

**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 Santa Cruz of Bayamón *(Iglesia de Santa Cruz de Bayamón)*

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Plaza de Hostos

___ not for publication

city, town Bayamón

___ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

code 72

county San Juan

code 0140

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	N/A	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Church, Archdiocese of San Juan

street & number Box 1967

city, town San Juan

___ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico 00903

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Church Litigation Case#11, 1912

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 00901

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 Santa Cruz of Bayamón sits inside the town plaza off to the south side, oriented on the east-west axis. It is separated from its immediate surroundings by a wall modulated by Art Deco pillars and decorative iron work, built in 1947.

The building plan consists of one nave covered with a barrel vault. Walls of great thickness and wide buttresses receive the stress of the vault. Lunettes placed above the nave give direct light to the interior space. Between 1870 and 1898 the lateral walls of the nave were opened and non-connecting chapels were built between the buttresses. There are five bays plus the apse/sacristies. The rectangular apse and the sacristies are covered with a lanterned dome each. The original choir loft with a wooden balustrade remains basically unaltered. The principal construction material is brick masonry. The floors are covered with grey and white marble tiles laid in 1868.

The facade is distinguished by a flat arched cornice resting on Doric pilasters. Framing the main entrance is a simple entablature enclosing the linteled door. The entablature is crowned by a triangular pediment containing an arch. Two bell towers rise above the sides of the entranceway.

The side facade of the church has heavy buttresses. Side doors are framed by Doric pilasters, again supporting a triangular pediment. The most noticeable alteration to the main structure is the addition of a new parish house (1925) attached to the rear facade of the original church.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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 1772–1782 **Builder/Architect** Father José Martínez de Matos

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church Santa Cruz of Bayamón is significant architecturally and historically. In 1772, shortly after the founding of the city of Bayamón, the community, led by Father José Martínez de Matos, began work on this church, which is dedicated to the Holy Cross. The building retains most of its original construction and design. It is a good example of the churches built from 1720 to 1820 with a single nave covered with a barrel vault. The apse in this type of church is usually covered with a barrel vault, but in this case, a lanterned dome was built. The entire building is constructed with mortar and brick. Although the dimensions are less than those of Toa Alta's church, the space in Bayamón appears larger because of the chapels that open on the side walls. The facade's decorative elements are combined in an unusual composition. In no other Puerto Rican church is the use of this flat arched cornice, nor the exaggerated scale of the pilasters, repeated. They create a frame for the elegant entrance, adorned with classical elements of diverse proportions. All ecclesiastical records dating back to 1750 are kept in the parish archives. The building was repaired in 1825 (hurricane), 1867 (earthquake), 1877, and 1918 (earthquake). The most noticeable alteration in recent years has been the addition of the parish house in 1925. The bulky church sits inside the main town plaza, continuing a traditional relationship in Puerto Rico between church and plaza, following Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Araoz, Gustavo F., Preliminary Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, San Juan, PR, June 1978.
 Bicentenario de la Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Parroquia de la Santa Cruz, Bayamón, PR, 1972.
 Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property aprox. 2555 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Bayamón, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	8	0	0	4	7	0	2	0	3	6	7	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is located on the southern part of the Plaza and is bounded on the north by the rest of the plaza, on the east by Palmer St., on the west by Degetau St., and on the south by Maceo St.

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 February 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

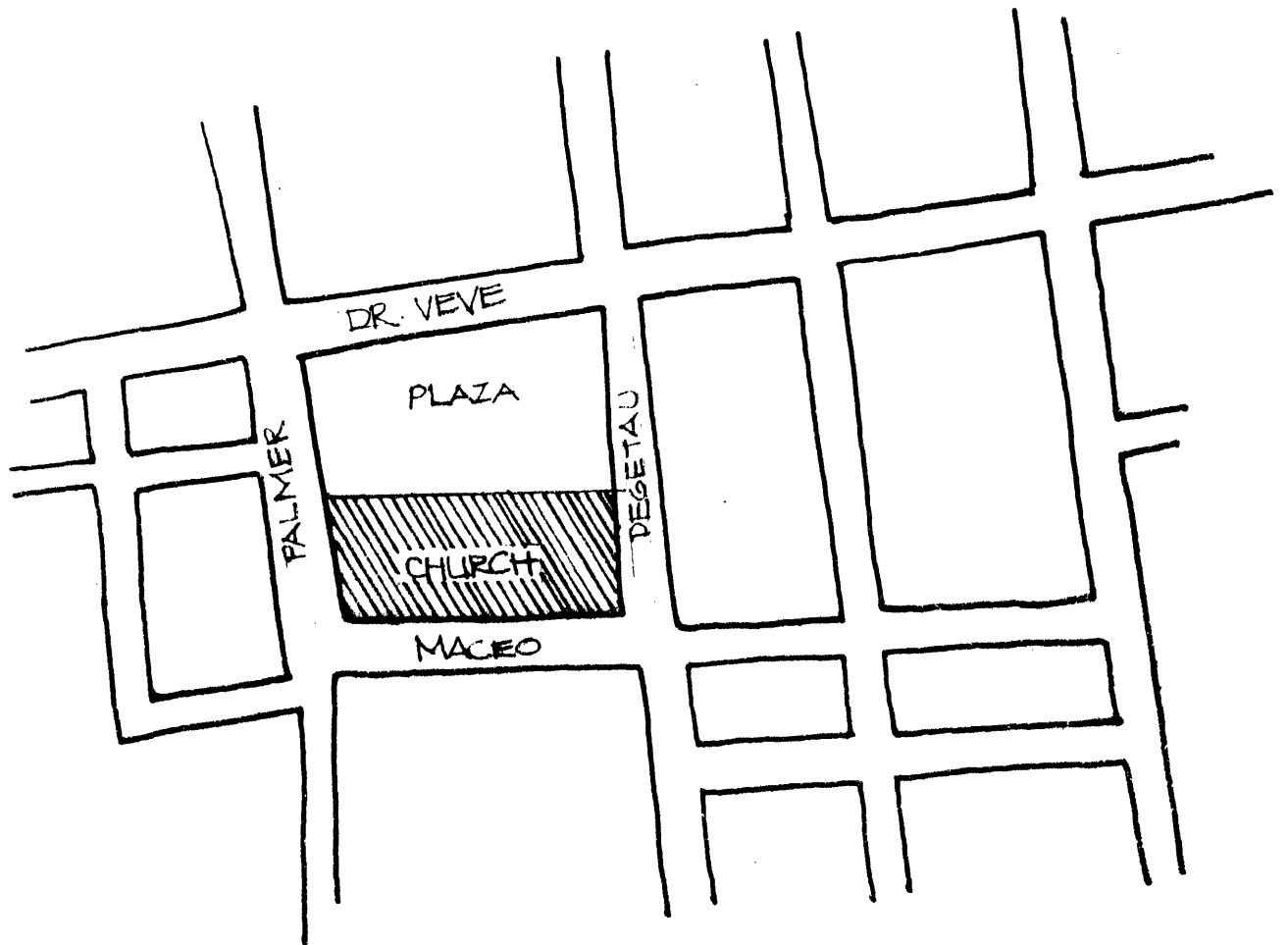
See Continuation Sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



town: **BAYAMÓN**

scale: 1:2000



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