



DESPITE ITS SOMBER MONUMENTS OF POWER, Washington, DC, at the turn of the century was still very much a sleepy little city. On the outskirts were quaint roadside diversions such as the Glen Echo Amusement Park, opened in 1911. A speculative venture by the Washington Railway and Electric Company, the place featured a dance hall, roller coasters, concessions, and a carousel. **TODAY THE SITE IS PRESERVED AS GLEN ECHO PARK** Historic District, administered by the National Park Service and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The carousel—a rare relic of an extinct artistic tradition and one of the few still on its original site—was documented in drawings and photographs by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service. **THIS MODEL WAS BUILT IN 1921 BY THE WILLIAM H. DENTZEL COMPANY** of Philadelphia, a carousel manufacturer since the Civil War. The horses are the handiwork of one of the era's most skilled carousel carvers, Daniel C. Muller. It is believed to be the first of the "jester head" models, which took their name from the grinning faces on top of the carousel. The 1920s Wurlitzer military-band organ—the only one of its kind to accompany a carousel—is the only one in public use today. An integral part of the experience, the organ played the popular tunes of the day. Much later, at the height of the civil rights movement, the then-segregated carousel was the site of protests. **IN ITS HEYDAY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A STIRRING SITE** from the trolley out of Washington, a vision of color and motion capped by an exotic bell-shaped roof. Preserved today against the tide of a sprawling metropolis, it gives visitors a sense of amusement from a simpler time.