

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

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 8 1984

date entered SEP 18 1984

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

1. Name

historic Church San Fernando of Carolina *(Historic Churches of Puerto Rico #12)*
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Muñoz Rivera St., Town Plaza ___ not for publication
city, town Carolina ___ vicinity of
state Puerto Rico code 72 county San Juan code 0200

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, Archdiocese of San Juan
street & number Box 1967
city, town San Juan ___ vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00903

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		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 Fernando of Carolina sits directly in front of the town plaza, with its entrance facing west. The church occupies the central space of a town block with structures on both sides restricting its space and reducing its view. It is separated from the street by an iron grillwork fence, enclosing a tiled area which surrounds the church on three of its sides. This church, as well as the one in Vega Baja, was designed by engineer Antonio María Guitián. Both churches are similar in their facades and in the arrangement of interior spaces, the one in Carolina being the smallest of the two.

The cruciform plan is composed of one nave, covered with a barrel vault, a transept which extends from the side facades, and a semicircular apse. At the entrance, a small vestibule, covered with embossed tin ceiling pieces, and two small rooms are located under the choir loft. To the right of this area, the baptistery is located; to the left, stairs lead up to the choir loft. The short nave consists of only one bay, creating the sensation of a central plan arrangement of spaces. This impression is reinforced by the great spatial importance given to the crossing. This area is covered with a large lanterned dome, mounted on a drum, perforated with windows. Behind this central space, the semi-circular apse, of secondary importance, is covered with a half dome.

The church was built, up to the base of the dome, between 1860-1862 according to plans of Antonio María Guitián. The nave, at this time, remained uncovered. In 1865, engineer Lorenzo de Vizcarrondo y Mongrand drew plans to finish the dome. In 1869, Vizcarrondo drew other plans to finish the church, including a wooden vault over the nave, and the choir loft. The work was finally finished in 1870. In 1894 the roof was restored with wood on the inside and galvanized iron on the outside. In 1950 this was substituted by the present concrete vault. The rest of the structure is built of brick and mortar. The floors are covered with grey and white marble tiles. The altarpiece is made of veined grey and white marble of modern design that is not effectively integrated with the sober interior space.

The facade, very similar to that of the Vega Baja Church, has delicate proportions and is composed of three horizontal bands or levels. Doric pilasters frame the arched entrance. A Doric frieze separates the first and second levels of the facade. Double pilasters flank the choir window in the second level. Above it there is a circular opening which used to have a clock. The belfry crowning the facade, has an arched opening on each of its four sides and pilasters on its corners. The side facades are simple: one door and window on each side open into the main nave. The transept walls, extending outward from the side facades are crowned with a triangular pediment, and have a pointed arched window in their upper parts. A door was opened on the transept wall on the right side of the building. Doors which used to open from the extended transept walls towards the front of the building were substituted by windows.

In recent remodeling work of the church (1976-1979) all the wooden louvered windows were exchanged for modern stained glass windows, closing off the means of natural ventilation. The building has been air-conditioned. Notwithstanding these minor alterations, the church retains most of its significant architectural features.

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 1860-1870 **Builder/Architect** Eng. Antonio María Guitián and Eng. Lorenzo de Vizcarrondo y Mongrand

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church San Fernando of Carolina was built between the years of 1860 and 1870, following the plans of Antonio María Guitián and Lorenzo de Vizcarrondo y Mongrand. The building retains most of its original construction and design components. It is very similar to the church in Vega Baja, also designed by Guitián. These churches are distinguished from others on the Island by their plan, proportions and structural roof system. The use of a cruciform plan and the great importance given to the central space under the dome were probably inspired by traditional centrally-planned churches. The property has suffered minor alterations, namely, the substitution of two doors for windows, the opening of a new door, the changing of wooden louvered windows for stained glass ones, and the new concrete vault. Basically, however, it retains intact all the important elements of its architecture and spatial organization. The traditional relationship of the church and town plaza is maintained to this day, in accordance with Spanish Crown ordinances, adding to the significance of the structure in terms of its interaction with the Carolina milieu.

A very important wooden sculpture, "El Cristo de los Ponce", is located in this church, adding to its importance. The image of Christ was acquired by the Carolina Parish in 1871. It was a gift from the King of Spain, Fernando el Católico, to Juan Ponce de Leon's family when he (Ponce de Leon) was governor of the Island. This fact dates this sculpture to the 16th century, making it circa 460 years old.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Marvel, Thomas S. and Maria Luisa Moreno, Architecture of Parish Churches in Puerto Rico, Editorial Universitaria, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, unpublished.
- Ojeda, Iraides, Inventario de Monumentos Historicos, Centro Cultural "San Miguel de las Carolinas", Carolina, Puerto Rico.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property aprox. 995 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Carolina, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

2	0	1	8	7	5	6	0	2	0	3	4	9	9	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 to the east of the Town Plaza and Muñoz Rivera St. It is bounded on the north and south by private structures and on the east by a secondary street.

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 Marisa Gómez, Arch. and Ester Cardona, Arch. (Reviewed by Dr. Arleen Pabón de Rocafort, SHPOfficer)

organization Investigaciones Bonaire, Inc. date March 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

Arleen Pabón de Rocafort

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1984

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

See Continuation sheet for listing

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

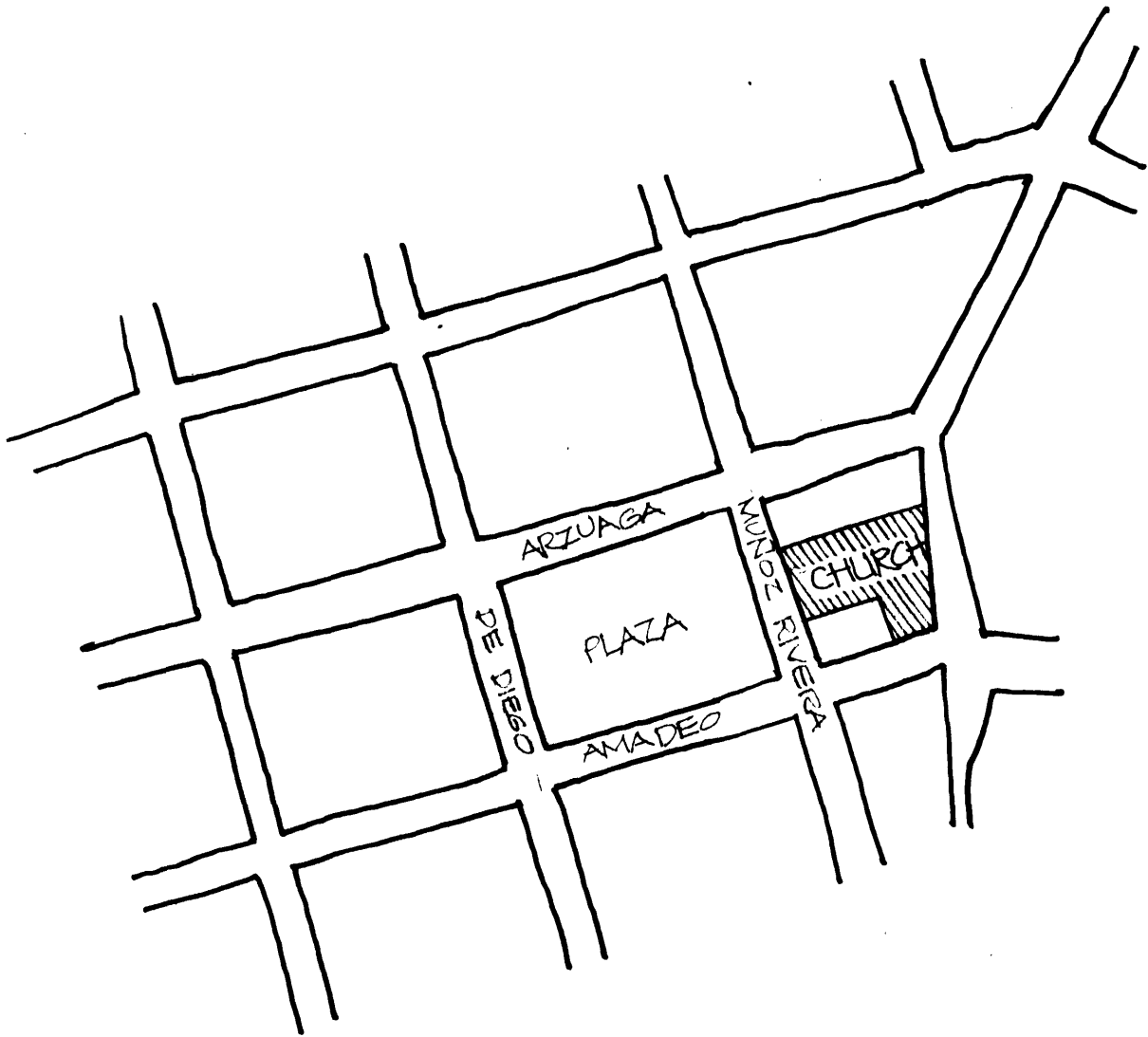
Item number 9

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Church San Fernando of Carolina
Major Bibliographical References:

Historic Plans of 1865, Architect Lorenzo de Vizcarrondo y Mongrand, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja: 79, Legajo:16.

Historic Plans, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas, Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Arch:7, Gav:1, N°:693.



town:

CAROLINA

scale: 1:2000

north

INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

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