

PH0670171

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 14 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 8 1976

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 * PARROQUIA DEL ESPIRITU SANTO Y SAN PATRICIO

AND/OR COMMON
SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
PLAZA DE LOIZA
CITY, TOWN
LOIZA ALDEA
STATE
PUERTO RICO
VICINITY OF
CODE
COUNTY
CODE
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
CATHOLIC CHURCH, ARQUIDIOSESI DE SAN JUAN
STREET & NUMBER
CALLE CRISTO # 150
CITY, TOWN
SAN JUAN
VICINITY OF
STATE
Puerto Rico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD
STREET & NUMBER
MUNICIPIO DE LOIZA
CITY, TOWN
LOIZA
STATE
PUERTO RICO

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
PRELIMINARY PUERTO RICO SURVEY
DATE
1974
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUEÑA
CITY, TOWN
SAN JUAN
STATE
PUERTO RICO
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Rectangular in plan, the single-naved barrel vaulted church consists of four bays and the presbyterium. These bays are visually and structurally separated by arches which on the inside appear only in slight relief as arches and pilasters, but which in the exterior express their full force in the form of massive buttresses. The intermediate walls between these diminish in thickness as they ascend in height, giving the lateral facades an interesting rhythm which is contained at the presbyterium or East end by the sacristies and at the atrium or west bay by the rectangular volume of the choir balcony. Each lateral facade presents one door without any ornamentation, and three clerestory windows (one per intermediate bay) which internally punch through the barrel vault thus relieving the visual weight of the interior structure.

The front or west facade presents the most interest and is a two-story, three-bay composition with scarce ornamentation. The lower story has been altered and the pilasters and entablature have been devoided of the traditional order it once possessed. Above it, the composition is softened by the details of small Tuscan capitals and a somewhat flat and disorganized entablature. The center bay provides all the openings, which consist of a rectangular door, with a small arched window on the second story. Above it is a bellfry of provincial baroque flavor, containing two bells within a single open arch.

The other end or east shows a presbyterium narrower than the nave, and this having a lower vault which springs from an applied entablature similar to the one which surrounds the interior of the nave. On each side of the presbyterium are low sacristies structures which were both originally individually domed. However, one of these, the north one, has been totally demolished and replaced with a concrete block structure with a flat roof. This, however, follows the volume and exterior detailing of the original one and is well integrated in that respect.

A more disturbing alteration on the exterior has been the complete cement plastering of all surfaces which gives it a roughness and brutality which it was never meant to have. In addition to this, all clerestory and choir openings were originally provided with wooden louvers for ventilation and these have been replaced with glass panes. Inside, the choir balcony structure, originally of wooden beams and clay tiles has been replaced by a concrete balcony which breaks up the original interior coherence with its massiveness and incorrect detailing.

Floor paving throughout the nave has been replaced with red clay tile, while the altar area still displays an older, perhaps original tile paving. Most of these renovations were undertaken in 1957 when the church was in advanced decay and a citizens committee was formed for its restoration. The relationship between the church and the plaza is all important in the Spanish colonial town planning as one could not be conceived without the other. In this case the plaza is located to the north of the building instead of the more usual west. The ensemble of buildings around the plaza has unfortunately lost its architectural coherence, but the plaza itself as an open space remains important in spite of alterations in planting and paving patterns.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

1729

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This church constitutes the historic parrish of Loiza, an ethnically distinct community, the only one of its type in Puerto Rico, which is characterized by a rich tradition of Afro-Hispanic folk and crafts activities. Most representative of the Hispanic contribution to this syncretic culture is this XVIIIth Century Church in the center of the town. Unique in the island because of its structure and architectural expression, the Church has been called to represent the only sample of a fortified religious structure in the island, probably because it was traditionally used as a shelter for hurricanes, floods and other phenomena which it resisted through its massiveness.

A chapel to San Patricio in this site is first mentioned by a chronicler in 1645. Apparentley this chapel, which could have been one of the sacristies, was later enlarged into the existing church, whose completion dates of 1729. The Church yard, on the front and sides of the building provides the original setting and the correct perspectives for this structure and as such form an intricate part of its history, The same applis to the plaza to the right of the building, which together with the church formed the core of all Spanish colonial towns in accordance with the Royal ordinances. The plaza church relationship in Loiza is significant in that the contract between the two occurs through the lateral rather than the front

LF 25/11/64

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.75 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

N 18° 26' 00" E

W 65° 53' 10" N

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Jashina Alexandra Tarr

Preservation Architect

ORGANIZATION

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Convento de los Dominicos, Plaza de San Jose

TELEPHONE

(809) 724 2905

CITY OR TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

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

Director of Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena

DATE

12 July 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Robert B. Ketting*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/2/76

DATE

9/7/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Punta Vacía Talega

5

17.9

10

Arenas

187

BM 45

El Chorro

Planta de Tratamiento de Aguas Negras

Barca

6.8 & 10.4

187

Loíza Aldéa

LOÍZA ALDÉA

188

MEDIANIA BAJA

RÍO GRANDE 10 KM (RÍO GRANDE)

RÍO GRANDE DE LOÍZA

Gravero

BM 2.2

Las Mercedes

Caño

Gallardo

ALTA

BREWER

FERROCARRIL

Caño

Palúdica

Zequeira

Antena de Radio

Isidro

VIA

Santa Inés

BM 75.1

25'

25'

