

**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 Santa Cruz of Bayamón *(Iglesia de Santa Cruz de Bayamón)*

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Plaza de Hostos

not for publication

city, town Bayamón

vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

code 72

county San Juan

code 0140

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Church, Archdiocese of San Juan

street & number Box 1967

city, town San Juan

vicinity of

state Puerto Rico 00903

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Church Litigation Case#11, 1912

street & number Box 2392

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico 00903

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Churches
title 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 church Santa Cruz of Bayamón sits inside the town plaza off to the south side, oriented on the east-west axis. It is separated from its immediate surroundings by a wall modulated by Art Deco pillars and decorative iron work, built in 1947.

The building plan consists of one nave covered with a barrel vault. Walls of great thickness and wide buttresses receive the stress of the vault. Lunettes placed above the nave give direct light to the interior space. Between 1870 and 1898 the lateral walls of the nave were opened and non-connecting chapels were built between the buttresses. There are five bays plus the apse/sacristies. The rectangular apse and the sacristies are covered with a lanterned dome each. The original choir loft with a wooden balustrade remains basically unaltered. The principal construction material is brick masonry. The floors are covered with grey and white marble tiles laid in 1868.

The facade is distinguished by a flat arched cornice resting on Doric pilasters. Framing the main entrance is a simple entablature enclosing the linteled door. The entablature is crowned by a triangular pediment containing an arch. Two bell towers rise above the sides of the entranceway.

The side facade of the church has heavy buttresses. Side doors are framed by Doric pilasters, again supporting a triangular pediment. The most noticeable alteration to the main structure is the addition of a new parish house (1925) attached to the rear facade of the original church.

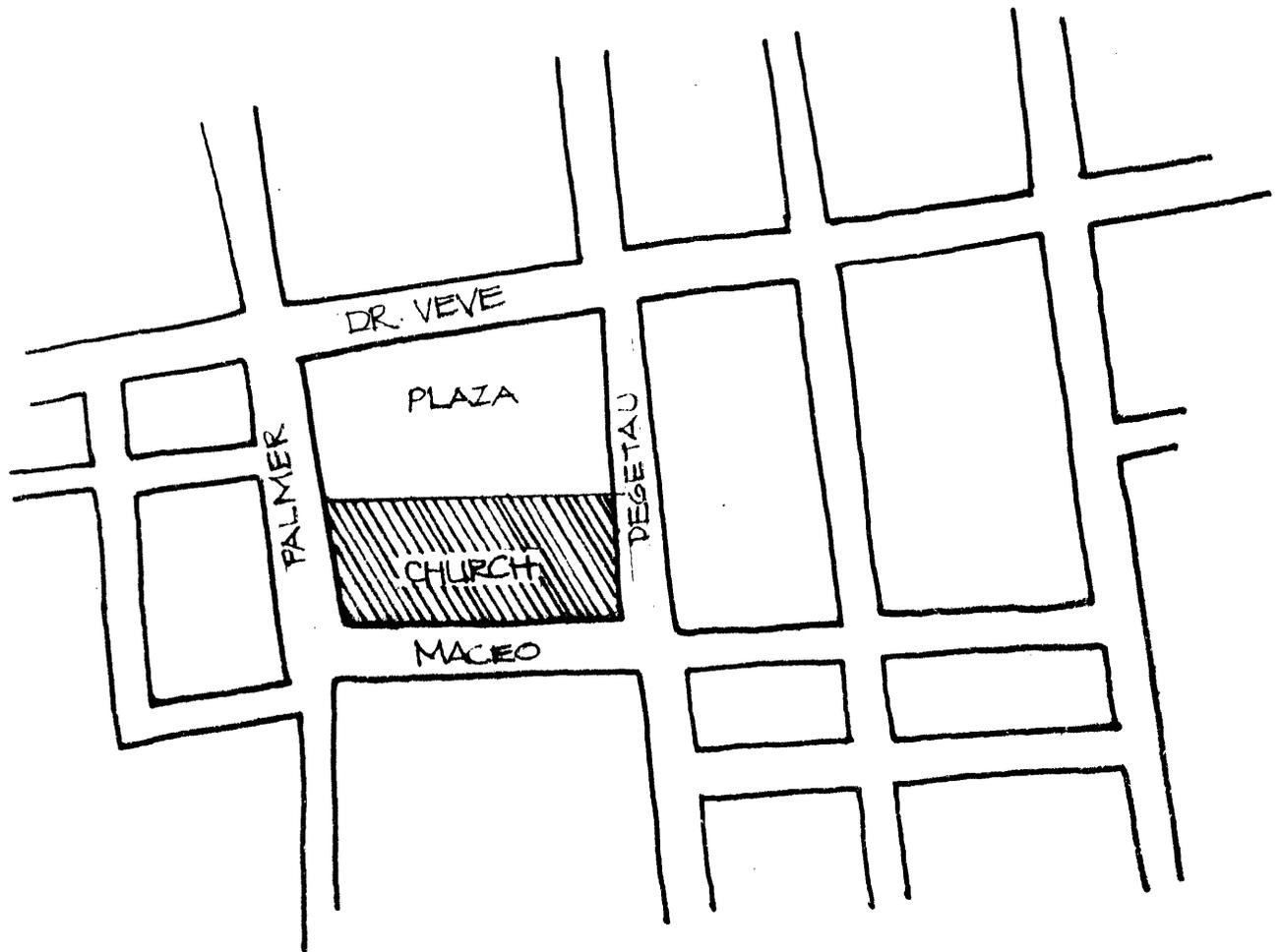
8. Significance

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1772–1782 **Builder/Architect** Father José Martínez de Matos

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church Santa Cruz of Bayamón is significant architecturally and historically. In 1772, shortly after the founding of the city of Bayamón, the community, led by Father José Martínez de Matos, began work on this church, which is dedicated to the Holy Cross. The building retains most of its original construction and design. It is a good example of the churches built from 1720 to 1820 with a single nave covered with a barrel vault. The apse in this type of church is usually covered with a barrel vault, but in this case, a lanterned dome was built. The entire building is constructed with mortar and brick. Although the dimensions are less than those of Toa Alta's church, the space in Bayamón appears larger because of the chapels that open on the side walls. The facade's decorative elements are combined in an unusual composition. In no other Puerto Rican church is the use of this flat arched cornice, nor the exaggerated scale of the pilasters, repeated. They create a frame for the elegant entrance, adorned with classical elements of diverse proportions. All ecclesiastical records dating back to 1750 are kept in the parish archives. The building was repaired in 1825 (hurricane), 1867 (earthquake), 1877, and 1918 (earthquake). The most noticeable alteration in recent years has been the addition of the parish house in 1925. The bulky church sits inside the main town plaza, continuing a traditional relationship in Puerto Rico between church and plaza, following Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded.



town: **BAYAMÓN**

scale: 1:2000



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