

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

NOV 21 1984

received

date entered JAN 2

1. Name

historic Church of San Mateo de Cangrejos of Santurce

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Corner of San Jorge St. and Eduardo Conde Ave.

not for publication

city, town Santurce vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county San Juan

code 0964

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	X yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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 DescriptionJudicial Center of San Juan, Registry of Deeds, Section I,
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Volume: San Juan 8, Folio: 94.

street & number Corner of Muñoz Rivera Ave. and Mayaguez St.

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico 00903

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Inventory of the Historic Churches
of Puerto Rico

has this property been determined eligible?

yes

X no

date 1984

federal X 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The parish church San Mateo of Cangrejos is located on an elevated site dominating a view of the town of Santurce. Several simple, yet formal, curved steps give access to the main entrance. The church is placed on a north-south axis, differing from the traditional east-west orientation, with its entrance from the south. It is separated on the south and east sides from the streets that surround it by a low concrete and iron grillwork wall which encloses garden areas.

A simple basilical plan was used. The central nave is separated from two very narrow side aisles by an arcade consisting of six bays, which rests on square pillars. There is a small rectangular clerestory window at each bay of the nave. Originally, the nave probably had a flat wooden roof, which was replaced by a concrete one with exposed massive concrete beams. The square apse is covered by a dome resting on pendentives. Four circular oculi, which originally illuminated the altar, have been closed. The choir loft is no longer existent. The first bay consists of the baptistery, to the right, and a spiral staircase, to the left. All interior wall surfaces have been plastered and new marble floors were set on a diagonal to the church's main axis. The original floor level was maintained.

The front facade reflects only the central nave and is framed by two towers which are divided into three levels (Westwork arrangement). The facade organization is simple: a single story with an arched doorway which terminates on a triangular pediment. All moldings are extremely simple and of low relief. To the west of the front facade, there is a small parish house in a similar style as the rest of the church. The side facades are modulated by pilasters reflecting interior bay organization. There is a single side entrance on the east side.

The most noticeable alterations to the main structure are the sacristies which were expanded, enclosing the apse on the rear facade. The church was restored in 1975 and totally air conditioned. The building is in very good conditions, retaining its original volume and general character. Since 1920 a Carmelite Convent connected to the west side of the structure. It was demolished in 1970 and replaced by a new apartment building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
X 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
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 1832, 1896

Builder/Architect State Architect Pedro Cobreros (1896 project)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church of San Mateo de Cangrejos is of historical and architectural significance. The original chapel was built in 1832 as read the legend inscribed on the right tower until the last restoration. State Architect Pedro Cobreros designed a reconstruction of the church in 1896, which included a new front and expansion of the interior. As State Architect he understood the need of keeping to a limited budget. He created a simple and austere, yet noble style, thus ending the history of religious colonial styles in Puerto Rico at the end of the nineteenth century. The building retains most of its 1896 construction and design elements. The most noticeable alteration was the addition of a new parish house that completely encloses the apse at the rear of the church. The church of San Mateo is one of the few parish churches that does not have a traditional relationship with the town center. It was originally the parish church of Cangrejos Village, which has long since been absorbed by the metropolitan San Juan suburbs of Santurce.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Araoz, Gustavo F., Preliminary National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form,
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, June 1978.
Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico,
Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx 1603 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name San Juan, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> 9	8 1 0	1 5 0	2 0 4 2	0 0 0
Zone	Easting			Northing	
C					
E					
G					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on the north and west by private properties, on the east by San Jorge St. and on the south by Eduardo Conde Ave.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

(Reviewed by Dr. Arleen Pabón de
name/title Ester Cardona, Arch. and Marisa Gómez, Arch. Rocafort, PRSHPOfficer)

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc. **date** March 1984

street & number Tetuan 103 **telephone** (809) 724-4997

city or town Old San Juan **state** Puerto Rico **0090**

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** October 30, 1984

For NPS use only

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

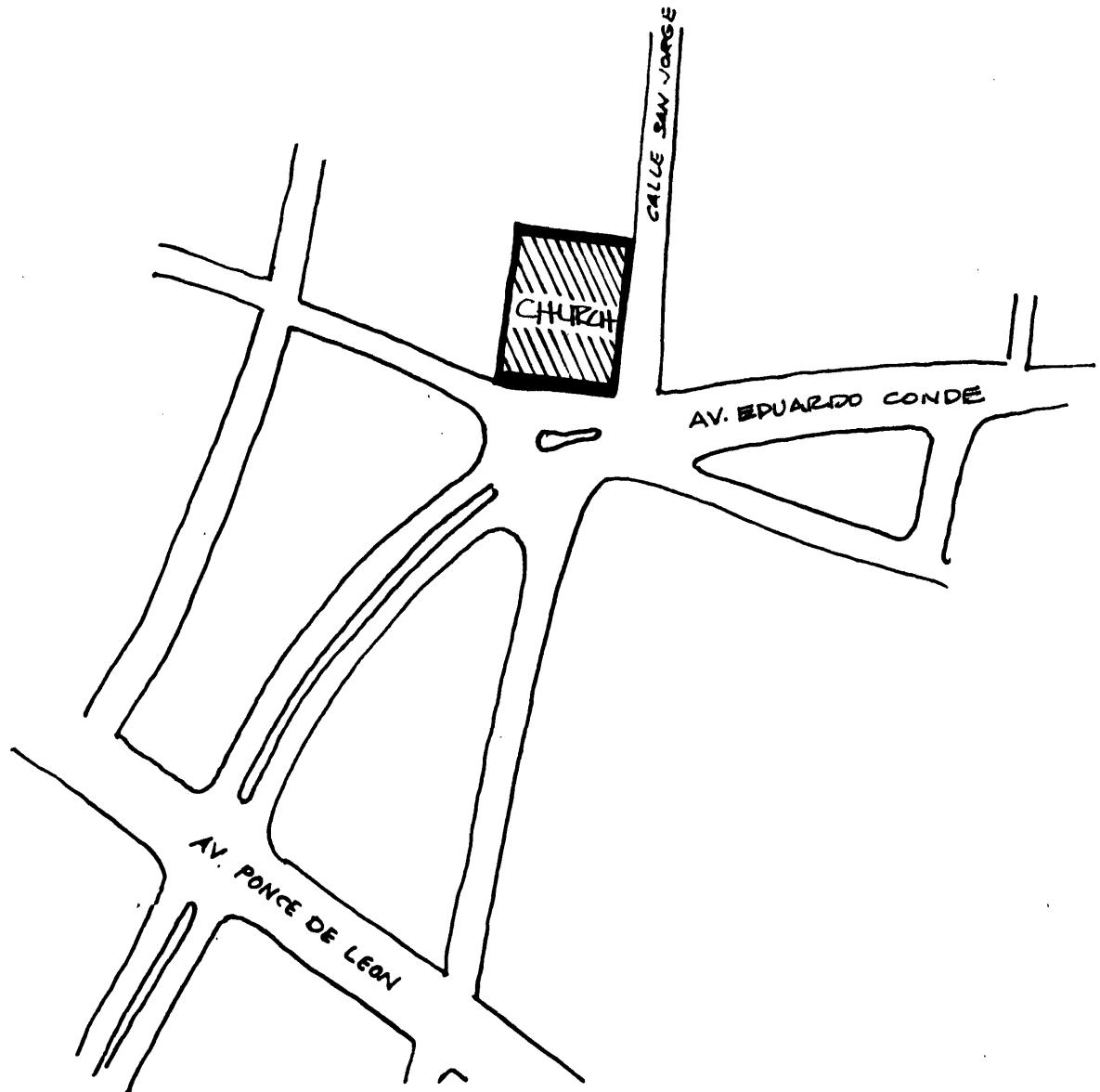
Patrick Andrew

date 1/2/85

Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:



town: SANTURCE

scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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