

Dipper, Merry-Go-Round now historical landmarks

SANTA CRUZ — The Boardwalk's classic, wooden roller coaster and 75-year-old carousel now share a common bond with Yosemite and Yellowstone National Park.

They are all National Historic Landmarks.

A U.S. National Park Service study has determined the Giant Dipper roller coaster and the hand-carved Merry-Go-Round are such landmarks, Boardwalk spokesman

Glenn La Frank said. This is the first time the park service has done a major study on recreational sites being considered for landmarks.

U.S. Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel approved the study last week.

The Boardwalk amusements were among 39 sites across the country to be given landmark status. The sites include baseball and football stadiums, historical hotels and civic centers. These sites will join the list

of 1,760 landmarks.

Park Service Historian James Charleton said the Boardwalk carousel is one of only six surviving carousels carved by Charles Loeff, one of the earliest manufacturers of carousels in the country. His merry-go-rounds are noted for their fine woodwork.

The Boardwalk carousel, built in 1911, became 75 years old on Aug. 1.

It features 70 horses, two Roman

chariots and an 1894 Ruth band organ.

Charleton noted the Santa Cruz roller coaster is "the only one on the West coast that remains the centerpiece of an active amusement park."

The Dipper was built in 1924 for a reported \$50,000. Since then, more than 27 million riders have experienced the thrill of the twister, with its 70-foot drop and 55-mile-per-hour speeds, said La Frank.