

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 6 1984

date entered

DEC 10 1984

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

1. Name

historic Church Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Cayey (Historic Churches, Puerto Rico)
and or common same

2. Location

street & number Muñoz Rivera St., Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Cayey vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Guayama code 0230

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, Diocese of Caguas

street & number Box 8698

city, town Caguas vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00658

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

Inventory of Historic Churches of
title 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

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 Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Cayey is located inside the town plaza, its entrance facing west. It is oriented on an east-west axis. The building is raised above the level of the plaza and separated from it by a low wall. The space immediately surrounding the main structure is paved with concrete and used as parking area.

The rectangular plan consists of one nave and two aisles. Open arcades (four arches) sitting on square columns of reduced dimensions with pilasters attached to them divide the space. There are five bays plus the apse/sacristies and the entrance tower. The first bay is the vestibule or sotocoro. On the left a modern concrete stairway leads to the choir loft which is supported by a flat masonry barrel vault. The main space is covered by a barrel vault clearly articulated both inside and out. Five lunette windows on each side of the vault permit light to enter the interior space. The side aisles are covered by groin vaults set at a lower level than that of the main nave. The plan culminates in a square apse covered with a dome having a sealed-off lantern. The sacristies are located on both sides of the apse and are also covered with domes resting over pendentives and having sealed-off lanterns. The floor was refinished using the original gray and white marble tiles. The church conserves two original side doors. The altar is of modern design as well as most of the furnishings inside the structure.

The facade is dominated by a four level brick masonry tower designed by José Canovas and constructed in 1889. This tower is well integrated to the original church maintaining the simple classical design. The first level of the tower functions as a portico. The second level has an opening with a wooden balustrade railing. The third level houses a clock and the fourth level has four openings, some of which enclose bells. Two square windows flank the tower and reflect the inner aisles. The side facades are articulated by buttresses, each topped by a pinnacle. A double cornice runs the whole length of the building. This ornamentation and the use of multiple domes give richness to the facades. A parish house was added to the rear of the church in 1936.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 1815, 1889 (tower) **Builder/Architect** José Canovas (1889 tower project)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Cayey is of architectural and historical importance. By 1790 the apse section with two sacristies and three domes were already built. The structure was finished in 1815 and the existing tower added in 1889. The church retains most of its original construction and design elements: brick masonry walls, tower, sacristies, interior arcades, domes and vaults. It conserves its original mass and volume. The traditional relationship of the church to the main town plaza and city hall is maintained, in accordance with Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded. In this case the church occupies a prominent location inside the plaza.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Araoz, Gustavo F., Preliminary National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, June 1978.
Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2,850 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Cayey, P.R.

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	9	9	9	2	0	2	0	0	5	0	5	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

Zone		Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on the north by Nuñez Romeu St., on the west by the town plaza, on the south by Mendoza St., and on the east by Corchado St. (see enclosed location plan)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc.

date June 6 1984

street & number Tetuan 103

telephone (809) 724-4997

city or town Old San Juan

state Puerto Rico

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 October 30, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date 12/16/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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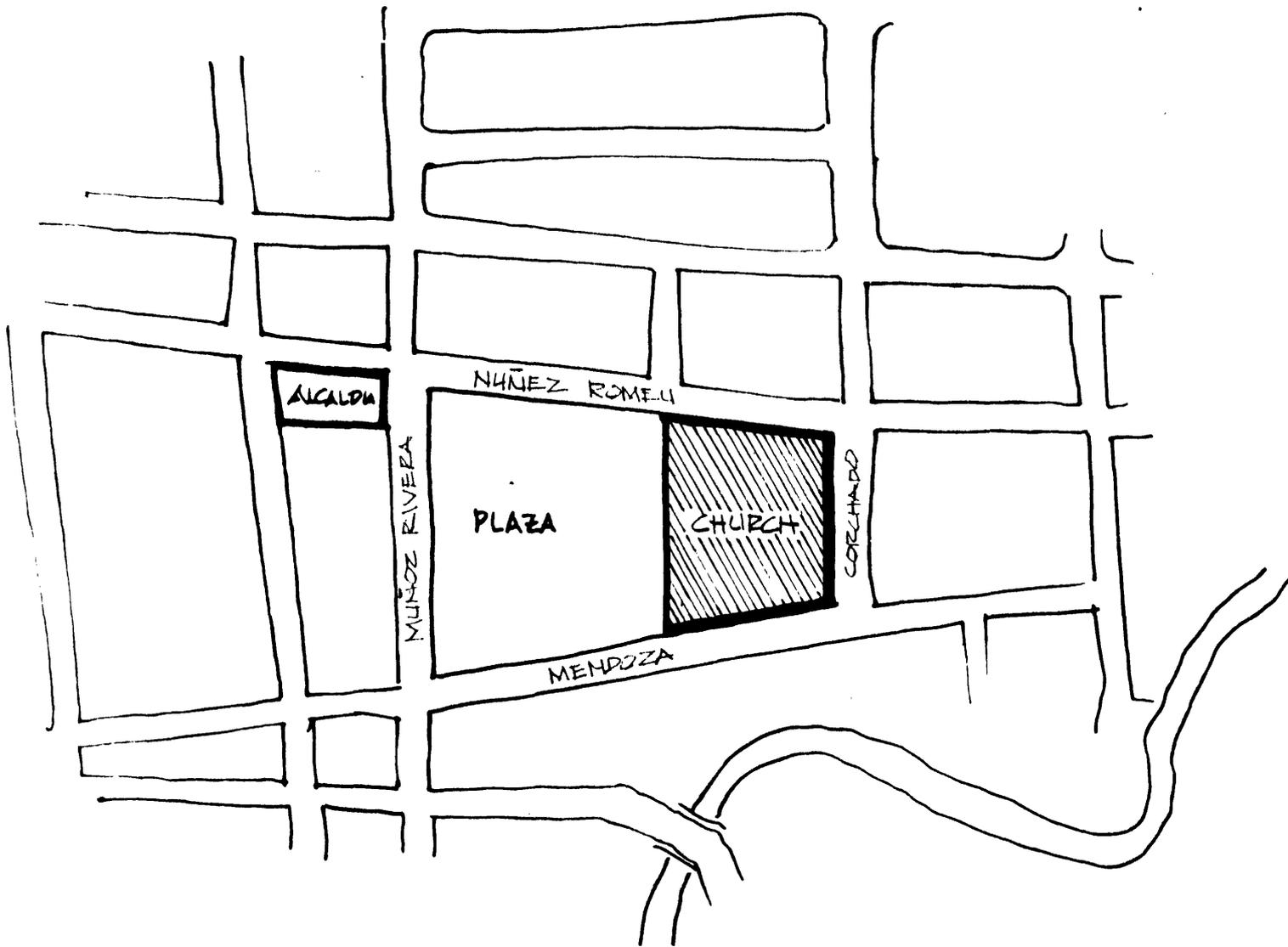
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Church Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Cayey
Major Bibliographical References:

Historic Plans of 1888, Architect José Cánovas, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo:
Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja:80, Leg: 17.



town: **CAYEY**

scale: 1:2000



north

INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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