

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Prince George's
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Ammendale Normal Institute

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ammendale Normal Institute

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West side of Washington Blvd. (Rt. 1) South of Ammendale Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Beltsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

COUNTY:  
Prince George's

CODE:  
033

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"/> 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>bldg. not</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>summer camp</u>	<u>used as school;</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<u>storage and camp</u>
				<u>main uses</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Christian Brothers (Brother Albert, Director)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ammendale Normal Institute--Washington Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Beltsville

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Upper Marlboro

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

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:

CODE:

SEE INST JCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

The Ammendale Normal Institute is a Victorian structure of an eclectic character, with design influences from the Queen Anne, Italianate, and Second Empire Revival schools of architecture. The two story brick building sits on a high stone foundation; the roof is a mansard, pierced with dormer windows and gables.

The main (east) facade is over 100 feet long, consisting of a main block with projecting wings; the main block was completed in 1884 and the wings were added four years later. The wings continue the style of the main block. A 90 foot long chapel wing extends from the rear (west) facade and terminates in a semi-octagonal apse; like the main block, the chapel has a high stone foundation, but it has an A roof in contrast to the mansard

The main entrance is marked by a gabled entrance porch with a segmentally-arched entryway and patterned brickwork in the gable. Behind the porch, a four story tower projects above the roofline. The tower has a bracketed cornice that carries an ironwork balcony; above the cornice is a framed bell cote with a steeply-pitched, dormered hipped roof. The third story window head repeats the segmental arch of the porch entryway; the fourth story elevation has a niche for a Madonna and Child statue.

Flanking the tower are two gables. Their surface treatment repeats the brickwork pattern of the entrance porch. They break through the main roof cornice and thus repeat the vertical emphasis of the tower.

Between the entrance porch and each of the wings is a two-story gallery. It is supported by a row of iron columns with decorative bracketing; the railings are of patterned ironwork.

The wings both have central gables with patterned brickwork. The central, gabled portion of the wall surface projects forward slightly, and windows are grouped to give emphasis to the central section of each wing.

The window heads are segmentally arched, with the arches projecting slightly from the wall surface and connected by string courses. The entryway arch is formed of moulded brick, as are the balustrades of the steps to the porch. Both the dormer windows and the iron columns use a star motif; the star is the symbol of the Christian Brothers.

The interior of the building has been altered in order to meet demands for space as the needs of classroom have changed.

St. Joseph's Church stands southeast of the school and is separated from it by a hedge. In general form, the building is a small, brick typical of the late nineteenth century. The sidewalls have pointed arched windows, separated by small brick buttresses, glazed with double hung sash. The low entry porch is at the center of the main facade; the double doors topped by the transom light.

The detailing of the church, however, is as eclectic as that of the main building. In the center of the gable there is

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Ammendale Normal Institute

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

a circular window set in a panel formed by a pointed arch. At the eaves, bargeboards are supported on their lower end by brackets which, in turn, rest on a lower belt course. The entrance porch has similarly-carved work in the gable and the lower end of the rafters is supported on brackets. Along the sidewalls, the rafter ends are cut in an ogee shape.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

the Institute included a juniorate for younger boys, a novitiate, and a scholasticate where Brothers received college training.

Over the years, the Christian Brothers added neighboring lands to their holdings, which today total about 400 acres. Thus, they were assured the quiet and peaceful environment associated with a religious life. But with a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at the Ammendale post village, they were not isolated from the secular world.

Admiral Ammen, the original owner of the land and donor of the church site, was a convert to Catholicism. Although a naval officer he seems to have had both an interest in education and a wide-ranging curiosity about the world. He accompanied the Wilke exploration of the Mediterranean Sea and a scientific expedition to the Paraguan River; during the Civil War he participated in several battles along the blockaded southern coast of the Atlantic; and he was an ardent and articulate advocate of the American Isthmian Canal (about which he wrote five books). He wrote one book on the history of the naval involvement in the Civil War as well as one advocating naval reform and modernization. Country Homes and Their Improvement described the advantages of country living but warned that the popular desire for rural life might not suit everyone's taste. But after his initial involvement in the establishment of Ammendale Normal Institute, Admiral Ammen seems to have had little involvement in its activities and his reasons for urging it along remain unknown.

Architecturally, the Normal Institute is an outstanding example of the eclectic styles of the 1880's. This building, constructed in a rural environment, shows an awareness of stylistic trends of the period. The presence of a structure of this quality, style, or scale is unusual in Maryland outside the urban centers of Baltimore and Washington.

PG:60-7

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Prince George's	
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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Continuation Sheet) #2

(Number all entries)

Ammendale Normal Institute

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued

Land Records of Prince George's County.  
Miscellaneous papers of Ammendale Normal Institute.

**8. 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) Church: 1880; School: 1883-4 and 1888

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 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

The Ammendale Normal Institute has been the home of the Christian Brothers since 1880, when they moved their novitiate from Calvert Hall in Baltimore to a rural site. Admiral Daniel Ammen, U.S.N., owned land along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Beltsville and offered the order twenty acres at \$20 per acre. Brother Tobias, Director of St. John's College in Washington, D.C., accepted the offer and immediately began building.

The first novitiate, completed in November 1880, was a 40 foot by 50 foot, three-story building. In addition to selling twenty acres, Admiral Ammen donated five acres of land for a church with the stipulation that the church and the school always be separated by a hedge; the hedge is still standing. In October 1880, St. Joseph's Church was dedicated. The structure was built in a style seldom seen in Prince George's County, where there are no other examples of Queen Anne patternwork in brick and few buildings that show an awareness of late nineteenth century eclecticism. The general style of the chapel set the pattern for the rebuilding of the novitiate begun in 1883.

For the novitiate, the Christian Brothers contracted with a Baltimore builder named McCusker. The first stage of construction was the center section and chapel, which took about a year to build and cost \$33,000. The workmen were evidently not local, since they boarded at the school during the construction. In December, 1884, James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, dedicated the building.

In 1888, the flanking wings were added and the building took on its present appearance. Since the wings are in the same style as the main block, the building has a unified appearance and character. It was one of the largest--perhaps the largest--building in Prince George's County at the time and enabled the Brothers to carry on several schools in a single structure.

Before the construction of Ammendale Normal Institute, Mme. La Coste, Admiral Ammen's mother-in-law, had conducted a local school at Drury Mansion. After the new institution was completed, the Brothers assumed responsibility for the education of local children as well as their own clergy and teachers, with Brother Victor running the lay school. Clerical training at

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ammen, Admiral Daniel. The Navy in the Civil War. 1885  
Country Homes and Their Improvement. 1885  
The Atlantic Coast. 1885  
American Isthmian Canal Routes. 1889.  
The Old Navy and the New. 1891.  
The Errors and Fallacies of the Inter-Oceanic Transit Question. 1886.  
 Brother Clementius. The History of the District of Baltimore.  
 Ammendale: 1948.

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

**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	39 ° 03 ' 16 "	76 ° 54 ' 22 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39 ° 03 ' 14 "	76 ° 54 ' 01 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39 ° 02 ' 56 "	76 ° 53 ' 46 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	39 ° 03 ' 03 "	76 ° 54 ' 16 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **79 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

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Christopher Owens, Historian; Catherine Pierce, Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Comm.** DATE: **26 April 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**8787 Georgia Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Silver Spring** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Arthur C. Townsend</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>October 24, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BELTSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1964

