

PH0005614

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	DEC 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mt. Carmel Monastery

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *N of Port Tobacco off W.D. 225 and Mitchell Road*
Mt. Carmel Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Tobacco** *vic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **First**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24** COUNTY: **Charles** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Mt. Carmel**

CITY OR TOWN: **Port Tobacco** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Charles County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **La Plata** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

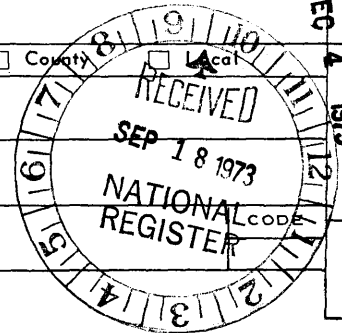
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Carmel is situated on Mt. Carmel Road, south side of Mitchell Road, approximately 2 1/2 miles west of U.S. Route 301 south, 2 miles north of La Plata, Maryland.

The earliest building now standing at Mt. Carmel is a two part frame house, known as "the Monastery." The main block, built circa 1790 and restored in 1936-37, consists of a two story structure with a moderately pitched "A" frame roof. It is three bays in length with the main entrance door of both facade elevations (north and south) occupying the first bay from the west end. At the east end stands a single exterior chimney with a free standing stack. The exterior doors are of vertical planks, each having a wood stoop with simple railings. First floor window openings frame sash of 9/9 panes while those windows of the second floor frame sash of 6/6 panes. The exterior sheathing is of random width beaded boards (1936-1937) over the brick nogged structural framing.

The base of the east end chimney is now enclosed within a very small, one bay, frame hyphen which connects the main block with a one story, four bay frame wing. This portion of the house is said to predate that part previously discussed but if this is true it does so by only a few years. At its principal (north) facade the main entrance door occupies the third bay from the east corner. It is also of batten design. The three windows are of 9/9 pane sash. The exterior walls were, like the main block, sheathed with random width beaded boards at the time of the 1936-37 restoration. The roof is of an "A" frame plan and, is again like the main block, covered with slate shingles. Both parts of the house were restored following their "discovery" in 1933 in a nearly ruinous condition. The entire house, devoid of any extraneous ornamentation, reflects the austerity of the life of the Carmelite nuns who are believed to have used this house as their residence. The interior of the house remains unfinished but has been partially furnished as a museum that physically documents the manner in which the Carmelite nuns lived and worked.

A short distance from the north-east corner of the house stands a small brick chapel designed in 1936-37 by architect Philip H. Frohman and built the same year. It was constructed on what is believed to have been the site of the original Convent chapel and is simple in plan. A small 19th century cemetery is situated east of the church.

The once serene hill top site of Mt. Carmel is now seriously threatened by the expansion of a nearby housing development unfortunately known as Mt. Carmel Estates.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Mt. Carmel Monastery was founded on October 15, 1790, by four Beligum Carmelite nuns, three of them former natives of Charles County. Departing from Beligum in May, 1790, they arrived at nearby Port Tobacco through the assistance of Bishop Carroll and Father Charles Neale, S. J. On arrival they set up a temporary residence at Chandler's Hope, the family home of Father Neale. By October 15, 1790, Father Neale had negotiated for the purchase of the present Mt. Carmel lands and the nuns transferred their residency to that property. The Mt. Carmel property was a part of a tract of land granted in the mid-17th century to Baker Brooke, a politically active figure, loyal to the Calvert family during Fendall's Rebellion of 1659-1660. Brooke's home reputedly stood on the part of the property that became the Monastery that burned, along with several other structures, in early 19th century (circa 1800-1815).

Besides the Monastery building remaining on the Mt. Carmel tract the Carmelite nuns built several others including another residence, a chapel, and a school as well as numerous domestic dependencies. The farm became largely self-sufficient through the efforts of these pioneer religious women and the parishoners they helped to serve.

However, in the early 19th century a fire destroyed several important buildings and the farm and school became increasingly difficult to maintain. In 1831 the Carmelite nuns then in residence were ordered to transfer the convent to Baltimore City, Maryland and the Mt. Carmel property in Charles County was abandoned.

In 1933 several native Charles countians launched an investigation into the history and precise location of the original convent and through their efforts the two remaining buildings then tenanted and fallen into disrepair, were discovered and an organization, called the Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland, formed to aid in the restoration of the site. The

(See continuation sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Restorers of Mt. Carmel in Maryland. Habs Data Forms prepared. n.d. Maryland Historical Trust files, Annapolis, Maryland.

Klaphthor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul D., History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, Charles County Tercentenary Commission. 1958.

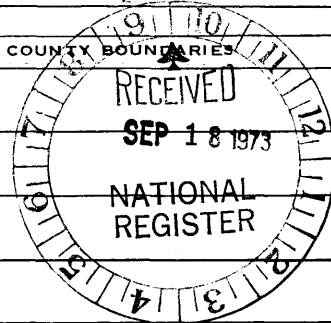
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 33' 21"	77° 00' 01"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **J. Richard Rivoire**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **May, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title: _____
State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date: July 2, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert K. Wiley
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: 12/4/73

ATTEST:

Charles Abfanning
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11-30-73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Charles	
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(Number all entries)

Mt. Carmel Monastery

No. 8. Significance Continued.

restoration of the remaining buildings and the design for the new chapel was prepared by Philip Hubert Frohman, an architect of the Washington Cathedral. The buildings and immediate grounds are now beautifully maintained, and yearly pilgrimages as well as special religious services are held there throughout the year.

