

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 17 1987

date entered AUG 26 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Herschell-Spillman
Noah's Ark Carousel - Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR
and/or common Oaks Park Carousel Number of contributing resources: 3 and 4 of 6
Number of non-contributing resources: 0

2. Location

street & number East end of Sellwood Bridge N/A not for publication
city, town Portland N/A vicinity of Third Congressional District
state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☐ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☒ entertainment	☐ religious
☒ object	☐ N/A in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ N/A being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Oaks Park Association
street & number East end of Sellwood Bridge
city, town Portland N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City of Portland Building Permits Department
street & number 1120 SW 5th Avenue
city, town Portland state Oregon 97205

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of
Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
date 1986 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office - 525 Trade Street SE
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved date 1926

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Oaks Park Carousel is a three-row menagerie machine manufactured by the Herschell-Spillman Company. It measures 48 feet in diameter. The bi-level platform measures 6 feet 9 inches in width, and carries both horse and animal standers. The second level platform carries two rows of horse and animal jumpers, and measures 4 feet 9 inches. All totaled, there are 46 hand-carved wooden animals mounted on brass poles, including a pair each of cats, dogs, zebras, ostriches, mules, pigs, roosters and giraffes. For this reason, the machine is called the "Noah's Ark" carousel. Also on board this machine are four frogs, a stork, a dragon, lion and lioness, a doe, goat and an extremely rare kangaroo. Completing the array are the 19 horses. The carousel animals have glass eyes, except for some of the menagerie figures which have painted carved eyes.

The carousel is decorated with 18 rounding boards and shields studded with cast metal masques of seven different designs. Around the hub, enclosing the drive system of the machine, are 18 lighted scenery panels mounted below the sweeps and 18 lighted panels above the sweeps. The original painted scenes which were on these panels are beginning to reappear through scenes which were painted over them during a long-ago refurbishment.*

The carousel is housed in its own building situated on the Oaks Park Amusement concourse. The housing specially designed for the machine is an octagonal building of post and beam construction, 75 feet in diameter in its ground plan. A blind, pyramidal-roofed octagonal cupola having board and batten siding surmounts the structure, which is supported by braced posts encircling the perimeter. The metal roofing is a recent replacement. The pavilion is traditional in form and dates from the earliest years of the carousel's operation at The Oaks Amusement Park (1926 onward). It is, therefore, counted as a separately-contributing resource. In fair weather, panels are removed and the base of the building is open to the weather. The Oaks Amusement Park is situated on the east bank of the Willamette River in southeast Portland.

*Vista House on Crown Point in Oregon's Columbia Gorge appears to have been the subject of one of the scenery panel overpaintings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 4 Page 1

Owner of land:

World Forestry Center
4033 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221

Attention: Mark Reed

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☒ other (specify) recreation

Specific dates c. 1913

Builder/Architect Herschell-Spillman Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels Theme Resource nomination is comprised of five hand-crafted carousels of American manufacture presently operating in the state of Oregon. The nominated carousels range in date from 1904 to 1926, a period which spans much of the last half of the golden age of carousels (1875–1935) and the heyday of amusement parks. The common characteristics of carousels in the group are wooden platforms, wooden rounding boards, hand-carved animals, and a counter clockwise rotation pattern. Each is now electrically powered, using friction clutch or hydraulic clutch mechanical systems. Collectively and individually, the machines meet National Register Criterion C as well-preserved examples of a recreational genre illustrative of the development of animal carving as a "functional" art form wherein the carvers competed to create the most novel and colorful attractions.

Measuring 48 feet in diameter, the Noah's Ark Carousel manufactured by the Herschell-Spillman Company about 1913 is the only one in the theme group having a bi-level platform. It has been in operation at The Oaks Amusement Park in Portland since 1926, and its housing, a post and beam, octagonal pavilion, was specially fabricated in the traditional form for its present location. The menagerie figures include a rare carving of a kangaroo. Its rounding boards are decorative, scroll-framed landscape panels interspersed with shields studded with cast metal masques.

The Oaks Park Carousel is a superb menagerie machine produced by a notable carousel maker of the early 1900s, and it has been in operation in the Portland area for over 60 years. It is distinctive in that it has on board 10 "pairs" of hand-carved wooden menagerie animals which give it the classification of "Noah's Ark" carousel. Other significant examples of the Herschell-Spillman style in the array of figures are a dragon and doe. The horses which ride on this machine are characteristic models of the style used by the company and include some of the "hinged jaw" variety.

Out of the bankrupt parent company of Armitage-Herschell, the Herschell-Spillman Company was formed in 1901. In 1906, Herschell-Spillman bought the parent company, obtaining its patents, stock and equipment. By 1911, the company was producing both track and jumping action carousels.

In time, the Herschell-Spillman Company changed its style from unadorned steeds to more elaborately carved animals. The Company was noted for its extensive assortment of menagerie animals and was well known for its carvings of frogs, cats, roosters, ostriches and dogs. The company's hub panels and rounding boards were mainly in the form of painted scenes. The Oaks Park Carousel boasts 36 such paintings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carousel Art Magazine, Vol. 16, (January-February, 1982).

Dinger, Charlotte, Art of the Carousel (Green Village, New Jersey: Carousel Art, Inc., 1983), 84-101. Herschell-Spillman.

Fried, Frederick, A Pictorial History of the Carousel, (Vestal Press, New York, 1964).

Weedon, Geoff and Ward, Richard, Fairground Art, (Abbeville Press, New York, 1985)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lake Oswego, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 10 426510 5035320
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	N/A	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jean Skinner

organization Portland Carousel Museum

date December 4, 1986

street & number 25 SW Salmon Street

telephone (503) 241-2560

city or town Portland

state Oregon 97204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 14, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The output of Herschell-Spillman Company, spanning the years 1901 to 1920, included a line of fine portable carousels as well as some larger and more elaborate three-row park machines.

Oaks Park was opened in 1905 as a venture of the Oregon Water, Power and Transportation Company. The Herschell-Spillman carousel was placed in operation there in 1926. Throughout the years, the Bollinger family, which owned and operated the park from 1925 until recently, followed the tradition of exhibiting the carousel in an octagonal pavilion. Since the pavilion is 60 years old it is considered a separately contributing historic feature.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

The nominated area is 9,500 square feet located within the Tax Lot 43, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22, Township 1S, Range 1W, Willamette Meridian, to include the carousel and its historic exhibition building. The area is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the point of intersection of the north boundary line of Oaks Park Amusement Center and the east edge of the main north-south concourse, thence southerly 500 feet to the true point of beginning; thence east 95 feet, thence south 100 feet, thence west 95 feet to the east edge of the main concourse, thence north 100 feet along said edge or border to the true point of beginning, in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

WILLAMETTE RIVER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR
State Clatsop and Multnomah Co., OREGON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

1. Herschell, Allan, Two-Abre
Carousel

Removed from the National Register
National Register

Keeper

Keeper

Attest

2. Herschell--Spillman Noah's
Ark Carousel

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

3. Loeff, Charles, 20-Sweep
Menagerie Carousel

Removed from the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

4. Mangels, William F., Four-
Row Carousel

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

5. Parker, C.W., Four-
Row Park Carousel

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

87001380

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Herschell—Spillman Noah's Ark Carousel
(Oregon Historic Wooden Carousel TR)
Multnomah County
OREGON

Working No. JUL 17 1987

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88

Date Due: 8/13/87 — 8/31/87

Action: ACCEPT 8-26-87

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

1 of 13
General view of historic exhibit
pavilion, looking northeasterly.

Oaks Park Amusement Center
Exhibition Building which
houses c. 1913 Herschell-Spillman
menagerie Carousel.

Building is 75' diameter
Octagonal structure of
Post and beam Construction

Oaks Park Amusement Center
Portland, Oregon



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

2 of 13
General view of interior.

C. 1913

Herschell-Spillman
"Noah's Ark" menagerie
Carousel

Located in Oaks Park
Amusement Center
since 1926.
Portland, Oregon

48' Bit-End platform
with 46 hand-carved
wood horse and
animal figures.

3 Rows of figures
mounted on brass poles

18 Sweeps

Enclosed mechanism
with electric motor.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

3 of 13
Rare kangaroo carving in outside row;
rooster and frog are on platform's
upper level.

Extremely Rare
Herschell-Spillman carved
wooden kangaroo.

Glass eyes
well-preserved
Ornately carved trappings

Note Rooster, frog and
dog in background



CARNIVAL

THIS WAY TO THE
GO KARTS
AND OTHER GREAT ATTRACTIONS

Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)

East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

4 of 13

General view of historic exhibit
pavilion, looking northeasterly.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)

East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OATES AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

5 of 13

General view of interior.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

6 of 13
Detail of sweeps and rouding boards.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)

East end of Sellwood Bridge

Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987

25 SW Salmon

Portland, OR 97204

7 of 13

Detail of original hub panel paintings
with traces of over-painting.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

8 of 13

Rare kangaroo carving in outside row.
Rooster and frog are on upper level
inside.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

9 of 13
Outside row figure, a finely-carved doe



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

10 of 13
Ostrich with feathers in relief.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)

East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

11 of 13
Detail of lion.



Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

12 of 13
Outside row stander.



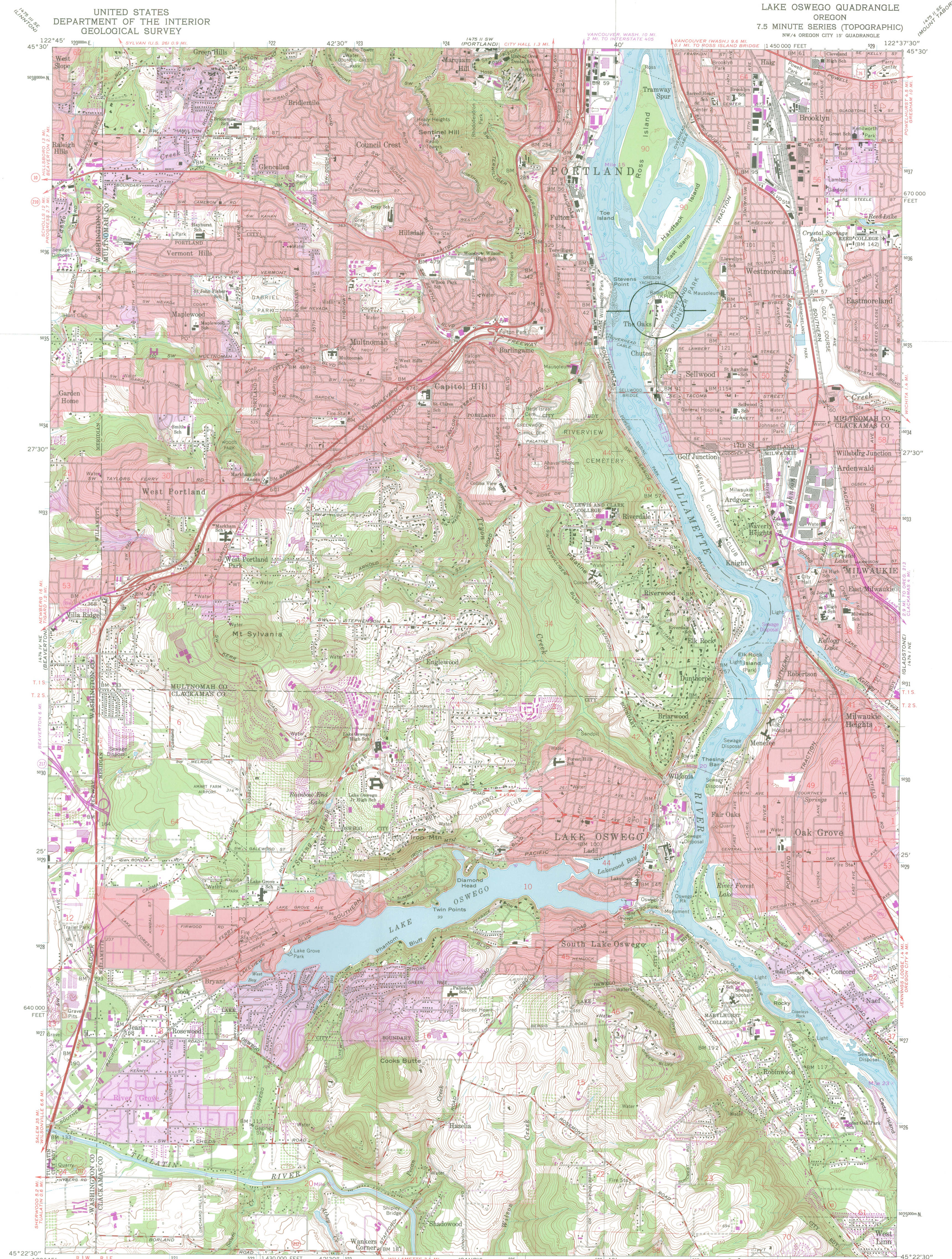
Oregon Historic Wooden Carousels TR

Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark
Carousel (c. 1913)
East end of Sellwood Bridge
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

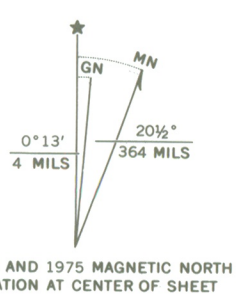
THE OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK

Portland Carousel Museum Photo, 1987
25 SW Salmon
Portland, OR 97204

13 of 13
Conventional "hinged jaw" stander
with head thrown high.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and State of Oregon
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1954
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA
Charts 6155 (1959) and 6171 (1958)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—COLUMBIA RIVER DATUM
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLETES NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

OREGON HISTORIC WOODEN CAROUSELS T R

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———



Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
HERSCHELL - SPILLMAN NOAH'S ARK
LAKE OSWEGO, OREG. CAROUSEL
NW/4 OREGON CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N4522.5-W12237.5/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1970 and 1975
AMS 1474-1 NW-SERIES V892

10/426510/5035320