

**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 José of Gurabo

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number ~~Corner of~~ Santiago St. and Eugenio Sánchez López Sts. not for publication

city, town Gurabo vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Humacao code 0460

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 #2, 1904

street & number Box 2392

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 San José of Gurabo sits on a corner lot with its side (instead of its main facade as is traditional of historic churches in Puerto Rico) facing the town plaza. It is oriented on an east-west axis, its entrance facing west. It is separated from its immediate surroundings by a low wall enclosing a parking area.

The plan consists of a single nave covered with a large concrete barrel vault. Originally this church was covered with a wooden roof. However, it has thick buttresses on the exterior indicating that it might have been designed for a vault. At the entrance there is a vestibule with stairs on its left side that lead to a wooden choir loft on the second level. The vaulted roof over the choir loft is at a higher level than that of the rest of the church. Three small arched windows on each side of the vault illuminate the interior space. There are four bays. Two blind arches serve as chapels on each side of the main nave. The apse is covered with a lanterned dome perforated by four windows. The neoclassic altar has three sections and three niches, and is crowned by a triangular pediment. The floors are covered with colored native cement tiles. The doors are made of wood and are rectangular, even though the wall opening has an arched shape. The walls are built of brick and mortar.

The facade has been altered at least three times during the years (see enclosed diagram, prepared and researched by Arch. Thomas S. Marvel). It is divided into three levels plus the bell tower. On the lower level a central arched doorway is framed by two pilasters holding a straight entablature. There are two large buttresses on the corners of the facade. The second level includes a wooden louvered window that gives light to the choir loft. A cornice divides this level from the third one. The vault profile crowns the facade. A small bell tower provides a vertical anchor to the entrance doorway.

Each of the side facades has a simple neoclassical doorway recessed into an arch flanked by buttresses. A large parish house is attached to the left side and to the rear of the church. On the right side some garages have also been added. In 1930 the wooden roof was replaced by the existing concrete vault, and a concrete dome was built over the apse. The structure is in good condition, specially the interior spaces.

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 1821, 1886, 1930 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church San José of Gurabo is of architectural and historical importance. The original structure was finished in 1821 and, in 1886, it underwent major repairs adding height to the existing walls and incorporating the choir loft. Even though the facade has been altered several times through the years, the church retains its original brick masonry walls, apse and original 1886 wooden choir loft. It is one of the few churches on the Island that uses a one nave plan instead of the more frequently used basilical arrangement. The historic relationship between the church, town plaza and city hall is maintained in Gurabo, being these urban elements the center of town life. This arrangement is an example of the town planning practices characteristic of the Spanish colonial period in Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.
Historic Plans of 1886, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja: 87, Legajo: 30.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property aprox. 1200 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Gurabo, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on th north by Eugenio Sánchez López St. and the Town Plaza, on the west by Santiago St., and on the east and south by private properties. (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 Marisa Gómez, Arch. and Ester Cardona, Arch.

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc. date May 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

José de los Angeles

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

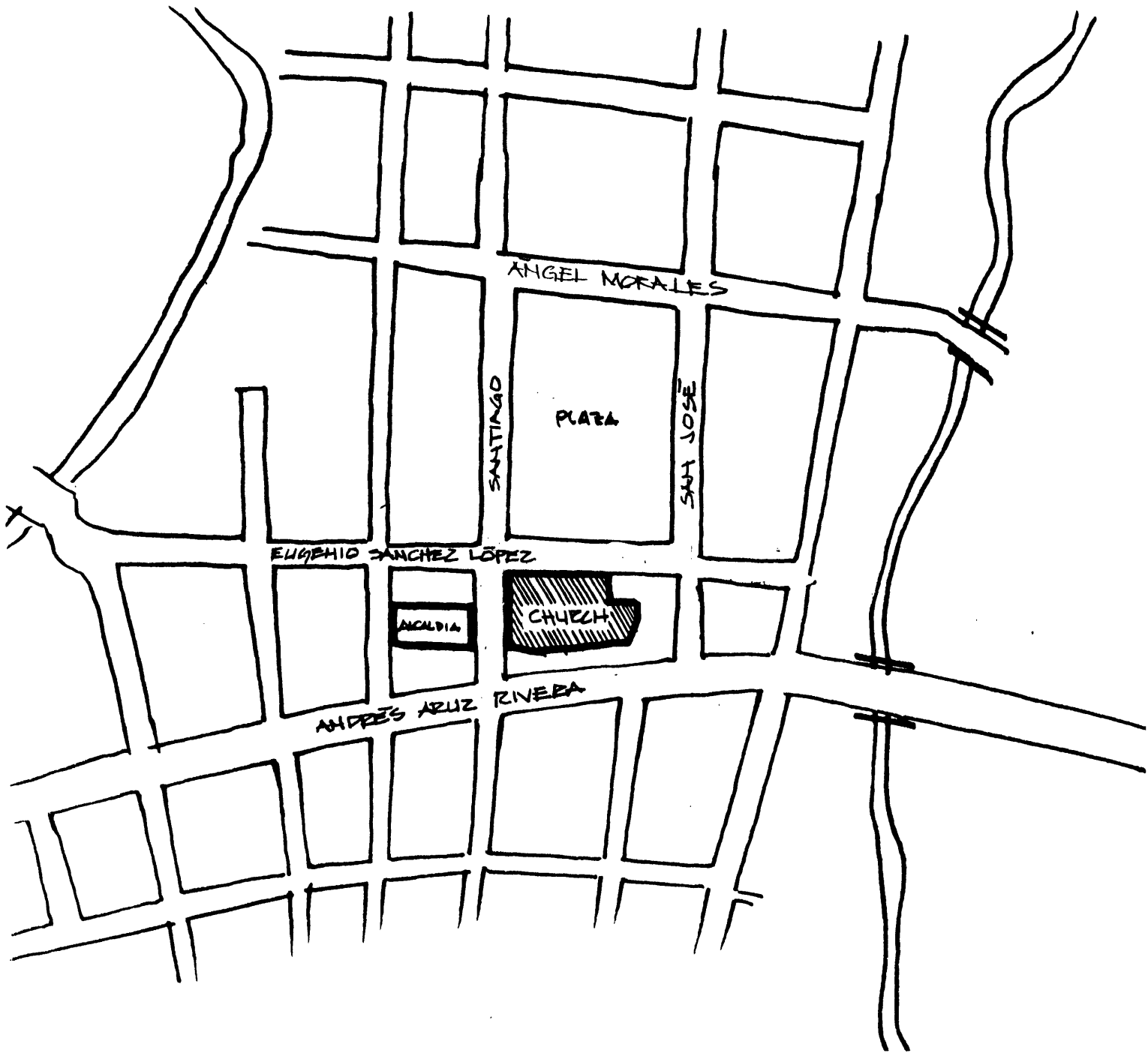
J. Contreras *Sheet for listing* date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



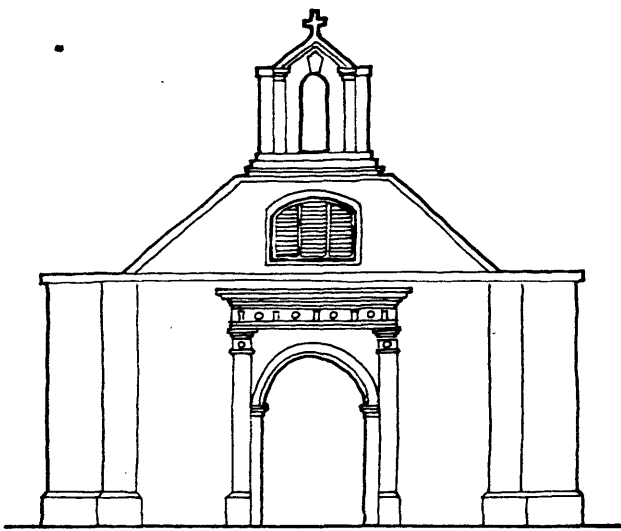
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scale: 1:2000

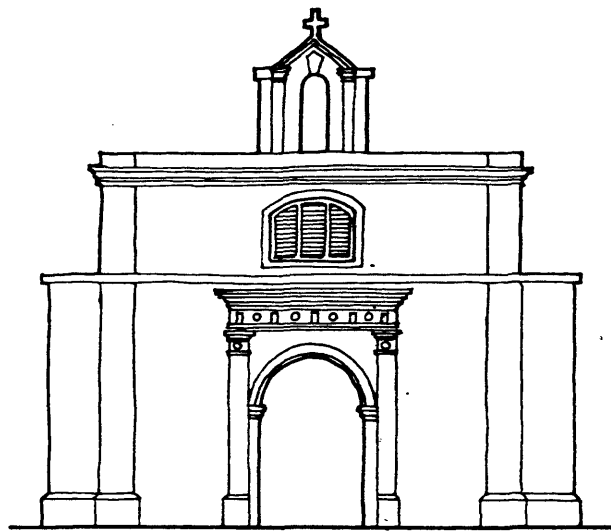


INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

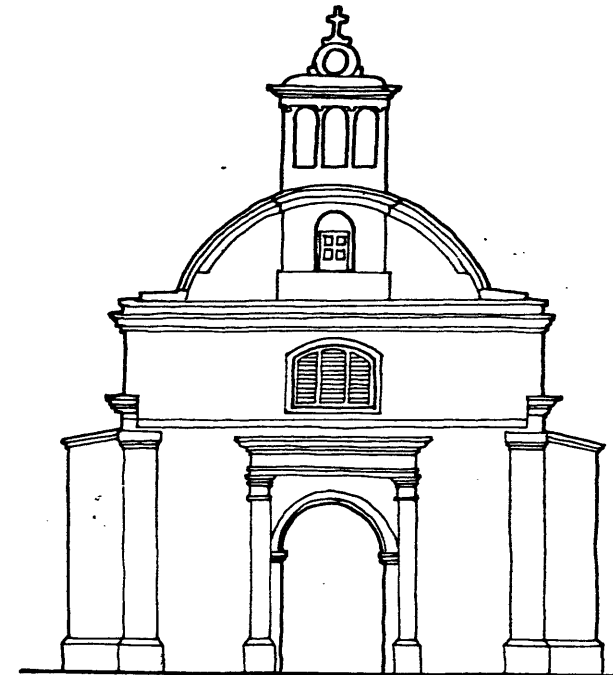
Calle de Tetuan nº 103, Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico · Tel. (809) 724-4997



1821



1886



1930

Church San José of Gurabo: Diagram prepared and researched by Arch. Thomas S. Marvel
for the book Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico.