

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 Dulce Nombre de Jesús of Humacao

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Humacao vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Humacao code 0500

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 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 #4, 1904

street & number Box 2392, Old San Juan Station

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 parish church Dulce Nombre de Jesús of Humacao sits inside the town plaza off to the east side, oriented on an east-west axis. A low concrete wall with metal grillwork modulated by pillars carrying cast iron lamps encloses both the town plaza and the church.

The entire building is designed in the Gothic style with pointed arches, lanterns and pinnacles. In order to create an illusion of more height, horizontal moldings have been eliminated in the interior. The cruciform plan consists of a nave, a transept and two aisles. The space is divided by pillars that rise from the floor to the arches of the vaults without interruption. There are five bays plus the apse/sacristies and the massive bell tower. The main nave is covered with a pointed vault; the side aisles are covered by four small groin vaults. Four pairs of small pointed windows located above the side aisles illuminate the interior vault. The crossing is crowned by a dome. This dome is at present completely sealed off by a hung ceiling made of acoustic tiles. A five-sided apse covered with a groined half dome is illuminated by stained glass windows. The floors are covered with colored native cement tiles of various designs. A new choir loft has replaced the original.

The front facade is dominated by a four-level, square bell tower flanked by two smaller round towers that house a spiral staircase and the weights for the clock. The tower's first level functions as a vestibule. The absence of decorative elements in the interior contrasts with the abundance of decoration on the exterior. All openings are framed with moldings, and each level of the facade is identified by a different geometric motif.

The side facades are modulated by small buttresses flanking pointed windows and a single entrance door. The two-level transept extending from the side facade is crowned by a gabled roof, accentuated by a triangular cornice. The transept has two pointed arched windows on its first level and one circular opening on the second level.

The noticeable alterations are few. The church retains much of its original appearance.

## 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** 1869–1876

**Builder/Architect** Evaristo de Churruca

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The parish church Dulce Nombre de Jesús of Humacao is of historical and architectural significance. It is one of the few churches in the Island which has a transept. This type of plan, more elaborate than the frequently used basilica plan, reflects the importance given to this church. The building was constructed between 1869 and 1876, following the plans drawn by Don Evaristo de Churruca. The simple Neoclassic style predominant during the first half of the century has been replaced by a Neo Gothic design with a profusion of ornamentation on the outside. This church retains most of its original construction and design elements. The alterations are few and could be restored, regaining the church's original appearance. No new construction has been attached to the main building, permitting the church to be appreciated from all angles. The traditional relationship of the main plaza and church is maintained, following Spanish Crown ordinances on town planning at the time the town was founded. In this case, the church occupies a prominent location inside the plaza proper.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3181 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Humacao, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

### UTM References

A 

2	0	2	0	0	9	3	0	2	0	0	9	1	9	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 sits inside the town plaza, off to its east side and is bounded on the north by Font Martelo St., on the east by Domingo Quijano St., on the south by Noya y Hernández St. and on the west by the 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 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

*Adelmo Fabín de Rosafort*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1984

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

*See Construction Sheet for Listing*

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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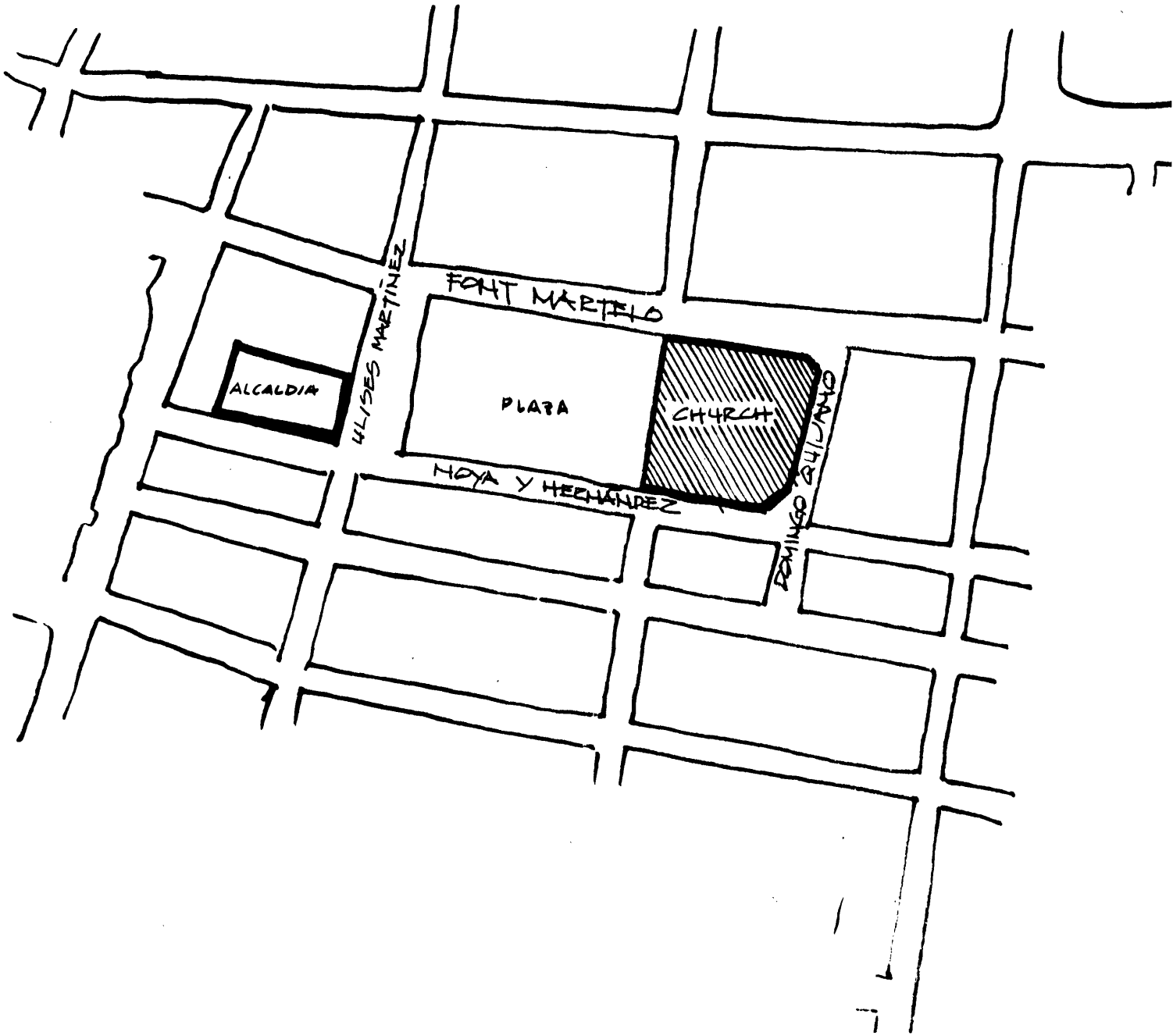
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Church Dulce Nombre de Jesus of Humacao  
Major Bibliographical References:

Historic Plans of 1869, Architect Evaristo de Churruca, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja:78, Legajo:34.



town: **HUMACAO**

scale: 1:2000



**INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.**

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