

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

For NPS use only

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

received **OCT 18 1983**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Hermitage of San Antonio de Padua de la Tuna ✓

and/or common Hermitage of San Antonio de Padua de la Tuna

**2. Location**

street & number



\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town

Isabela

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

Puerto Rico

code

72

county

Aguadilla

code 0510

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	___ no	___ military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. José Piñeiro Soto

street & number Box 16, San Antonio de la Tuna

city, town Isabela

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico, 00662

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds - Deed No. 97

street & number

city, town Isabela

state Puerto Rico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

## 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

Ruins of a typical 18th. Century Spanish Colonial Hermitage Church. The actual remains of the 786.35 square meters structure are parts of its 24.944 meters wide by 31.525 meters long brick and rubblework walls which still illustrate the traditional plan scheme and construction methods and materials used in the churches built for establishment of initial settlements of towns by the Spaniards during the colonization period of the Island. The ruins reflect the original plan scheme of a typical three-nave longitudinal latin-cross plan separated by two rows of columns, with the altar space at the far end; two spaces flanked the apse. Based on studies and information of similar hermitage churches of the same time, the hermitage was probably supported by wooden posts with a wooden truss and clay tile roof over it and probably had a small barrel vault over the altar. The brick and rubblework walls still show in some places the holes left from the wooden scaffolding. These are organized in horizontal levels illustrating the "tapias" method of construction. Although the building was totally plastered in white stucco, these holes were left even after the scaffolding was removed and the building completed.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 1730 Builder/Architect unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ruins of the Hermitage/Church of San Antonio de Padua de la Tuna are historically and architecturally significant. The remains of this church are associated with the initial settlement of San Antonio de la Tuna, which later became the town of Isabela, located in the northwest coast of Puerto Rico.

As was common during the settlement of new towns during the Spanish Colonial Period, the church was the nucleus and focus of life of the town. At the time, it served as a religious and a social center for the community of sixty two (62) houses, contributing to the development of the population which settled this area. The town was originally settled in 1725 and was one of the many towns established on that part of the island during the 18th. century. The Hermitage/Church was erected around 1730 and it was used until 1819 when the town was moved to its present location. It continues to be considered a holy place by the people of Isabela, despite its deteriorated condition.

Architecturally the ruins are significant for they represent one of the few examples left on the island of 18th. Century Spanish Colonial Religious Architecture and are part of a present day record of 18th. century methods of construction. In addition, stylistically and morphologically, it exhibits certain characteristics that were later abandoned in the Island's religious architecture, these being: latin-cross plan (extremely shallow transept), rectangular apse, small rectangular areas flanking the apse.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. General Archives of Puerto Rico: Records of the Spanish Governors of Puerto Rico; Municipal Documents of Isabela.
2. Coll y Toste, C. BHPR, Vols. VI and VII.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property [REDACTED]  
Quadrangle name [REDACTED] Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References [REDACTED]

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification [REDACTED]

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

state	code	county	code
state	N/A	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Parés, State Architect  
organization State Historic Preservation Office date August 24, 1983  
street & number La Fortaleza telephone (809) 721-7000 Ext. 2232, 2241  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 24, 1983

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/2/83

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration