

**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 Santiago Apóstol of Fajardo

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Fajardo vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Humacao code 0380

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 type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<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 # 4, 1904

street & number Box 2392, Old San Juan Station

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

7. Description

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The parish church of Santiago Apóstol in Fajardo occupies almost all of the north side of the town plaza, and is oriented on an east-west axis. It is enclosed by a concrete balustrade wall modulated by pillars. Metal grillwork gates close the entrances corresponding to the lateral doors of the building.

The original 1776 church was destroyed in 1867 by an earthquake. In 1869, a project for the construction of a new church designed by Don Pedro A. Beibal was begun. The side walls and the marble floor tiles of the old church were used.

The building consists of a nave and two side aisles. Open arcades (five arches each) resting on simple pillars divide the space. There are six bays plus the apse/sacristies. The first bay includes the vestibule. On the left, an interesting spiral wooden staircase leads up to the choir loft. The next five bays enclose the main public space, which is presently roofed with a gabled pitched wooden structure covered with corrugated metal sheets. The square apse is crowned by a brick lanterned dome. Acoustic tiles in the ceiling of the nave, and ornamental stone work in the apse are recent additions.

The facade is dominated by a square bell tower, with rustication on its two lower levels. The third level holds bells contained within open arches. The entrance is sheltered by a massive portico. Two small windows flank the bell tower and porch, helping to define the side aisles in the interior. The side facades are simple, with one door and four windows.

The most serious alteration is the addition of an oversized parish house to the presbytery, which totally obscures the rear of the building.

8. Significance

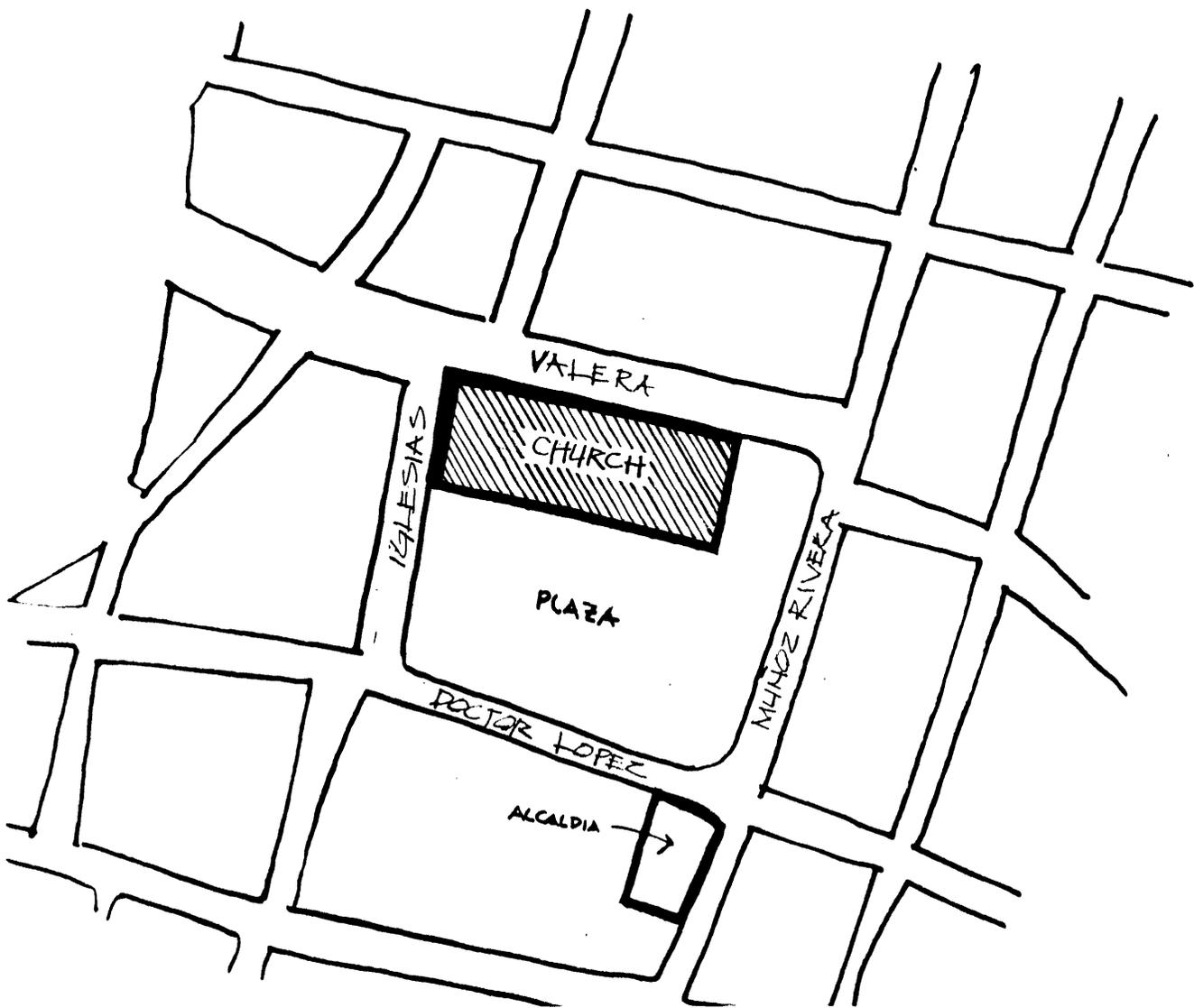
Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 1776, 1869

Builder/Architect Pedro A. Beibal - 1869 project

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The parish church of Santiago Apóstol in Fajardo is of historical and architectural significance. Fray Iñigo Abbad describes the town in 1776 as having nine houses, including a church. The first church was destroyed during an earthquake in 1776 and rebuilt in 1869. The building retains most of its 19th century construction and design, which actually encompassed the side walls and floors of the first 18th century church. It is one of the few examples in which a porch tower was designed as an integral part of the church. This is one of the oldest buildings in Fajardo. 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.



town: FAJARDO

scale: 1:2000



north

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