

PH0670162

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ** IGLESIA PARROQUIAL DE SAN PEDRO MARTIR DE GUAYNABO

AND/OR COMMON
SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
PLAZA DE RECREO

CITY, TOWN
GUAYNABO

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
PUERTO RICO

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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, ARQUIDIOCESIS DE SAN JUAN

STREET & NUMBER
CALLE CRISTO # 150

CITY, TOWN
SAN JUAN

STATE
PUERTO RICO

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD

STREET & NUMBER
MUNICIPIO DE GUAYNABO

CITY, TOWN
GUAYNABO

STATE
PUERTO RICO

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
PRELIMINARY PUERTO RICO SURVEY

DATE
1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

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 Church lies within a rectangle and is laid out in a traditional basilica plan consisting of three naves, five bays long each, divided from each other by open arcades resting on square pilasters; and covered at a uniform height by a flat wooden beam and clay-tile roof. A second story occurs at the atrium bay, where there are vestiges of an original wooden choir balcony over the center nave. Opposite this, at the other end, is the presbyterium, which projects out from the main structure thereby implying an incipient Latin-Cross plan. To accent this separation of public and sacred area, the presbyterium is divided from the main nave by a triumphal arch, which projects its intrados over the whole altar area thus barrel-vaulting it. To each side of the altar are sacristies harbored in low structures.

Sympathetically maintained until recently, the exterior volume of the Church has remained relatively unchanged and consists of a large parallelepiped corresponding to the nave, with a similar, but smaller projection in the back which harbors the presbyterium. This whole volume is crowned by a sober and continuous cornice. The three entrances; one at the front and one at each side are framed and pedimented with Tuscan orders in the simple, provincial Spanish Plateresque style, further ornamented with the pyramidal pinacles of the herreriano style.

Finally, placed symmetrically over the main facade is a pedimented bellfry, with four bells each contained within an open arch. There have been serious alterations of which is the oversized addition of the Parish House at the presbyterium end of the church, which has totally engulfed and hidden from view the rear of the building. Another intromission which is not significant, but rather bothersome, is the addition of roof drainage pipes which project boldly through the cornice along the lateral facades. Much more serious has been the removal inside of the choir balcony, for which there is fortunately photographic documentation. Further losses in the interior include the original altarpieces or retablos which probably remained in situ until the beginning of this century. The exterior wooden doors were spared and are in acceptable condition.

Among the objects of merit which are associated with this structures are two colonial oil paintings on cloth which represent the Virgin, a gold Cyborium, and the Crucifix figure which hangs over the altar.

Tying this whole structure with the remainder of the town and in accordance with the Spanish Crown ordinances, the church faces a plaza, which forms an integral part of the historic site. The plaza has been redesigned in an acceptable manner so as to provide a proper setting to the Church.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 C. 1775

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest building in Guaynabo, the church of San Pedro Mártir de Guaynabo was established as a parish in 1775, and the structure itself is perhaps older because documentary mention is made of an earlier chapel used by farmers in the area. It has remained in use as a parish church and as such it has witnessed the growth of Guaynabo from an isolated farming town into a suburb of metropolitan San Juan.

The church is representative of the structures built by the Spaniards in their Caribbean colonial town, conveying in its simplicity the economic and artistic limitations of the islands. It was these limitations that perpetuated the adaptable and stern forms of the herreriano and the plateresque manifestations of Spanish Renaissance into such a late date. Nevertheless, the relative importance of the church is manifested in the special treatment given to the front and side entrances as well as to the bell-fry. Also of special interest is the Moorish (mudéjar) treatment of the cornice on the side facade as well as the bull's eye openings in the upper part of the exterior walls.

The plaza, which forms an integral part of this site, has been the center of activity of the traditional community, and together with the church marks the core of the colonial town.

