

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

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 2 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Church of San Isidro Labrador and Santa María de la Cabeza of Sabana Grande
(Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR)
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Angel G. Martínez St., Town Plaza not for publication
city, town Sabana Grande vicinity of
state Puerto Rico code 72 county Mayaguez code 0860

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 Mayaguez
street & number Box 2272
city, town Mayaguez vicinity of
state Puerto Rico 00708

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

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

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 San Isidro Labrador and Santa María de la Cabeza of Sabana Grande is located inside the town plaza, oriented on an east-west axis, its entrance facing west. It is raised above the level of the plaza and separated from it by a series of ceremonial steps and a low metal grillwork fence.

The rectangular plan consists of one nave and two aisles. Unadorned pointed arcades (five arches) sitting on round columns divide the space. There are five bays plus the apse/sacristies. The first bay is the vestibule or sotocoro. On the left, wooden stairs lead to the original choir loft, which is supported by wooden beams and conserves the original wooden balustrade. The space on the right is used as baptistery. The main space is covered with the original wooden ceiling which curves slightly on the sides suggesting a vault. A new concrete roof with simulated wood beams covers the two side aisles. The heights of the side aisles and the main nave are almost equal, making it impossible to place clerestory windows above the nave. The only source of light to the interior is the quatrefoil window above the choir loft and the entrance doors. The plan culminates in a square apse covered by a lanterned dome sealed on the inside. The sacristies are located on both sides of the apse and are covered with concrete roofs. A brick masonry bell tower is located at the rear of the church, with an independent access from outside. The floors are finished with black and white cement tiles. The church conserves the original wooden doors.

A classical triangular pediment containing an 1864 French clock covers the complete width of the main facade. Double columns flank the entrance. The austere facade has few decorative elements: a quatrefoil window and rustication near the corners. An octagonal tower stands above the pediment. The side facades are simple, having just one door flanked by pilasters holding an arched pediment. A modern parish house is 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 1844 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church San Isidro Labrador and Santa María de la Cabeza of Sabana Grande is of architectural and historical importance. Construction of the existing brick masonry structure was finished by 1844. In 1934 a reconstruction project is undertaken by the Bishop of Ponce due to the deteriorated state of the church. The church retains most of its original construction and design elements: brick masonry walls, tower, sacristies, interior arcades and domes. The rare wooden vault covering the main nave is one of the few examples left in Puerto Rico. Many valuable objects and art work dating from the 18th and 19th centuries are kept in the parish house. The traditional relationship of the church to the main town plaza and city hall is maintained, in accordance with Spanish Crown ordinances at the time the town was founded. In this case, the church occupies a prominent location inside the plaza.

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

Acreeage of nominated property 3500 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Sabana Grande, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Lat. 18°04'53" N, Long. 66°57'36" W

A

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 bounded on the north by San Isidro St., on the west by the town plaza and Angel G. Martínez St., on the south by Betances St. and on the east by Muñoz Rivera St. (see enclosed location plan)

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

state N/A 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 Tetuan 103

telephone (809) 724-4997

city or town Old San Juan

state Puerto Rico 00901

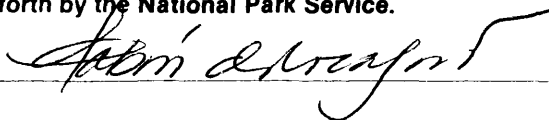
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



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



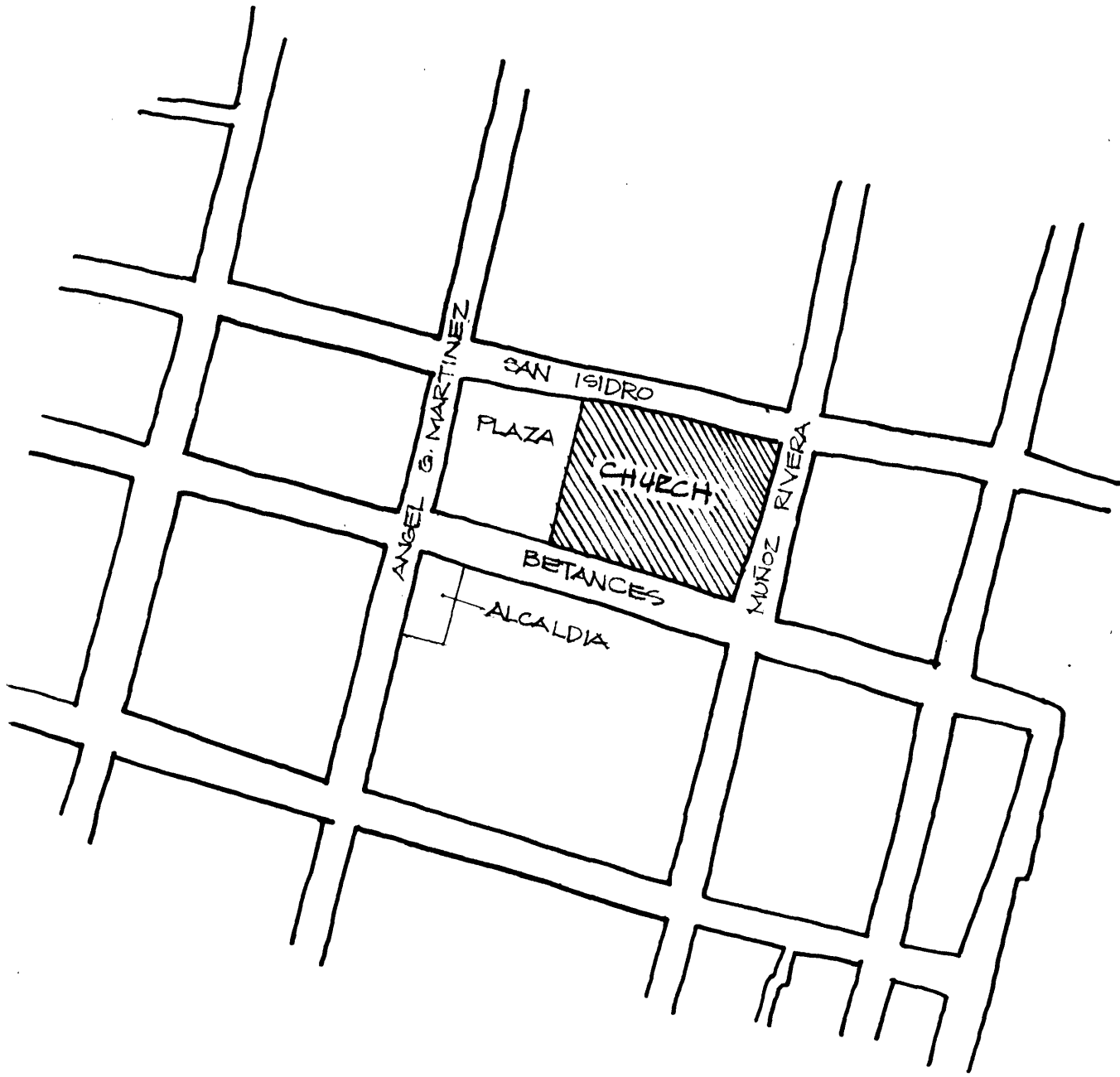
date 12/10/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

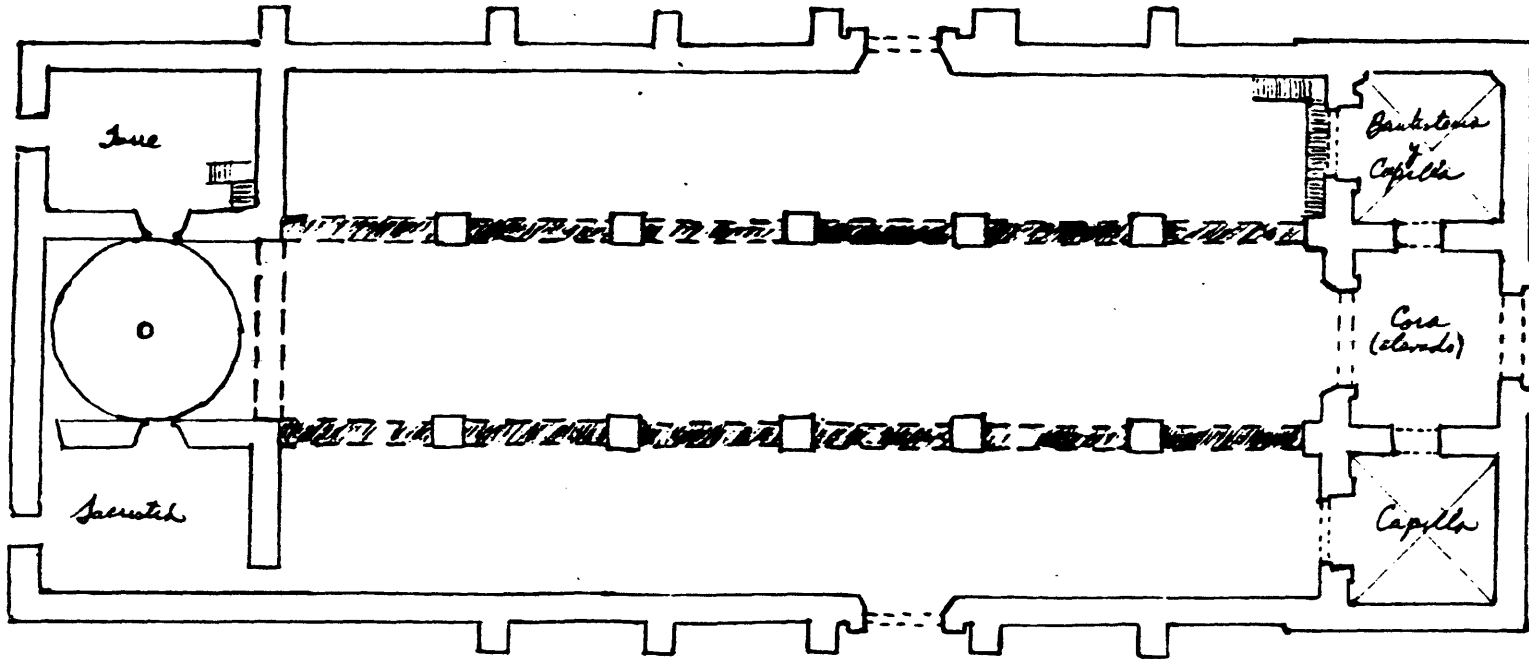


town: **SABANA GRANDE** scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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IGLESIA PARROQUIAL DE SAN GERMAN
1980

Levantado por: Héctor R. Feliciano Ramos
Diana M. Cestero Aguilár
I-VII-80

