

Capsule Summary  
SM-765  
Camp Maria  
Leonardtwn vicinity  
Private

circa 1937

Started in 1937 by the Sister's of Charity of Nazareth, Camp Maria was initially an all girl's camp built on the eastern shore of Breton Bay near Leonardtown, Maryland. Placing a high priority on the education of Catholic girls, the Sister's of Charity were a keystone of Catholic education in St. Mary's County as they erected schools from St. Michael's in Ridge to St. Mary's Academy in Leonardtown. Camp Maria was yet another component of Catholic education in the mid-twentieth century. The camp provided a recreational atmosphere that supplemented traditional academic curriculums. Camp buildings include several small one story, frame cabins with shuttered openings, basketball courts, a pool, and several administrative/recreational buildings. The camp is presently used as a site for retreats for many of the county's Catholic elementary schools as well as St. Mary's Ryken High School.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. SM-765

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Camp Maria is located on the eastern shore of Breton Bay near Leonardtown, Maryland. Located on a flat 10.03 acre parcel, the camp is approached via Camp Maria Road that extends westward from Breton Beach Road. The interior network of the camp consists of approximately 10 cabins surrounded by a circular, tree lined drive. On the outside of the drive are several administrative and recreational buildings and two dwellings. Other resources include basketball courts and a pool. The property is bounded by a gravel mining operation to the north and east, residential lots to the south, and Breton Bay to the west.

The frame, one story cabins represent the most conspicuous element of Camp Maria. Although started in 1937, it is unclear whether the camp's cabins were erected at that time. The cabins were built on concrete piers and are clad with asbestos shingles. The cornice has been left open and the roofs are sheathed with corrugated metal roofs. Fenestration of these buildings consist of long horizontal windows covered with wooden shutters that can be propped open.

Other buildings at the camp were not documented.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-765

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1937	<b>Architect/Builder</b>
<b>Construction dates</b>		

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Started in 1937 by the Sister's of Charity of Nazareth, Camp Maria was initially an all girl's camp built on the eastern shore of Breton Bay near Leonardtown, Maryland. Placing a high priority on the education of Catholic girls, the Sister's of Charity were a keystone of Catholic education in St. Mary's County as they erected schools from St. Michael's in Ridge to St. Mary's Academy in Leonardtown. Camp Maria was yet another component of Catholic education in the mid-twentieth century. The camp provided a recreational atmosphere that supplemented traditional academic curriculums. Camp buildings include several small one story, frame cabins with shuttered openings, basketball courts, a pool, and several administrative/recreational buildings. The camp is presently used as a site for retreats for many of the county's Catholic elementary schools as well as St. Mary's Ryken High School.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-765

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Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

Potter, Kevin. "A Final Farewell: Closing of County Convents Marks End of Sisters' Century of Service" The Enterprise, August 30, 2000.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 10.03 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 10.03 acres  
Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by a gravel mining operation to the north and east, residential lots to the south, and Breton Bay to the west. A more specific description of the properties boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber 11, Folio 500.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

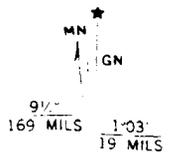
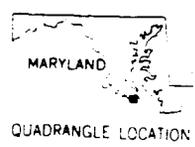
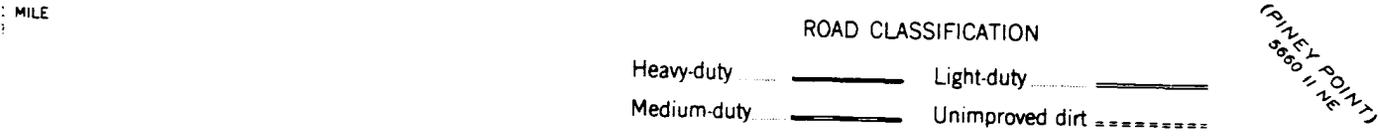
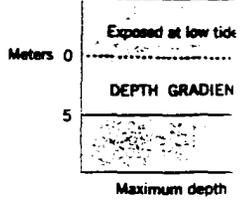
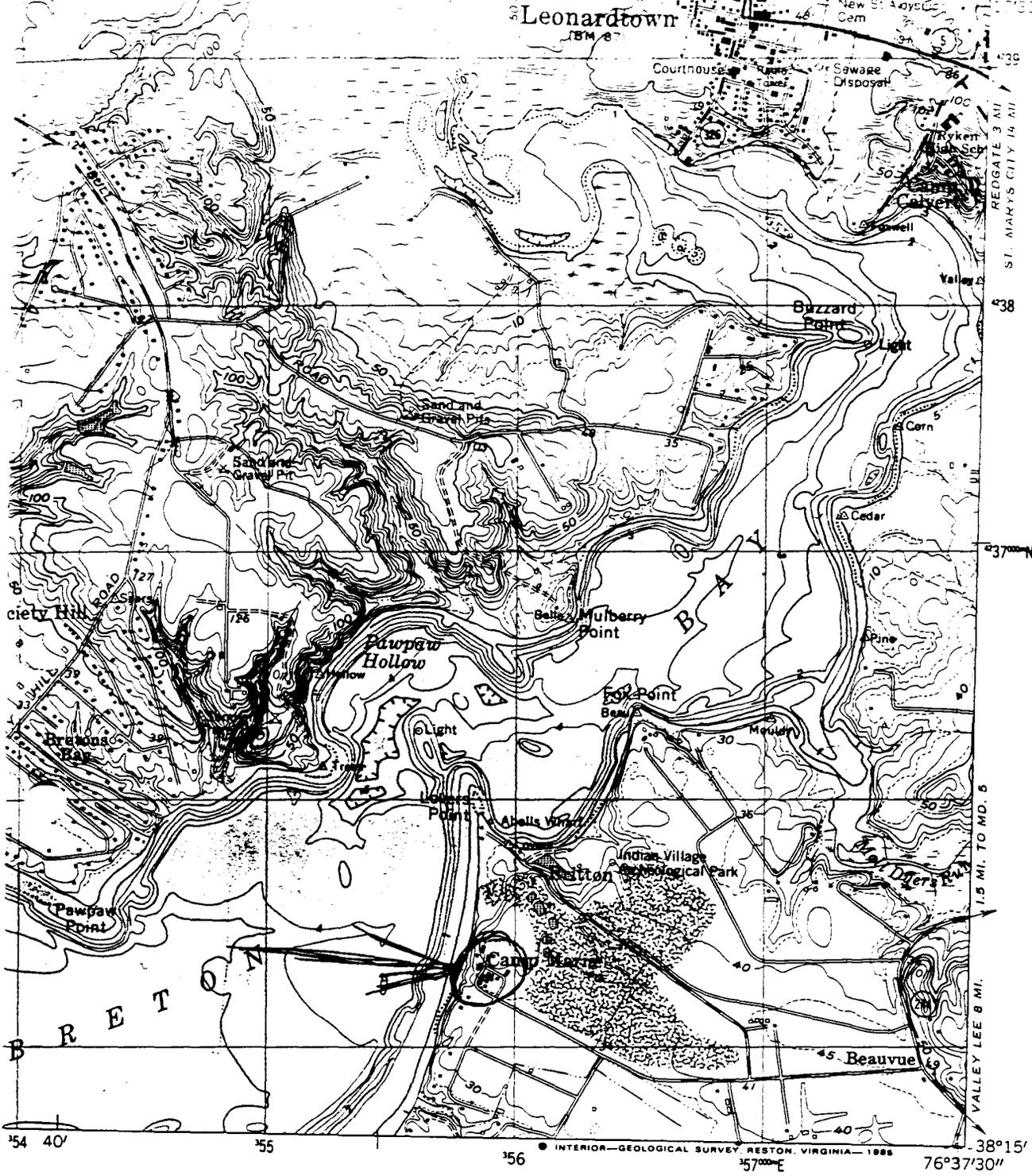
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Leonardtown

- 4 1:2197
- 5 1:5240
- 6 1:8288
- 7 1:1336
- 8 1:4384
- 9 1:7432
- 10 1:10480

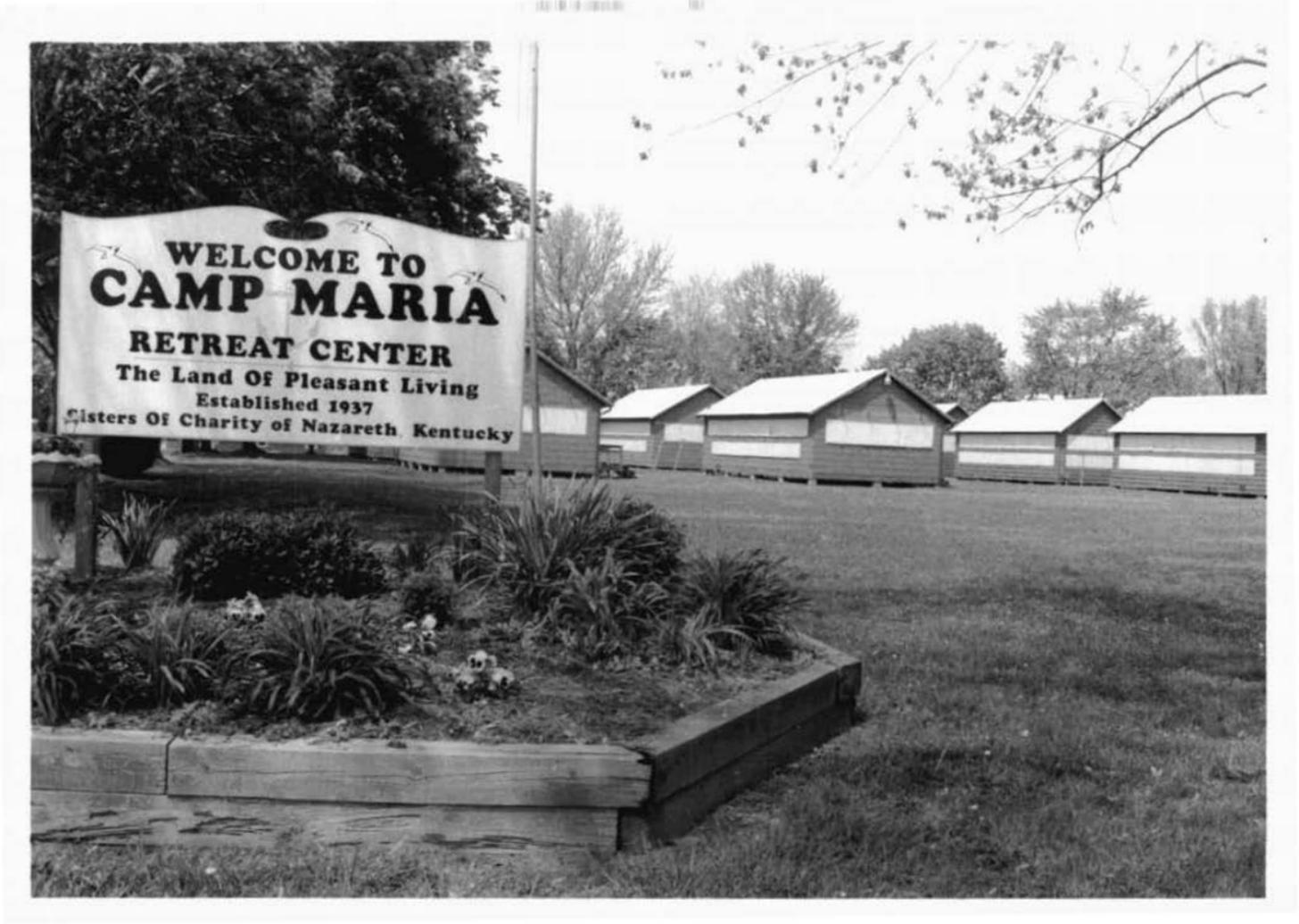
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808



SM-765  
 Camp Maria  
 Leonardtown  
 St. Mary's County  
 Leonardtown Quad

**LEONAR**  
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 38076-C6-TB-024

(PINEY POINT)  
 5660 II NE



**WELCOME TO  
CAMP MARIA**

**RETREAT CENTER**

**The Land Of Pleasant Living**

**Established 1937**

**Sisters Of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky**

SM-765

Camp Maria

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

July/06

MD SHPO

elevation

1 of 1