

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received NOV 6 1984
date entered DEC 10 1984

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Cathedral Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe of Ponce (*Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR*)
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Town Plaza _____ not for publication
city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of
state Puerto Rico code 72 county Ponce code 0760

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
	N/A	<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 Ponce
street & number Box 205, Station 6
city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00732

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Church Litigation Case #6, 1904
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

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 Cathedral Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe of Ponce sits inside the town plaza, oriented on an east-west axis, its entrance facing west. It is separated from its immediate surroundings by a low wall modulated by pillars supporting cast iron lampposts. A historic 1883 fire house is attached to the church's rear facade (east).

The cruciform plan consists of a nave and two aisles, intercepted by a transept, culminating in an apse covered with a dome. There are nine bays including the apse. The first bay comprises the vestibule or sotocoro. A curious wooden stairway attached to the front wall leads to the concrete choir loft on the second level. There is a large pipe organ in the choir loft. Arcades, decorated with designs of low relief, divide the main nave from the side aisles. The arches rest on pillars composed of three round columns. The nave, as well as the aisles, are roofed by ribbed groin vaults. The main nave is roofed at a higher level than the aisles, allowing for a clerestory area consisting of double arched stained glass windows. The transept is formed by a wider structural bay than the rest. It protrudes from the side walls and forms two chapels covered with brick domes on pendentives. The plaster has been removed on the walls and dome of the left chapel, exposing the brick and rubblework construction. This area is now used as the baptistery. On the right side (south) of the church a larger chapel was built in 1911, extending three bays parallel to the side aisle. This chapel consists of a small nave covered with groin vaults of complex design, and culminating in the dome of the transept. This chapel is a small intimate space, with stained glass windows and a noteworthy wooden altar of Gothic design, which used to be the main altar of this cathedral. The church plan culminates in a square apse covered by a lanterned dome on pendentives. The altar, of neoclassic design, is made of alabaster, and is modern. The sacristies, at each side of the apse, are roofed with brick vaults. The cathedral conserves its original gray and white marble floors, except in the side chapel and the apse, where terrazzo is used. The building conserves most of its original doors and windows, and has very good examples of stained glass. The principal construction material used is brick and rubblework.

Two highly decorated towers (three levels each) flank the neoclassical central body of the facade. The towers are entered from the interior of the church through curious corner doors simulating columns. The facade's large rectangular doorway is framed by two pairs of free-standing round columns and a rectangular window on each side. The second level of the facade is composed of a large rectangular window and two niches topped with triangular pediments. A large triangular pediment supported by two pairs of pilasters crowns the facade's central body. The side facades are modulated by moldings of low relief reflecting interior bay organization, with an arched stained glass window at each bay.

The external mass and volume of the church can be appreciated from the plaza that surrounds it.

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 1835-1839, 1911, 1937 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cathedral Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe of Ponce is of architectural and historical importance. It is one of only five cathedrals on the island, reflecting Ponce's importance as one of its largest cities. Its complex plan arrangement and its multiple domes and vaults make this church stand out among others on the island. An old church located in the same place was torn down and, in 1835, construction of a new church was begun. It was finished in 1839. The actual church conserves most of the construction and design elements of the 1839 structure. The south chapel was added in 1911, and is well integrated to the original structure's architecture. The original facade (see enclosed historic photograph) is very similar to that of the church of Juana Díaz and probably inspired its design. The facade went through a major reconstruction after an earthquake in 1918 damaged the towers. Between 1931 and 1937 the towers were rebuilt in a highly decorated style, reflecting an era of great prosperity in the city of Ponce.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2960 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Ponce, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	5	2	5	8	0	1	9	9	3	2	1	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 inside the town plaza. It is bounded on the north, east and south by the town plaza, and on the west by a historic firehouse and Union 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 Marisa Gómez, Arch. and Ester Cardona, 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 *Juan de los Angeles*

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

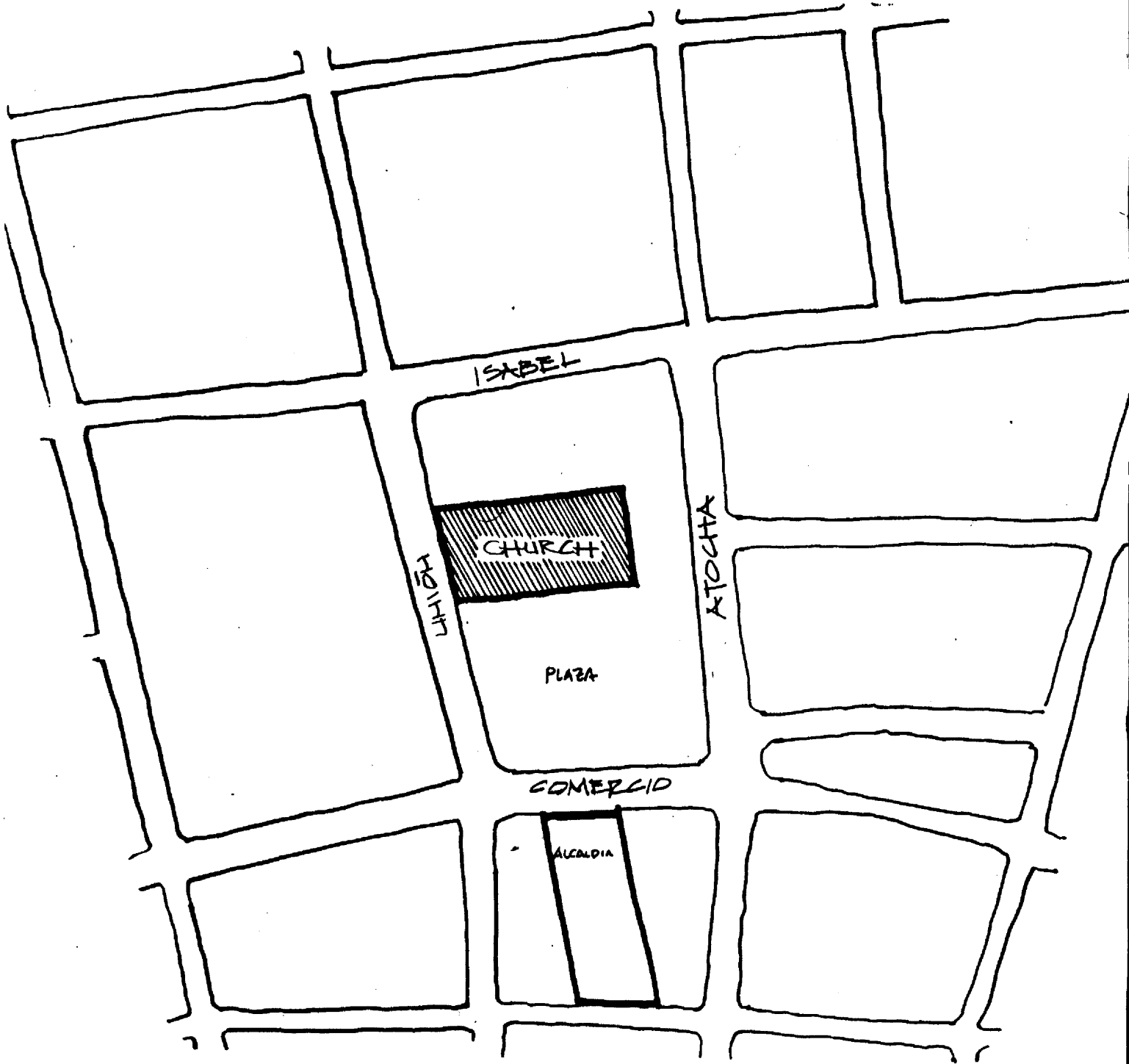
for *Patrick Amius*
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/10/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



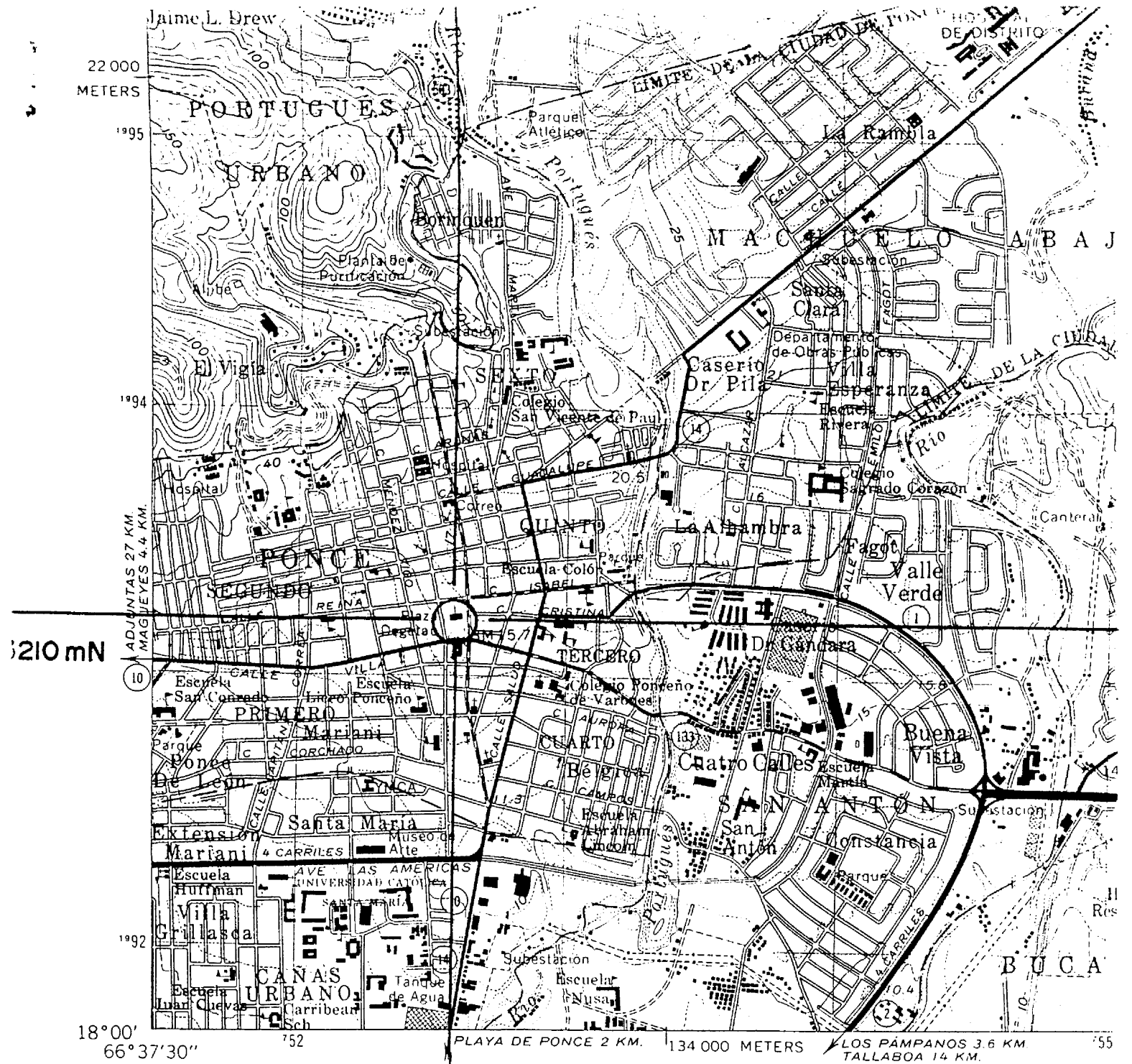
town: Ponce

scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA **752580 mE**

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1941, and planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1970

Polyconic projection. Puerto Rico Datum, 1940 adjustment
 2000-meter grid ticks based on Puerto Rico coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19

Barrio and municipality boundaries by the Puerto Rico Planning Board

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Kilometric reference distances shown in red

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and green and corrected from original

PUNTA CUCHARAS
 1222 II SW

