY 28 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DIPS • LIGHTNING • BIG DIPPER • BLUE STREAK • FLASH • PIPPIN • GIANT DIPPER • LEAP THE DIPS • SCENIC RAILWAY • ZEPHYR • FIGURE EIGHT • DIPS • LIGHTNING



SAGE & VARGO, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
1300 Carr Street

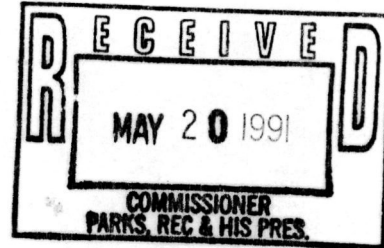
David W. Sage

Lakewood, CO 80215
Office (303) 238-8832 • Fax (303) 233-2210

Gerald P. Vargo

May 17, 1991

Shawn
offer auction
Comm Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
NY Parks & Rec
Empire State Plaza/Agency Bldg 1
Albany NY 12238-0001



Dear Mr Lehman:

I understand NY is contemplating naming the ~~_____~~ Historic Place. Why contemplate? IT IS an extraordinarily historic place.

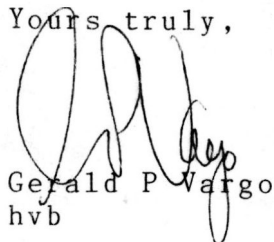
Generations have ridden and remembered with extreme terror (fondness?) its ability to instill fear on its riders. Stand below the first hill sometime and watch the faces! What other human invention has the ability to instill feelings like a roller coaster. Add to that it is the best roller coaster in the world and its location, at perhaps the most famous of all amusement parks, Coney Island, why one would "contemplate" beyond a fraction of a second is beyond me!

I do not normally use exclamation marks in my statements, as an attorney I am only interested in the facts as they relate to evidence. But in this case, there is no issue to prove, the CYCLONE IS FABULOUS!!!!!!!

I rode it in 1968, when I returned from Vietnam, driving from McGuire Air Force Base to my duty station in Vermont. I am still in awe!

Looking to visit your fair City again, I remain...

Yours truly,


Gerald P Vargo
hvb

5 taken
02
aff
allcom
ANTHONY MICICHE
1416 KIRKWOOD RD.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21207

MAY 17, 1991

COMMISSIONER ORIN LEHMAN
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GOVERNOR NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
AGENCY BUILDING 1
ALBANY, N.Y. 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

As a person who feels strongly about preserving our country's heritage, I feel obligated to write concerning the nomination of an important landmark to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Namely, the "Cyclone" roller coaster in Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York should be on this list.

As you're probably aware, Coney Island has a rich history dating back to the 1800's. The Cyclone roller coaster, built in 1927, is a part of that history. The last coaster left from Coney's glory days and the only coaster in New York City it is, in essence, a living legend.

Even though bigger coasters have been built more recently, the Cyclone is an example of classic coaster designing at its best. Many of today's rides used it as their inspiration. This is the ultimate statement of the endurance of this ride.

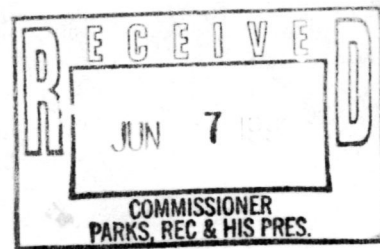
The Cyclone will also play a part in the future of Coney Island. Today it is a tourist attraction contributing valuable tourist dollars to the economy. It's one of the most famous coasters in the United States. Many come to Coney Island to ride it. It could be the anchor attraction in the "new revitalized" Coney Island.

In conclusion, I urge you to place this valuable part of American history on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. This would help assure its survival for future generations to admire and enjoy.

SINCERELY,

Anthony Miciche
ANTHONY MICICHE





Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

May 20, 1991

Dear Sir,

Re: **THE CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER,**
834 Surf Avenue at West 10th. Street,
Brooklyn, New York Co., U.S.A.

I wish to support Mr. Milton H. Berger with his nomination for the Coney Island Cyclone to be listed in the National and State Registries of National Monuments.

The Cyclone Roller Coaster at Coney Island is a world famous American Landmark. The ride typifies the golden age of American roller coaster design - the 1920's.

The Cyclone is considered by amusement industry experts to be the number one roller coaster in the world. Fortunately sound maintenance practices have enabled tourists from all over the world to still enjoy this great roller coaster.

People ride roller coasters because they are fun. This pleasurable experience promotes the economic stability of tourist attractions such as Coney Island. The Cyclone is the last remaining roller coaster at Coney Island, and the only operating roller coaster in New York.

The Coney Island Cyclone is a major tourist attraction and thoroughly worthy of inclusion in the listing of National and State Registries of National Monuments.

I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Signed

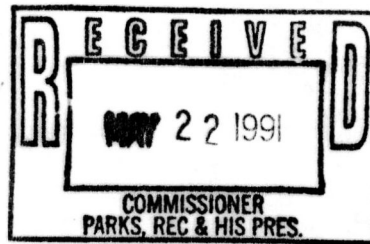
John Oakley

Address :-

20, The Hermitage,
Portsmouth Road,
Kingston, Surrey
KT1 2LZ England.



Established 1978



*J. Stokes
Laffer
action*

May 20, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

I am writing on behalf of the National Amusement Park Historical Association to show our support for nomination of the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster, located at Surf Avenue and West 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY, to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

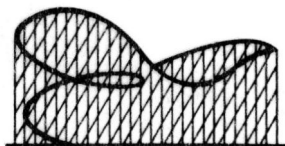
The Coney Island Cyclone is, without a doubt, the most popular and famous amusement ride in the world. We receive more inquiries about the Cyclone from our membership, which spans the U.S., Canada, Europe and even Australia, than any other amusement device operating today.

The National Amusement Park Historical Association feels strongly about preserving the "historic" Cyclone roller coaster and supports nomination to the National and State Registers. Your thoughtful consideration for nomination support would be appreciated.

Respectfully,

James E. Abbate
James E. Abbate,
President

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MAY 28 1991
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

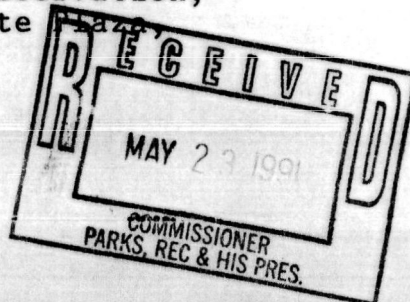


White Knuckle Ventures

Shane

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

May 20, 1991



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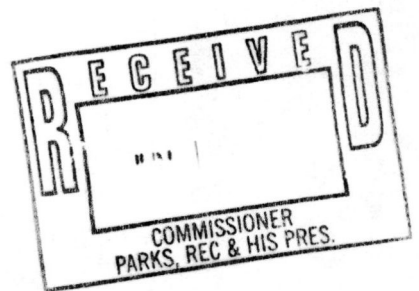
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The Coney Island Cyclone is a major tourist attraction and thoroughly worthy of inclusion in the listing of National and State Registries of National Monuments.

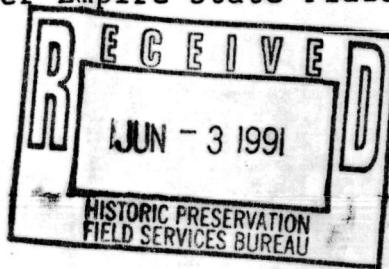
I support the nomination wholeheartedly.


Barry F. S. Norman
Director



Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

May 20, 1991



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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Address :-
22 Blackhill Lane,
Knutsford,
Cheshire
WA16 9DD.
ENGLAND.

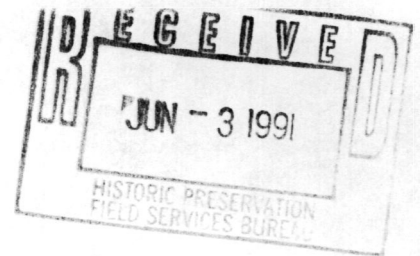
RECEIVED

Signed

R KENYON

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Stokes

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

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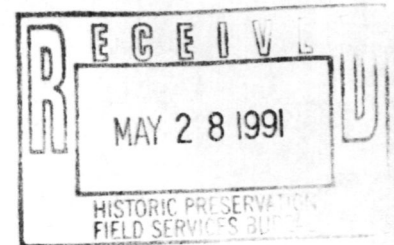
Address :-

632 Rochester Way
ELTHAM
LONDON
SE9 1RN
ENGLAND

RECEIVED signed *J. Med*

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
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Albany, NY 12238-0001
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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Address :-

GARY MILLAR
75 TRAFFORD GROVE
STRETFORD,
MANCHESTER
ENGLAND
M32 8LL

Signed

Gary Millar



Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

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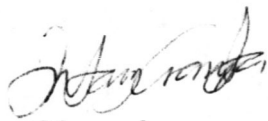
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Signed

Address :-

165 TOTTINGTON RD
BURY
LANCS
BL8 1RX
ENGLAND



RECEIVED

MAY 29 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Signed

S. Cosgrove

Address :- 284

Bolton Rd,

Atherton,

Manchester,

ENGLAND

M29 9HQ



Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

RECEIVED

MAY 29 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

ROBERT S LOVELL

Signed

Address :-

"LAMPARAS"

OAKS ROAD

WRY COMMAN

REIGATE - SURREY



J. Stokes

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Signed

Ronald Taylor

Address :-

FROG COTTAGE

PARK LANE

FRAMPTON COTTAGE

BRISTOL BS17 2EW

ENGLAND U K



Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
Agency Building 1,
Albany, NY 12238-0001
U.S.A.

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I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Signed

N.R. Balesford

L. Brakesford

Address :-

Rev. N. R. and Mrs. L. Brakesford
The New Vicarage
71 Manchester Road
Chapel-en-le-Frith
Derbyshire SK12 6TH
Telephone: (0298) 812134

ENGLAND.



J. M. Simpson

Commissioner Orin Lehman,
State Historic Preservation Office,
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation,
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza,
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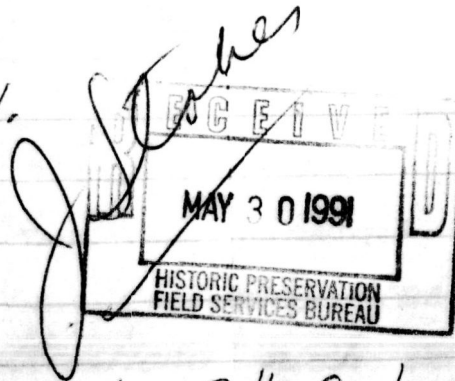
Address :-

Signed

J. M. Simpson

JOHN SIMPSON,
165, SOLIHULL RD.,
SHIRLEY,
SOLIHULL,
WEST MIDLANDS,
ENGLAND.

May 21, 1991.



Mr S.M. Bingham,
Edwards Cottage,
7, Cherry Close,
Redhill,
Nottingham,
England. NG5 8ES.

Dear Sir.

Re: The Cyclone Roller Coaster,
834 Surf Avenue at West 10th Street,
Brooklyn, New York Co., U.S.A.

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The Coney Island Cyclone is a major tourist attraction and thoroughly worthy of inclusion in the listing of National and State Registries of National Monuments.

I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

SM

(MEMBER OF AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS).

Joan Burleigh
1636 North Humboldt
Portland, OR 97217

May 21, 1991

Commissioner Orrin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

Stuber
OC



Commissioner Lehman,

I am writing to you from the state of Oregon about a subject that is of great concern to me, even 3000 miles away; the Coney Island Cyclone Roller ~~Coaster~~. It is difficult for me to express in words what the Cyclone means to me and to other members of American Coaster Enthusiasts, our 3000 member-strong club. The Cyclone is the very essence of what roller coasters mean to me. To say it's the "BEST" is even a mild statement. It's so good a ride, so important a structure that it's been duplicated in Houston Texas and renamed "the Texas Cyclone". It's been so important to coaster designers today that its particular design is simply called "the cyclone" and now major amusement parks across the country are building "cyclones". The Coney Island Coaster has been featured either in the back ground or in the middle of the action in many films. The Cyclone brings together people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and social status, to ride again each summer one of the greatest amusement ride structures ever built. Even a film on Coney Island recalls, "when you go down that first hill all men are brothers".

I've been on many roller coasters, in the United States, Canada, Australia and even

dia, but there is only one Coney Island Cyclone, where else has one amusement ride given its riders so much "punch" and thrill in such a short riding time. No matter when you ride it, raining, sunny, day or night the Cyclone never "lets up". There are never 2 rides on the Cyclone the same; there is never a dull moment. But more important, let's consider your department's mission, "Historic preservation". When early immigrants first saw the New York shore, what did they see? Coney Island! With all those lights and laughter, surely this country's streets were lined with gold! And what is the single, living, kicking symbol of Coney Island? What remains the soul simple structure that reminds you that you are, indeed, at Coney Island? The Cyclone!! The Cyclone!! They can build them higher. They can build them longer. They can build them faster and rougher. But they can't build anything as much fun, and with as much meaning as the Coney Island Cyclone. I should know, I've been on over 200 roller coasters.

And why not "Historic preservation" extending into "fun"? What is more ingrained into the American experience than the "amusement park", especially Coney Island?

Save the Coney Island Cyclone Roller Coaster; the only logical thing to do!!

Thank you,

Joan Bruleigh #475
(American Coaster Enthusiasts)

23, GARDENIA GROVE
MAPPERLEY

J. St. John
RECEIVED

NOTTINGHAM NG3 6HY
ENGLAND

MAY 29 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

22/5/91

Dear Mr Lehman

Re: The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Ave. West 10th St.
Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.

I wish to support Mr Milton
H. Berger with his nomination for
the Coney Island Cyclone to be
listed in the National and State
Registers of National Monuments.

Hoping to ride the Cyclone one
day, Please look after it.

Yours faithfully David Wragg



National Carousel Association

Devoted to the Preservation of the Classic Carousel

May 22, 1991

Charles J. Jacques, Jr.
President

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

RE: Coney Island Cyclone

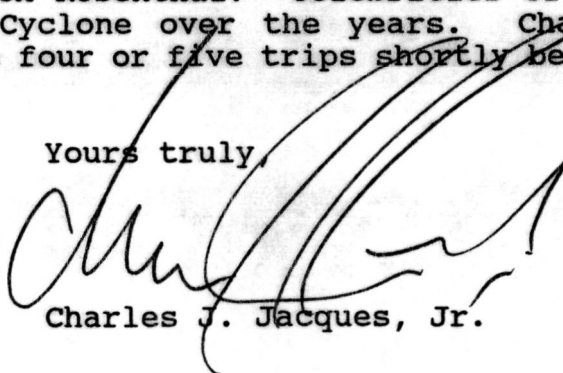
Dear Commissioner Lehman:

I am writing to support the nomination of Milt Berger in nominating the Coney Island Cyclone as a National Monument. The Cyclone Roller Coaster is the most famous roller coaster in the World. It was built at the height of the coaster boom of the 1920's at Coney Island, New York.

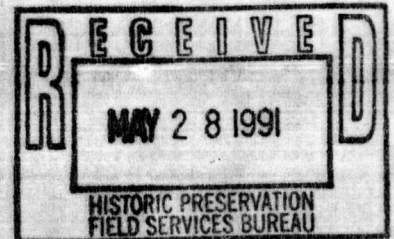
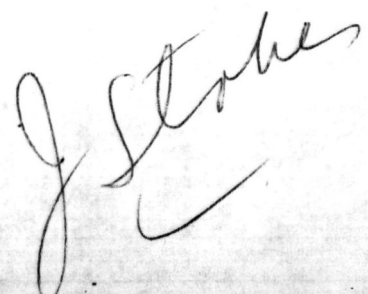
Coney Island was once the greatest amusement resort in the world. Newspapers from all over the United States, Europe and the Far East would regularly carry stories about the great rides at Coney. Today the Cyclone is the most significant ride/structure that remains at Coney Island.

The Coaster cost \$175,000.00 to build and was owned for several years Irving and Jack Rosenthal. Celebrities of various sorts have patronized the Cyclone over the years. Charles A. Lindbergh, for example, made four or five trips shortly before his solo flight to Europe.

Yours truly,



Charles J. Jacques, Jr.



[Handwritten signature]

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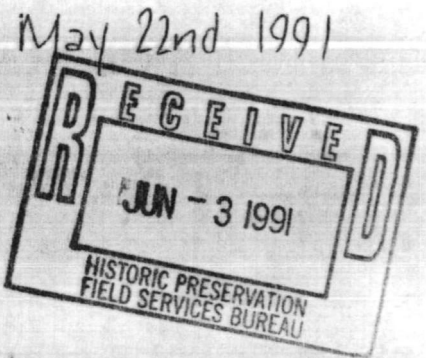
JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

77 Western Road,
Crookes,
Sheffield,
S10 1LB
S. Yorkshire
ENGLAND

Dear Sir,

Re: Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Avenue at West 10th St,
Brooklyn, New York Co; USA



I am writing to support Mr Milton H Berger with his nomination for the Coney Island Cyclone to be listed in the National and State Registries of National Monuments.

This world famous attraction, considered by amusement industry experts as the best and most thrilling roller coaster, is an important and significant part of New York and American history and it is a tribute to its excellent maintenance that it remains to provide enjoyment for thrill-seekers from around the world.

People ride roller coasters because they are fun. It is important to society as a whole

that this ride is recognised as one of America's great assets, and therefore I believe the ride to be thoroughly deserving of inclusion in the listing of National and State Registries of National Monuments.

I support the nomination wholeheartedly.

Yours faithfully,

Neil A. Sanderson

(NEIL A. SANDERSON)

John Bonifide

Historic Preservation Field Services

N.Y. State Office of Parks, etc.

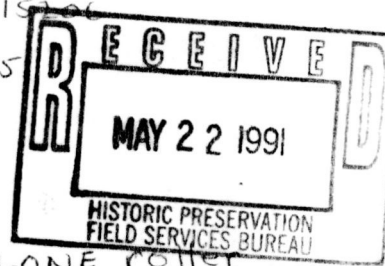
Albany, N.Y. 12238

FRANK N. Czuri

5801 STANTON AVENUE Apt 2 F

Pittsburgh, PA. 15206

(412) 661-9675



Dear Mr. Bonifide:

I am writing to support the Coney Island CYCLONE roller coaster as a historic site. The CYCLONE is THE definitive roller coaster, in fact, since 1976 Six Flags Corporation has installed THREE coasters modeled after the Coney original (one in Atlanta, Houston and outside Los Angeles) and none of these multi-million dollar machines can match the Coney Island CYCLONE for ride quality! I have ridden over 160 coasters in my forty-two years and still regard this classic at Coney Island as my overall/all time favorite!

IT is one of the few coasters in America left in tact from what was known as the "golden age" of amusement places, the 1920's. IT still uses the original trains which is really quite rare! MANY seaside Amusement Parks with roller coasters prospered along America's coasts, but only three wooden-track coasters still operate at the original sights, as of 1991. The other two are California landmarks (Santa Cruz and Mission Beach-San Diego which reopened in 1990 after being closed for 14 years and saved by a local "SAVE the COASTER" group - a miracle!), while the Coney Cyclone is the last East Coast "beach-twister" standing and operating. At one time, Coney Island had more roller coasters than any other amusement area in the world, now the proud CYCLONE is the last one running there.

I still try and visit New York yearly to ride the CYCLONE and to "take-in" New York.

Importance of this ride cannot be stressed enough.
As the Preservation Director for the American Coaster Enthusiasts
1978-79, (an organization of 4000+ members to date), I feel the
CYCLONE at Coney Island, ABOVE ANY OTHER RIDE in America
deserves to be preserved as a National treasure. For years,
Amusements were synonymous with Coney Island and Coney
meant the beach, hot dogs, and of course the CYCLONE, the
premier roller coaster since its 1927 opening. Time has not
been kind to Coney, but the CYCLONE has endured and has
been impeccably maintained as fast, furious, and safe, true to
its original design. A ride on the Cyclone can still deliver the
SAME thrills experienced by people since 1927. That makes it a
work of art. Despite the many innovations coasters have
gone through, this legendary roller coaster still packs incredible
excitement - it is a unique thriller and not just another ride!

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely

Frank Guin

201 Washburn Avenue
Washington, N.J. 07882
May 25, 1991

State Historic Preservation Office
N.Y. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Gov. N. A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Bldg 1
Albany, N.Y. 12238-0001

Commissioner Lehman:

It has come to my attention that the Coney Island "Cyclone" roller coaster has been nominated for listing in the National and State Registries of National Monuments. I cannot think of a more appropriate tribute to an amusement ride.

Having been born and raised in the east, Coney Island and the "Cyclone" have been a not only a large part of my life, but millions of Americans as well. It carries with it a historical flavor in movies, on T.V. and in the hearts and souls of all who have lived in or visited the area!

Additionally, it is of the traditional wooden construction. Facing modern building code regulations, another like it could never be built again. It stands alone as a tribute to past technology that in many cases, far exceeds the pleasures derived from modern technology and the steel coasters.

I, along with many others, make it a point to ride the coaster numerous times each season. The satisfaction arising from the ride is unequalled in the 5 state area. Most ALL of the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) members are in agreement that Coney Island and the "Cyclone" are still number 1.

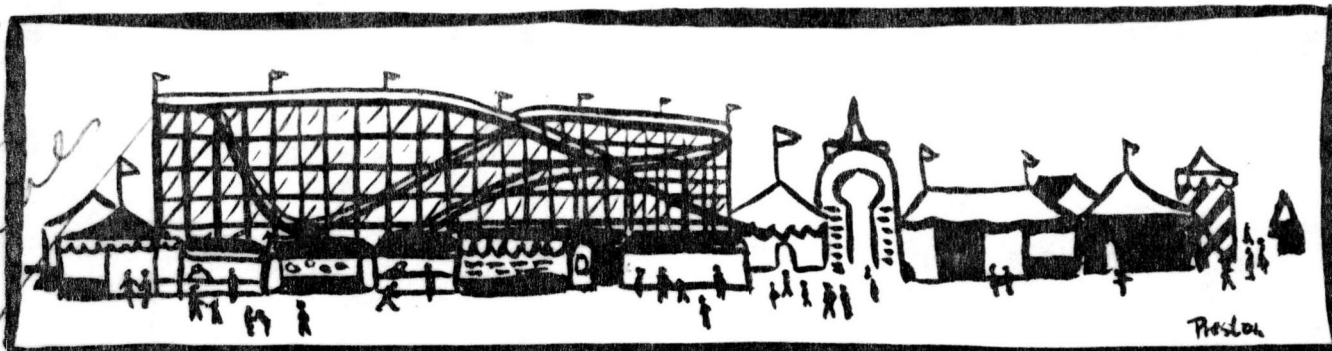
I was recently asked to do a documentary for the Discovery Channel on T.V. I am proud to say that it was filmed at the Cyclone. Again, another tribute to the greatness of the coaster!

The honors you can bestow on the coaster will make us all proud. Thank you for supporting the coaster and the millions of Americans who enjoy it each year.

Sincerely,

Marie L. Miller

Marie L. Miller



112 Vohlander Street; Warwick, RI 02889
May 27, 1991

Commissioner. Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic
Preservation
Governor Nelson Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building
Albany, New York 12238-0001

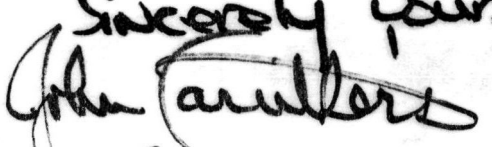
Dear Commissioner Lehman,

I am writing to give support for New York's
Coney Island Cyclone being designated for National
and State Registries of National Monuments.

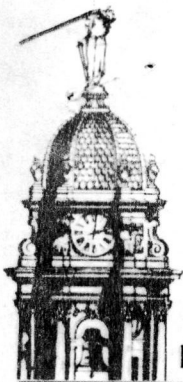
I have always enjoyed amusement parks,
even now at age 55 but I describe to you how
the Cyclone was important to me at age 19, grow-
ing up in (Grenshaw) Mississippi, back in 1958, and more
than a thousand miles away. Our University of Mis-
sissippi College Band presented a number of perfor-
mances at the 1958 Brussels' (Belgium) World's
Fair in August, 1958 and the itinerary included a
one-night stay over in New York City. How I did
so look forward to that first-ever visit to New
York City and a chance to get to Coney Island
to ride the famous Cyclone which I had heard
so much about! I can truly tell you my visit

to Coney Island and the famous Cyclone or that evening of August 28, 1958 was as much as a highlight as anything else we did in Europe and the Brussels' World's Fair.

Today I still visit the Cyclone whenever I can. To me, it is a classic---it sets a standard for the traditional wooden roller coaster. More important, the Cyclone is Coney Island. Its designation and listing for National and State Registries of National Monuments would be a worthy tribute to this historical attraction and to Coney Island.

Sincerely yours,

John Caruthers
— II —

Copies: Ray Ueberroth, President, American Coaster Enthusiasts; Milton Berger; Coney Island Cyclone.

*Shw
OC*

PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

BOROUGH HALL

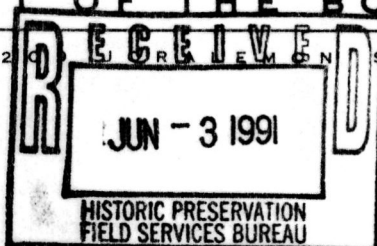
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STREET,

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201

HOWARD GOLDEN
PRESIDENT



1-718/802-3700
FAX: 1-718/802-3778

May 28, 1991

Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster located at 834 Surf Avenue in Brooklyn, New York to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The Cyclone Roller Coaster is located in the Coney Island community. Coney Island began its reign in 1894 as the "playground of the western world" and continues to be the borough of Brooklyn's top amusement draw.

Astroland Amusement Park, the metropolitan area's only major amusement park, opened in 1953, and is home to the "King of Roller Coasters", the Cyclone. The Cyclone Roller Coaster is the last remaining roller coaster at Coney Island and the only operating roller coaster in the entire City of New York. The Cyclone Roller Coaster may be the most famous individual ride in the outdoor amusement industry and is considered the number one roller coaster in the United States.

The Cyclone is a wooden roller coaster, one of the few remaining such amusement rides in the United States and as such, could not be built today under existing New York City building code regulations which permit the building of all steel roller coasters only. The Cyclone has been completely rebuilt over the past five years and has been maintained free of violations and in prime condition by Jerome Albert, President of Cyclone Coaster Inc., for the past sixteen years.

(Cont'd)

Mr. Orin Lehman
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
May 28, 1991
Page 2

Coney Island's beach and boardwalk are as beautiful as ever, and Astroland Park, the home of the Cyclone Roller Coaster, is one of the major tourist attractions of this community. Over 16 million visitors each summer visit Coney Island. Astroland Park and its attractions are crucial to the continuing economic vitality of Coney Island and the borough of Brooklyn.

As Borough President of the fourth largest city in the country, and a lifelong resident of this borough, I have always firmly believed that Brooklyn is the best place to live, work and play. Brooklyn proudly displays its heritage in its architecture, historic neighborhoods, and individual landmarks. The Cyclone Roller Coaster, synonymous with Coney Island, deserves recognition as one of Brooklyn's major landmarks.

I urge you to give the nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster to the National and State Registers of Historic Places your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,


Howard Golden

~~The~~ Milton H. Berger Company 415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218
(718) 941-9420 Fax (718) 409-8432

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MAY 29TH
1991



Dear Commissioner Lehman:

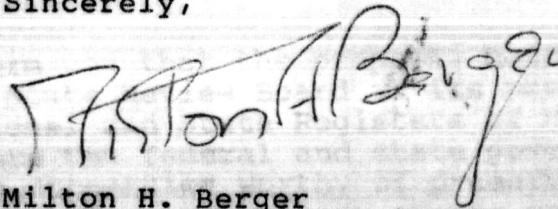
In reply to your letter to me copy enclosed in re the nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster to the National and State Registers as a National Monument, I would like to sum up reasons for my support of the designation as follows:

- a. The Cyclone Roller Coaster is the last remaining Roller Coaster at Coney Island.
- b. It is the only operating Roller Coaster in the City of New York.
- c. The Cyclone Roller Coaster is a wooden Roller Coaster and as such could not be built today under existing New York City building code regulations which permit the building of all steel Roller Coasters only.
- d. The Cyclone Roller Coaster is the most famous individual ride in the outdoor amusement industry in the United States.
- e. Many a Roller Coaster enthusiast considers it the number one Roller Coaster in the United States.
- f. It is important to the economy of Coney Island Brooklyn and the City of New York.
- g. It is a major tourist attraction.

- h. It has been maintained violation free in prime condition by Jerome Albert, President of Cyclone Coaster Inc. for the past sixteen years.
- i. It has been completely rebuilt over the past five years.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Milton H. Berger

MHB:pw
Enc.

Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

NEW YORK STATE
Orin Lehman
Commissioner

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238-0001

May 3, 1991

Mr. Milton Berger
415 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218

Re: The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Ave at West 10th St.
Brooklyn, New York Co.

Dear Mr. Berger:

We are pleased to inform you that the property noted above will be considered by the State Review Board at its next meeting for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. These Registers are the federal and state governments' official lists of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the Registers provides recognition of our national, state and local heritage and assistance in preserving it. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated for listing.

Listing in the National and State Registers affords properties a measure of protection from the effects of federal and/or state sponsored or assisted projects, provides eligibility for certain federal tax provisions and renders certain properties eligible for federal and state preservation grants. There are no restrictions placed upon private owners of registered properties. The benefits of listing are explained more fully in the attached fact sheet.

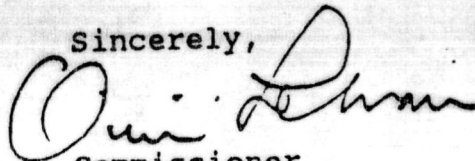
Owners of private properties proposed for listing in the National Register must be given the opportunity to concur in or object to the listing. Each private property owner has one vote regardless of how many properties or what part of a single property that party owns. A notarized objection by the sole owner of a private property will prevent that property from being listed in the National Register. For properties or districts under multiple ownership, a majority of the owners must object in order to prevent the listing. If a property owner wishes to object to a proposed listing, he/she must submit a notarized acknowledgement that he/she is the owner of the property in question and that he/she objects to the proposed National Register listing. Objections must be submitted before the property is listed. Specific instructions for objecting to National Register listing are given in the enclosed fact sheet.

If a property cannot be listed because of owner objection, the SHPO will submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of eligibility for listing. Properties formally determined eligible for National Register listing by the Keeper are subject to the same protection from the effects of federally sponsored or assisted projects as are listed properties. There are no provisions in the New York State Historic Preservation Act that allow an owner to prevent listing in the State Register by means of objection.

If you wish to comment on whether or not the property should be nominated to the National and State Registers, please send your comments to the SHPO at the address below. Comments must be received by June 5, 1991 in order to be considered when this property is reviewed by the State Review Board.

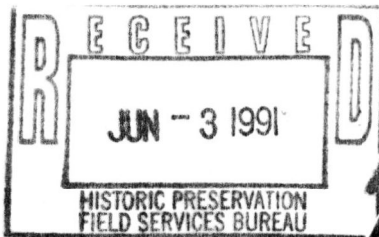
A draft copy of the proposed nomination is on file in this office and can be made available to you upon request. For more information, please contact John Bonifide, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York, 12238, (518) 474-0479.

Sincerely,



Commissioner
State Historic
Preservation Officer

Attachment: Fact Sheet
Criteria for Evaluation



May 29, 1991

JOSEPH R. SCHILLACI
President

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
N.Y. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

"A ride on the Cyclone is a greater thrill than flying an airplane at top speed."

Charles Lindbergh

This is a true statement. I know. I have ridden the legendary Coney Island Cyclone.

As president of Six Flags Magic Mountain, I recognized the historical significance of the Cyclone and this year built and introduced a replica of the great coaster, called Psyclone. There is no doubt the 64-year-old roller coaster is deserving of becoming an historic property worthy of state preservation.

- The Cyclone is the last remaining roller coaster at Coney Island and is the only operating coaster in the city of New York. It is by far the most famous individual ride in the outdoor amusement industry and most coaster enthusiasts still consider it the best roller coaster ever built in the United States. I have attached a news paper article that favorably reviews the Cyclone ride experience during its first summer of operation.

Six Flags Magic Mountain is proud to have a Cyclone replica. It is an opportunity to introduce the west coast and an entire new generation to the magic and marvel of this renowned coaster experience.

I sincerely hope the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation nominates the Coney Island Cyclone to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

cc: Milton H. Berger
Ray J. Ueberroth

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JULY 9, 1927

15 CENTS

The Billboard

Coney's Latest Ride, The Cyclone Opens

CONEY ISLAND, N.Y., July 2 — It's one grand thing after another in Coney. The latest ride sensation that has swept the Island is the cyclone. It lives up to its title, and has already established an enviable reputation as a thriller. It is accumulating the shekels abundantly. Large crowds are in evidence until the 2 a.m. curfew. The location is excellent, in the heart of Coney, where thousands of amusement seekers mill thru the maze of every conceivable form of entertainment, at the corner of Surf avenue and West End street, where the giant coaster formerly dotted the horizon. The Rosenthals, Jack and Irving, are responsible for the cyclone, and they have a 19-year lease on the present site, which is owned by the Coast Holding Company, consisting of many prominent business and amusement men of Coney. The cyclone represents an investment of \$100,000 and is a Harry C. Baker product, pure and simple. The ride was built over the suggestions of the Rosenthals. Its spiral dips are a feature. There are 3,000 feet of track embodied in its construction. Its main drop is 83 feet. One minute and 40 seconds is required to complete this cyclonic ride. It simply wows the riders and the spectators and in itself is a bally par excellence. There are nine cars and each car rides eight people

giving it a total capacity of 72 people at 25 cents each, and 35 cents on Sundays and holidays. Irving Rosenthal is personally in charge of the cyclone. Jess Dupe is general manager. Bill McKee is the superintendent of construction. Vernan Keenan designed the ride. Three brakemen are employed, three second-fare men, two ticket sellers and ticket collectors. The ride occupies a frontage of 75 feet on Surf avenue and 500 feet on West End avenue. Its construction features must be visualized to be appreciated. The power house is a complete unit, and is the work of Eisenberg Bros. of Brooklyn. The National Bridge Company, of New York, installed the steel work. Cross, Austin & Ireland, of Long Island City, furnished the lumber. The stand work was done by Menheimer & Weiss of New York, and represents an expenditure of \$5,100. There is a 45-foot front vertical sign, with four-foot letters, reading "Cyclone". There is a 30-foot entrance sign. There are two signs on the structure, with letters 10 feet high. This is a great repeat ride. One the big days it was impossible to accommodate the repeaters. Negotiations are pending between the Rosenthals and Louis Gordon concessionaire of Luna Park, who expects to acquire an interest in this ride.



5016 Bethlehem Road
Richmond, VA 23230
May 29, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany NY 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

This letter is being written in support of the request by Milt Berger that the Coney Island Cyclone be designated as National Monument. The Cyclone is certainly the roller coaster people everywhere think of when discussions of roller coasters begin. It represents what all coasters should be: famous, historic, exciting. It is a classic coaster which has stood the test of time and still endures as one of the very best, drawing people even now from around the world to Coney Island.

My wife and I are members of the American Coaster Enthusiasts, and have been since its beginning in 1978. We have been riding the Cyclone on every visit to Coney Island since our first visit. That was in 1972. We appreciate all roller coasters, but the Cyclone is very special to Coney Island, to New York City and New York State, and, indeed, to all of America. It deserves National Monument status. In this year of renewed patriotism, Americans should be proud to so honor this wonderful ride.

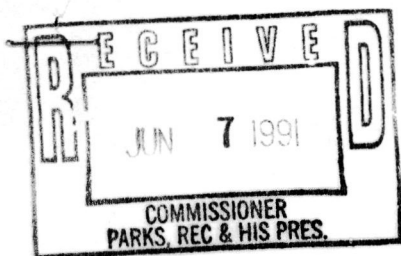
Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Hooley
Robert T. Hooley

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



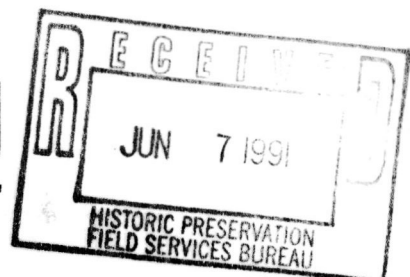
ROLLER COASTER BUFFS INTERNATIONAL

P.O. BOX 8257 • VAN NUYS, CA 91409

886-8999

818

984.3654



FRANK GORDON

Founder/Director R.C.B.I.

MAY 30, 1991

Commissioner ORIN Lehman
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GOVERNOR NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
AGENCY BUILDING 1
ALBANY, N.Y. 12238. 0001

DEAR COMMISSIONER:

I AM writing in support of MR. MIHT BERGER's nomination of THE CONEY ISLAND CYCLONE roller coaster in New York. Being born and raised in Brooklyn - VERY NEAR the cyclone, I had the pleasure of enjoying this world famous ride while growing up. Many fun moments both with family and friends were spent riding the cyclone day and night. My father, who cultivated this passion of mine - related story after story about the coaster and how much it meant to him and countless others. So much history, along with so many stories and memories this ride is responsible for, should never go unrecognized! I urge you sir, to please give your full consideration to the nomination and award this monument its just do!



ROLLER COASTER BUFFS INTERNATIONAL

P.O. BOX 8257 • VAN NUYS, CA 91409

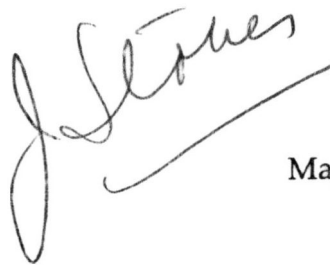
~~800-8555~~

FRANK GORDON
Founder/Director R.C.B.I.

Thank you for your CONCERN AND INTEREST in this
Project.

Sincerely,
Frank J. Gordon

cc: Ray Ueberroth
PRESIDENT - ACE



May 30, 1991

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

Let me start off by showing you the best of the best according to this coaster enthusiast:

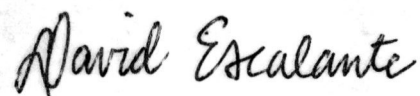
1991 Rollercoaster Top Ten

1.	CYCLONE	Coney Island	Brooklyn, NY
2.	TWISTER	Elitch Gardens	Denver, CO
3.	TEXAS GIANT	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, TX
4.	MINDBENDER	Fantasyland	Edmonton, Alberta
5.	GIANT DIPPER	Santa Cruz Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, CA
6.	GIANT DIPPER	Mission Beach	San Diego, CA
7.	COASTER	Playland	Vancouver, B.C.
8.	TEXAS CYCLONE	Astroland	Houston, TX
9.	BEAST	Kings Island	Cincinnati, OH
10.	THUNDERBOLT	Kennywood	Pittsburgh, PA

In 1980 I rode the Coney Island **CYCLONE** for the first time. It immediately became my #1 rollercoaster. Over a decade and over one hundred more coasters later, this classic ride remains at the top of my list of favorite coasters (see above). I've been back to Coney Island four times since 1980 and the venerable **CYCLONE** has never once disappointed me. I truly doubt that it ever will (or could!).

The **CYCLONE** is world-famous and for good reason! It delivers a coaster ride like no other. Oh, they'll continue to try and copy it (i.e. the **TEXAS CYCLONE**, **GEORGIA CYCLONE**, & **PSYCLONE**) but they'll never come close to the sheer terror that only Coney Island's can deliver! Please add this "quintessential" rollercoaster to the list of National Monuments. Let's make sure it's around for the next generation of thrill-seekers like myself.

Thanks a million!



David Escalante
Northern California Regional Representative
American Coaster Enthusiasts

1116 Shelter Creek Lane
San Bruno, CA 94066

DAY: (415) 335-8193
NIGHT: (415) 737-0595

ACE

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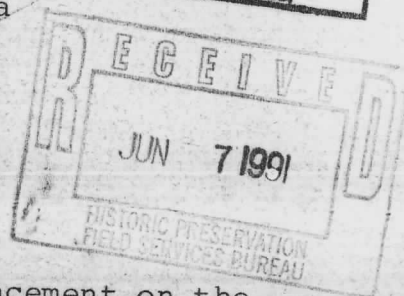
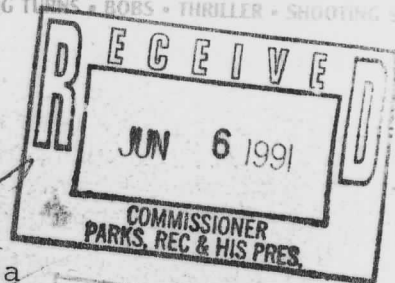
ACE

ACE

CYCLONE • COMET • THUNDERBOLT • TORNADO • RACER • JACK RABBIT • WILDCAT • AEROPLANE • FLYING THRU'S • BOBS • THRILLER • SHOOTING STAR • CYCLONE

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

May 30, 1991



Dear Commissioner Lehman:

No amusement attraction is more deserving of placement on the list of National and State Registers of Historic Places than the Cyclone roller coaster at Coney Island, New York.

The ride is often called the single most famous amusement attraction in the world.

Through its long and illustrious reign, it has come to personify the American amusement park and its proud heritage of colorful fun and excitement.

This is a great roller coaster, and an asset to be treasured by the city, state and country lucky enough to give it a home.

It also happens to be my personal favorite as the finest ride in the world.

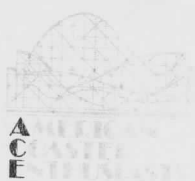
The historic, unique wonderful Cyclone deserves and has earned its place on the Registers.

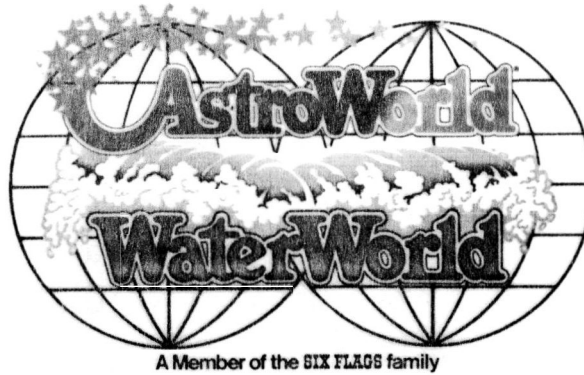
Sincerely,

Randy Geisler

Randy Geisler
Public Relations Director
Immediate Past President
American Coaster Enthusiasts
1725 Portland Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104

DIPS • LIGHTNING • BIG DIPPER • BLUE STREAK • FLASH • PIPPIN • GIANT DIPPER • LEAP THE DIPS • SCENIC RAILWAY • ZEPHYR • FIGURE EIGHT • DIPS • LIGHTNING





J. Lehman

DEL HOLLAND
President

May 30, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire
State Plaza
Agency Bldg. 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

As you may be aware of, AstroWorld in Houston, Texas duplicated the original design of the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster in 1976. Since that time, other parks have followed our lead in bringing back the "Cyclone."

The Cyclone roller coaster is the most famous individual ride in the amusement industry in the United States and is considered the number one roller coaster by "coaster enthusiasts."

The Coney Island Cyclone is "truly the mother" of wooden roller coasters and deserves to be recognized as a national monument.

Sincerely,

Del Holland

Del Holland
President and General Manager

DH:rk

cc: Milt Berger
Ray J. Ueberroth, President, American Coaster Enthusiasts

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1991

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BUREAU • Houston, Texas 77054 • (713) 799-8404

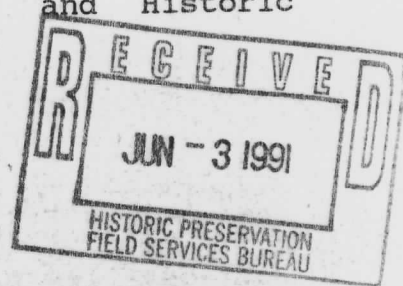


CYCLONE • COMET • THUNDERBOLT • TORNADO • RACER • JACK RABBIT • WILDEAT • AEROPLANE • FLYING TURNS • BOBS • THRILLER • SUPERMAN

State

2320 Green Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
May 31, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic
Preservation
Governor Nelson A Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001



Re: Coney Island Cyclone

Dear Mr. Lehman:

This letter is in support of the proposal to have the Cyclone roller coaster, located at Coney Island in Brooklyn, placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The first commercial roller coaster, which appeared at Coney Island in 1884, was an immediate success, and in the following decades hundreds of such rides were built at amusement parks across America, making the roller coaster the most popular of amusement rides and the signature attraction at parks. By the 1920's the technology of the wooden roller coaster had become fully developed, and that heady, prosperous decade saw the construction of hundreds of classic thrillers. In a decade known as the golden age of the roller coaster, a few rides gained reputations that placed them in an elite class above all the others. The Cyclone was one such ride.

The roller coaster never lost its popularity, but the amusement industry did not fare as well. Hundreds of parks closed during the depression. In the postwar years, the decline of parks continued as Americans turned their attention to other diversions such as automobiles and television, and as changing real estate values and urban social conditions forced other parks to close. As these parks disappeared, so did their roller coasters. By the 1970's the number of wooden roller coasters in America had declined from a peak estimated at over 1500 during the 1920's to substantially less than 100.

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Fortunately, today the amusement industry is enjoying a second era of prosperity, and each year we are once again seeing the opening of new roller coasters. Most of these new rides are modern steel coasters, but we are also witnessing a resurgence of the wooden roller coaster, a true testament to their unique characteristics and enduring popularity.

Some of the new wood coasters are going higher, and longer, and faster than ever before. A few are attempting to emulate the characteristics of the classic coaster of the golden age, and several have been modeled after the Coney Island Cyclone. But these rides are very different from the original version. Sometimes the subtlest of changes in a ride's layout or profile can make a big difference in the ride experience it delivers. The differences between these newer imitations and the Brooklyn original are both subtle and not-so-subtle.

The curves are a good example. The world class reputation of the Coney Island Cyclone is founded on its superior mix of both steep, stomach-taking drops, and fast, only lightly banked turns, the kind of curves that subject riders to strong centrifugal forces, sliding them into each other or against the side of the seat. On the newer versions, heavy banking has been introduced into the curves for the express purpose of eliminating the centrifugal forces on riders. One might say these rides are producing only half the thrill of the original. Other important differences include the trains. The Coney Island Cyclone's original wood chassis trains, equipped with heavily upholstered seats and simple, traditional restraint systems, afford passengers an experience that is uninhibited, yet safe and comfortable.

In today's business environment it is unlikely that a roller coaster truly comparable to the classic Coney Island Cyclone will ever be built again. While today's larger rides are thrilling in their own special way, the Cyclone delivers its classic thrills in the style of a period that defined the roller coaster as the ultimate thrill ride. One of only a handful of coasters surviving from the golden age, the Cyclone is at the top of its class, and a superlative, working representative the truly classic wooden roller coaster at its best.

Mr. Orin Lehman

3

May 31, 1991

In considering the traditional amusement park and the classic wooden roller coaster as significant components of the history American popular culture, it is vitally important that everything possible be done to ensure that the Cyclone survives and continues to deliver its outstanding, time-honored thrills to present and future generations. Placing the ride on the State and National Registers would be an important step.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN COASTER ENTHUSIASTS

Tom Halterman

Tom Halterman
Preservation Director

May 31, 1991

KOCH TV PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Officer
State Office of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238



Dear Commissioner Lehman,

I understand the ~~Cyclone Roller Coaster~~ at Astroland Park/Coney Island is being considered for nomination to the National and State Register of Historic Places. I would like to give my full and enthusiastic support to this notion.

Koch TV Productions produces the INVENTION series. INVENTION is a co-production of the Smithsonian Institution and The Discovery Channel. Recently, I had occasion to visit Astroland's Cyclone for a story on the history of the roller coaster. The Cyclone is considered the ultimate roller coaster among most members of A.C.E. (American Coaster Enthusiasts -- an international organization that boasts more than 3,600 members). After spending a day filming on and around the Cyclone, and after riding the coaster several times, I completely agree.

I was particularly taken by the maintenance and operations people who work the Cyclone. Walter Williams, Head of Maintenance, walks the track of the coaster each morning, looking for weak spots. He has rebuilt a large portion of the Cyclone over the years. Upkeep is an important part of preserving the safety of this ride.

The coaster is a real symbol of Americana, a rich part of the history of New York and America, and is a landmark for nostalgia sake alone. Combine this with the actual ride of the coaster -- which is unrelenting in terms of its dips and turns -- and you have something that is unquestionably worthy of preservation.

I had hoped to be able to send a copy of our piece, but we've have fallen behind in our editing schedule and it will not be ready for a few weeks. Thank you.

Sincerely,

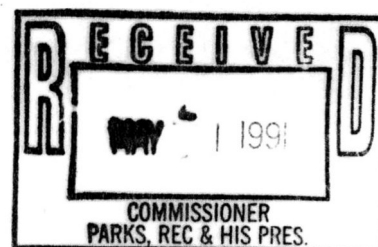
A handwritten signature of Christopher Koch is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Christopher Koch
President

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1991

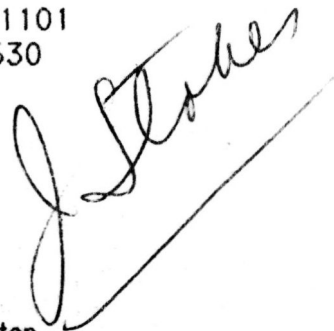
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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CYCLONE • COMET • THUNDERBOLT • TORNADO • RACER • JACK RABBIT • WILDCAT • AEROPLANE • FLYING TURNS • BOBS • THRILLER • ...

1101 St. Paul Street, Apt. 1101
 Baltimore, MD 21202-2630
 June 1, 1991



Commissioner Orin Lehman
 State Historic Preservation Office
 New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
 Agency Building 1
 Albany, NY 12238-0001

RE: Cyclone Roller Coaster
 834 Surf Avenue at W. 10th Street
 Brooklyn, New York

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

As President of the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE), I am writing to support the nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. ACE is the world's largest amusement park enthusiasts club with more than 4,200 members in 49 States, 15 countries, on five (5) continents. More than 70 amusement park related corporations are members, including some of the largest and best known names in the outdoor amusement industry. They have joined us to support our goals of preservation, appreciation, and enjoyment of the roller coaster as the most thrilling amusement ride ever invented.

The Coney Island Cyclone is the most famous roller coaster in the world! Not only has it been enjoyed by well-known celebrities, but it has thrilled millions of people from around the world, who have come to Coney Island to ride it since it was opened in 1927. It is the one roller coaster in the world against which all other coasters are measured.

In the United States alone, three replicas of the Cyclone are currently operating at parks in Georgia, Texas, and California, and all of them are very successful.

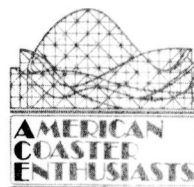
Listing of the Cyclone in the Register will provide recognition of the national, state, and local heritage represented by the Cyclone and will assist in its preservation. Given its historic heritage, the Cyclone is certainly worthy of saving for current and future generations of Americans and others from around the world to enjoy.

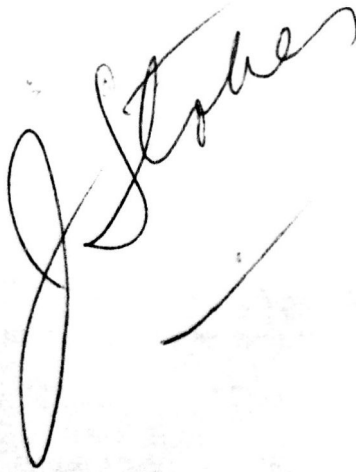
Very sincerely yours,

Ray J. Ueberroth
 Ray J. Ueberroth
 President

cc: Milt Berger

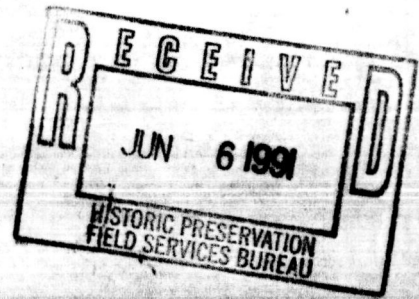
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Ken Smith
449 Weeden Street
Pawtucket, R. I. 02860-1719
A.C.E. Member #109
June 1, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
Albany, New York



Dear Mr. Lehman:

It has recently come to my attention that one of our American Coaster Enthusiasts members, Milt Berger, is nominating the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster for listing in the National and State Registries of National Monuments.

I am writing you this letter to show my whole-hearted support for this endeavor. The Cyclone is known as the most famous and celebrated roller coaster in the world, and a true classic that is the standard by which all other roller coasters are judged.

My first ride on the Cyclone took place in 1965, and I have since carried on a twenty-five year love affair with this ride. I try to make Coney Island my destination at least once every summer. The Cyclone has been on the top ten list of coasters ever since there has been a top ten list.

I hope that you will give this coaster the true designation that it truly deserves. It is certainly a unique and one of a kind ride, even with the three almost-exact copies that have been recently built across the country.

Thank you for all you can do concerning this matter, it will be greatly appreciated by all A.C.E. members who think highly of this magnificent structure.

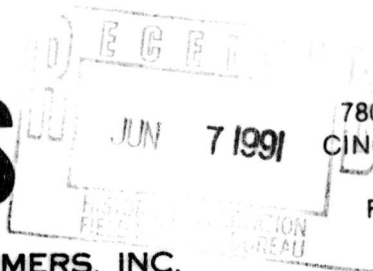
Sincerely yours,


Kenneth Smith

Curtis D. Summers, P.E.
Dennis C. Starkey, P.E.
Lawrence R. Bill, P.E.
M. Simon Sapsford, P.E.
James N. Miller, PE, CIPE
Richard A. Wuest, AIA
Frank Flora, Reg. Arch.
David T. Richards, AIA
James D. Bibbo
Marlis Summers
Richard D. Herndon, P.E. Consultant



CURTIS D. SUMMERS, INC.
ENGINEERS-ARCHITECTS

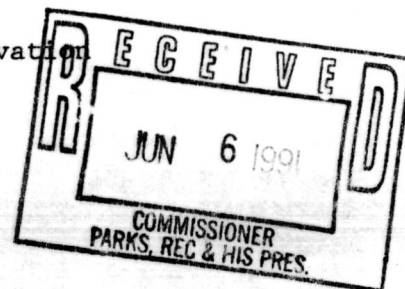


7800 LAUREL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243
(513) 561-4020
FAX (513) 561-4027

June 3, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historic Preservation Office
New York State of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

Re: Coney Island Cyclone Wood Coaster
National and State Register of Historic Places
Support for Nomination



Dear Commissioner Lehman:

As an active designer of wood coasters throughout the world, please accept my support for the nomination of the Coney Island Cyclone to the National and State Register of Historic Places.

In recent years, we have designed more wood coasters than any other firm in the world and have a backlog of clients wanting coasters well into the future.

Two of our designs, the Georgia Cyclone at Six Flags Georgia and the Psyclone at Six Flags Magic Mountain opened to the public in 1990 and 1991 respectively. Both were based on the Coney Island Cyclone. These, plus the Texas Cyclone at Six Flags Astroworld (designed by William Cobb in 1976) prove that the Coney Island Cyclone is a truly noteworthy design and is used as the basis for creation of new coasters even to this day. This multiple adaptation in other coasters also proves the old adage "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".

It also strongly indicates that the Coney Island Cyclone truly belongs in the National and State Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,


Curtis D. Summers

erh





[Handwritten signature]

June 3, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State Historical Preservation Office
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238-0001

Re: **CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER**

Dear Mr. Lehman:

At the urging of Mr. Milton Berger, representative of Astroland Amusement Park, Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, I'm writing regarding the inclusion of the **Cyclone Roller Coaster** into the National and State Register of Historic Monuments. As a founder and the first President of the American Coaster Enthusiasts (a non-profit organization of 5000 worldwide members who seek to preserve these unique thrill devices), I hope that this matter will not be taken lightly and that your office will seriously consider such status for this wonderful piece of Brooklyn history.

Without laboring over the long and intricate history of the roller coaster I wish to present the following facts regarding the **Cyclone's** present fragile condition and why, after reviewing this information, it should receive state protection from the threat of eventual loss.

- (A) What is generally considered the first wood coaster, the Switchback Railway, appeared in 1884 a few hundred feet from the present **Cyclone** site. It's overwhelming popularity attributed to the rapid development of the roller coaster up to the "golden era" of design, the 1920's. Since that first example, over fifty (50) assorted roller coasters have appeared on Coney Island (see list attached) including the first looping coaster in 1895. Between 1907 and 1927, over twenty (20) coasters operated at the same time, a feat unparalleled elsewhere in the amusement industry. Since 1983, the **Cyclone** is the last roller coaster to operate at Coney Island. A question could be raised as to why, from such a vast selection, the **Cyclone** is the sole survivor?
- (B) Presently, it is only one of about 85 wooden coasters in North America and one of only five (5) in New York State alone. On a national scale, there are only eight (8) rides older than the **Cyclone** still operating.

- (C) The metropolitan New York/New Jersey area boasted coasters in every borough/county (including three in Manhattan!), a number that easily approaches one hundred-sixty (160) rides. Only three (3) remain today: two (2) in Playland, Rye, N.Y. and the **Cyclone**.
- (D) With little objection the **Cyclone** was recently nominated and selected a *Landmark* by the New York City Landmarks Commission, a dubious honor from what is usually a very selective committee.
- (E) The **Cyclone** has gone through several dilemmas. Most recently, inflated insurance costs almost shut it down permanently. In 1975, the nearby N.Y. Aquarium wished to remove the **Cyclone** for further parking and/or exhibits. While that was unsuccessful, a Houston park studied a proposal to move the **Cyclone** to a site near the Astrodome. Considered unfeasible, a "duplicate" was erected at Astroworld, in 1976. Titled the Texas Cyclone it has shared top rated honors for over a decade with its Brooklyn counterpart. In 1990, Six Flags Corporation built their version at their Atlanta parks, the Georgia Cyclone, and another in 1991 at their Los Angeles park, apply christened, in a play on words, the Psyclone. No other ride in history has been duplicated to such an extent, especially after operating for fifty (50) years! Obviously these parks have recognized the popularity of the original **Cyclone**.
- (F) On the many occasions that I personally visited the **Cyclone** it has played host to a contingent of responsible leaders in politics, religion and the corporate world. It is not uncommon to spot Hollywood celebrities who show up in limosines for a few rides. In the past three seasons I have seen *Neil Sedaka*, *Matt Dillon*, *Kristy McNichols* and *George Plimpton* take a few spins, and I know why! In its 63 years of operation it has entertained an estimated 30 million riders. During it's initial seasons (1927 and 1928) it was getting 25 cents (sometimes 50 cents) per ride, unheard of in the days of the 10 cent ride.
- (G) The Rosenthal Brothers financed the project in late 1926, and later went on to operate *Palisades Amusement Park*. The ride was designed by *Vernon Keenan*, with the profile by *John A. Miller*. What Frank Lloyd Wright was to American Architecture, Miller was to the American roller coaster. No man has designed and built more amusement devices or parks during their lifetime, an amazing tribute to the "master". The engineer was *Harry G. Baker*, who was heavily involved in the amusement industry and later with the design of the 1939-40 *New York World's Fair*. While all those involved in the creation of the **Cyclone** are deceased, it was this combination of futurists, designers and builders which created possibly the most famous roller coaster ever built.

(H) Two world class riding endurance marathons have been held on the **Cyclone**. Both records were entered into the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 1975 and 1978.-

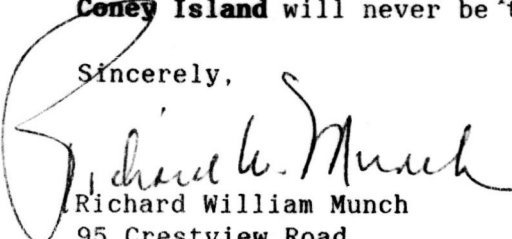
In summary, the **Cyclone** is probably the first name people, throughout the world, think of in association with the word roller coaster. Generations of New Yorkers have enjoyed it. It never fails to make the experts "top-ten" rating lists and is generally considered the ride that others are compared with when compiling such ratings.

At this time, with a rusting Parachute Jump on the endangered list and the remainder of the amusement area on the decline, the **Cyclone** represents the best Coney Island has to offer. It is my opinion (based on 18 years of research) that **Coney Island**, in its present condition, would eventually cease to exist as an amusement center with the **Cyclone**. It must be preserved to keep the memories of generations alive.

I get no bigger thrill during the many talks and interviews I've done when a reporter, in a puzzled tone, says, the **Cyclone** is still running?... I thought it was torn down years ago". Without a doubt somewhere down the road he's on his way to Coney Island to relive his childhood one more time.

Please support this nomination. If the **Cyclone** is not protected **Coney Island** will never be the same.

Sincerely,



Richard William Munch
95 Crestview Road
Fords, NJ 08863

Enclosure: New York State Coaster Directory

cc: Jerome Albert
Milton Berger
Tom Halterman
Ray Uberroth
Colleen Whyte

Switchback Railway	Elmira,	NY.	Thompson/Griffiths/Crane.	e. 1888.
Switchback Railway	Oak Point,	NY.	Thompson.	e. 1888.
Switchback Railway	Saratoga,	NY.	Thompson.	e. 1888.
Figure 8	Athletic/Luna Park,	Buffalo,	NY.	Ingersoll/Harton.
Roller Coaster	Bay View Park,	Blasdell,	NY.	e. 1911.
L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway	Bergen Beach Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Switchback Railway	Bowery Bay,	Jackson Heights,	NY.	Thompson.
L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway	Brighton Beach Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Toboggan	Brighton Beach Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1905-1912.
Giant Safety Coaster/Chase Thru The Clouds	Brighton Beach Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Jarvis.
Racing Coaster	Bronx Park,	Bronx,	NY.	Ingersoll/Miller.
L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway	Carnival Court Park,	Buffalo,	NY.	Thompson.
Figure 8	Celeron Park,	Jamestown,	NY.	e. 1908.
Gréyhound	Celeron Park,	Jamestown,	NY.	Miller/Brown.
Royal Gorge Coaster	Clason Point Park,	Bronx,	NY.	Harton/Griffiths/Crane.
Red Racer	Clason Point Park,	Bronx,	NY.	Turpin.
Forest Coaster	Clason Point Park,	Bronx,	NY.	Harton.
Deep Dipper	Colonnade/Riverside Park,	Schenectady,	NY.	e. 1922.
Bobsled	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Bartlett.
L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Giant Racer/Giant Coaster	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Jarvis/Coaster Construction Co.
Jackman's Thriller	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Jackman.
Serpentine Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Alcoke.
Whirlwind Ride	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Jackman.
Comet	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1942-)
Electric Scenic Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Elephant Scenic	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	e. 1906.
Ben Hur Racer	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	e. 1896.
Thunderbolt	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1908-1923.
Red Devil Rider	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Miller/Moran.
Rough Riders	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1925-1982.
Drop The Dip	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1907-1923.
Oval Coaster	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Mangels.
Cannon Coaster	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	e. 1907.
Pike's Peak Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Feucht/Mosley.
Oriental Scenic Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1907-1907.
Drop The Dip	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Hinckle.
Big Dipper	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1885-)
Limit Roller Coaster	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Meyer.
Loop The Loop	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1902-)
Great Musical Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson/Jackman.
Switchback Railway	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1906-)
Wildcat	Coney Island,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Cyclone	Coney Island/Astroland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1901-)
Glaciers Scenic Railway	Coney Island/Dreamland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Feucht/Mosley.
L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway	Coney Island/Dreamland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1908-1923.
Coasting Thru Switzerland	Coney Island/Dreamland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Over The Great Divide/Touring The Alps	Coney Island/Dreamland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1921-1929.
Marine Scenic Railway	Coney Island/Dreamland,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Prescott.
Ziz	Coney Island/Feltman's,	Brooklyn,	NY.	1901-1910.
Kiddie Coaster	Coney Island/Kiddie Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Jackman.
Drop The Dip	Coney Island/Luna Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(-1905)
Dragon's Gorge	Coney Island/Luna Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Thompson.
Great Deep Rift Coal Mine	Coney Island/Luna Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	(1884-)
Rocky Road To Dublin	Coney Island/Luna Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Baker.
Toboggan/Scenic Railway	Coney Island/Luna Park,	Brooklyn,	NY.	Miller/Keenan/Baker/Feucht/A. McKee.
				1927.
				1910-1911.
				1906-1911.
				1904-1911.
				1907-1911.
				1909-1911.
				e. 1908.
				(1926-)
				(1924-)
				1904-1913.
				(1906-)
				1905-1923.
				1909-1922.



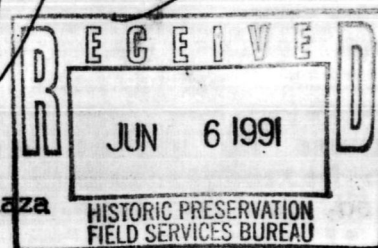
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

225 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

(212) 553-1100

June 4, 1991

Orin Lehman
Commissioner
State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Albany, N.Y. 12238



Re: The Cyclone Roller Coaster
834 Surf Avenue at West 10th St.
Brooklyn, Kings County

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Laurie Beckelman, Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, has asked me to respond on her behalf to your request for comments on the proposed nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Commission is happy to endorse this nomination. The Cyclone was designated a New York City Landmark on July 12, 1988. The Cyclone has been one of our country's premier roller coasters since its construction in 1927. Designed by engineer Vernon Keenan and built by noted amusement ride inventor Harry C. Baker for Jack and Irving Rosenthal, the Cyclone belongs to an increasingly rare group of wood-track coasters; modern building codes make it irreplaceable. I enclose a copy of the findings the Commission adopted when it made its designation.

I urge the State Review Board to give favorable consideration to this nomination at its next meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Pearson

Marjorie Pearson
Director of Research

cc: L. Beckelman

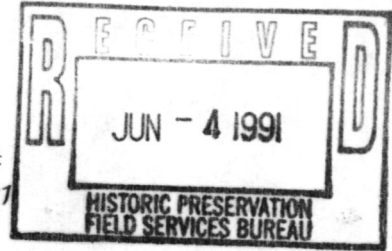
FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this structure, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Cyclone has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Cyclone is often cited as one of our country's best designed roller coasters, known for its speed and famed for its exhilarating fan turns and steep drops; that it belongs to an increasingly rare group of wood-track coasters, one of about eighty-five extant from the 1,500 that once thrilled America, whose special qualities are natural resilience, distinctive sound, unique aesthetic as a structural frame, and relative ease of replacing parts; that the Cyclone's rarity is assured by modern building codes which prohibit a timber-supported coaster like the Cyclone from being duplicated; that it was built in 1927, at the zenith of Coney Island's popularity; that it is one of nearly two dozen roller coasters built at Coney Island, where the world's first coaster with cars mounted on wheels had been introduced and where the ride came of age; that it was conceived by Harry C. Baker, a leading operator of amusement park rides in the early-twentieth century; and that necessary maintenance and repairs have conserved the Cyclone's original integrity and configuration.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21, Section 534, of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Cyclone, 834 Surf Avenue at West 10th Street, Borough of Brooklyn, and designates Tax Map Block 8697, Lot 4 in part consisting of the land on which the described improvement is situated, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.

A. J. Schmalzried
205 East Seventy Eighth Street
New York City, New York 10021



John

The Conny is (and) Cyclone
roller coaster is clear to
the meat and vegetable
of that particular arrangement.
It should be present
for both aesthetic & historical
reasons.
Ride it & you'll
know why
Sincerely
AJ



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10021

Betsy Gotbaum
Commissioner

June 13, 1991

Mr. Jerry Rogers
National Park Service
1100 L Street N.W.
Room 6111
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation fully and wholeheartedly supports the nomination of the Cyclone roller coaster to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. This historic Coney Island ride has been a designated city landmark since 1988. Parks' support of the designation was contingent upon guarantees that routine and necessary maintenance procedures would not be subject to additional approval processes. It is my understanding that listing in the National and State Registers will not change this agreement.

We are hoping to expedite the process of listing in the National Register so that the public announcement might coincide with festivities planned for the Fourth of July. Due to this compressed time frame, Parks will waive its right to comment during the 30-day federal review process.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Parks Director of Planning, Stephen Whitehouse at (212) 360-3403.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum

cc: John Bonifide



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238-0001

June 18, 1991

Carol Shull
Nation Register Program Chief
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: The Cyclone Roller
Coaster
Brooklyn, Kings Co, NY

Dear Ms. Shull,

Please find enclosed a copy of the National Register Nomination for the Cyclone Roller Coaster, located in Coney Island, New York. As you may have been informed by Beth Savage, the sponsor is anxious to gain National Register status for this important local landmark. To this end, in consultation, with Beth, we are forwarding the appropriate documents to you for processing. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Gobrecht
Coordinator
Survey, National Register and
Planning Unit



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

June 20, 1991

Mr. Jerry Rogers
National Parks Service
1100 L Street N.W.
Room 6111
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Cyclone Roller Coaster at Astroland in Coney Island, Brooklyn has been a distinct part of New York City for 64 years. The City of New York fully supports the nomination of the Cyclone Roller Coaster to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Since the opening on June 26, 1927 the Cyclone has been a cause of fascination, fear, challenge, thrill and excitement for the young, the old and all in between. The Cyclone is unique, not solely because of its wooden construction which distinguishes it from modern high speed metal roller coasters, but because the Cyclone has traveled through history and is still thrilling people the same way it did 64 years ago. Long before becoming a New York City landmark in 1988, the Cyclone served as a focal point, a reference point, a true landmark.

As New York City Parks Commissioner Gotbaum has already notified you, we are hoping to announce the listing in the National Register with planned Fourth of July festivities. To expedite this process the Parks Department has waived its right to comment during the 30-day Federal review period.

We urge designation of the Cyclone Roller Coaster as an historic place. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David N. Dinkins".

David N. Dinkins
MAYOR

cc: Commissioner Elisabeth Gotbaum