

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 20 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel
other names/site number Kiddieland Carousel

2. Location

street & number Kiddieland - Cedar Point N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Sandusky N/A ☐ vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Erie code 043 zip code 44870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Sandusky, Ohio MRA

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

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, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fair - Amusement park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fair - Amusement Park

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof Wood

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

1924 William Dentzel Carousel

The 1924 William H. Dentzel Carousel is located in Kiddieland at Cedar Point Amusement Park approximately 800' from Lake Erie; 675' from Sandusky Bay; 100' east of the Coliseum on the Midway. The structure has a wooden multicolored conical roof consisting of twelve tapered panels and a plain fascia. Atop the roof apex is a wood drum, upon which rest a conical roof edged with a scalloped fascia. Metal columns, located at the roof panel seams, support the roof. A plain metal balustrade links the columns.

The drum structure which houses the central mechanism of the carousel is decorated with rows of lights separating the square mirrored panels that form a splayed top band. Additional embellishments include gilded rosettes, floral swags and molded trim framing decoratively painted center panels. Rafters radiate out from the central drum and run to the roof edge.

The revolving turntable contains 2 chariots and 52 animals-- 16 of which are stationary and 36 that "hop" up and down when the machine is running. Horses, bears, rabbits, ostriches, a lion, a tiger, and a donkey make up the menagerie on the 57' diameter turntable. The animals and chariots are placed three abreast on the platform. A Wurlitzer #105 band organ provides the music as the turntable rotates.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

MAR 20 1990

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

ca. 1924

Significant Dates

ca. 1924ca. 1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William H. Dentzel

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

The 1921 William Dentzel Carousel is eligible under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B due to its significance as an example of an early 20th century amusement park carousel exhibiting the artwork and workmanship of master carvers William H. Dentzel and Daniel Muller.

Twentieth century amusement park carousels are descendents of a 17th century French mechanism used for jousting practice. Using a wheel consisting of wooden arms and suspended horses, French nobility attempted to lance golden rings. A toy maker began making a child's version, which became very popular. The device came to America and crudely carved rides entertained early beach and resort visitors. Between World War I and the Depression, small amusement parks experienced the height of their popularity. The country was more affluent, people had more leisure time and automobiles made amusement parks more accessible. During this time, the simply carved wooden carousels evolved into the elaborately bejeweled mechanisms that were the premier amusement rides of the parks. Many of the large, hand-carved wooden carousels were lost due to the Depression forcing many amusement parks out of business, public craving for more thrilling rides, and antique dealers offering top dollar for the elaborately carved animals. Out of more than one thousand that existed, less than 250 of these carousels still survive.

Gustave Dentzel is credited for beginning America's first carousel factory in 1867. His son William became a master carousel horse carver and continued the work of his father. Daniel Muller worked as the chief carver in Dentzel's shop and later started his own factory. Both Dentzel and Muller had distinctive carving styles, the characteristics of which distinguish their work. Dentzel's used four different poses for his horses. The use of different gear and coloration created the illusion of a large variety of horses on a single platform. Muller's horses commonly feature full, layered flying manes and upturned tongues in open mouths.

☒ See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

MAR 20 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel, Cedar Point, Sandusky, Erie County Ohio

Section number 8 **Page** 2

The 1924 William H. Dentzel Carousel is a classic example of a large elaborately carved amusement park carousel. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it is known that the machine was refurbished in Memphis before being used in the 1936 Chicago World's Fair. As part of the refurbishment, Daniel C. Muller re-carved many of the animals. His armoured horse was featured on a U.S. commemorative postage stamp in 1988. Since then, Cedar Point has replaced the original armoured horse with a replica. The original is on display elsewhere in the park.

The machine formerly operated at Hunting Park in Germantown, Pennsylvania. It was moved to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio in 1968. Although the structure has been moved it maintains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park location affords it integrity of setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

MAR 20 1990

Cedar Point Carousels, Cedar Point, 1988
Painted Ponies, Zon International Publishing, 1987
Oral History - Thomas Layton, carousel restorer
Cedar Point, The Queen of American Watering Places. Francis, Canton, 1988
Treasure by the Bay, Damm, Bucknell University Press, 1989

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

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 one acre

UTM References

A 17 359636 4593264
Zone Easting Northing
C

B
Zone Easting Northing
D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

In Kiddieland at Cedar Point approximately 800' from Lake Erie; 675' from Sandusky Bay; 100' east of Coliseum on Midway.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the distance from the two bodies of water which bound Cedar Point, as well as the largest building on the Midway.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellie Damm, President
organization The Old House Guild of Sandusky date 9/1/89
street & number 429 Lawrence Street telephone (419) 625-9331
city or town Sandusky state Ohio zip code 44870

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 20 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

Information that is the same for both photographs:

1. William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel
2. Sandusky, Ohio
3. Daniel L. Feicht
4. June, 1988
5. Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Photograph #1

6. from southeast looking northwest

Photograph #2

6. closeup of Daniel Muller armored horse and interior of carousel

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dentzel, William H., 1924 Carousel

MULTIPLE NAME: Sandusky MRA

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 3/20/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/19/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/03/90
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/04/90

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000625

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ☒ RETURN ___REJECT 5/4/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This property is nominated under Criterion C, with Entertainment/Recreation as the Area of Significance. Entertainment/Recreation is associated with Criterion A (events). Art, architecture, or Engineering are the areas of Significance that apply to Criterion C.

The Verbal Boundary Description is inadequate - it merely locates the property; it does not make clear what the extent of the nominated area is. Please clarify.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Patrick Andrews
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 5/4/90

Also, the period of significance should be extended to include the major refurbishment in 1936.

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

Signed Patrick Andrus Phone _____
Date 5/4/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
SEP 28 1990NATIONAL
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

historic name Willima H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel
other names/site number Kiddieland Carousel

2. Location

street & number Kiddieland - Cedar Point N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Sandusky N/A ☐ vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Erie code 043 zip code 44870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
	buildings
	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Sandusky, Ohio MRA

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

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, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Barbara Power
Signature of certifying official

9-25-90
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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 Andrews

11/8/90

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fair - Amusement park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fair - Amusement Park

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof Wood

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

1924 William Dentzel Carousel

The 1924 William H. Dentzel Carousel is located in Kiddieland at Cedar Point Amusement Park approximately 800' from Lake Erie; 675' from Sandusky Bay; 100' east of the Coliseum on the Midway. The structure has a wooden multicolored conical roof consisting of twelve tapered panels and a plain fascia. Atop the roof apex is a wood drum, upon which rest a conical roof edged with a scalloped fascia. Metal columns, located at the roof panel seams, support the roof. A plain metal balustrade links the columns.

The drum structure which houses the central mechanism of the carousel is decorated with rows of lights separating the square mirrored panels that form a splayed top band. Additional embellishments include gilded rosettes, floral swags and molded trim framing decoratively painted center panels. Rafters radiate out from the central drum and run to the roof edge.

The revolving turntable contains 2 chariots and 52 animals-- 16 of which are stationary and 36 that "hop" up and down when the machine is running. Horses, bears, rabbits, ostriches, a lion, a tiger, and a donkey make up the menagerie on the 57' diameter turntable. The animals and chariots are placed three abreast on the platform. A Wurlitzer #105 band organ provides the music as the turntable rotates.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

MAR 20 1990

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

ca. 1924 - 1936

Significant Dates

ca. 1924

ca. 1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William H. Dentzel

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

The 1924 William Dentzel Carousel is eligible under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B due to its significance as an example of an early 20th century amusement park carousel exhibiting the artwork and workmanship of master carvers William H. Dentzel and Daniel Muller.

Twentieth century amusement park carousels are descendants of a 17th century French mechanism used for jousting practice. Using a wheel consisting of wooden arms and suspended horses, French nobility attempted to lance golden rings. A toy maker began making a child's version, which became very popular. The device came to America and crudely carved rides entertained early beach and resort visitors. Between World War I and the Depression, small amusement parks experienced the height of their popularity. The country was more affluent, people had more leisure time and automobiles made amusement parks more accessible. During this time, the simply carved wooden carousels evolved into the elaborately bejeweled mechanisms that were the premier amusement rides of the parks. Many of the large, hand-carved wooden carousels were lost due to the Depression forcing many amusement parks out of business, public craving for more thrilling rides, and antique dealers offering top dollar for the elaborately carved animals. Out of more than one thousand that existed, less than 250 of these carousels still survive.

Gustave Dentzel is credited for beginning America's first carousel factory in 1867. His son William became a master carousel horse carver and continued the work of his father. Daniel Muller worked as the chief carver in Dentzel's shop and later started his own factory. Both Dentzel and Muller had distinctive carving styles, the characteristics of which distinguish their work. Dentzel's used four different poses for his horses. The use of different gear and coloration created the illusion of a large variety of horses on a single platform. Muller's horses commonly feature full, layered flying manes and upturned tongues in open mouths.

☒ See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

MAR 20 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel, Cedar Point, Sandusky, Erie County Ohio

Section number 8 Page 2

The 1924 William H. Dentzel Carousel is a classic example of a large elaborately carved amusement park carousel. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it is known that the machine was refurbished in Memphis before being used in the 1936 Chicago World's Fair. As part of the refurbishment, Daniel C. Muller re-carved many of the animals. His armoured horse was featured on a U.S. commemorative postage stamp in 1988. Since then, Cedar Point has replaced the original armoured horse with a replica. The original is on display elsewhere in the park.

The machine formerly operated at Hunting Park in Germantown, Pennsylvania. It was moved to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio in 1968. Although the structure has been moved it maintains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park location affords it integrity of setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

MAR 20 1990

Cedar Point Carousels, Cedar Point, 1988
Painted Ponies, Zon International Publishing, 1987
Oral History - Thomas Layton, carousel restorer
Cedar Point, The Queen of American Watering Places. Francis, Canton, 1988
Treasure by the Bay, Damm, Bucknell University Press, 1989

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

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 one acre

UTM References

A 17 359636 4593264
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The carousel and roof structure whose boundaries form a circle with a radius of 36' centered on the carousel located in Kiddieland at Cedar Point Amusement Park approximately 800' from Lake Erie; 675' from Sandusky Bay; 100' east of the Coliseum on the Midway.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the carousel turntable and roof structure plus 1' clearance beyond the roof structure.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellie Damm, President

organization The Old House Guild of Sandusky date 9/1/89

street & number 429 Lawrence Street telephone (419) 625-9331

city or town Sandusky state Ohio zip code 44870

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 20 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

Information that is the same for both photographs:

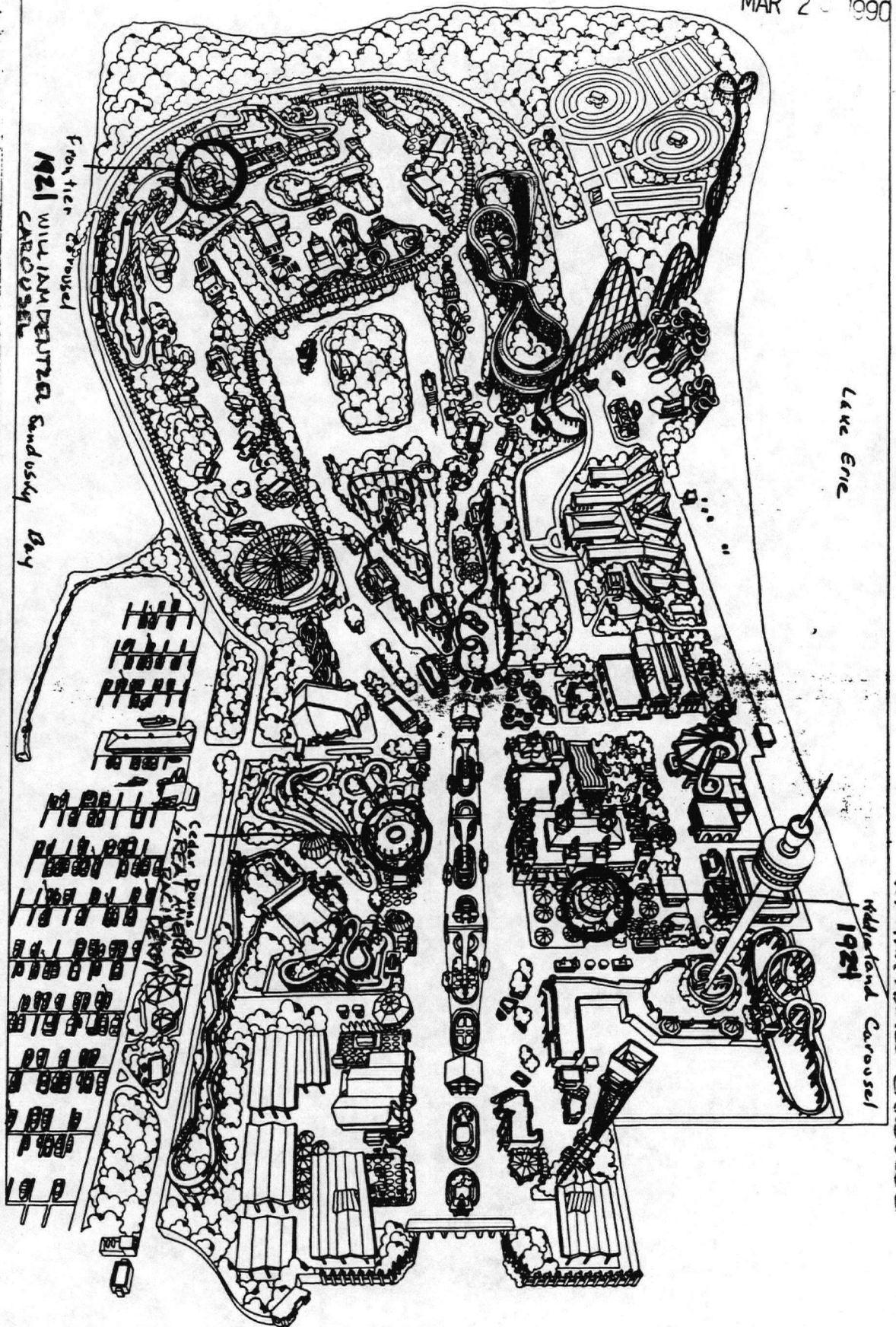
1. William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel
2. Sandusky, Ohio
3. Daniel L. Feicht
4. June, 1988
5. Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Photograph #1

6. from southeast looking northwest

Photograph #2

6. closeup of Daniel Muller armored horse and interior of carousel



Lake Erie

WILLIAM DENTZEL CAROUSEL

1921

-WILLIAM DENTZEL
CAROUSEL, 1921
-WILLIAM DENTZEL
CAROUSEL, 1924
-GREAT AMERICAN
RACING DERBY
SANDUSKY, OHIO
ERIE COUNTY

CEDAR POINT

3/24/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Sandusky MRA

Erie County, OHIO

COVER

Substantive Review

Date Listed

Patrick Anders 5/4/90

89. Dentzel, William H., ca. 1924 Carousel

Substantive Review

11/8/90

90. Dentzel, William H., 1921 Carousel

Substantive Review

11/8/90

91. Great American Racing Derby

Substantive Review

11/8/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Dentzel, William H., 1924 Carousel

MULTIPLE NAME: Sandusky MRA

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 9/28/90

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/12/90

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000625

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/8/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

on resubmission a corrected area of significance, period
of significance, and verbal boundary description
have been provided.

architecturally significant early 20th
century carousel

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A, C, D
REVIEWER Detrick Andrus
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 11/8/90

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 _____



William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel
Erie County, OH

1 of 2



William H. Dentzel ca. 1924 Carousel

Eric County, OH.

#2 of 2

MAR 20 1990

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000649