

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maine</b>
COUNTY: <b>Aroostook</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>OCT 15 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**U. S. Route 1**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Grand Isle**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**2nd Hon. William Cohen**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Aroostook** CODE: **003**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**510 Ocean Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portland**

STATE:  
**Maine**

CODE:  
**23**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Aroostook County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Houlton**

STATE:  
**Maine**

CODE:  
**23**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

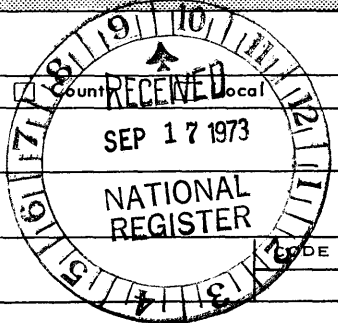
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, built between 1893 and 1903, is located in the northern Aroostook County town of Grand Isle. It is the second church to stand on this site, the first having been erected in 1876. Regretably, the architect of the church and its exact construction date are unknown. The structure is well sited, being on the southern side of U. S. Route 1 with its facade facing the St. John River.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a rare surviving example of a St. John River Valley church of the nineteenth century. The St. John River Valley was settled by the Acadian French, whose descendents have continued to comprise most of the population of the region. What pictorial evidence remains shows that in the nineteenth century the Acadians strove to emulate the traditional European church form of nave with adjacent aisles, clearstory above, and a central tower or twin towers at either side of the facade. This form was translated into wood in a straight forward vernacular manner with a few academic details.

Of the several St. John River Valley Acadian French churches of the nineteenth century, only two have survived intact, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and another at North Lyndon, now part of Caribou, Maine. Of these two, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is in a more original state of preservation. The church possesses the basic elements of its regional style. It is constructed of wood with a stone foundation. The exterior is clapboarded. The nave has a one story aisle at either side. Each of these possesses a series of six elongated vertical windows with arched tops. Their glass is clear with an intricate mullion design of double arches with a circular motif above. The windows are surrounded by a simple wooden molding with a keystone at the center of the arched top. Above the nave runs a clearstory with a high pitched gable roof. On either side of the clearstory is a series of six circular windows with clear glass and intricate mullions.

The facade of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is the church's most decorative feature. The first story of the central section is comprised of three doorways with arched windows above them. Over each of these is a small pointed gable, the central one bearing a pedestal with a statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. In recent years an overhang has been added below the gable. The second story of the central section has three elongated arched windows, the largest being in the center. Mullion and molding treatment is identical to that found on the aisle windows. Above these windows is a large circular window, identical in design to those in the clearstory. A cross stands near the front of the peak of the gable roof. On either side of the central section of the facade is a large, two story square tower. Both stories have elongated arched windows identical in design to those on the aisles. Each tower is surmounted with an octagonal Baroque style belfry, the most high style architectural element on the

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Aroostook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001	1973

(Number all entries)

7. Description

building. Each belfry is composed of eight Corinthian columns which support a dome, four sides of which have triangular pediments near the base. The crowning feature of each of these domes is an angel, one trumpeting and the other resting from his song.

The architectural importance of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel lies in the fact that it is the best surviving nineteenth century Acadian French Catholic church in the St. John River Valley. Moreover, on purely architectural grounds, the building has great appeal as a structure reflecting a high style form which has been expressed in a vernacular manner.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1899 - 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input 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 checked="" 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

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church typifies a style of church architecture once common to the St. John River Valley.

As well as being a significant part of the architecture of the St. John Valley, Our Lady of Mr. Carmel is also historically significant.

Following the signing of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842, which fixed the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick as the St. John River in this area, the citizens decided to erect their own chapel. On July 16, 1848, Bishop Fitzpatrick of Boston dedicated the small chapel of Our Lady of Mr. Carmel.

Officially these Catholics were under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Fredericton, New Brunswick. The chapel at Mr. Carmel was a mission administered by Father Langevin of St. Basile across the river. Mass was said at the chapel once a month.

After many years of discontent, the American Catholics of this region petitioned Pope Pius IX on November 2, 1864 to be separated from the Diocese of Fredericton. The result of this petition was that on August 16, 1870, the Americans of Madawaska came under the jurisdiction of the Rev. David W. Bacon, Bishop of Portland (Maine had since become separated from the Diocese of Boston).

The original chapel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel stood at a site about six miles up the river from Van Buren. A cross now marks this spot. A church was built in 1876 and materials from the chapel were used in its construction.

The present church was built during the pastorate of Rev. Charles O. Gingras (1893-1903), and the old church was remodeled into a school and convent.

Although the residents of Grand Isle had their own chapel since 1848 and enjoyed at least mission status, they overcame great difficulties to establish themselves as a parish. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel stands today as a monument to these people and their perseverance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History of the Catholic Church in the New England States, Byrne, Rev. Wm.  
 Boston: The Hurd & Everts Co., 1899.  
The Acadians of Madawaska, Maine in the N.E. Catholic Hist. Soc.  
 Publications #3. Boston: Thomas Whalen & Co. Press 1902.  
How the Acadians came to Maine, Violette, Lawrence A. Madawaska:  
 Madawaska Historical Society, 1951.  
 Information on file in the Archives of the Diocese of Portland, Maine.

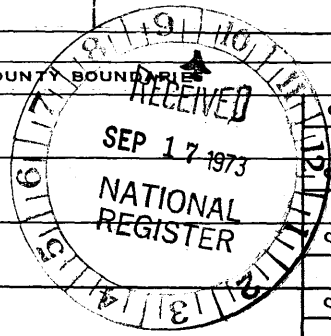
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	0 . "	0 . "		47°	16'	45"
NE	0 . "	0 . "		68°	06'	29"
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Kelly, Historic Preservationist**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **May, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **31 Western Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: James H. Mundy

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 14, 1973

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

Ernest A. Cunnally  
 Associate Director  
 Professional Services

Date: OCT 15 1973

ATTEST:

James H. Mundy  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-5-73