MHT B-104

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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:	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Mother Seton House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Mother Seton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 600 North Paca Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Society of St. Sulpice

STREET AND NUMBER: Contact: Father J. Carroll McHugh, 5408 Roland Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two-and-one-half story red brick house on the grounds of St. Mary's Seminary at 600 North Paca Street in Baltimore City is similar to other small homes built in the early 1800's for the predominately French community nearby. It stands detached and is somewhat larger in scale and more pretentious in design than the similar small houses in the city. Mother Seton described it in one of her letters as being surrounded by orchards and French in design. For this reason, and because the Frenchman Maximilian Godefroy, the architect of St. Mary's Seminary Chapel, was an instructor in drawing at the Seminary at that time, there has been speculation that he may have designed this building, too. The purpose for which the house was originally erected has long been forgotten; however, it was offered as an inducement to Elizabeth Seton to come to Baltimore in 1808 and there to found a school and occupy the then newly completed house.

After Mother Seton's departure from Baltimore, the building was used for many years by the Seminary as a work house, and in the 1960's was restored to its original appearance through the efforts of a committee which continues to operate it as a museum.

Constructed of brick, there is a brick and iron-spiked fence surrounding the small front yard. The entrance is at the south end of the east facade, a 'cross and Bible' door, topped by a transom in which the muntins form three Gothic arches. The doorway is flanked by two full-length shutters. To the north are two casement windows each with eight nearly square lights, and shutters flank the units. The second floor has three evenly spaced casement windows, similar to those on the first floor, and on the third floor, there is one double-hung dormer with six-over-six lights set into the center of the steep pitch, slate roof. All the exterior trim is wood, painted white, except the window sills which are stone.

The south facade of the house is punctuated by two windows on each of the first and second floors, while the north facade contains only one window which is on the first floor. There is one brick chimney set flush in each gable-end. Each has a one-brick edge and three-arch brick cap.

Inside, the plan includes a stair hall, with a parlor to the north of the entrance door and a dining room and small kitchen west of the entrance. A service kitchen, added later, has been retained. It is the only part of the building which is not original. Upstairs there are several bedrooms and a former schoolroom in the corner of which is an oratory, created by Mother Seton. All the furnishings of the house

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* c. 1807-1808

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☒ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mother Seton House was the home of Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) the only American-born woman beatified by the Roman Catholic Church. She founded the religious order of the Daughters of Charity while living in this house on North Paca Street in Baltimore.

Elizabeth Seton became a convert of Roman Catholicism in 1805 after the death of her husband. Her friendship with James Carroll, Bishop of the Diocese of Baltimore, helped influence her decision. In February of 1801 Bishop Carroll arranged for her to meet Father William Dubourg, S.J., President of St. Mary's Seminary and St. Mary's College. Dubourg convinced Mrs. Seton to come to Baltimore and establish a school for girls at St. Mary's Seminary. On June 9, 1808, she moved into 'a new house' adjacent to the seminary. She lived in this house for one year and described it as a neat, delightful mansion. During that time she took her religious vows in St. Mary's Seminary Chapel, which is now a National Register of Historic Places property. While in Baltimore she began gathering religious women around her: the nucleus of the order of the Daughters of Charity.

In mid 1809 Mrs. Seton and her small following abandoned her school in Baltimore. With a gift of $10,000 she established a school for girls in Emmitsburg, Frederick County, Maryland.

In 1880 Archbishop James Gibbons of Baltimore initiated the cannonization proceedings and in 1963 Mother Elizabeth Seton was beatified. Cannonization is to be expected.

The Seton Hill area of Baltimore City which includes the Mother Seton House and St. Mary's Seminary was named after Mother Seton.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Catherine F. Black (Mrs. Walter Black, Jr.), Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland; Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust.

Catholic Encyclopedia. 15 vols. New York: The Encyclopedia Press, 1912, XIII, p. 739-740.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	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°	17'	43.5"	76°	37'	23.5"
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust — DATE: Dec.28, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

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 Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date December 29, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Mother Seton House

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Landmark List (within the Seton Hill Historical and Architectural Preservation District, Ordinance #193, City of Baltimore)

1969 Local

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
Room 402, City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

are of the period of the house, but are not original furnishings belonging to Mrs. Seton.

#9. REFERENCES continued

Holland, Eugenia Calvert. Mother Seton's House in Baltimore. Baltimore: Meadow-Croft Printers, n.d. (A leaflet distributed by the Committee for the Restoration of Mother Seton's House in Baltimore)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT B-104

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Mother Seton House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Mother Seton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 600 North Paca Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Michael Bourne

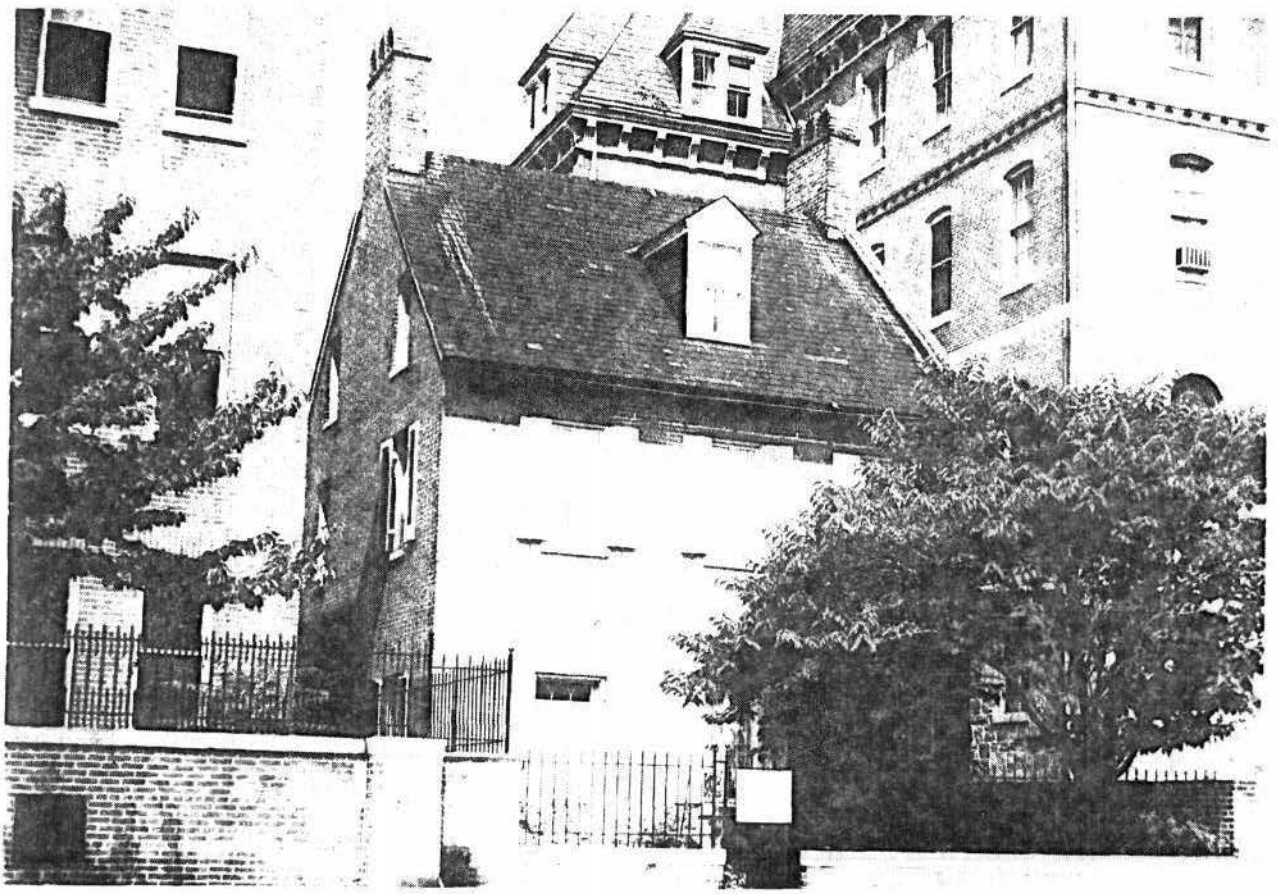
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

East facade



MHT B-104

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Mother Seton House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Mother Seton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
600 North Paca Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East Quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: photorevised 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
Scale: 1: 24 000
photorevised 1966
Guilford
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Waverly
Municipal Stadium
Eastern High Sch
Baltimore City College
Union Memorial Hospital
Baltimore Museum of Art
U S Public Health Service Hospital
Veterans Trade Sch
Doctors Hospital
Brent Sch
State of Maryland Health Center
Oliver Cromwell Sch
Radio Tower (WITH)
Polytechnic Institute
Friends Cem
Clifton Park Jr High Sch
Lake Clifton
Lake Montebello
Montebello Sch
CLIFTON PARK AND GOLF COURSE
Baltimore Hebrew Cem
Holy Cross Cem
Columbus Sch
BALTIMORE CEMETERY
GREENMOUNT CEMETERY
St Jamenhs Hospital
Womans Hospital
Henderson Sch
Robt E Lee Sch
State Penitentiary and City Jail
Calvert Sch
Dunbar Jr-Sr High Sch
MOTHER SETON HOUSE
Mercy Hospital
Municipal Office Bldg
Shot Tower
Customs
U of Md School of Medicine
Weglein Sch
Holy Rosary Sch
PATTERSON PARK
Patterson Sch
Camden Station
Armory
Sydenham Hospital
Veterans Hospital
St Elizabeth Home
Filtration Plant
Vocational Sch
Shrine of Little Flower
Tilghman Sch
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Church Home Hospital
Round House
Library
Reading and Sch
Lat 39° 17' 43.5"
Long 76° 37' 33.5"
B-104
LAUREL 20 MI. 5662 I SW (BALTIMORE WEST)
SHAWAN 14 MI
FREDERICK 43 MI. PINE ORCHARD 14 MI
20'
17'30"
4355
4354
4352
4350

B-104
MOTHER SETON HOUSE
Baltimore City

B-104
MOTHER SETON HOUSE
Baltimore City