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DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **AUG 24 1976**
DATE ENTERED **SEP 29 1976**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round, ~~vintage 1911~~
AND/OR COMMON
Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *F of Berkeley in*
Tilden Regional Park _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
none VICINITY OF **Berkeley** **8th**
STATE _____ CODE _____ COUNTY _____ CODE _____
California **06** **Contra Costa** **013**

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER
117 Darrell Drive
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
Glendale _____ VICINITY OF _____ **California**

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **No property title-land lease**
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None
DATE _____
_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

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

The Hershell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round was originally built in 1911 in New York by the Hershell-Spillman Company. It was first used in San Bernardino, California. From 1916 to 1927, the carousel was operated at Oceanside, California. Except for two years at Griffith Park in Los Angeles from 1935 to 1937, the merry-go-round remained in storage until it was installed at its present location at the entrance of Lake Anza in Tilden Park, Contra Costa County, in 1948.

This classic sixteen section, three abreast 1911 vintage carousel retains its 39 original hand-carved poplarwood animals. The variety of types of hand-crafted wooden animals is exceptional. In addition to horses, there are 13 other types of animals included in the menagerie: two giraffes, two roosters, two zebras, two frogs, a sea dragon, a tiger, a cat, a dog, a deer, a lion, a stork, a goat, and a pig. The frogs are unique examples of extremely rare carved wooded objects. The carousel was altered in 1950 with the addition of a fourth row of cast aluminum animals.

The interior cornice is entirely original, with 32 hand-painted decorative scenes. The outer cornice was altered also in 1950, enlarged (though retaining its 16 carved wood gargoyles), and decorated with 16 additional hand-painted scenic panels in the same style as those on the interior.

The carousel is driven by the same 7-1/2 horsepower Westinghouse electric motor as was first used, which has been altered by the addition of a fluid coupling to eliminate a clutch and the enclosing of gearboxes for safety. The smaller of the two band organs, placed at the center of the machine, was purchased at the same time as the machine, and was built by the Tonawanda Band Organ Company. A Wurlitzer 150 roll system was installed about 35 years because the Tonawanda music rolls were no longer. The larger band organ, located off to the side, was manufactured in Brooklyn, New York, by the B. A. B. Band Organ Company, in the same era as the carousel. It was brought from another carousel in Coney Island, New York, in 1948, and is embellished with ornately carved gilded scroll work, and one approximately two foot high painted figurine.

The entire facility is housed in a woodframe structure, the plans for which were designed in 1937 by J. Wilson of the Los Angeles Parks Department. It features a 5,000 square foot lamella dome of trussless construction.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#8

This carousel is a fine example of a particular genre of folk art. A work of art by any standards, this gay amusement device was a product of the golden age of carousels, a period between 1900 and the Great Depression before the onslaught of mass produced cast metal animals replaced the hand-crafted wooden ones. As this type of hand-craftsmanship died out during the Great Depression, the Tilden Park Carousel represents one of approximately five classic carousels in California and one of 16 in the western United States.

The beautifully carved wooden animals, hand-painted decorative scenes, and two gilded band organs playing lively music have thrilled about five million riders since the merry-go-round was moved to Tilden Park in 1948. The fanciful scenes adorning the panels around the center of the machine also date from 1911 while those on the crest around the outside were painted in 1950 by an itinerant artist who had been raised by a band of gypsies.

The social significance of this carousel derives largely from the fact that enjoyment of it cuts across all social-economic, cultural, and age differences. An important reason for preserving it is to insure its continued availability for the public's pleasure, since the relatively few remaining classic carousels are being steadily bought up by private collectors. The present setting of the carousel also has some socio-historic significance as well, since it is located in an area similar to the types of places where the first classic carousels were situated in their heyday, at the threshold of the countryside where picnic facilities and other outdoor enjoyments are readily available to families.

