

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 San Juan Bautista y San Ramón Nonato of Juana Diaz (Historic Churches of Puerto Rico)
and/or common Church San Ramón Nonato of Juana Diaz

2. Location

street & number Town Plaza _____ not for publication

city, town Juana Diaz _____ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Ponce code 0530

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"/> government |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Church, Diocese of Ponce

street & number Box 205, Station 6

city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00732

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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Churches
title in 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 of San Ramón Nonato of Juana Díaz is located inside the town plaza, oriented on an east-west axis, its entrance facing west. It is surrounded by a paved concrete area and separated from its immediate surroundings by an iron grillwork fence modulated by square pilasters. Steps lead from the plaza to the entrance of the church.

The plan consists of a nave and two aisles culminating in a square apse. There are five bays plus the apse and sacristies. The sacristies are located at each side of the apse which is covered by a brick dome. Arcades (five arches each) resting on round columns divide the nave from the aisles. In 1970 the original roof was replaced using concrete. The ceiling consists of plywood panels with decorative subdivisions in wood. The roof of the side aisles is set at a lower level than that of the main nave. The main space is large and well-lit. A feeling of spaciousness has been achieved with the use of slender columns and by allowing light to enter through the oculi placed above the arcades. The principal construction material is brick masonry. The floors are covered with terrazo. The doors and windows are new and of modern design. A recent renovation (1970) eliminated the plaster in many places, exposing the bricks on the upper part of the columns, on the arcades, and on the dome over the apse.

The facade is impressive, dominated by two polygonal towers. The south tower made of brick masonry, was built in 1869. Some time between the years of 1870 and 1895 the north tower was built. The main entrance is flanked by two pairs of free-standing columns and a pointed arched window on each side. The door is framed with moldings and an entablature with Ionic elements. Above the entrance there is a pointed arched window, reflecting the existence of a choir loft. A triangular pediment supported by two pairs of pilasters crowns the facade. The towers have three levels. The first and second levels are perforated with pointed arched openings. The third level has arched openings that contain the bells. A small dome with a lantern crowns the towers. The right tower conserves its original wooden spiral staircase. A new steel stairway has been installed in the left tower. A curved wall forms the transition between the towers and the central body of the facade. The elements in the facade give a three dimensional character to it not found in many other churches in Puerto Rico. It is similar to the original facade of the cathedral of the neighboring city of Ponce, which probably served as inspiration for the Juana Diaz church. A new parish house is attached to the rear of the church, completely enclosing the apse area.

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 1807 (church construction began) Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church San Ramón Nonato of Juana Díaz is of architectural and historical importance. Church construction was begun in 1807. It was repaired on various occasions. The south tower was built after the 1867 earthquake damaged the upper part of the main facade. The second tower was added some time between 1870 and 1895. The church retains most of its original construction and design elements such as brick masonry walls, towers, sacristies, interior arcades and dome. Its facade treatment is similar to that of the Ponce cathedral, reflecting a desire of the people of Juana Diaz to give dignity and importance to their church. This church conserves some noteworthy wooden carvings of "San Juan", "los Dolores", and a crucifixion which is thought to have been painted by José Campeche, one of the most famous painters of Puerto Rico. The traditional relationship of the church , town plaza and city hall is maintained, in accordance with Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded. In this case this relationship is emphasized since the church sits inside the plaza itself.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of the Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1458 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Ponce, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is located on the east side of the Town Plaza. It is bounded on the north by Degetau St., on the east by Muñoz Rivera St., on the south by Comercio St. and on the west by the town plaza.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc

date July 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 October 30, 1984

For NPS use only

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

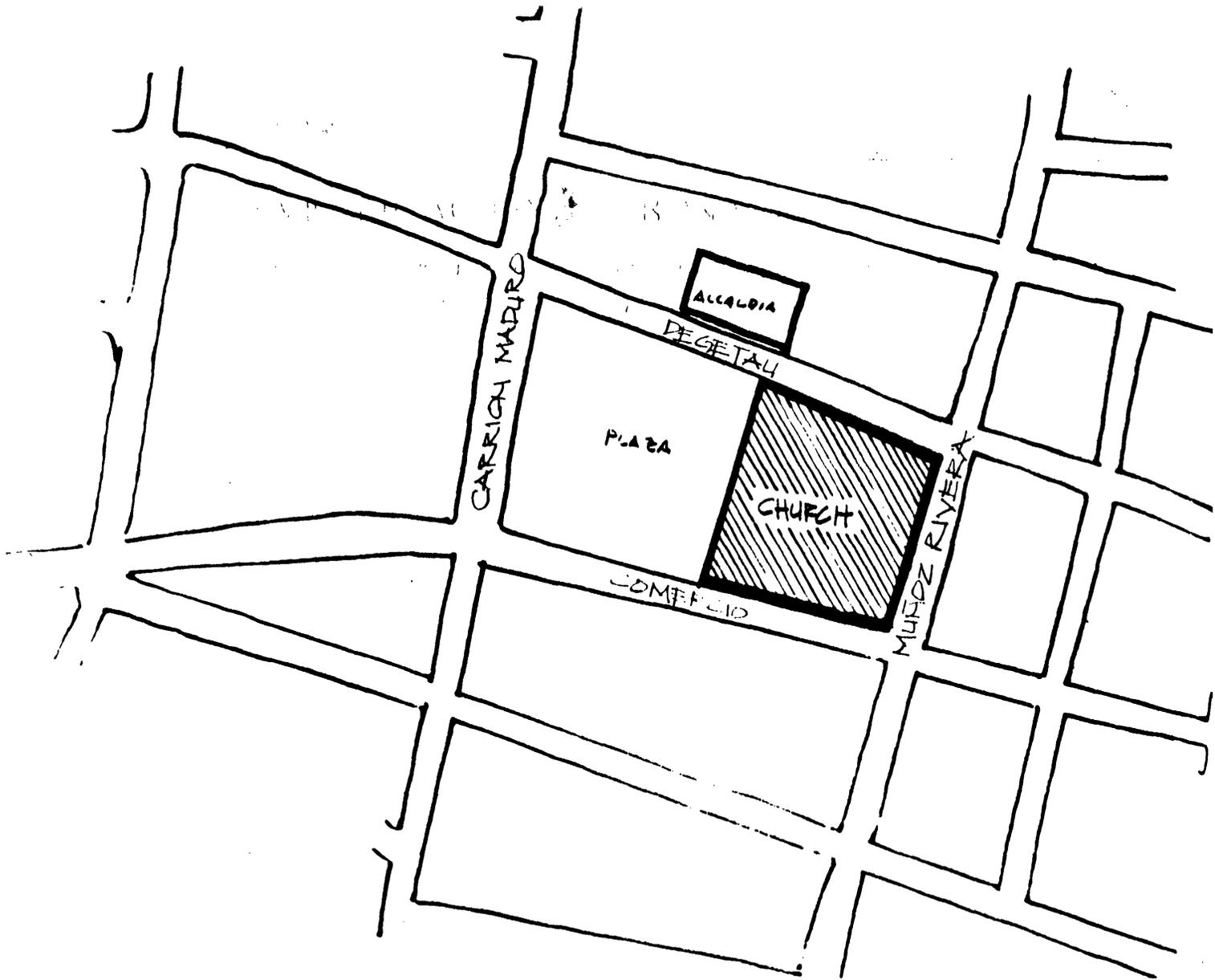
date 12/10/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



town: **JUANA DÍAZ**

scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

Calle de Tetuan nº 103, Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico · Tel. (809) 724-4997