

(Capsule)

Dentzel Carousel

The Carousel building at Chesapeake Beach is significant as a late 19th Century structure with the specialized purpose of housing an Amusement ride. It is one of the visual documents of the pre-automobile era in which trains and ships carried people to the shore. It is a visual document of an age in which public amusements utilized technology but to a lesser and more simple degree than today.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dentzel Carousel (in Chesapeake Beach Amusement Park)

AND/OR COMMON

Carousel Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Carousel Way

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake Beach

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The richly painted and well carved animals which were carved in Germany and brought to America by Dentzel C. 1880 have been removed from the building and are now in \_\_\_\_\_ County. The building which housed them remains, however, as do other structures which once comprised the Late 19th Century amusement park.

The building which housed the carousel was built especially for that purpose and is a simply constructed but well engineered polygon of 10 sides. Laminated  $1\frac{1}{4}$  x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ 's form a skeleton for a dome which measures 88' corner to corner.

The sides are nearly open as one might expect in a building constructed for summertime bayside amusement. A wide walkway surrounds a wide pit which held the machinery for the Merry-Go-Round. The Merry-Go-Round was electrically powered and had a Wurlitzer band organ. The structural similarities with the dance pavillion and the date of the carved animals suggests that this building was built by \_\_\_\_\_

The most notable feature of the Carousel Building besides its shape are its openness and its gayly painted blue, yellow and orange dome.

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 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 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

The Carousel building at Chesapeake Beach is significant as a late 19th Century structure with the specialized purpose of housing an amusement ride. It is one of the visual documents of the pre-automobile era in which trains and ships carried people to the shore. It is a visual document of an age in which public amusements utilized technology, but to a lesser and more simple degree than today.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b>          COUNTY <b>Calvert County</b>          TOWN <b>Chesapeake Beach</b>          STREET NO. <b>Amusement Park</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <b>Carousel</b>          PRESENT OWNER <b>Amusement Park</b>          PRESENT USE <b>Carousel</b>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Wooden tipped</b>          NO. OF STORIES <b>dome with open sides</b></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY <b>CT-17</b></p> <p>2. NAME <b>Dentzel Carousel</b></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <b>C. 1880</b>          STYLE <b>Carnival</b>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC YES

From the files of the Smithsonian Institution:

"The body proper of the carousel is of the "swinger type" and claimed to be well over 100 years old. It is believed to have been made by Dentzel. The drive has been converted from its original steam-power drive to motor drive.

The figures were assembled from 3 different carousels, all of which were formerly at Chesapeake Beach and were destroyed either by storm or fire. Represented are carvings by Dentzel, Herschell, and the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. The outer circle of animals are Dentzel carvings - the standard stationary horse and one large stationary lion - somewhat of a Dentzel trade-mark. The two inner rows are a combination of the other two companies with several Dentzel, or Dentzel inspired, whimsical animals. Some of the additional equipment is also held to be original. The brass bell is said to remain from the original body, and the Band Organ supplied by Dentzel."

- The carousel is covered by a twelve-sided lipped dome, supported by simple square piers - the sides are open. The interior construction of the building is interesting - there are **12 beams, bent upward in a continuous sweep from the floor to the**

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior  
**center of the dome.**

This structure is interesting and historically important. Good Condition



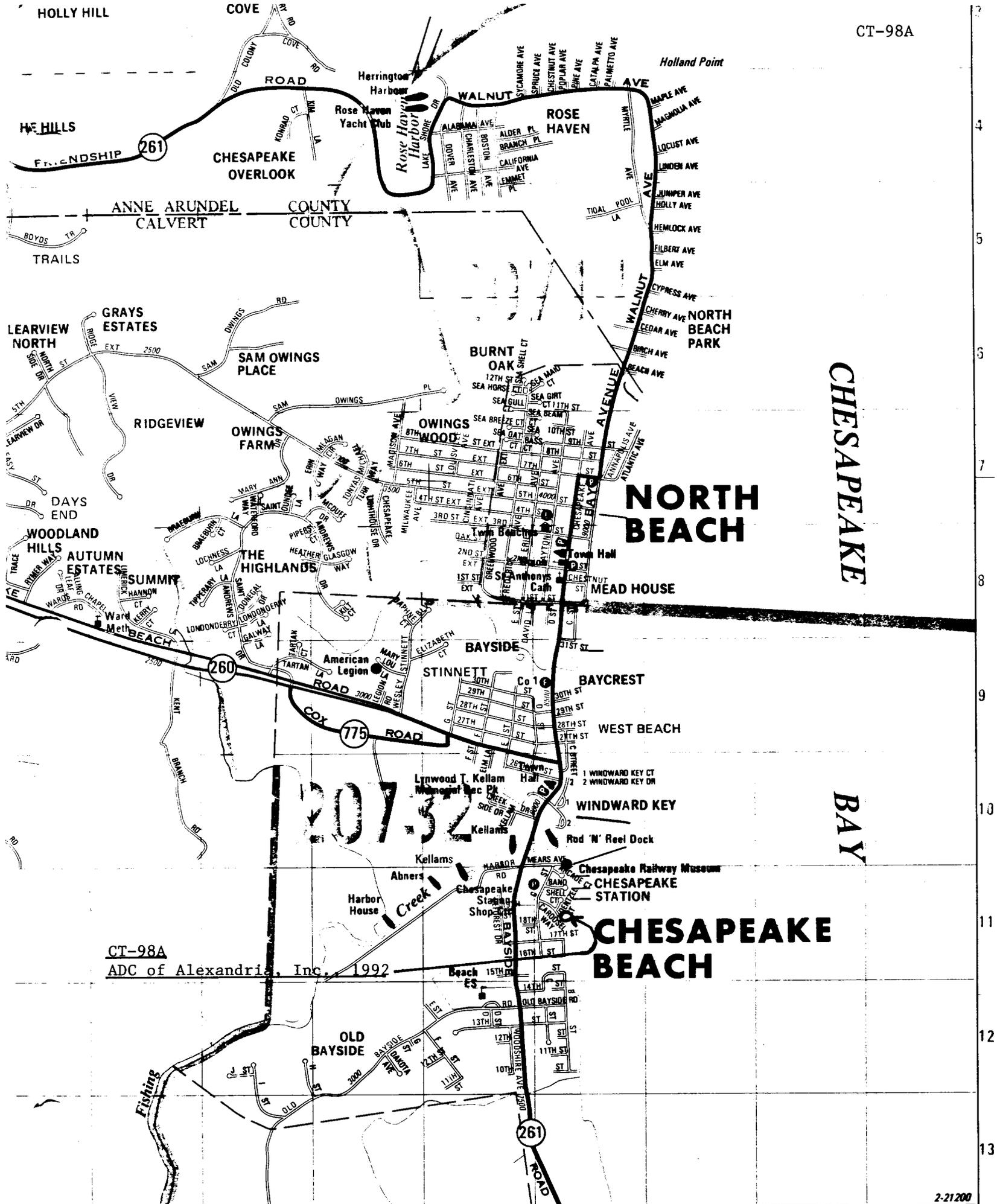
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
**PAB 7/17/67**

DATE OF RECORD

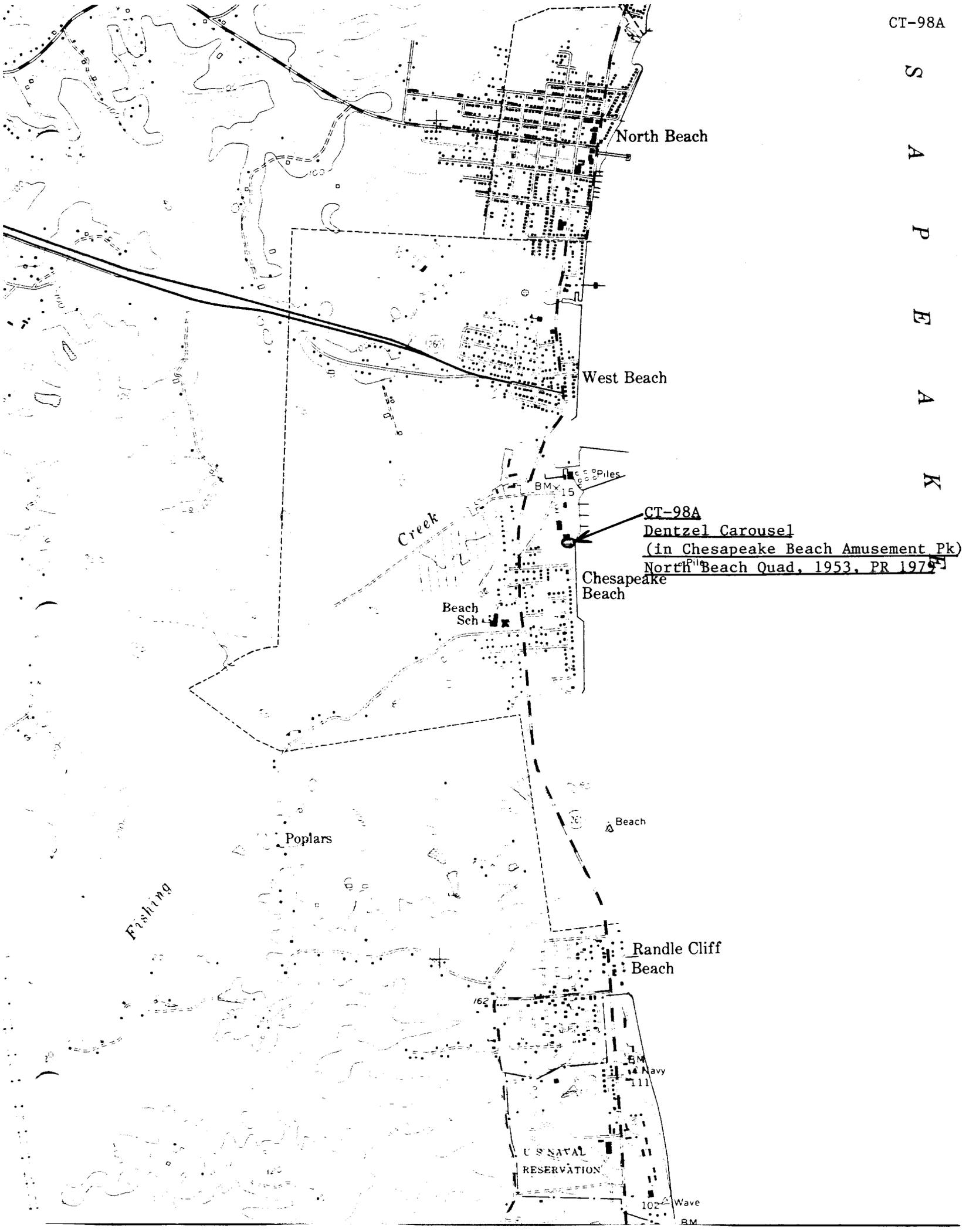


CT-98A  
 ADC of Alexandria, Inc. 1992

CHESAPEAKE

BAY

CHESAPEAKE BEACH



**CT-98A**  
Dentzel Carousel  
 (in Chesapeake Beach Amusement Pk)  
 North Beach Quad, 1953, PR 1975

Williams, Ames W.

1975 Otto Mears Goes East: The Chesapeake Beach Railway.  
Alexandria, Virginia: Meridian Sun Press.

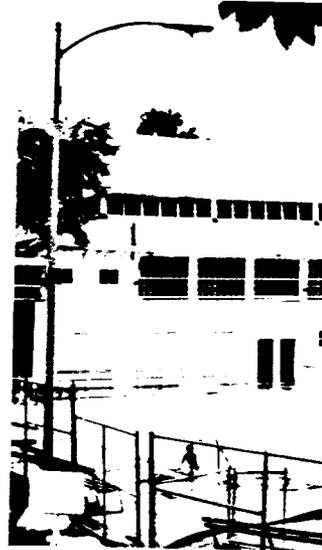
THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY



Gustav Dentzel's carrousel remained a favorite attraction at Chesapeake Beach until the amusement park closed in 1972.



FROM THE



Swimming pool and da

No. 5 hauling the afternoon Be  
derpass at Seat Pleasant. (Bruce





CT-98A  
Chesapeake Beach Park  
A. Carousel  
E.

W.N. 4/76



CT-98A

Dentzel Carousel  
Chesapeake Beach  
Amusement Park