

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Carmel Mission

AND/OR COMMON

Mission San Carlos De Borromeo Del Rio Carmelo

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Southwest corner, Rio Road and Lasuen Drive

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carmel

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
California

CODE

COUNTY  
Monterey

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

580 Fremont Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Monterey

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Recorder's Office (Monterey County)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

240 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Salinas

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Carmel Mission, as we see it today, is a fusion of an early building plus its early restorations, with twentieth century structures sympathetic to the Mission Style of architecture in California. Only parts of the Mission Church hearken back to the late 18th or even the 19th century, while the remainder of the Mission quadrangle and the nearby buildings are of quite recent construction.

The mission church of San Carlos de Borromeo is constructed of sandstone, faced with sand-colored stucco, and is a simple nave plan, 150' X 29', measured on the inside. The walls are 5 feet thick.

The West facade is an interesting composition of two dissimilar towers flanking a round-arched portal, surmounted by a classicistic trabeation and an interlaced quatrefoil and star window. The North tower is the shorter of the two, and generally serves as a foil to the larger and richer bell tower at the south. It is more simply treated overall, with smaller arched openings. The bell tower, on the other hand, has three openings (two to the West, one to the south) and features baroque finials at the four corners, a setback octagonal drum which carries eight pinnacles, and a dome which is circular in plan, half-egg shaped in section. Surmounted by a wrought iron cross, the dome should be seen as deriving from an essentially Spanish-Moorish inspiration.

The interior of the Carmel Mission Church is unique among the Mission Churches in its wooden tunnel vault, shaped in a parabolic arch and spanning 29 feet. The planks forming the vault are supported by three transverse stone ribs carried on pairs of Doric pilasters projecting from the wall, reflected on the exterior at these points by buttressing.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1793-1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carmel Mission is an excellent, restored and reconstructed example of a California mission, which has the added significance of having been founded by Padre Junipero Serra in 1770, and having served as the headquarters from which he directed the administration of the expanding mission system until his death.

HISTORY

The Carmel Mission (San Carlos de Borromeo) was established on June 3, 1770, at the Presidio of Monterey, and was moved three miles South to its present site in December 1771. The first structures were temporary: dwellings, storeroom, and a wooden church, as well as an adobe church which we know to have been underway by 1774. This building served Father Serra's needs for no less than 20 years, but in 1793, the present stone church was begun under the supervision of Father Serra's successor, Father Lasuen. It was dedicated in September 1797.

The mission functioned primarily as an administrative center for the whole mission system, until that role was removed to Santa Barbara by Lasuen's successor, Father Estevan Tapis. It never served nearly as many Indians as the other missions, reaching a high of 876 in 1795.

The Carmel Mission was sorely beset between 1818 and 1834 by sickness, death, and depredations of the military. By 1836, the church was almost completely destroyed, and in 1843, only ruins remained. The roof collapsed in 1852, and for the next 30 years, the building remained open to the elements.

In 1884, following the determined work of Father Angelo Casanova to reclaim the church, it was rededicated and re-roofed. Little, other than an uncharacteristic steeply-pitched gable roof was added to the building until 1924 when the restoration program which continues today, was begun. The building now serves still, as an active church, with a museum and gift shop immediately adjacent, as well as twentieth century buildings in a California Mission Style, which house a schoolhouse, and a rectory.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	59,68,0,0	4,04,45,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

9/4/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/8/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Hubert H. Bancroft, History of California (7 Vols., San Francisco, 1884-90), I-IV.
- John A. Berger, The Franciscan Missions of California (New York, 1941), 268-282.
- Father Zephyrin Engelhardt, Mission San Carlos Borromeo (Santa Barbara, 1934).
- Kurt Baer, Architecture of the California Missions (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1958), 159-160
- Rexford Newcomb, The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California (Philadelphia and London, 1925), 256-267
- Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 226-229.

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ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The Mission Church of San Carlos Borromeo, in Carmel, California, lay in ruins by 1852. Since that time, the Church has been rebuilt (1884 re-roofed, 1920's full restoration) and the Mission complex immediately adjacent has been recreated by the stylistically sympathetic construction of a Parish Rectory, Museum, and School, in a quadrangle to the south of the Mission Church. The twentieth century has seen the construction of a road system around the Mission complex which largely creates the most reasonable boundary for the building group. Comprising the Mission Church, the rectory-museum-school quadrangle, and a meeting hall and convent, the building compound is bounded on the east by the western edge of Rio Road and on the north and west by Lasuen Drive which curves around the Mission towards the Carmel River School, east of the Mission. The South boundary of the compound is formed by a line drawn from the southwest corner of the mission quadrangle, first southwest to a point on Lasuen Drive where it turns from its north-south course to an east-west course, to go to the Carmel Valley School, and secondly, northeast from that corner of the quadrangle to the Rio Road. Only the Mission church of San Carlo Borromeo is of national significance.