

**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 San Juan Bautista of Maricao *La Iglesia Católica de Maricao*

and or common same

**2. Location**

street & number Baldorioty St., Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Maricao vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Aguadilla code 0630

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Mayaguez

street & number Box 2272

city, town Mayaguez vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00708

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

street & number

city, town state

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 San Juan Bautista of Maricao sits on a block by itself facing the town plaza, oriented on an east-west axis. A wire mesh fence encloses garden areas in front of the church.

The exterior was designed in the Gothic style and has pointed arches. However, the interior space is more traditional having rounded arches. The plan consists of a nave and two aisles. Open arcades (four arches each) resting on round columns with pronounced entasis 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 metal spiral staircase leads to the new choir loft. The next four bays comprise the main space. The original wooden roof was substituted in 1965 by a metal joist structure covered with corrugated asbestos sheets. The side aisles culminate with two blind arches where statues have been placed. The square apse has a flat roof. Glass blocks illuminate the simple altar. Two arched doors give access to the sacristies. New terrazo has been installed on the floors.

The facade is dominated by a three level square bell tower. Steps lead up to the main entrance. The tower's first level functions as a portico. The second level has a round oculi and the third level has eight double arch windows, each topped with a pointed arch. The tower is crowned by a pyramidal concrete roof. Two pointed arch windows flank the tower and reflect the two inner aisles. There are four windows and one door on each side facade. Two doors on the rear facade permit direct access to the sacristies.

The entire structure is richly ornamented. All openings have exposed brick trim, corners are rusticated and cornices are denticulated. The structure evokes a feeling of lightness.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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** 1890-c.1898      **Builder/Architect** Engineer Jerónimo Jiménez Coronado

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The parish church San Juan Bautista of Maricao is of historical and architectural significance. The original wooden chapel was in ruins by 1886 and in 1890, engineer Jerónimo Jiménez Coronado drew plans for the new church. Construction was nearly finished by 1898. The church retains most of the original construction and design elements: brick masonry walls, tower, sacristies, and interior arcades. It does not have any new construction attached to it, conserving 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, providing us with a living example of town planning practices of the colonial period in Puerto Rico.

## 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.  
Historic Plans of 1890, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja: 91, Legajo: 44.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 647 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Maricao, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Lat. 18°10'58" N, Long. 66°58'48" W

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on the north by José de Diego St., on the west by Baldorioty St. and the town plaza, on the south by Janer St. and on the east by Betances St. (see enclosed location plan).

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 Ester Cardona, Arch. and Marisa Gómez, Arch.

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc.

date May 1984

street & number Tetuan 103

telephone (809) 724-4997

city or town 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

*Walter Fabrice Rosado*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1984

For NPS use only

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

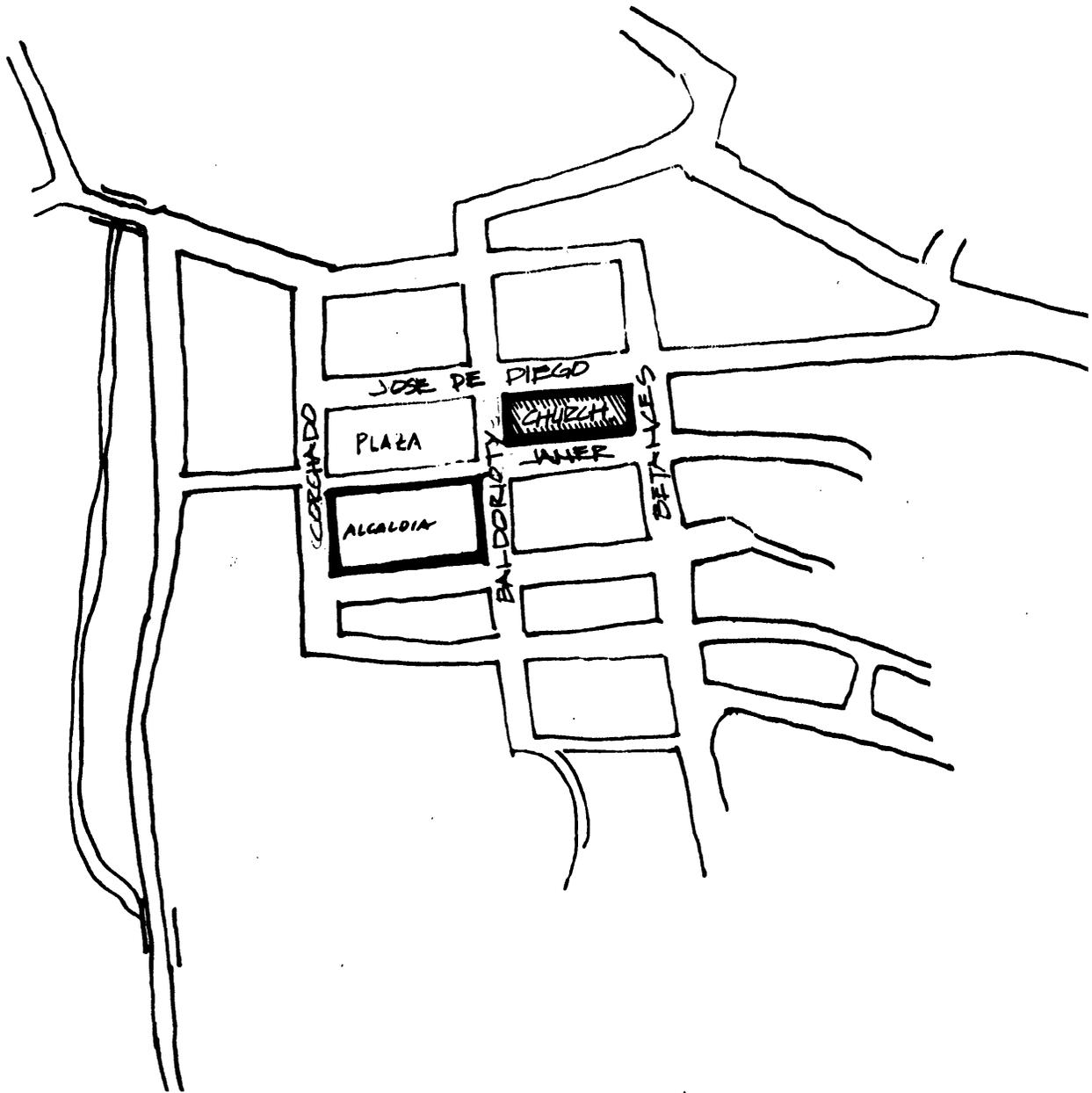
See Continuation Sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



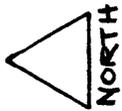
town: **MARICAO**

scale: 1:2000

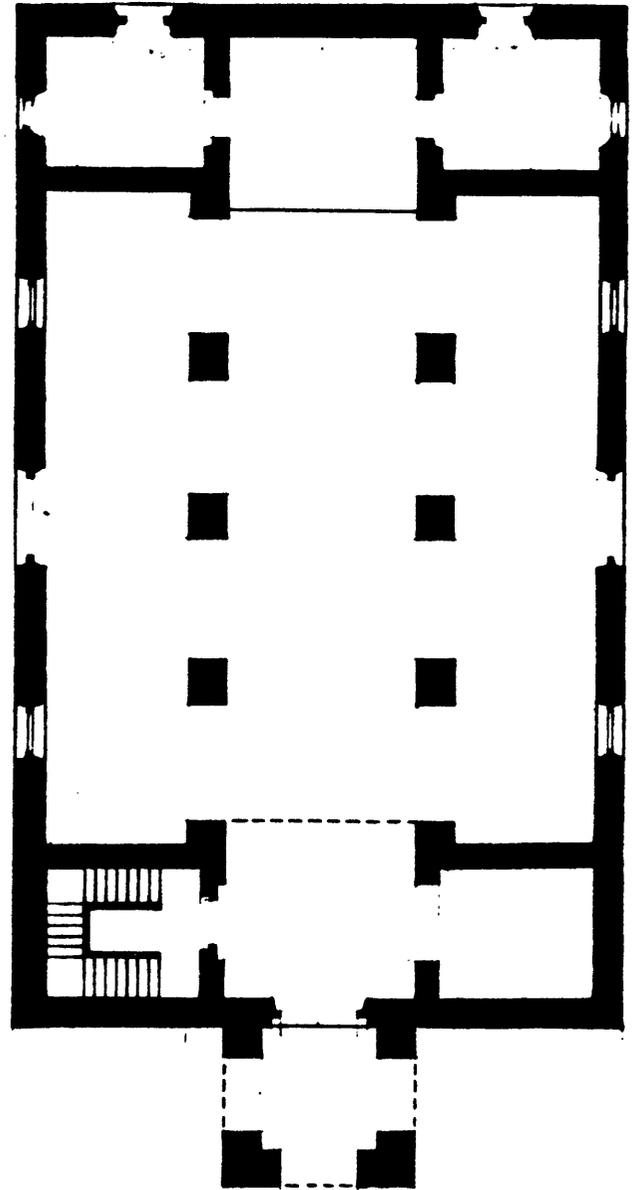
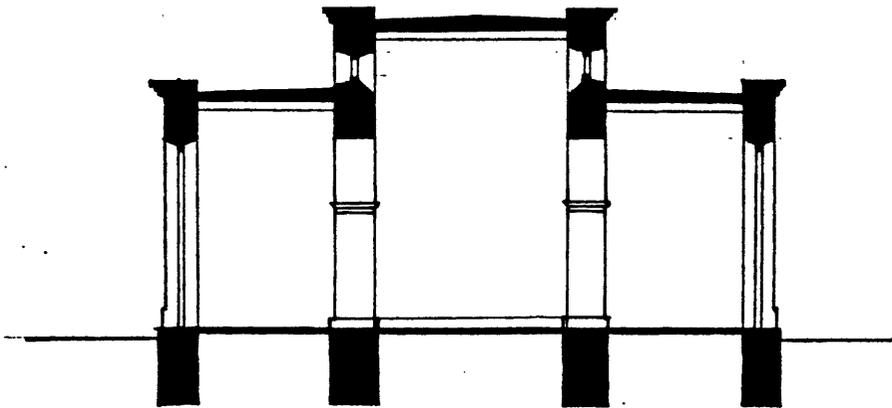


**INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.**

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SCALE 1:200



Church San Juan Bautista of Maricao

- Diagram prepared by Arch. Thomas S. Marvel for the book Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, unpublished.