

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **NOV 6 1984**
date entered

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

DEC 10 1984

1. Name

historic Church San Miguel Arcángel of Utuado *(Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR)*
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Dr. Barbosa St., Town Plaza not for publication
city, town Utuado vicinity of
state Puerto Rico code 72 county Arecibo code 1000

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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 Arecibo
street & number Box 616
city, town Arecibo vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00612

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 Old San Juan state Puerto Rico 00903

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Churches 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 Miguel Arcángel of Utuado is located on a block shared with the parish house and a Catholic school. It is oriented on an east-west axis, the entrance facing west. The church is raised above the street level, separated from the plaza by Dr. Barbosa St. Wide and impressive stairs lead from the street level to the atrium.

The rectangular plan originally consisted of a nave and two aisles. In 1965 the pillars and arcades were removed and the entire space covered with a steel structure having a plastered wire mesh ceiling. Bay organization is not clear in the interior of the structure because of the removal of the arcades. The first space one encounters after entering is the vestibule. On the left, a small room formed by the base of the tower encloses the original wooden stairs leading up to the new concrete choir loft. On the right side, a similar room houses the confessionals. The rest of the space is one large nave culminating with a square apse and two chapels. A half dome sitting on two pendentives covers the apse. The floors are finished with new terrazo tiles.

Fortunately, the exterior of the church was not altered. The elegant neoclassical facade is subdivided in three sections. The main entrance is an arched doorway framed by tall Doric pilasters and an entablature crowned by a triangular pediment. Two towers flank the central body of the facade. These are divided into three levels. The first two levels have Renaissance-style rectangular windows. The upper level of the left tower houses a clock and the right tower has four arched openings. Both towers are decorated with rustication at the corners. Dentils and cornices divide the different levels. A lanterned dome crowns each of the towers. The side facades are clearly articulated by rusticated vertical elements with a rectangular window in each section. The side door is crowned with a simple arched pediment. A dentiled course at the top of the exterior wall runs the whole length of the facades unifying all of its elements. A parish house and school have been constructed attached to the rear of the 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 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 1872–1878 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church San Miguel Arcángel of Utuado is of architectural and historical importance. Construction of the existing church began in 1872 and was finished by 1878. Although the church has lost most of its original interior, the exterior has been maintained with very few alterations. The Utuado church still retains its brick masonry walls, apse and brick dome. Its location high above the level of the town plaza permits an interesting view of the structure. From the raised atrium one can see the towns and mountains which surround it. As is traditional in Puerto Rico, the plaza, church and city hall have always been the center of town life. The historic relationship between these three urban elements has been maintained in Utuado, and is a living example of the town planning practices characteristic of the Spanish colonial period in Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Hernández, Dr. Pedro H., "Historia de la Parroquia San Miguel de Utuado", 1971.

Historic Photographs (2), c. 1910, Junghanns Collection, General Archives of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 2090 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Utuado, Puerto Rico

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

19	743200	2021170
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The church is bounded on the north by Antonio R. Barceló St., on the east by Progreso St., on the south by Dr. Betances St., and on the west by Dr. Barbosa St. and the town plaza (see enclosed location plan).

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

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 July 1984

street & number Tetuán 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.

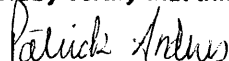
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/30/84

For NPS use only

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



date 12/10/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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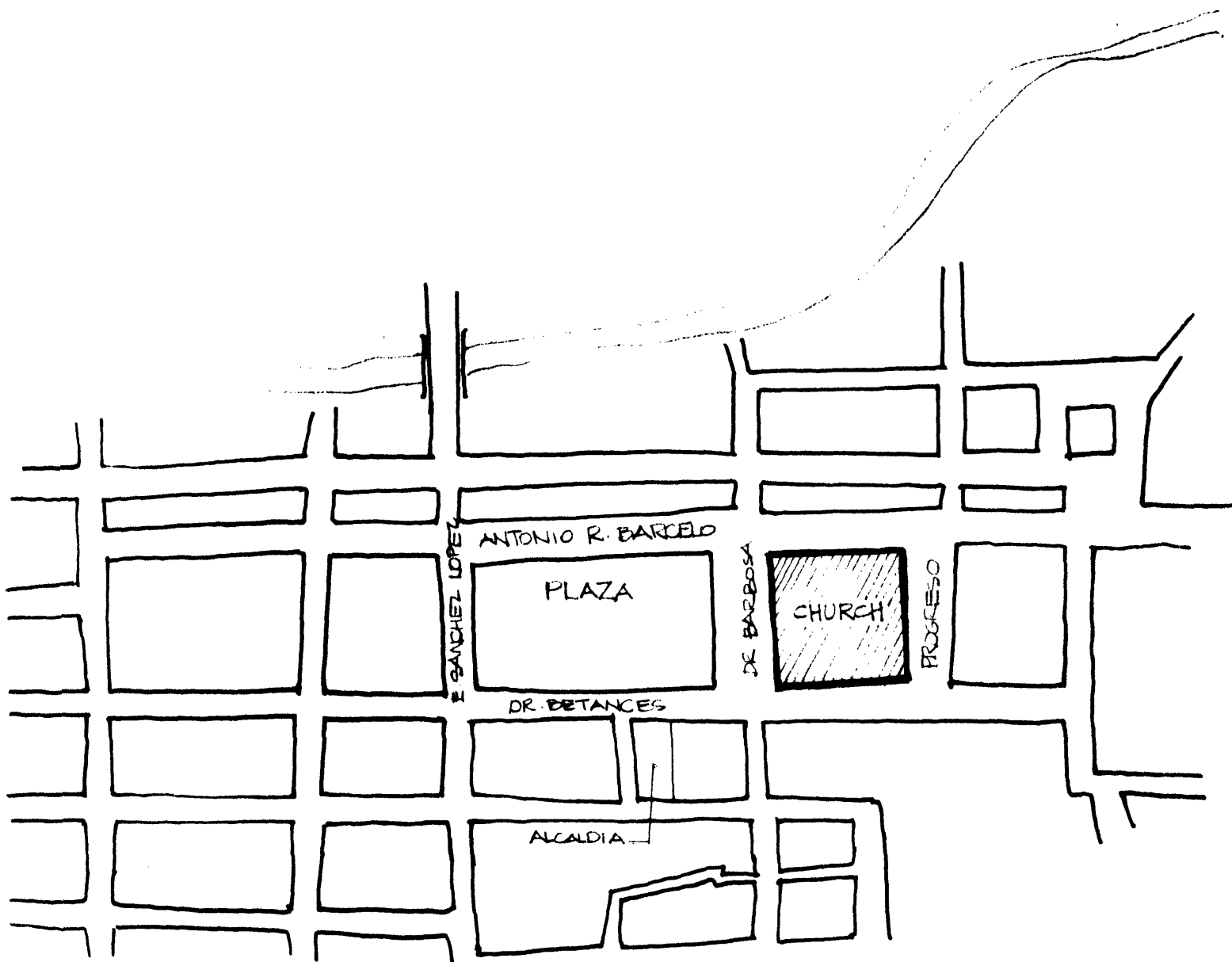
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Church San Miguel Arcángel of Utuado
Major Bibliographical References:

Historic Plans of 1866, Architect Onofre Llopart, General Archives of Puerto Rico,
Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja: 102, Legajo: 69.
This project was not built.



town: LITUADO

scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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