

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 Carousel, 1921
other names/site number Frontier Carousel

2. Location

street & number Frontiertown - Cedar Point N/A ☐ not for publication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 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 3/13/90

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.

1921 William Dentzel Carousel

The 1921 William Dentzel Carousel is located in Frontiertown at Cedar Point Amusement Park, approximately 100' from Sandusky Bay and 150' from Mosely Channel leading from Sandusky Bay to Lake Erie and 900' from Lake Erie. The carousel consists of two structures: the protective roof outer structure built in 1971 and the original 1921 carousel. The outer structure consists of a ten panel conical roof covered with asbestos shingles and capped by a small round air vent monitor. The roof is supported by iron posts linked together by a plain balustrade. The fascia of the roof structure features decoratively painted panels and cartouches with replicas of the Dentzel jester head or the Cedar Point logo in the centers. Much emphasis was placed on using period colors and trim for this fascia.

The carousel structure is all original. This four-abreast machine consists of 68 figures, the majority of which are horses. Additional figures include two chariots, a lion, a tiger, a deer (with real antlers), and a giraffe. A Wurlitzer #153 band organ plays as the turntable rotates. The turntable's top rotation speed is 8 miles per hour. Decoration on the inner drum structure includes scenic panels painted by Angelo Calsamilla and an upper band of splayed mirror panels. Atop the mirrors is an elaborately molded cornice and a row of arches separating the carousel's rafters which radiate out to the roof's edge. The fascia on the carousel is adorned with a band of cartouches alternatively framing elliptical mirrors or the Dentzel jester head. Both the bottom and top edges of the fascia are scalloped.

8. Statement of Significance

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

1921

Significant Dates

1921

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Daniel C. Muller, William H. DentzelCharles I.D. Loof, Angelo Calsamilla

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 Criteria Consideration B as a significant example of an early twentieth century amusement park carousel exhibiting the artwork and workmanship of master carousel carvers and artists. The carousel represents the work of carousel masters William Dentzel, Daniel Muller, Charles I.D. Loof and master carousel painter Angelo Calsamilla.

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 where 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 machines that were the premier amusement rides of these parks. Many of the large, hand-carved wooden carousels were lost due to the Depression forcing many small 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 identify their work. Dentzel used five poses for his horses. The use of different gear and coloration created the illusion of a large variety of horses on a platform. Muller's horses commonly feature full, layered flying manes and upturned tongues in open mouths. Charles I.D. Loof specialized in carving animals other than horses. He is thought to have carved the giraffe figure. It is not unusual for carousels to contain animals of several different carvers as the manufacturers often traded these figures back

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 20 1990

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921, Cedar Point, Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio

Section number 8 Page 2

and forth. Angelo Calsamila was an Italian immigrant who painted the panels for the William Dentzel company. Carousel enthusiasts consider his paintings some of the finest of the carousel art.

The 1921 William Dentzel Carousel was built for Exposition Park in Aurora, Illinois. It was later moved to Lake Lansing Amusement Park in Haslett, Michigan. In 1971 the ride was purchased by Cedar Point and moved to its present location. Although the structure has been moved, it maintains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park location affords it integrity of setting.

Painted Ponies, a book that rates carousels, considers this one of 11 outstanding carousels in the country. In fact, Cedar Point has more top rated traditional carousels than anywhere else in the United States. The 1912 Daniel Muller Carousel was part of the Historic Resources of Sandusky nomination, which was listed in the National Register in 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acres of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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3	5	8	6	3	6
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4	5	9	3	8	1	6
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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

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

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

In Frontiertown at Cedar Point approximately 100' from Sandusky Bay and 150' from Mosely Channel leading from Sandusky Bay to Lake Erie. 900' from Lake Erie.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the distance from the two bodies of water which bounds Cedar Point, as well as from the Mosely Channel which connects them.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellie Damm
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 all photographs:

1. William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921
2. Sandusky, Ohio
3. Daniel L. Feicht
4. June, 1988
5. Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Photograph #1

6. from east looking west

Photograph #2

6. closeup of interior

Photograph #3

6. detail of black horse

Photograph #4

6. detail of painted panels

Photograph #5

6. closeup of interior at night

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., 1921 Carousel

MULTIPLE NAME: Sandusky MRA

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: 90000627

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 an Area of Significance. Entertainment/Recreation is associated with Criterion A (events). Art, Architecture, or Engineering would be 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

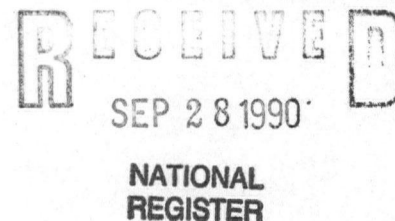
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Patrick Andrus Phone _____ Date 5/4/90

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

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1. Name of Property

historic name William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921
other names/site number Frontier Carousel

2. Location

street & number Frontiertown - 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
1	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
1	0 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.

Babara Pover
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 Ardus

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.

1921 William Dentzel Carousel

The 1921 William Dentzel Carousel is located in Frontiertown at Cedar Point Amusement Park, approximately 100' from Sandusky Bay and 150' from Mosely Channel leading from Sandusky Bay to Lake Erie and 900' from Lake Erie. The carousel consists of two structures: the protective roof outer structure built in 1971 and the original 1921 carousel. The outer structure consists of a ten panel conical roof covered with asbestos shingles and capped by a small round air vent monitor. The roof is supported by iron posts linked together by a plain balustrade. The fascia of the roof structure features decoratively painted panels and cartouches with replicas of the Dentzel jester head or the Cedar Point logo in the centers. Much emphasis was placed on using period colors and trim for this fascia.

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000; 0000000000

SEP 28 1990

1921

N/A

Charles I.D. Loof, Angelo Calsamilia

☒ 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 Carousel, 1921, Cedar Point, Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio

Section number 8 Page 2

and forth. Angelo Calsamila was an Italian immigrant who painted the panels for the William Dentzel company. Carousel enthusiasts consider his paintings some of the finest of the carousel art.

The 1921 William Dentzel Carousel was built for Exposition Park in Aurora, Illinois. It was later moved to Lake Lansing Amusement Park in Haslett, Michigan. In 1971 the ride was purchased by Cedar Point and moved to its present location. Although the structure has been moved, it maintains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The amusement park location affords it integrity of setting.

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Cedar Point, The Queen of American Watering Places, Francis, Canton, 1988
Treasure by the Bay, Damm, Bucknell University Press, 1989

SEP 28 1990

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

1	7	3	5	8	6	3	6	4	5	9	3	8	1	6
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The carousel and roof structure plus 1 foot clearance whose boundaries form a circle with a radius of 94' centered on the carousel located in Frontiertown at Cedar Point approximately 100' from Sandusky Bay and 150' from Mosely Channel leading from Sandusky Bay to Lake Erie, and 900' from Lake Erie.

☐ 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
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**

William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921, Sandusky Ohio, Erie County

Section number ~~Photos~~ Page 1

Information that is the same for all photographs:

1. William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921
2. Sandusky, Ohio
3. Daniel L. Feicht
4. June, 1988
5. Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Photograph #1

6. from east looking west

Photograph #2

6. closeup of interior

Photograph #3

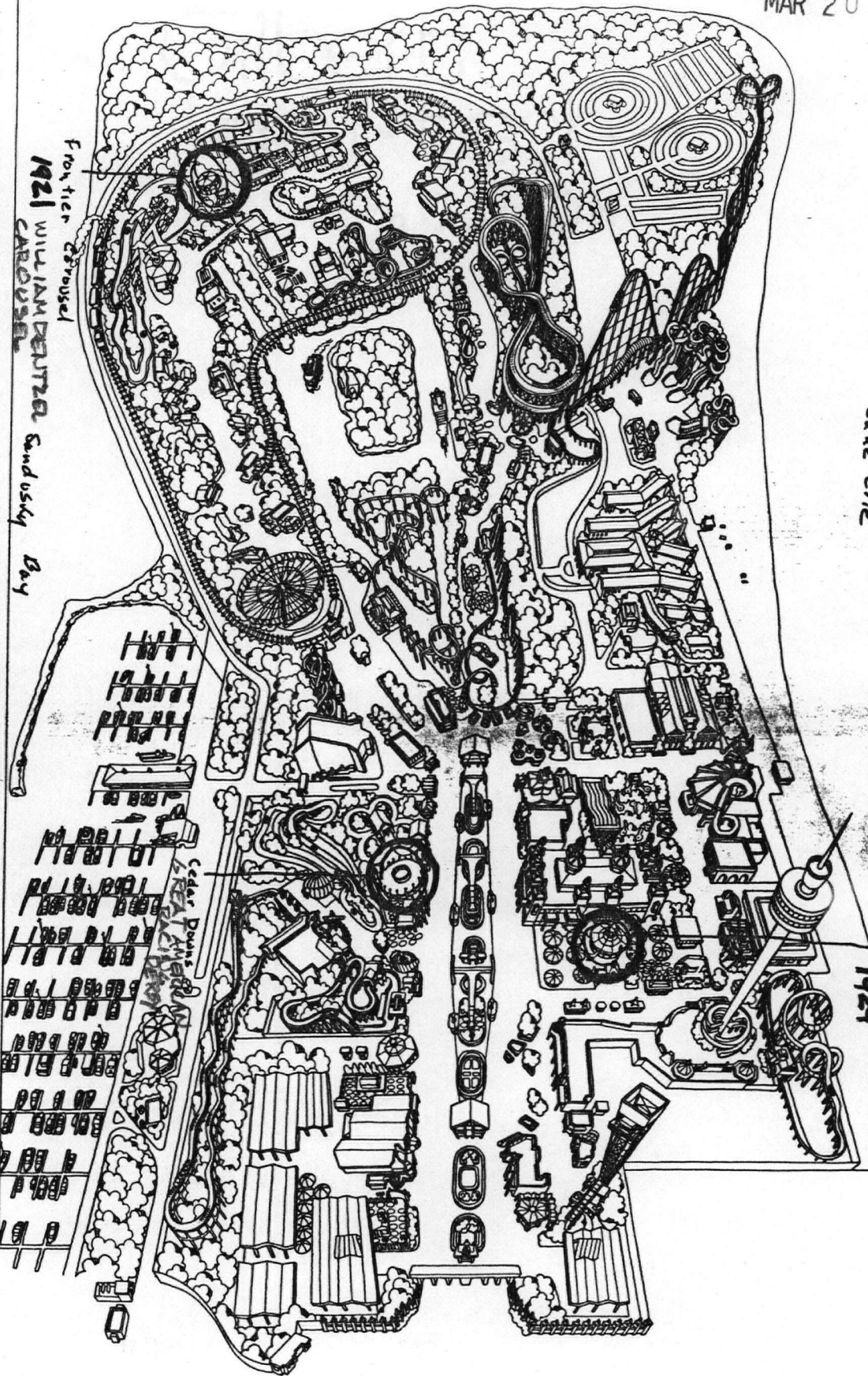
6. detail of black horse

Photograph #4

6. detail of painted panels

Photograph #5

6. closeup of interior at night



Frontier Coaster
1921 William Dentzel Carousel
Sandusky Bay

Lake Erie

William Dentzel Carousel
Midland Carousel
1924

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 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 NAME: Dentzel, William H., 1921 Carousel

MULTIPLE NAME: Sandusky MRA

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: 90000627

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

DATE

11/8/90

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

on resubmission a corrected area of significant and
new Verbal boundary description have been provided.

architecturally significant early 20th century carousel

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

DATE

accept C
Patrick Andrus
Historian
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 Carousel, 1921

ERIE COUNTY, OH

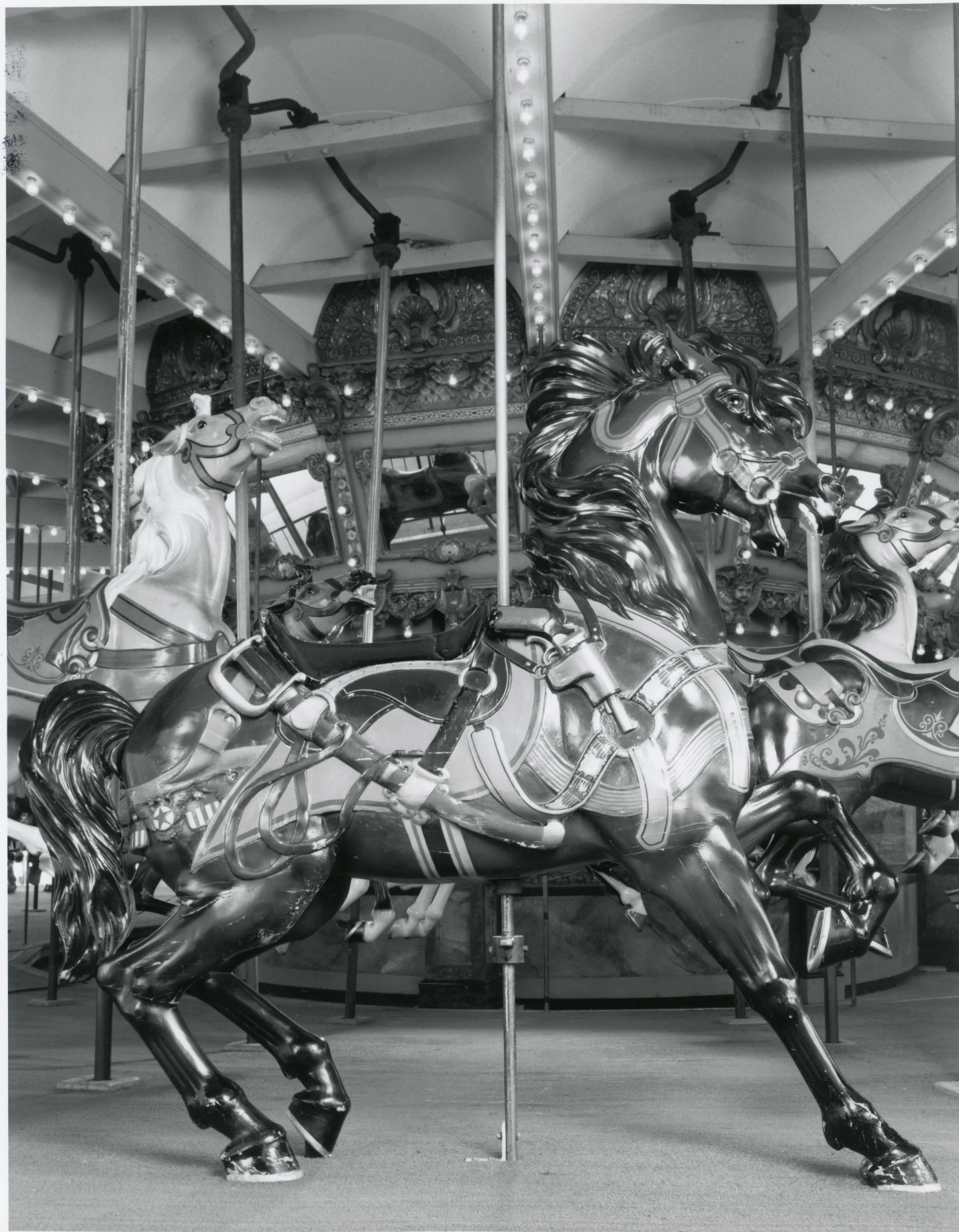
#1 of 5



William H. Dentzel Carousel, 1921

Erie County, OH

#2 of 5



William H. Dentzel Carouse, 1921

Erie County, OH

3 of 5

MAR 20 1990



WILLIAM H. DENTZEL CAROUSEL, 1921
ERIE COUNTY, OHIO
#4 OF 5

MAR 20 1990



WILLIAM H. DENTZEL CAROUSEL, 1921
ERIE COUNTY, OHIO

#5 OF 5

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000649