

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 8 1984
date entered SEP 18 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Church San Carlos Borromeo of Aguadilla (parish church, 18th century)

and or common same

2. Location

street & number De Diego St., Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Aguadilla vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Aguadilla code 0030

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Church, Diocese of Mayaguez

street & number Box 2272

city, town Mayaguez vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00708

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Church Litigation Case #2, 1904

street & number Box 2392

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00903

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Churches of Puerto Rico has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The parish church San Carlos Borromeo of Aguadilla sits in front of the town plaza, oriented on an east-west axis, its entrance facing west. The church occupies an entire town block with busy streets on three sides and a secondary street and parking area on its north side. It is separated from its immediate surroundings by a concrete and iron grillwork fence enclosing a paved cement area.

The plan follows the basilica prototype of two aisles and a nave covered with a flat roof. According to Arch. Thomas S. Marvel and Art Historian Maria Luisa Moreno, this church has the only example on the Island of an apse covered with a groin vault instead of a dome or barrel vault. The plan consists of five bays plus the apse/sacristies. Simple arcades resting on round columns divide the aisles from the main nave. The roof is made of wooden beams and paneling. The side aisles are lower than the central nave and are slightly pitched. The side aisles culminate in blind arches. These arches and the apse wall are covered with colored marble. The altar is modern. The floors have been recently restored with marble tiles and the church has been air-conditioned. The doors and windows are made of wood and colored plexiglass. Original brick and mortar constitute the main construction materials.

The facade is flanked by two towers which are decidedly different. In 1862 the first tower was built to hold a clock. The south tower was built in 1874. Later, in 1887, the facade was remodeled following plans drawn by State Architect Pedro Cobreos, which included three pointed arches, a straight cornice and two towers. However, as a result of damages from a 1918 earthquake, some changes were made to the facade. The destroyed south tower was rebuilt to a height lower than the original, and the straight cornice that ran between the two towers was substituted by curved sloping walls, resulting in the present facade. Both towers are octagonal. The north tower holds a clock, has four arched openings and is covered by a small dome. The south tower, shorter than the north tower, has eight openings and is covered by an octagonal pyramid.

The facade has three pointed arched doors. The main entrance, is framed by two pairs of pilasters crowned by a simple entablature. Above this, a round opening permits light to enter the interior space. A small triangular pediment crowns the facade. Two additional doors leading into the side aisles flank the main entrance.

The side facades are simple and do not reflect interior bay organization. There is one arched doorway and two windows on each side of the main interior space, and a small door leading to the sacristies on the north side. On the south, a modern meeting room was added, and to the rear of the church a two story modern structure was attached.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1783, 1887 **Builder/Architect** Pedro Cobreros (1887 project)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The parish church San Carlos Borromeo of Aguadilla is of historical and architectural significance. The original church was built in 1783. The two towers were added in 1862 and 1874 respectively. In 1887 remodeling plans were drawn for the church by State Architect Pedro Cobreros. This church has the only example on the Island of a groin vault covering the apse, adding architectural significance to the building.

Three noteworthy wooden carvings representing Jesús de Nazareno, Virgen Dolores and San José, dating from circa 1850 are kept in the sacristies. They are used in processions and religious festivities. The building retains most of its construction design elements of 1887. The traditional relationship of the main plaza, city hall and church is maintained, in accordance with Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded, providing us with a living example of the town planning practices characteristic of the Spanish colonial period in Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.
Historic Photograph, c.1910, Junghanns Collection, General Archives of Puerto Rico, San Juan.
Historic Plans of 1887, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Arch:0, Gav:5, N°:674.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property aprox. 1393 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Aguadilla, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Lat.18°25'54" N., Long. 67°09'13" W.

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on the north by a secondary street and parking area, on the west by De Diego St. and the town plaza; on the south by State Road #2 and on the east by Barbosa St. (see enclosed location plan).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

N/A

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marisa Gómez, Arch. and Ester Cardona, Arch.

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc.

date May 1984

street & number Tetuan 103

telephone (809) 724-4997

city or town Old San Juan

state Puerto Rico 00901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1984

For NPS use only

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

See Continuation Sheet for Listing

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration