

**Documentation Regarding the Proposed
Relocation of the National Register-Listed
Menagerie Carousel
Burlington (Alamance County) NC
NR Reference # 82003420**

**Prepared by:
Lindsey Glover
David W. Beal
City of Burlington, North Carolina**

**Prepared for:
North Carolina Historic Preservation Office
Archives and History Building,
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601**

July 24, 2020

National Register Significance

The Menagerie Carousel, more commonly known as Dentzel Carousel, at 1388 South Main Street in Burlington, NC is significant as a rare and fine representative of a vanishing folk art form which has functioned as a recreation device in carnivals, amusement parks, and county fairs around the United States for more than one hundred years. Few authentic, hand-carved wooden carousels produced in this country during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century remain intact and in operation in suitable surroundings, as this one does.

Manufactured in 1913 by the Dentzel Company of Germantown, Pennsylvania, the merry-go-round retains all its original animals, which are all still intact. There are forty-six animals, which include one lion, one tiger, one giraffe, one reindeer, four pigs, four rabbits, four ostriches, four cats, and twenty-six horses. Along with two chariots, they are mounted three-abreast on a rotating wooden platform with a radius of 20'4.5" and a circumference of 127'4". The outer figures are stationary; those on the two inner rows are jumpers.

The upper section of the inner cornice of the Carousel is composed of carved frames surrounding wooden panels; the lower section contains oval carved frames around mirrors. The outer rim is ornamented by alternating painted wooden ovals and framed mirrors. The original oil paintings in a western motif have been restored.

The Carousel is driven by its original mechanism located in the center of the platform. It consists of a ten-horsepower, 220-volt, three-phase motor rated at 1120 R.P.M. The motor has a 1 ½ inch diameter horizontal shaft with a flat twelve-inch leather covered pulley at the end and is mounted on a concrete pillar with adjusting track on base for adjusting belt tension. The mechanism is driven from the motor by a fiber belt eight feet in length to a flat five-spoke wooden pulley six inches wide by thirty inches on diameter, mounted on a five-foot horizontal shaft and supported by pillar block bearings. In the middle of the shaft is a cork-filled, pressure clutch operated manually by a three-foot level. Beyond the clutch is a twelve-inch crown gear which meshes with a thirty-inch crown gear on the bottom of a two-inch vertical shaft. This shaft extends six feet and has another twelve-inch gear on top which meshes with a gear track forty-eight feet in diameter which encompasses the inner super-structure of the Carousel.

Existing Site

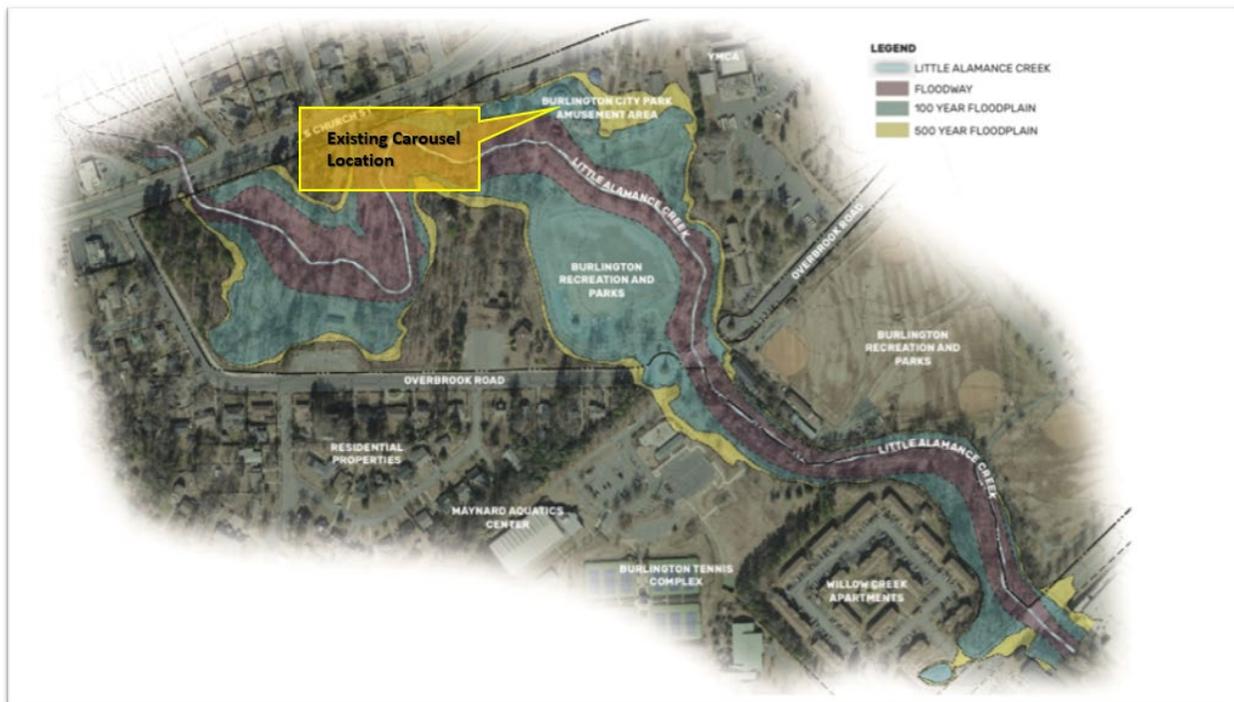
The Carousel is located in the City of Burlington City Park surrounded by roughly sixty-four acres of land used for Recreation and Parks purposes. The site is roughly a mile from downtown Burlington. Two major roads, Highway 70 and Highway 87, intersect to the North and Interstate 40 is nearby to the Southeast. The Carousel currently sits in a shelter with a parking lot on one side and play areas on the other three sides. The Carousel currently faces South Main Street and South Church Street. Mature trees remain among newer growth; crepe myrtles line the

space between the parking lot and South Main Street, while large pine, golden rain, and Chinese pistache trees surround the Carousel.

Development from the 1950s through the early twenty-first century surrounds the site. A 1950s residential neighborhood is adjacent to the west and south. Alamance County YMCA opened its doors adjacent to the carousel in 1955. City Park has continued to expand with the addition of rides and park equipment, although the nature of the setting, family recreation, has remained consistent. The Carousel house itself is unchanged since 1948, however the land where the Carousel currently sits is within the 100-year floodplain.

Preservationists have long been concerned about flood threats to the Carousel. Currently, the Carousel is housed in an area susceptible to flooding during heavy rain events. Flooding and water damage pose a great hazard to the operation and preservation of the Carousel.

Current Location Flood Threat



Proposed New Site

Moving the Carousel to a location outside of floodplain yet still within the City Park Amusement Area is ideal. The new location of the Carousel is roughly three-hundred feet to the east, moving it outside of both the 100-year and 500-year floodplain. The new location allows the

Carousel to remain close to other amusement rides and play areas within City Park. Burlington is currently in negotiations to purchase this new site. This piece of land is ideal for the new location of the Carousel as it is the highest land in the area, adjacent to park property, visible from Highway 70 and South Main Street, will be handicap accessible, and is designed to be the centerpiece of the amusement area.

New site facing East



New site facing South



The Carousel is currently disassembled and being fully restored, both mechanically and artistically, by Carousel & Carvings Inc. located in Marion, Ohio. These skilled craftsmen have been entrusted by historic carousel owners across the country including the Pullen Park Dentzel Carousel located in Raleigh, the Woodside Park Dentzel Carousel at the Please Touch Museum located in Philadelphia, and the Grand Dentzel Carousel at the Children’s Museum of Memphis. The Pullen Park Carousel and Grand Carousel are also listed on the National Register.

The restoration of Burlington’s Dentzel Carousel is the ideal time to relocate it, in a building designed specifically to highlight this historic piece of art and entertainment. A new building will be built to house the Carousel that includes a Carousel house and event space. The Carousel will be reassembled to its original design, preserving its history and uniqueness after completion of the \$1.2 million dollar restoration.

The new location and building also gives the City an opportunity to expand on recreation and parks programming. The City is planning for the future of the Amusement Area around the new placement of the Historic Menagerie Carousel. A master plan for the amusement area is in

development. Proposals include an all-inclusive play area, and event lawn. These surround the proposed new location of the Carousel house. The new Carousel location will connect, on an axis, to its previous location and provide the opportunity to educate the community about the history of the Carousel along the walk.

Current and Proposed Locations



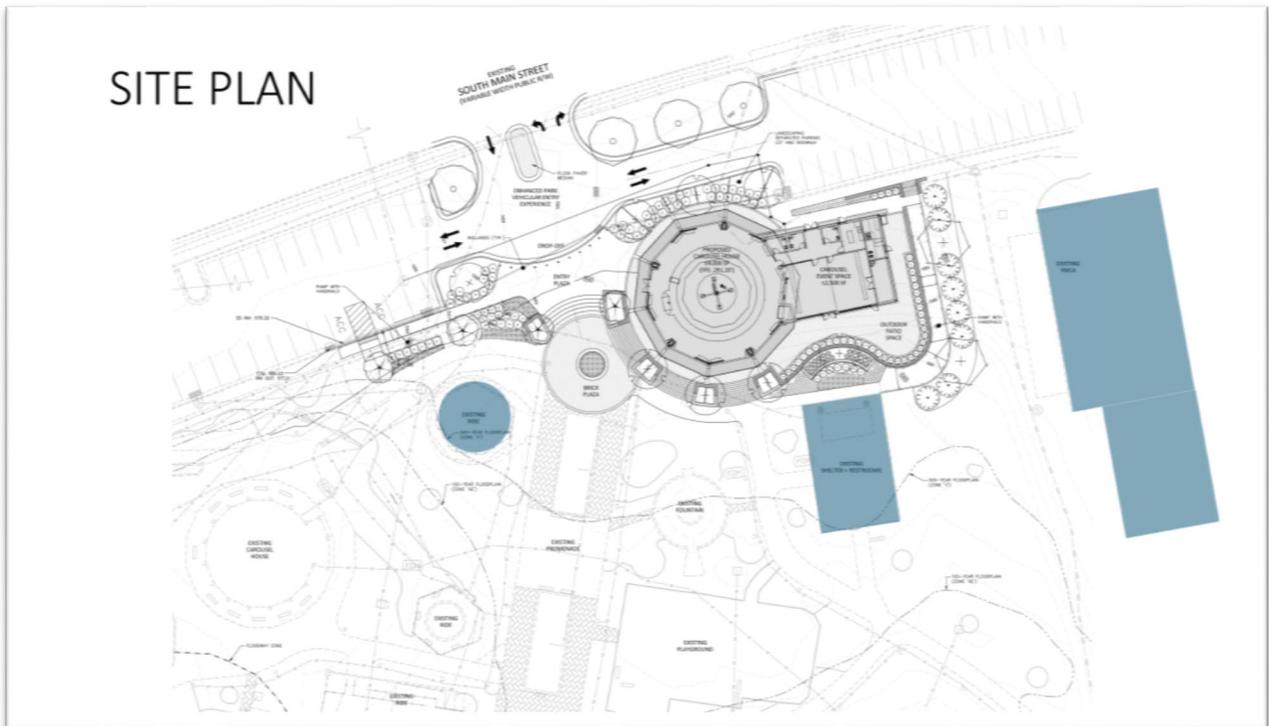
Effects of Move on Property's Integrity and Significance

The move will ultimately preserve the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of this interactive piece of art, thereby retaining its architectural significance. Because the Carousel is already dismantled for restoration, all the original, restored materials will remain intact and in

excellent repair. Finally, the move will also preserve the integrity of association, by keeping the Carousel near amusement facilities.

The proposed building will be glass encased to showcase the Carousel even when it is not open to the public. The semi-climate controlled space will allow for year-round enjoyment of the Carousel. Doors surrounding the Carousel will open to retain the whimsy of the Carousel ride and organ music throughout the park. An adjoining event space will accommodate 100 plus individuals.

Site Plan for Proposed Location



Request

The City of Burlington finds it necessary to relocate the National Register-Listed Menagerie Carousel outside both the 100-year and 500-year floodplain to better protect the asset and continue providing public use. The City respectfully requests that the Carousel remains National Register-Listed designated during the move and upon placement in its new location.

A verbal boundary description is provided in the form of a metes and bounds description for the new location. This is consistent with the original ordinance designating the property.

A report on the archaeological consideration of the proposed relocation site from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is provided as an attachment for review.

The Menagerie Carousel is historic, cherished, and important. With no feasible alternative for preservation, the City of Burlington seeks to continue National Register-Listed designation during the move and, ultimately, to the new location. Once there, the Carousel's new home will provide protection and enjoyment for years to come.

Daytime streetview (proposed)



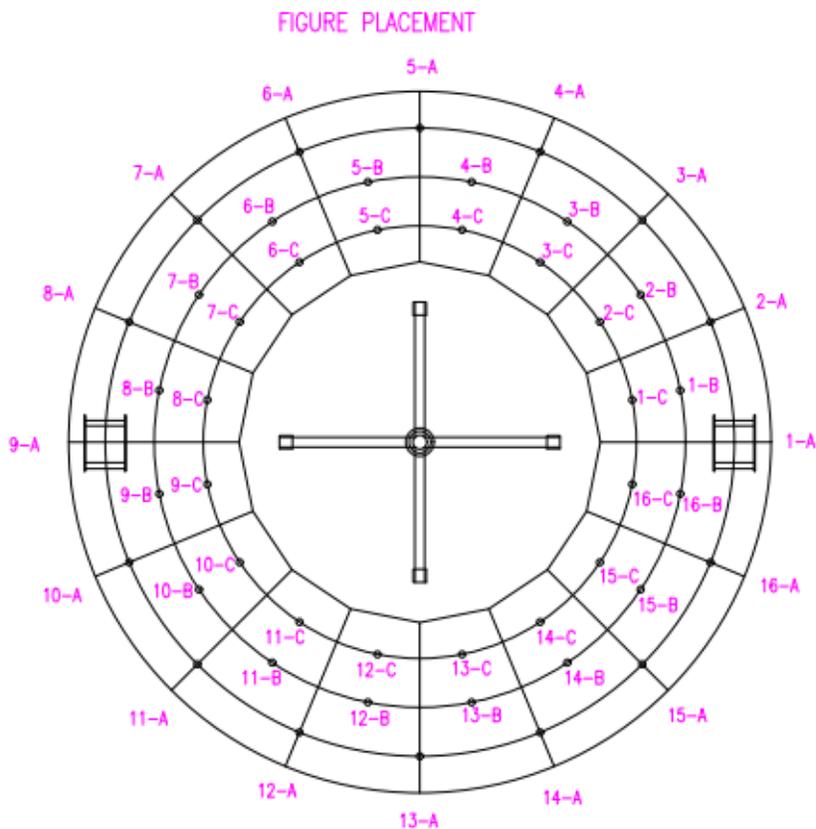
Metes and Bounds Description for Proposed Location

Legal Description for a portion of land of The Community Young Men's Christian Association of Alamance County, Inc., (Alamance County Parcel ID No. 175300), adjoining the south side of S. Main Street and the City of Burlington parcel of land known as City Park (Alamance County Parcel ID No. 122431).

Being a certain tract or parcel of land located in Burlington Township, City of Burlington, Alamance County, North Carolina and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at an existing iron pipe in the south right of way line of S. Main Street and being a common corner with the City of Burlington, said point having North Carolina Grid Coordinates of N: 850136.87 and E: 1866298.53; thence with the south right of way line of S. Main Street a bearing of N73°47'08"E for a distance of 61.96' to a computed point; thence with the south right of way line of S. Main Street a bearing of N76°08'56"E for a distance of 77.06' to computed point in the south right of way line of S. Main Street and being a new line with the City of Burlington; thence with the new line a bearing of S10°10'05"E for a distance of 295.22' to a computed point being a line with the City of Burlington, thence with the line of the City of Burlington a bearing of S79°52'32"W for a distance of 4.04' to computed point; thence with the line of the City of Burlington a bearing of N13°27'28"W for a distance of 135.00' to computed point; thence with the line of the City of Burlington a bearing a bearing of S77°19'53"W for a distance of 117.58' to a computed point; thence with the line of the City of Burlington a bearing of N13°37'01"W for a distance of 83.20' to a computed point; thence with the line of the City of Burlington a bearing of N13°35'52"W for a distance of 71.17' the place and point of beginning.

Containing 0.51 acres+-, according to a survey dated December 3, 2019 by Jeffery H. Rudd, PLS L-4009, as shown on the City of Burlington Engineering Drawing Number 4491-20.

Figure Placement



Outside Row		Middle Row		Inside Row	
1-A	Chariot	1-B	Horse	1-C	Rabbit
2-A	Horse (Tall Blonde Body w/ butterfly)	2-B	Horse	2-C	Horse
3-A	Horse	3-B	Rabbit	3-C	Horse
4-A	Horse	4-B	Horse	4-C	Horse
5-A	Tiger	5-B	Cat	5-C	Ostrich
6-A	Horse	6-B	Horse	6-C	Horse
7-A	Horse	7-B	Cat	7-C	Ostrich
8-A	Giraffe	8-B	Pig	8-C	Pig
9-A	Chariot	9-B	Horse	9-C	Rabbit
10-A	Horse	10-B	Horse	10-C	Horse
11-A	Horse	11-B	Rabbit	11-C	Horse
12-A	Horse	12-B	Horse	12-C	Horse
13-A	Lion	13-B	Cat	13-C	Ostrich
14-A	Horse	14-B	Horse	14-C	Horse
15-A	Deer	15-B	Cat	15-C	Ostrich
16-A		16-B	Pig	16-C	Horse



Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Division of Historical Resources

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of State Archaeology
John J. Mintz, State Archaeologist

January 17, 2020

Rachel Kelly
Assistant City Manager—Administrative Services
City of Burlington
PO Box 1358
Burlington, NC 27216

RKelly@burlingtonnc.gov

Re: Relocation of the Dentzel Carousel at Burlington's City Park

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Thank you for providing us with information concerning the relocation of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Dentzel Carousel at Burlington's City Park and allowing us the opportunity to comment on the archaeological potential of the proposed new location for the carousel.

We have reviewed our archaeological site files as well as various maps (e.g., aerial imagery, topographic maps, and historic maps), and we do not believe the proposed new location has a high potential for significant archaeological resources to be present.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Rosie Blewitt-Golsch, at 919-814-6558 or rosemarie.blewitt@ncdcr.gov.

Sincerely,

John Mintz, State Archaeologist
North Carolina Office of State Archaeology

Central Office
4019 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27609-4019
919/807-4530; fax 919/735-2675
Location: 309 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

OSA Research Center
4619 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27609-4612
919/715-5595; fax 919/715-1186
Location: 215 W. Lane Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Endangered Archaeology Branch
1328 E. Fisher Blvd South
Kare Beach, NC 28409
919/458-8943; fax 919/458-4095

QAR Conservation Laboratory
1537 YOA Site C Road
West Research Campus
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27834
252/744-6721

Western Office
Dept. of Cultural Resources
Western Office
176 Riverside Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828/274-6700; fax 828/274-6995