

**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 Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria y San Matías of Manatí *(Historic Monument)*

and/or common Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria of Manatí

**2. Location**

street & number Patriota Pozo St., Town Plaza not for publication

city, town Manatí vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Arecibo code 0620

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 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 00901

# 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 church Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria of Manatí is located in front of the town plaza, with its entrance facing west. It covers an entire town block. The church is enclosed by a low wall which contains garden areas, with openings corresponding to the front and lateral doors of the building.

The building is divided into three main areas. The first one comprises the vestibule with a small room at each side: to the right, the baptistery, and to the left, the stairs which lead to the choir loft. The next area encloses the main public space. Open arcades (five bays each) resting on simple pillars divide the space into a nave and two aisles, covered with a flat brick and timber roof. The plaster on the connecting arches was scraped and the brick left exposed. The third area includes the apse and sacristies. The apse is covered with a barrel vault ending in a half dome. A mural painted on the half dome is deteriorating. The sacristies are roofed with domes.

The principal construction material is brick masonry. The roof has been restored, using its original ausubo beams and bricks, replacing only those that were necessary. The original gray and white marble floors are also maintained, except on the altar area where terrazo is used. The floor and balustrade of the choir loft, originally in wood, were replaced with concrete.

In 1864 major repairs were made to the church by Engineer Ramón Soler. The original walls were raised to a greater height, the building was expanded lengthwise, and the facade we see today was built. The main entrance is an arched doorway framed by four Doric pilasters and crowned by a Classic entablature and triangular pediment. At each side of the entrance a pointed arch forms the windows. The result is an eclectic and elegant church facade. In 1904 the original cross which crowned the facade was replaced by a wood and zinc clock tower. This remained until 1953, when it was removed and replaced with the present cross. The side facades have an arched doorway and three windows each.

A bell tower, which precedes the church in antiquity, stands at the south side of the apse. It was probably part of the original church built in 1729. This tower has a curious shape made up of three sections, starting with a cylinder and ending as an octagon.

A new parish house, built in 1964, is attached to the rear facade of the church. The most recent restoration work, including repairs to the original roof, was done between 1980 and 1982.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1729, 1864 **Builder/Architect** Engineer Ramón Soler (1864 project)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Manatí was officially founded in 1738, as the ninth town to be recognized by the Spanish Crown. The original church of Manatí is even earlier than the town's official founding, having been constructed some nine years before. Although repaired and altered on several occasions, this early Puerto Rican church has remained basically unchanged since 1864. It conserves its original flat roof made of ausubo beams and layers of brick, an important architectural feature. The ancient bell tower, unique in its design, is another significant aspect of the church of Manatí. Finally, the relationship of the church to the town plaza and city hall is an early example of Puerto Rican town planning, following the official recommendations of the Spanish Crown.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fiestas de la Restauración de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria de Manatí, Parroquia de Ntra. Sra. de la Candelaria y San Matías, Manatí, P.R., 15 de mayo 1983.  
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 2600 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Manatí, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	7	6	4	8	6	0	2	0	3	9	3	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 bounded on the north by Quiñones St., on the east by Betances St., on the south by Padial St., and on the west by Patriota Pozo St. and the town plaza.

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

 N/A

state 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 February 1984

street & number Tetuan 103

telephone (809) 724-4997

city or town 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

*Adelina Palmí de Rocafort*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 20, 1984

### For NPS use only

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

*See Continuation sheet for listing*  
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

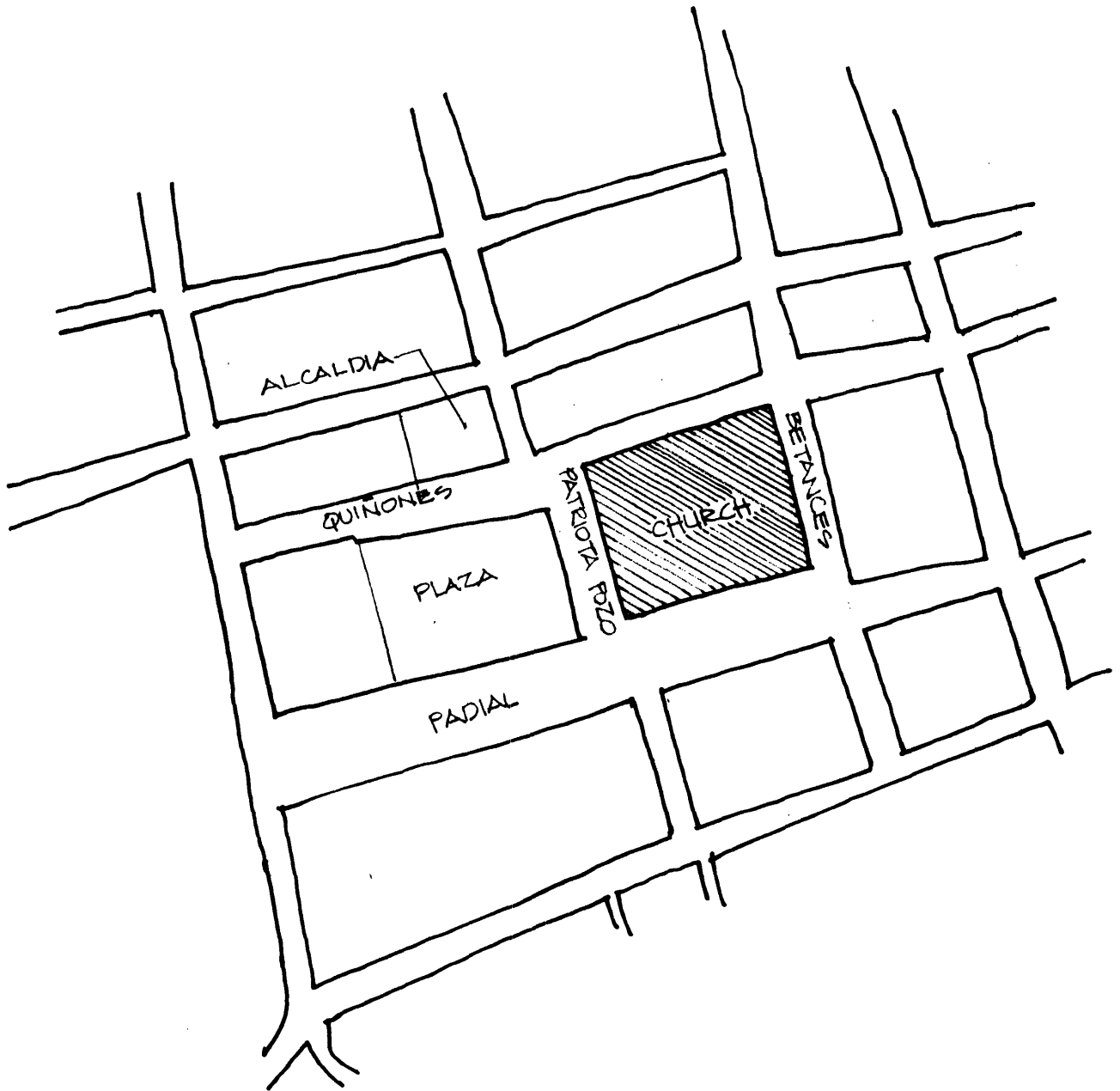
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 4

Church Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria of Manatí  
Major Bibliographical References:

Historic Plans, General Archives of Puerto Rico, Fondo: Obras Públicas,  
Serie: Edificios Religiosos, Caja: 91, Leg: 45.



town: MAHATI

scale: 1:2000



INVESTIGACIONES BONAIRE INC.

Calle de Tetuan nº 103, Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico · Tel. (809) 724-4997