

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Armitage Herschell Carousel  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 323 Main Street  not for publication  
city or town Greenville  vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Washington code 151 zip code 38701

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national   X   statewide   \_\_\_   local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
  \_\_\_   entered in the National Register   \_\_\_   determined eligible for the National Register  
  \_\_\_   determined not eligible for the National Register   \_\_\_   removed from the National Register  
  \_\_\_   other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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

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Ge. Cochran / SHPD 0202.2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

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I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

**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	
		buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
1		object
2		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/fair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/fair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: \_\_\_\_\_  
walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: Wood, leather, steel  
\_\_\_\_\_

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Armitage Herschell Carousel is a circular carousel amusement ride. A center post with struts supports a multi-color canopy. The base is wood made of planks attached to a circular frame. The base rides on metal wheels in a track. Twenty-four hand-carved ponies, four oak sleighs and a circumferential bench provide seating. The carousel is installed in the gymnasium of the E.E. Bass Junior High School in Greenville. The original steam engine that powered the carousel is also in the gymnasium.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Armitage Herschell Carousel is located in the gymnasium of the E.E. Bass Junior High School building in Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi. The carousel is round with a multi-colored plastic canopy, a circular base with seating and two tracks where the sixteen wheels ride. The ride is powered by an electric motor which sits on the floor below the base. The steam engine which historically powered the carousel is also in the gymnasium.

At the center of the round structure a post rises from the base. The post is surrounded by a picket fence. Metal struts extend from the post and divide the canopy into panels of various colors. Metal struts rise at an angle from wood beams that support the floor of the carousel and attach to the circular frame. Vertical struts supporting the canopy are placed along the exterior rim of the floor and connect to a metal ring.

Sixteen cypress beams extend from a center ring located behind and underneath the central picket fence. The beams support the floor where the seating is located. The interior of the circular floor has a raised bench all the way around it which separates the floor from an open space near the center of the ride. The floor is composed of wood planks installed radially from the base of the bench. The floor is about ten inches above the ground.

The seating is composed of twelve pairs of ponies. Each pony is hand carved wood. They are mounted on beams. The ponies are painted white and have horse-hair tails. Each pony has a unique paint design. Seating is on a leather saddle which is a separate part. They have leather reins and metal stirrups. The ponies are fixed and do not move.

There are four wood sleighs interspersed between the ponies. Each sleigh has two seats. The sleighs are decorated with a painted floral design. Characters carved and painted on each sleigh tell a different story: Humpty Dumpty, Who Killed Cock Robin, Little Red Riding Hood, and, Mary Had a Little Lamb.

Although an electric motor now powers the carousel, it originally had a steam engine. The metal steam engine is also located in the gymnasium. The steel engine is mounted on four metal wheels. A large boiler powered two flywheels which pulled a steel cable causing the ride to turn.

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

The builder designed this model carousel so it could be taken down and moved with ease. Since the first local owner brought the carousel to Greenville, it operated at four outdoor locations in Greenville. The owner dismantled the ride in 1988 and put it storage. New owners hired a contractor to restore the carousel in 2006. The restored carousel was installed in the E. E. Bass Junior High School and reopened on February 17, 2007. Following the recent restoration, the carousel is in excellent condition and retains sufficient integrity for National Register eligibility as an object.

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1901-1962

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Armitage Herschell Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

Eli Franklin Wineman brought the carousel to Greenville in 1901 and the carousel remained in operation until 1988.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Armitage Herschell carousel in Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Entertainment/Recreation. It is a well preserved example of an amusement ride open to the public in the Greenville community beginning in 1901.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Merry-go-rounds, painted ponies, roundabouts, flying horses, flying jennies, are all names for the carousel. The word is derived from the Italian "carazello", meaning "little war," which described a game played by Arab and Turkish horsemen. The French adapted the game into equestrian competitions where competitors practiced on wooden horses attached to revolving platforms. Women and children began riding the machine for pleasure. With the invention of the steam engine larger carousels could be built, no longer dependent on man- or horsepower.<sup>1</sup> Although there were some carousels in the United States prior to the Civil War, the "golden age" of carousel fabrication was from about 1880 to 1930.

Companies designing and building carousels prospered during the era. Leading manufacturers included the Dentzel Company, Philadelphia Toboggan Company, M.C. Illions and Stein & Goldstein. Some companies were created by master carvers, like Dentzel and Illions. However, many companies employed itinerant master carvers, including Daniel Mueller, Charles Carnel, John Zalar, and Salvatore Cerrigiaro.<sup>2</sup>

Allan Herschell, born in Scotland in 1851, came to the United States in 1870. He and James Armitage formed a company to manufacture steam engines, boilers and mill and farm machinery in 1873. In 1882, while on a trip from their Tonawanda, New York shop to New York City, Herschell saw a carousel in Hornall, New York. Herschell determined that he could build a steam powered ride. The first Herschell Armitage carousel was installed in Niagara Falls in 1883. By 1890 the company sold sixty machines and sold another 100 in 1891. A five horsepower steam engine operated at 120 pounds of steam pressure.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Katherine Ann Horne. " of Calliopes and Carousels." *Mississippi*. March-April, 1996. p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> "Carousel Figures." <http://carousefigures.com/id250.html>.

<sup>3</sup> "Herschell Carousel Factory Museum." <http://www.carrouselmuseum.org/history.html>.

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
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Herschell married Ida Spillman, and together with her brother bought out Armitage's interest in the company. The Herschell-Spillman Company continued to manufacture carousels until Herschell retired in 1911. Apparently, retirement did not agree with Herschell because he formed the Allan Herschell Company in 1915, which he operated until his death in 1927.<sup>4</sup>

The various Herschell companies specialized in small portable rides that could be easily moved from place to place. A 1913 catalogue identified these models as "County Fair Style". His rides were notable for their small stylized horse carving. His later creations were noted for their intricate relief carvings. Herschell's company produced 3000 hand carved wooden carousels at his North Tonawanda factory, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The exact provenance of the carousel in Greenville is not known. Eli Franklin Wineman, a Greenville businessman in St. Louis on business, saw an 1890 Armitage Herschell advertised in a St. Louis newspaper. He bought the carousel and brought it to Greenville in 1901. Initially, he rented it out to local communities. Wineman carved the sleighs himself creating the three "nursery rhyme" motifs. A fourth sleigh, "Lovers Tub" was removed in the 1950s and replaced with the Humpty Dumpty sleigh. Following the restoration he placed the carousel in his yard located at Broadway and Deason, where he held a grand opening on July 4, 1907. Due to the popularity of the amusement, he moved it to the corner of Percy and Dellesups, where he operated until failing health caused him to give up the business in 1934.<sup>5</sup>

Wineman sold the carousel to Harry Crockett, a long time employee. Crockett was a noted African American entrepreneur in Greenville. One of Crockett's most successful business operations was a hauling company he operated delivering building materials. Crockett moved the carousel to Walthall Street. Mary Crockett took charge of refurbishing the ride. She hired a local artisan to repaint the ride, including the horses and sleighs. The carousel remained at the Walthall Street lot until 1954.<sup>6</sup>

Mary Crockett sold the carousel to the Junior Woman's Club of Greenville in 1954. They moved the ride to Fairyland Park where it remained in operation until 1988. By that time age and exposure to the elements had taken a toll on the ride. It was disassembled and placed in storage. Beginning in 1991, Amanda Cottingham, a club member and fourth generation Greenvillean, began to work on restoring the horses. She and other volunteers stripped, cleaned and repaired the horses. In March 2000 the carousel was shipped to Ohio for repair. The Delta Children's Museum purchased the carousel in 2003 and arranged funding to contract with Carousel Magic, an Ohio company, for restoration work. The museum engineer, Andrew H. Koszowski designed and built a new drive system. Warren Harper, a carousel contractor, fabricated replacement seat backs and safety fencing. The restored carousel, in the E. E. Bass Junior High School building operated by the E.E. Bass Foundation, opened to the public on February 17, 2007.<sup>7</sup>

The Armitage Herschell carousel is only one of two carousels permanently operating in Mississippi. The Highland Park Dentzel Carousel and Carousel House (NR, 1979; NHL, 1987) is in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. The Exchange Club of Brookhaven, Mississippi owned a 1912 C. W. Parker carousel, but it was disassembled and auctioned for parts in 1986.<sup>8</sup> Other known Armitage-Herschell carousels listed on the National Register of Historic Places are found in Iowa, Arkansas, California and New York. The 1890 Greenville carousel may be the oldest.<sup>9</sup>

The Armitage Carousel in Greenville is a visual reminder of a form of public amusement that was once found in many cities and towns. Local residents and visitors enjoyed the ride for almost ninety years before it was dismantled. Through the efforts of concerned citizens and organizations, the Armitage Carousel has been restored and can be enjoyed by future generations.

<sup>4</sup> "Herschell Carousel Factory Museum." <http://www.carrouselmuseum.org/history.html>.

<sup>5</sup> "Carousel Magic, Tracing the carousel's journey over the past 100 years." *Delta Democrat Times*, August 27, 2006. p. C1.

<sup>6</sup> "Crockett's Merry-G-Round operated on Walthall Street." *Delta Democrat Times*, September 3, 2006, p. C1.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Lee Engel. "Greenville Welcomes Home 1901 Armitage Herschell." *Carousel News and Trader*. May 17, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Historic Preservation Division, Historic Resources Inventory Files. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

<sup>9</sup> <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natregadvancedsearch.do>.



Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books

Papa, Carrie. *The Carousel Keepers: An Oral History of American Carousels*. Blacksburg, VA: The McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company, 1998.

Newspaper and Magazines

*Delta Democrat Times*, March-June 1992, May-November 2001, August-September 2006.

Engel, Dr. Lee. "Greenville Welcomes Home 1901 Armitage Herschell," *Carousel News and Trader Magazine*, May 17 2007.

Horne, Katherine Ann. "of Calliopes and Carousels. *Mississippi*. March-April, 1996.

Internet

Alder Creek Pioneer Carousel Museum. [www.acpacarouselmuseum.weebly.com](http://www.acpacarouselmuseum.weebly.com)

A little about carousel history and terms. [www.carousefigures.com](http://www.carousefigures.com)

The Golden Age of Carousel. [www.carousefigures.com](http://www.carousefigures.com)

Herschell Carousel Factory Museum History. [www.carousel/museum.org](http://www.carousel/museum.org)

National Carousel Association: Census of Classic wood carousels. [www.nca-usa.org](http://www.nca-usa.org)

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: E.E. Bass Foundation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_151-GRV-0043

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>681002</u> Easting	<u>3697589</u> Northing	3	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing
2	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing	4	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The forty foot diameter carousel and steam engine in the gymnasium of the E. E. Bass Junior High School building, 323 South Main Street, Greenville, Mississippi.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the current location of the Armitage Herschell carousel.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

name/title Walley W. Morse, Secretary  
organization Joint Greenville-Washington County Historic  
Preservation Commission Date September 27, 2011  
street & number 1581 West Pear Lane telephone 662-334-9560  
city or town Greenville state MS zip code 38703  
e-mail wallemorse@att.net

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Armitage Herschell Carousel  
**City or Vicinity:** Greenville  
**County:** Washington **State:** Mississippi

### For Photographs 0001 to 0005

**Photographer:** William M. Gatlin

**Date Photographed:** December 27, 2011

### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 0001: Carousel, E. E. Bass Junior High School Gymnasium  
Photo 0002: Hand carved image of Cock Robin on sleigh air tale on carved pony  
Photo 0003: Typical pony installation  
Photo 0004: Pony example close up  
Photo 0005: Detail of structure with radiating supports  
Photo 0006: Steam engine

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Name of Property

Washington County, MS  
County and State

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name E. E. Bass Foundation

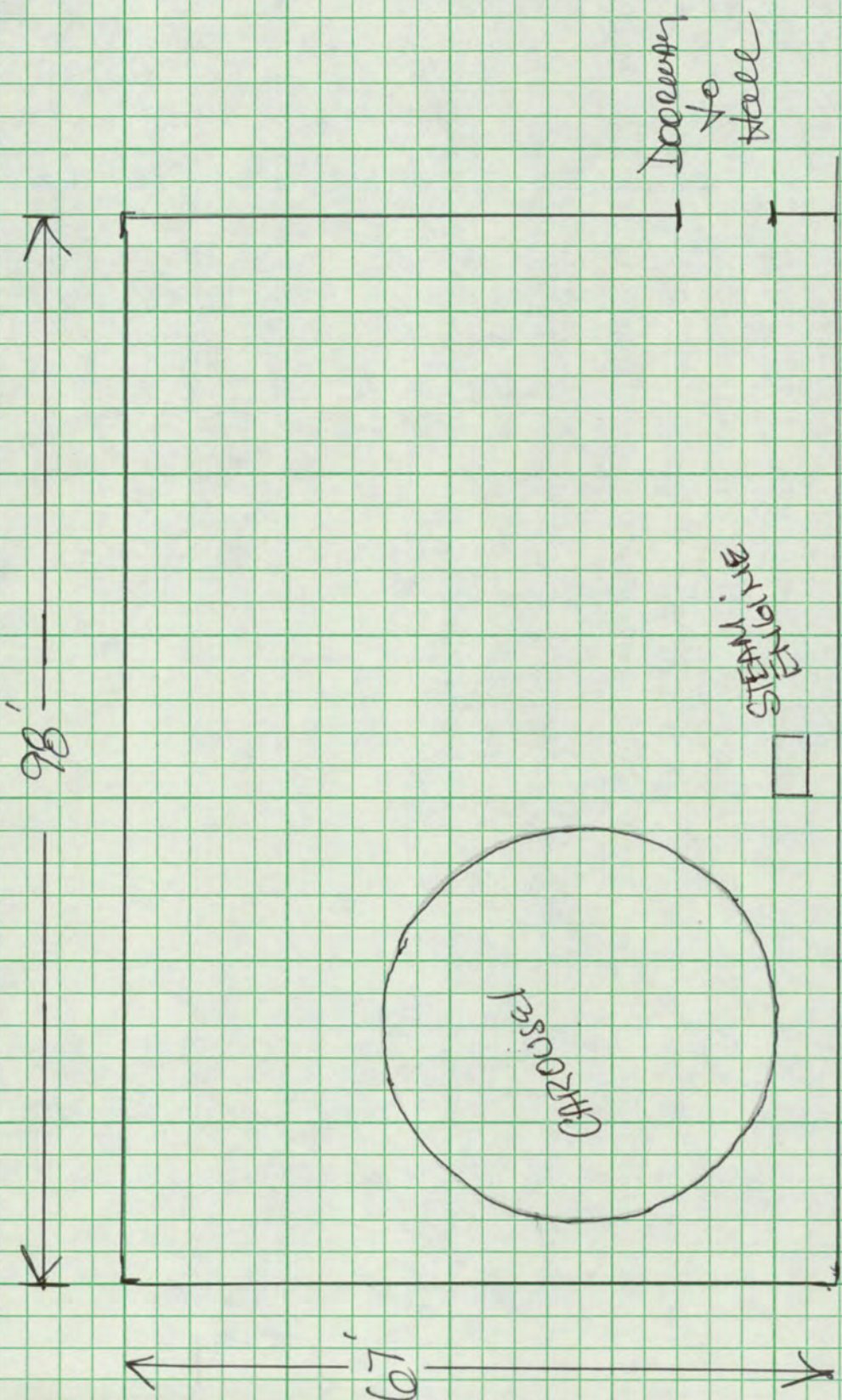
street & number 323 South Main Street telephone 662-332-2246

city or town Greenville state MS zip code 38701

**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.460 et seq.).

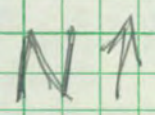
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

INSIDE DIMENSIONS OF GYM 67x98'



CAROUSEL IS 40' ACROSS  
150 = 3'

Armitage Herschell Carousel  
Greenville, Washington County  
Mississippi





MS - Washington County - Armitage/Herschel/Cerusec - 0001





MS - Washington County - Arvon Stage Herschell/Carroll - 0002



MS - Washington County - Armistage Herschell Coroner - 0003



MS - Washington County - Armitage Household Census - 0004



MS - Washington County - Armitage Herschell Carver - 0005





MS - Washington County - Armitage Henshell Carousel - 0006