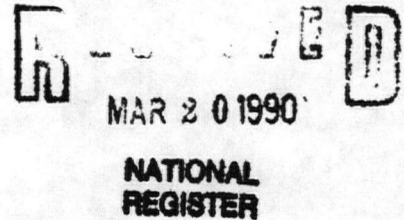


United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Great American Racing Derby
other names/site number Cedar Downs Racing Derby

2. Location

street & number Midway - Cedar Point N/A ☐ not for publication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>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Sandusky, Ohio MRANumber 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. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof Wood

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Great American Racing Derby
Cedar Downs Racing Derby

The Great American Racing Derby is located on the Midway at Cedar Point Amusement Park. The structure is 650' from Lake Erie; 625' from Sandusky Bay; and 250' south of the Coliseum (NR: 1-20-83), the largest building on the Midway.

A large wooden roof structure covers the turntable of the Derby. The flattened dome roof is comprised of 16 tapered panels covered with asbestos shingles, and has a large center opening where the apex would be located. Rimming the center opening is a plain cresting ridge with eight evenly spaced small lanterns sporting racing flags from their pyramided tops. The outer roof edge consists of a simple molded cornice separated by turrets that pierce the cornice where the roof panels are joined. These turrets also sport racing flags.

The roof structure is supported by two rings of square wooden posts. The outer posts are linked by an entablature containing molded panels. A row of lights runs along the bottom edge. A plain metal balustrade also runs between these posts. Square knee braces help support the large eave overhang. Large curved latticed brackets ~~that~~ extend in an arc from the bottom of these posts to the roof rafters. The interior ring of square posts are separated by a round brick wall planter that was added in 1969. These posts rest on squared pedestals.

The ride turntable is 90' in diameter and rotates at a top speed of 15 miles per hour. Placed four-abreast, the 64 horses move back and forth as the turntable moves, producing a racing effect. Each horse has two seats, enabling 128 people to ride at one time. The horses are simply carved yet colorfully painted.

8. Statement of Significance

MAR 20 1990

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable 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

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Prior & ChurchRoyle C. Williams

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

The Great American Racing Derby is eligible under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B as a rare example of an early 20th century rotating amusement park ride. Between World War I and the Depression, small amusement parks were at the height of their popularity. The country was relatively affluent, people had a greater amount of leisure time than before and automobiles made amusement parks more accessible. The Racing Derby amusement park ride developed as a variation of the midway mainstay-- the carousel. Like the carousel, the Derby contained horses placed on a rotating turntable. The additional feature of the Derby ride was a mechanism that moved the horses back and forth simulating a race between the four horses in each row.

During the 1920's Prior and Church built a number of Racing Derbies for various amusement parks throughout the country. The Depression put an end to the manufacture of these machines. Many of the machines were broken up and sold to carousel horse collectors. The Cedar Point Racing Derby is one of three of these machines that still exist. The others are located in Toronto, Canada and Rye Beach, N.Y.

The Cedar Point Racing Derby was built for the Humphrey Company of Euclid Beach, Ohio. After 47 years, the Euclid Beach park closed in 1969. At that time the Great American Racing Derby was moved to Cedar Point. Although the structure has been moved it maintains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park setting and prominent placement on the midway afford it integrity of setting.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cedar Point Carousels, Cedar Fair, 1988

Painted Ponies, Zon International Publishing, 1987

Oral history - Thomas Layton

Cedar Point, The Queen of American Watering Places, Francis, Canton, 1988

Treasure by the Bay, Damm, Buckness University Press, 1989

☐ 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

1	7
---	---

3	5	9	5	1	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	9	3	2	6	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

On the Midway at Cedar Point. 850' from Lake Erie; 625' from Sandusky Bay;
250' south of the Coliseum, the largest building on the 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 centermost figure in 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Great American Racing Derby
NAME:

MULTIPLE Sandusky MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 3/20/90

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/03/90

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/19/90

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/04/90

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000626

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 Andrus
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 5/4/90

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

Signed Patricia Andrews Phone _____
Date 5/4/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
SEP 28 1990NATIONAL
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 Great American Racing Derby
other names/site number Cedar Downs Racing Derby

2. Location

street & number Midway - 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
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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 Anderson

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. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls _____

roof Wood

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Great American Racing Derby
Cedar Downs Racing Derby

The Great American Racing Derby is located on the Midway at Cedar Point Amusement Park. The structure is 650' from Lake Erie; 625' from Sandusky Bay; and 250' south of the Coliseum (NR: 1-20-83), the largest building on the Midway.

A large wooden roof structure covers the turntable of the Derby. The flattened dome roof is comprised of 16 tapered panels covered with asbestos shingles, and has a large center opening where the apex would be located. Rimming the center opening is a plain cresting ridge with eight evenly spaced small lanterns sporting racing flags from their pyramided tops. The outer roof edge consists of a simple molded cornice separated by turrets that pierce the cornice where the roof panels are joined. These turrets also sport racing flags.

The roof structure is supported by two rings of square wooden posts. The outer posts are linked by an entablature containing molded panels. A row of lights runs along the bottom edge. A plain metal balustrade also runs between these posts. Square knee braces help support the large eave overhang. Large curved latticed brackets ~~that~~ extend in an arc from the bottom of these posts to the roof rafters. The interior ring of square posts are separated by a round brick wall planter that was added in 1969. These posts rest on squared pedestals.

The ride turntable is 90' in diameter and rotates at a top speed of 15 miles per hour. Placed four-abreast, the 64 horses move back and forth as the turntable moves, producing a racing effect. Each horse has two seats, enabling 128 people to ride at one time. The horses are simply carved yet colorfully painted.

8. Statement of Significance

MAR 20 1990

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

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Prior & ChurchRoyle C. Williams

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

The Great American Racing Derby is eligible under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B as a rare example of an early 20th century rotating amusement park ride. Between World War I and the Depression, small amusement parks were at the height of their popularity. The country was relatively affluent, people had a greater amount of leisure time than before and automobiles made amusement parks more accessible. The Racing Derby amusement park ride developed as a variation of the midway mainstay-- the carousel. Like the carousel, the Derby contained horses placed on a rotating turntable. The additional feature of the Derby ride was a mechanism that moved the horses back and forth simulating a race between the four horses in each row.

During the 1920's Prior and Church built a number of Racing Derbies for various amusement parks throughout the country. The Depression put an end to the manufacture of these machines. Many of the machines were broken up and sold to carousel horse collectors. The Cedar Point Racing Derby is one of three of these machines that still exist. The others are located in Toronto, Canada and Rye Beach, N.Y.

The Cedar Point Racing Derby was built for the Humphrey Company of Euclid Beach, Ohio. After 47 years, the Euclid Beach park closed in 1969. At that time the Great American Racing Derby was moved to Cedar Point. Although the structure has been moved it maintains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park setting and prominent placement on the midway afford it integrity of setting.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEP 28 1990

Cedar Point Carousels, Cedar Fair, 1988
Painted Ponies, Zon International Publishing, 1987
Oral history - Thomas Layton
Cedar Point, The Queen of American Watering Places, Francis, Canton, 1988
Treasure by the Bay, Damm, Buckness 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

Acree of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 359516 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 64' centered on the carousel located on the Midway at Cedar Point 850' from Lake Erie; 625' from Sandusky Bay; and 250' south 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 circumference of 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

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

Information that is the same for all photographs:

1. Great American Racing Derby
2. Sandusky, Ohio
3. Daniel L. Feicht
4. June, 1988
5. Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Photograph #1

6. from southwest looking northeast

Photograph #2

6. from southwest looking northeast closeup detail

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 Andrus 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 Great American Racing Derby
NAME:

MULTIPLE Sandusky MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 9/28/90

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

11/12/90

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000626

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

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

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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

architecturally significant early 20th century carousel

RECOM./CRITERIA accept
REVIEWER Patrick Anders
DISCIPLINE Historic
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 _____



Great American Racing Derby

ERIE COUNTY, OHIO

#1 of 2

MAR 20 1960



Great American Racing Derby

ERIE County, OHIO

#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