National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

	SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING	G RECORD	
	NRIS Reference Number: 00000363	Date Listed: 4	/13/2000
	<u>Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel</u> Property Name	<u>Santa Barbara</u> County	<u>CA</u> State
	<u>N/A</u> Multiple Name		
	This property is listed in the National Places in accordance with the attached subject to the following exceptions, ex notwithstanding the National Park Servi in the nomination documentation.	nomination docu clusions, or am	mentation endments,
7	Signature of the Keeper	<u>4/13/cc</u> Date of Action	
	Amended Items in Nomination:		

Resource Count:

Add one non-contributing structure (modern shelter).

These revisions were confirmed with the CA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the I National Park Service	nterior	1	RECE	IVED	
National Register of Hist Registration Form	oric Places	303	SEP 1 OH	MAR	4 2000
This form is for use in nominating or reques National Register of Historic Places Registrati by entering the information requested. If an architectural classification, materials, and are entries and narrative items on continuation s	ion Form (National Hegister item does not apply to the eas of significance, enter o	er Bulletin 16A). Con e property being doc only categories and	nplete each i cumented, en subcategotie	ter "N/A" tor "nat s from the instruct	applicable "Form
1. Name of Property					
historic name <u>Allan Hersc</u>	hell 3-Abreas	t Carousel			
other names/site number					
2. Location					
street & number 223 EC	abrillo Blvd.			NZAr	not for publicati
city or town <u>Santa Barba</u>	ra			N	Avicinity
state <u>California</u> c					
3. State/Federal Agency Certificat As the designated authority under the request for determination of eligibil Historic Places and meets the proced Meets does not meet the Nation Totally statewide locally.	National Historic Preserva lity meets the documentati ural and professional requi onal Register criteria. I reco (See continuation she	ion standards for re irements set forth ir commend that this p	gistering pro 1 36 CFR Pa roperty be co	perties in the Nation t 60. In my opinion	nal Register of n, the property
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5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count	.)
 ➡ private ➡ public-local ➡ public-State ➡ public-Federal 	 building(s) district site structure object 	Contributing Noncontributing	sites structures objects
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part NA	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previous in the National Register 0	
6. Function or Use		· · · ·	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Recreation and Cult		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Recreation and Culture: Carousel	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7. Description	······································		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation walls	
		roof	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

🗆 A	Property is associated with events that have made
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of
	our history.

- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- □ F a commemorative property.
- **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) Cearnal Architects, Inc., pavilion

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # ______

Santa Barbara, California County and State

Areas of Significance

Art-

(Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance 1916 Significant Dates 1916 . . Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A Cultural Affiliation N/A____ Architect/Builder Herschell, Allan-carver Cearnal Architects, Inc., pavilion

Primary location of additional data:

- □ State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- □ University
- 🖾 Other

Name of repository:

International Museum of Carousel Art

1an Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Name of Property	<u>Santa Barbara, Cal</u> ifornia County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 2 5 3 2 4 0 3 8 1 1 2 6 0 2 Northing	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 C See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleJean_Skinner/Head_of_Restoration	
organization International Museum of Carousel	Art date _July_25, 1999
street & number 304 Oak Street	telephone (541) 387-4622
city or town <u>Hood River</u>	state <u>Oregon</u> zip code <u>97031</u>
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pro	operty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having	large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the pro	perty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name Duane and Carol Perron (Carousel (ylnc
street & number _4976_Alexander_Drive	telephone(541) _352-6820
city or town <u>Hood River</u>	state <u>Oregon</u> zip code <u>97041</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Allan Herschell 3-Abreast
Castion number Dana - I	Carousel
Section number Page _1	Santa Barbara, California

The Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel, manufactured c. 1916 by the Allan Herschell Carousel Company of North Tonawanda, New York, is located in a newly constructed pavilion in the Chase Palm Park of Santa Barbara, California. The carousel was placed into operation at this site in June of 1999. The carousel is 40 feet in diameter, has a 19 foot wooden center pole at its core, and supports 35 jumping style hand carved wooden horses along with two hand carved wooden chariots. The chariots have two benches each and are carved in a decidedly "art deco" styling. The carousel has 14 lighted rounding boards connected by 14 lighted wooden shield covers. Each shield possesses a different hand carved wooden masque at its center. Hanging from the inner sweeps are a double row of scenery panels, which serve to conceal the working machinery parts. Recorded band organ music is played to accompany the 3 minute ride. After acquiring the carousel in 1990, the current owners restored the horses and machine in 1999 back to its historically accurate appearance after years of neglect in its former amusement park location. The carousel was first known to have been in outdoor operation in an amusement park on the east coast prior to 1970. Many alterations to the original carousel were made there, and the machine's maintenance was greatly neglected. In 1970, Seaport Village in San Diego, California purchased the carousel and placed it into storage. After ten years of non-operation, Seaport Village believed the cost of restoration was to high and placed the carousel up for sale. The current owners purchased the machine, and in 1997, an extensive restoration on the carousel to return it to its historical accuracy and primary function as an operating carousel was begun.

Architecturally, the carousel has a 40 foot diameter platform. Originally, the carousel had a slotted platform which had spaces between the wooden planks. This flooring was replaced in 1999 due to unsafe patching and wood rot on the original floor. To eliminate the hazard of shoe heels catching between the slotted planks, and to make the platform sound; a new floor of solid clear fir was constructed to replace the original. The carousel is of American manufacture, and rotates in a counter-clockwise direction. The carousel has an electric motor for its drive system, and a hydraulic fluid clutch to gearbox chain drive, which engages a cheese-wheel, which in turn rotates the ring gear under the sweeps. The horses' jumping action is achieved via an overhead crank method where the horse's upward height is determined by the upward height of the u-shaped crank from which the horse is hung. The pole on which the horse is hung does not go beneath the platform. The carousel prior to 1970 operated with an electric motor using an

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

Section number ____ Page ____

open gearing mechanism. The 1997 restoration replaced that motor with a 5 horsepower electric motor and a push button start mechanism as is required by safety codes in California. The motor and core mechanism is also enclosed in a wooden box enclosure as is required for safety. These changes are not historically accurate, but are necessary for carousels to operate for the public, and allow the carousel to do its historical function of providing entertainment to its riders.

The core of the carousel is its 19 foot high poplar wood center pole which is mounted on a wooden "X" shaped stabilizing base. An "A" frame assembly of metal rods from the center pole supports the drive shafts and gear assembly. The rods attach to the tops of beams or arms called "sweeps" which divide the machine into sections. Wooden spreader bars separate the sweeps for stability. These spreader bars carry the crankshafts, which allow the horses to raise and fall as the carousel turns. The carousel's center pole, sweeps, braces, machinery timbers, rims, and panels are constructed of wood, and are original to this carousel. With the exception of the motor itself, replaced in 1999, the original machinery, including the cheese wheel, gears, crankshafts, and rods is still intact and functioning.

The carousel's east coast operation was in an outdoor location for an undetermined number of years. It suffered from years of neglect and alterations from its original form. The original rim or cresting of the carousel is made up of wooden panels called rounding boards, and the original framework of these pieces have been retained and restored in 1999. The original painted scenes on the rounding boards had been stripped and painted over prior to 1970, and the interior panels had been replaced with particle board and repainted scenes. In 1999, the particle board was removed and replaced with more historically correct wood panels. Oil painted scenes have been reproduced onto the new panels in the style typically used during this era on Allan Herschell carousels. Wood rot had taken its toll on half of the shield covers by 1970, and in the 1999 restoration, these were replaced with shields cut from hard wood in the exact design as the originals. The original hand carved wooden masques were saved and restored in 1999. The original scenery panel frames again grace the carousel. The original oil paintings had been destroyed prior to 1970 and replaced with particle boards painted with geometric designs common to amusement park decorations of the 1960's. In 1999, the deteriorated panels were removed and replaced with oil paintings on canvas as was customary on carousels. Original oil paintings of the

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

era did not fair well at the hands of park owners, or with the march of time. Many paintings were destroyed by being painted over when they faded with age, or were damaged by weather. Those original paintings that have survived require expert handling and expensive restoration. Many amusement operators simply replaced or painted over old paintings to match the current color schemes.

The original lighting on the carousel was replaced prior to 1970 by modern fluorescent tube strips under the rounding boards and the sweeps. The 1997 restoration removed these fixtures, and replaced them with the historically accurate porcelain sockets and clear bulbs under the rounding boards, sweeps, shields, and around the scenery panels.

The carousel's horses, all hand carved from poplar wood, have painted wooden eyes, carved tails, and most possess characteristically boxy faces and tucked front legs. Each horse is "shod" with metal cast horseshoes, also a trademark of Allan Herschell carousels. All the horses on the carousel are original to the machine. In 1997, the horses under went an extensive restoration. Layers of old park paint were removed as the original paint had long since been removed. The horses were made sound and repainted. Historically, carousel painters used a lead based paint called Japan paint. They were bright primary colors that were mixed to the desired shade. The idea was to attract riders from a distance, and show off the carving of the animals. Today, Japan paint is not available as is any lead based paint. The colors used on this carousel are based on the bright and colorful use of enamels to show off the original carvings rather than the muted antiqued paints to indicate the figure's age. Historically, the horses had metal bridle bits, and stirrups attached to leather straps and then attached onto the horse. These have been removed during the restoration as they cause severe damage to the wooden figures.

Along with the carved horses on this carousel are two very elaborately hand carved poplar wood chariots. Each has double bench seating. Originally, the seats had leather covers filled with horsehair for cushioning. Years of outside use and neglect caused the need to remove the original cushions. The seats have been replaced with clear fir benches and no cushions, as the new location is on the sea shore, and salt air is not compatible with fabric cushions. The first of these remarkable chariots has a sea dragon being ridden by a female "Viking" image in

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carous Santa Barbara, California

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a very art deco styling. The second chariot is itself a "chariot" with a lovely and delicately carved seated lady at the rear of the piece. Both chariots are deeply and intricately carved, and very unusual for an Allan Herschell carousel.

All original pieces, which had to be removed for safety reasons, or because of extensive damage have been retained and are in storage at the International Museum of Carousel Art's warehouse located in Hood River, Oregon

Upon completion of the restoration, the carousel was placed back into operation in June of 1999 in a park setting inside its own specially designed pavilion in Santa Barbara's Chase Palm Park, California. For the first time in over 20 years, the Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel was again bringing enjoyment to the public as was its original intent. The newly constructed pavilion is of a mission styling and was made to blend into the surrounding community. It is open on all sides, and is situated in a landscaped forecourt within an extensive park featuring a lagoon. The pavilion was designed in a manner which reproduces the spirit of a traditional carousel building, but makes no attempt to replicate a historic structure.

The pavilion was designed by Cearnal Architects, Santa Barbara, California; and was built by Melchiori Construction Company, Santa Barbara, California. The wood frame carousel housing structure is a white stucco, 3600 square foot, octagonal building built on a concrete foundation. It has eight roll-up doors, a flat built-up roof, and is 30 feet high at the front parapet.

Carousels, in America commonly called "merry-go-rounds" are mechanically driven amusement devises in which circular, moveable platforms fitted with wooden animals carry riders in a counter-clockwise rotation pattern. Their history dates back to Europe where smaller but similar devises were used to train horsemen for battle. From 1885 onward, the carousel was a popular fixture at public parks, fairs, and carnivals. In the historic period 1875-1935, the horses and other figures were invariably assembled and carved by hand. Modern replacement figures typically are made of fiberglass, thus, the period 1875-1935 is considered the "golden age" of carousel craftsmanship. This carousel is of that era and is a fine example of that craftsmanship.

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

The Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Park Carousel is a handcrafted carousel of American manufacture presently operating in the state of California. The carousel dates c. 1916, made during the period which spans much of the last half of the golden age of carousels (1835-1935), and the heyday of the American amusement parks. The carousel meets National Register Criterion C as a well-preserved example 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. The carousel is also eligible under Criterion C as it has been moved within its traditional setting, and is now situated within an exhibition building in a city park. The carousel retains its historical features, and retains its integrity of design, materials, feeling, and function.

The nominated Allan Herschel carousel is one of the largest known machines produced by the Allan Herschell Company, and possesses some of the rarest outside row jumping horses in current operation.

Allan Herschell (1851-1927), founder of Armitage-Herschell, Herschell-Spillman, and Spillman Engineering Carousel companies, was forced into retirement by Edward Spillman in 1911. In 1915, Allan Herschell came out of retirement to form his own carousel company in direct competition to his former partner. Allan Herschel started his plant in North Tonawanda, New York. The building exists today as a museum to Allan Herschell's carvings. During 1915-1927, the Allan Herschell Company specialized in small 2 and 3 row "transportable" carousels. It is believed only four park style carousels were made during this time making the nominated machine extremely rare. Due to its size and massively carved outer row of horses, the nominated carousel would require a permanent or fixed site location giving it the status of a "park" carousel. Allan Herschell retired again in 1923 for health reasons and died in 1927.

Allan Herschell notably produced many 2 and 3 row carousels mostly for the traveling fair circuits. The rarity of the nominated carousel is visible in the outer row of hand carved horses placed on this particular carousel. The horses exhibit very deep carvings, elaborately detailed trappings, and many possess uncommonly gentle faces, not normally associated with Allen Herschell carvings. At this time in the carousel industry, many carvers from other companies were moving from shop to shop to obtain employment. Though designed by Allen Herschell, the first and second row of horses on the nominated carousel show

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

carving traits greatly influenced by styles attributed to noted carvers from Spillman Engineering Company, Daniel Muller and Leo Zoller. These unique traits include: very large and animated tassels; "cross-hatch" carvings on the trappings; realism of blankets folds and cinching "puckering"; and exacting details in belts and buckles. Also, found on this carousel are rare roach-manned horses, and the use of animal "pelts" for saddles.

Research has found no other operating Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Park Carousel possessing outside row carved wooden horses of this caliber. The nominated carousel was owned by Seaport Village, San Diego, California; where after ten years of never having been operated; it was sold to the current owners in 1990. The carousel was believed to have operated in an amusement park on the east coast prior to its purchase by Seaport Village, but no documentation exists with any more accurate information. In 1999, the carousel was placed in operation in Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara, California. Neither the carousel's physical character nor its artistic qualities have been altered or affected by its move. The carousel is designed to be moved and has done so several times during its historic use. Though a park is a traditional location for operating a carousel, a historically appropriate setting for a carousel is anywhere where people can come and enjoy its purpose as "functional art". A great many historic wooden carousels were designed as "portables". The carousel's historic significance is not dependant on its location in the degree that any location that provides ridership allows the carousel to pursue its historic function as an amusement ride.

Carousel makers were part of the Industrial Revolution, and were instrumental in the creation of many different drive systems and mechanical devices. Not only did carousels become the "star" attraction of amusement parks, the parks themselves became significant social gathering places around the turn of the century. The advent of electricity brought about a rapid change in the lifestyle of many Americans in the early 1900's. The population shifted from a rural society to a society of city dwellers working in the newly established factories. This influx of people in the cities brought about the development of the rail and trolley systems needed to move them about. Carousels evolved on a grander scale in America than anywhere else because of the creation of recreational areas where fixed site carousels could be operated. Amusement parks were linked with the commercial motives of interurban rail companies. It was obvious that operating the rail system seven days a week would be more profitable than five or six days,

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

and factory weary workers craved diversion from their weekly grind. Amusement parks were developed at the end of trolley lines were land was cheap, and they soon flourished. Carousels, among the main attractions, grew in size at these locations. Carousel artists and craftsmen indulged their creativity. Popular designs were copied, and carvers moved from shop to shop. Wood was their medium, and their talent is not likely to be duplicated by many today.

The growing popularity of carousels gave rise to several carving companies eager to meet the demand for figures and machines. Each carver strived to outdo his competitor, and it was the spirited competition, some believe, which was responsible for the emergence of the original amusement park ride as a significant art form. This nominated Allan Herschell Carousel is among those created at this time in our history.

American carousels, which exceeded 10,000 in their heyday, have become much reduced in number since their production slowed with the onset of the Depression and World War I. In recent years, many machines have been dismantled for sale of the carved animals as collector items. According to a census maintained by the National Carousel Association, fewer than 300 carousels remain in operation in America today; by some accounts, fewer than 160. The true significance of a carousel may well be the fact that it has survived use and abuse, and can still perform its historic function to provide a moment out of time and shear enjoyment. This Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel has been doing this for over 80 years, and with care, will be doing it for another 80 years.

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swenson, Marge, "Carousel Art", various issues.

Dinger, Charlotte, <u>Art of the Carousel</u> (Green Village, New Jersey: Carousel Art, Inc., 1983), 68-83. Charles I.D. Looff.

- Fried, Frederick, <u>A Pictorial History of the Carousel</u>(Vestal Press, New York, 1964).
- Weedon, Geoff and Ward, Richard, <u>Fairground Ar</u>t (Abbeville Press, Inc., New York, 1985).
- Statement of Carol Perron, curator, International Museum of Carousel Art, May 15, 1999.

"Looff Family Memoirs", Carousel Art(July, 1982).

- Manns, William, and Shank, Peggy, <u>Painted Ponies</u> (New York: American Carousel Art, Zon International Publishing Company, 1986).
- Statement of Bradford Perron, President, Historic Carousels, Inc., managing company for the operating carousels, Sept. 2, 1999.

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Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel
Section number ______ Page ____ Santa Barbara, California

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the SE corner of Garden Street and Cabrillo Blvd., thence NE aprox. 270 feet to the center of the carousel, thence in a radius of aprox. 40 feet in a 360 degree circle to encompass the carousel, it's mounting pad, and it's 3600 square foot exhibition building within the City of Santa Barbara's Chase Palm Park, Santa Barbara, California.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area of 3600 square feet includes the carousel and its non-historic exhibition building.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Allan Herschell 3-Abreast Carousel Santa Barbara, California

Section number ____ Page ____10

Owners of the Land

City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department Richard Johns, Director

P.O. Box 1900 Santa Barbara, California 93102

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ALLAN HERSCHELL 3-ABREAST PARK CAROUSEL

Chase Palm Park 223 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Santa Barbara, California 93101

Santa Barbara County