

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

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

1. Name

historic ~~Thematic Nomination~~: Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number See individual nominations. not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state P R code county code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" 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

street & number see individual nominations.

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. see individual nominations

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Churches in 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

See individual nominations.

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Among the older churches of Puerto Rico, 31 have been chosen for their architectural and historical importance to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. These churches have a series of common characteristics that clearly groups them together for a thematic nomination. These churches are:

- San Carlos Borromeo of Aguadilla
- San José of Aibonito
- Cathedral San Felipe Apóstol of Arecibo
- Santa Cruz of Bayamón
- San Fernando of Carolina
- Nuestra Señora de la Asunción of Cayey
- San Blás de Illescas of Coamo
- Hermitage de la Valvanera of Coamo
- San Antonio de Padua of Dorado
- Santiago Apóstol of Fajardo
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- San Juan Bautista of Maricao
- Nuestra Señora de Monserrate of Moca
- Nuestra Señora del Rosario of Naguabo
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- San Isidro Labrador y Santa María de la Cabeza of Sabana Grande
- San Germán de Auxerre of San Germán
- San Sebastián Mártir of San Sebastián
- San Mateo de Cangrejos of Santurce
- San Fernando of Toa Alta
- San Miguel Arcángel of Utuado
- Inmaculada Concepción of Vega Alta
- Santa María del Rosario of Vega Baja

The towns of Puerto Rico were planned according to the Laws of the Indies, straight streets forming rectangular blocks, one of which was selected the town plaza. On the streets surrounding the plaza the most important buildings were placed: the church, the city hall and the market. This basic layout was used throughout Latin America while under Spanish rule. The churches were built above the level of the plaza and apart from other buildings as the Laws recommended, but sometimes they were built within the plaza acquiring even more importance. The orientation of the churches generally followed the traditional east-west axis, the entrance facing west.

The earliest churches, most of which have disappeared were made of straw and wood. They were usually replaced, on the same site, by a permanent structure. Brick and rubble masonry was used in the construction of support elements such as the walls, columns and arches, and also in the domes and vaults. Even though masonry was preferred

(see continuation sheet)

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Continuation sheet Item number Page

for its durability, the majority of the churches had a flat roof formed by wood beams and layers of bricks due to economical reasons. Other types of wooden roof structures were used, usually triangular trusses seen as gabled roofs from the exterior. Many of these have been replaced in modern times by flat reinforced concrete slabs.

Architects and engineers were able to achieve designs of considerable architectural merits. According to architect Tom Marvel and Art Historian Maria Luisa Moreno, who have been doing research on the architecture of the parish churches of Puerto Rico, there appear to be no plans imported directly from Spain, as occurred in other Latin American countries, nor was there an official model arrangement of one nave flanked by two aisles. The first space one enters is the vestibule or sotocoro with a small room on each side, one used as baptistery and the other houses a stairway leading to the choir loft on the second level. The next series of bays comprise the main public space. Open arcades divide the side aisles from the nave. In many cases the roof over the side aisles is placed at a lower level than that of the main nave permitting the placement of a clerestory. The plan usually culminates in a square apse covered with a dome. The sacristies are placed on each side of the presbitery. This spatial organization was established during the early centuries of christianity and used until the 1960's when liturgical changes resulting from the Second Vatican Council encouraged the circular or poligonal plan with a more centrally-located altar. Other floor plans used consisted of a single nave usually covered with a brick vault. Still another more complex type of arrangement was used, a cruciform plan having a nave and two aisles, intercepted by a transept where a dome covers the crossing and the semicircular apse is covered with a half dome.

The design of the facade of the church received special attention due to its symbolic and physical importance. The townspeople made great efforts to have an elegant facade built. The facades of the churches have changed greatly through history. The earliest churches display simple rectangular facades with a single door flanked by pilasters and crowned by a triangular pediment. An espadaña holding the bells gave height and importance to the facade. Often the facade was divided into three parts, reflecting the main nave and two side aisles of the interior. From mid 19th century on, facades were built both with one or two towers. When the towers were built in different shapes, due to natural disasters or lack of funds, they might result in different styles and heights. Prosperous towns built twin towers on their churches, being more costly than single tower projects. A central tower became popular, often added at a later date in order to give greater importance to a simple facade. This tower was not always successfully integrated to the existing structure. Nineteenth century eclecticism is reflected on the towers by the variety of styles they represent.

Many of the architects and engineers working on the construction of the churches were Spanish immigrants. Due to the limited educational opportunities in Puerto Rico during the 19th century the professional training of architects and engineers was acquired in Europe. Neoclassical

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# 8. Significance

See individual nominations.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature
___ 1600-1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics government
		___ invention	___ religion
			___ science
			___ sculpture
			___ social/ humanitarian
			___ theater
			___ transportation
			___ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic churches of Puerto Rico, built between the 17th and 19th centuries are outstanding in historic and architectural significance. No other building has been witness to so many important events. In a traditional Catholic society, in addition to filling religious needs, these structures signified dignity and culture. It was not until the beginning of the 20th century that other religious faiths were introduced to the Island. For this reason, the oldest and most important churches are all Catholic. In spite of the passage of time, the church and town plaza are still the center of life for small towns.

The churches are usually one of the oldest and most distinguished buildings still standing, together with the City Hall and a few houses of the wealthy townspeople. The founding of towns go together with the founding of the parishes and the construction of the church, often a wooden non-permanent structure that would eventually be substituted with permanent masonry construction.

Due to Puerto Rico's strategic location in the Caribbean, Spain invested great efforts in the construction of forts and other military defenses. This is one of the main reasons why only a few permanent churches were built during that time. According to Art Historian Maria Luisa Moreno, only six parishes were established during the first two centuries of Spanish rule: San Juan (1502), San Germán (1512), Coamo (1579), Arecibo (1616), Aguada (1665) and Ponce (1695). At the beginning of the 18th century, the catholic church faced a critical situation, but by 1750, conditions improved as new towns and parishes flourished: Añasco, Rio Piedras, Loiza, Rincón, Guaynabo, Manatí, Utuado, Toa Alta and Toa Baja. Even with an increase in the construction of public buildings during the 19th century, lack of construction funds penalized the completion of many monumental projects. Most of the churches included in the nominations have been in constant use ever since their founding. Hurricanes and earthquakes have in many towns damaged the structures. These are very significant facts and, at the same time, the cause of necessary repairs and alterations. In recent times another type of alteration has occurred, substitution of timber roofs with concrete or steel, doors and windows have been replaced, and floors refinished. In most cases modern parish houses have been attached to the original church. However, these buildings retain most of their original construction and design elements. Thick brick and rubble masonry walls, domes and vaults, and, in some cases, original timber and brick roof structures have been preserved. These are examples of construction methods no longer in use and evidence of lost artisan craftsmanship.

The overpowering presence of the church played an integral part in the planning of towns. As is traditional in Puerto Rico, the plaza, church and city hall are closely interrelated in the center of every town. This historic relationship between these three urban elements has been maintained and is a living example of town planning characteristic of the Spanish colonial times.

The historic churches are one of Puerto Rico's most valued cultural treasures and should be paid their due respect as monuments to be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR  
Aguadilla County  
PUERTO RICO

Substantive Review

Working No. AUG 8 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 9-6-84 / 9-22-84

Action:  ACCEPT

RETURN 9/18/84

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *The description and statement of significance is generally adequately done to represent these churches dating from the 17th-19th centuries in P.R. In the #8 section no areas of significance or periods are identified. These areas should be identified to establish the general qualities of*

Recom./Criteria Return  
Reviewer P. Lead  
Discipline Arch Hist  
Date 9/17/84  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below *significance of the theme*  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

- Condition
- excellent
  - good
  - fair
- Check one
- deteriorated
  - ruins
  - unexposed
- Check one
- unaltered
  - altered
  - original site
  - moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

*See NHPD letter - these 14 forms are complete so they were sent - others to follow.*

~~Please include a paragraph explaining how the 14 churches were selected. Was a comprehensive survey done? If so, when was it undertaken and what criteria were used in the selection of these churches. There should also be an explanation of why only 14 of the 31 are being nominated now.~~

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

*Areas of significance of the general thematic group should be selected and discussed. Please choose the appropriate areas and mark them in the cover form.*

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Laura Duhie or Paula Reed

Signed Laura Duhie Date 9/18/84 Phone: 202-343-9541

The SHPO letter says two of these  
are owner objection DOES-

Arecibo  
Dorado

They are being returned because the  
letters are not notarized

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historic Thematic Nomination: Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR

and/or common N/A

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street & number See individual nominations. not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state PR code county code

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
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<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
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<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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

street & number see individual nominations.

city, town vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. see individual nominations

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**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

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See individual nominations.

Condition		Check one		Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site		
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	_____
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See individual nominations.

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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Historic Churches of Puerto Rico Thematic Resources  
State Aguadilla and other counties, Puerto Rico *accept covers form on resubmission - Patrick Andrews 12/10/84*

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |   |  |        |                                    |
|-----|---|--|--------|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Chathedral San Felipe<br>Apostol of Arecibo                             | <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b><br>Substantive Review<br><u>DOE</u> | Keeper | <u>RETURN - CD 9/19</u>            |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 2.  | Church Dulce Nombre de<br>Jusus of Humacao                              | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept / P. Reed 9/17/84</u>    |
|     |   |  | Attest | <u>Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u>          |
| 3.  | Church Inmaculada Concepcion<br>of Vega Alta                            | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept / P. Reed 9/17/84</u>    |
|     |   |  | Attest | <u>Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u>          |
| 4.  | Church Nuestra Senora de la<br>Candelaria y San Matias of<br>Manati     | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept / P. Reed 9/17/84</u>    |
|     |   |  | Attest | <u>Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u>          |
| 5.  | Church Nuestra Senora de la<br>Concepcion y San Fernando<br>of Toa Alta | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept - Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u> |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 6.  | Church San Antonio de Padua of<br>Dorado                                | <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b><br>Substantive Review<br><u>DOE</u> | Keeper | <u>RETURN CD 9/19</u>              |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 7.  | Church San Carlos Borromeo<br>of Aguadilla                              | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept - Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u> |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 8.  | Church San Fernando of<br>Carolina                                      | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept - L. Duhie 9/18/84</u>   |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 9.  | Church San Jose of Gurabo   | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u>   |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |
| 10. | Church San Juan Bautista of<br>Maricao                                  | Substantive Review   | Keeper | <u>Accept Carl Duhie 9/18/84</u>   |
|     |   |  | Attest |                                    |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 5/8/84  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Historic Churches of Puerto Rico Thematic Resources  
State Aguadilla and other counties, Puerto Rico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 11. Church San Sebastian Martir of San Sebastian<br><u>Substantive Review</u>   | Keeper <u>Accept - Conkie 9/18/84</u><br>Attest _____                        |
| 12. Church Santa Cruz of Bayamon<br><u>Substantive Review</u>                   | Keeper <u>Accept - Conkie 9/18/84</u><br>Attest _____                        |
| 13. Church Santa Maria del Rosario of Veg Baja<br><u>Substantive Review</u>     | Keeper <u>Accept - Conkie 9/18/84</u><br>Attest _____                        |
| 14. Church Santiago Apostol of Fajardo<br><u>Substantive Review</u>             | Keeper <u>Accept - Conkie 9/18/84</u><br>Attest _____                        |
| 15. Cathedral Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe of Ponce<br><u>Substantive Review</u> | <i>fol</i> Keeper <u>accept Patrick Andrews 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____     |
| 16. Church Inmaculada Concepcion of Guayanilla<br><u>Substantive Review</u>     | Keeper <u>Return PWA 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____                            |
| 17. Church Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion of Cayey<br><u>Substantive Review</u>  | <i>fol</i> Keeper <u>accept Patrick Andrews 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____     |
| 18. Church Nuestra Senora del Carmen of Hatillo<br><u>Substantive Review</u>    | <i>fol</i> Keeper <u>accept Patrick Andrews 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____     |
| 19. Church Nuestra Senora del Rosario of Naguabo<br><u>Substantive Review</u>   | <i>fol</i> Keeper <u>accept Patrick Andrews 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____     |
| 20. Church San Blas de Illescas of Coamo<br><u>Substantive Review</u>           | <i>fol</i> Keeper <u>Patrick Andrews - Accept - 12/10/84</u><br>Attest _____ |

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

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Historic Churches of Puerto Rico Thematic Resources  
State Puerto Rico

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |   |  |                                |
|-----|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 21. | Church San German Auxerre of San German                                     | <del>Substantive Review</del> for Keeper | accept Patrick Anders 12/10/84 |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 22. | Church of San Isidro Labrador and Santa Maria de la Cabeza of Sabana Grande | <del>Substantive Review</del> for Keeper | accept Patrick Anders 12/10/84 |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 23. | Church San Jose of Aibonito   | <del>Substantive Review</del> for Keeper | accept Patrick Anders 12/10/84 |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 24. | Church San Juan Bautista y San Ramon Nonato of Juana Diaz                   | <del>Substantive Review</del> for Keeper | accept Patrick Anders 12/10/84 |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 25. | Church San Miguel Arcangel of Utuado  | <del>Substantive Review</del> for Keeper | accept Patrick Anders 12/10/84 |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 26. |   | Keeper                                   | _____                          |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 27. |   | Keeper                                   | _____                          |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 28. |   | Keeper                                   | _____                          |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 29. |   | Keeper                                   | _____                          |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |
| 30. |   | Keeper                                   | _____                          |
|     |   | Attest                                   | _____                          |

*Conrad*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Historic Churches of Puerto Rico TR  
Aquadilla County  
PUERTO RICO

Substantive Review

Working No. 8/8/84  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 12/21/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 12-10-84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Requested information for cover form has been submitted on return - cover form makes good case for the historic and architectural significance of the theme as a whole*

Recom./Criteria accept cover - A&C  
Reviewer Katrick Andrus  
Discipline historian  
Date 12/10/84  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
LA FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901

July 20, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find thematic nomination for historic churches throughout Puerto Rico. As suggested by Ms. Dubie we are sending the first fourteen churches at this time. We will soon be sending another batch, for a total of 31, to complete the nomination. We appreciate the Register's acceptance of this thematic nomination in parts for this will facilitate both our preparation process and the Registers. The churches of the towns of:

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Aguadilla | 8. Humacao        |
| 2. Arecibo   | 9. Manatí         |
| 3. Bayamón   | 10. Maricao       |
| 4. Carolina  | 11. San Sebastián |
| 5. Dorado    | 12. Toa Alta      |
| 6. Fajardo   | 13. Vega Alta     |
| 7. Gurabo    | 14. Vega Baja     |

Are included.

As explained in the general statement of significance, catholic churches were an intrinsic part of every town in Puerto Rico, socially, architecturally and urbanistically speaking. In all cases, the churches were the visual symbol or image of each town. I am sure that the Register's staff will recognize that most of these buildings qualify under Criterion C. Most of them present architecturally and/or engineering significant and distinguishable characteristics of great merit. As works they are likely to yield tremendous amounts of information regarding architecture, construction, religious and artistic matters.

These buildings have been used continuously for centuries. All of them are used daily by hundreds of people. Because of this, a few have undergone interior changes. As an architect and architectural historian, and keeping the Register's criteria in mind, I took the time to study these changes in detail. These changes were deeply and seriously discussed with the Review Board. The consensus was as follows: the churches of

Ms. Carol Shull  
Arleen Pabón de Rocafort  
July 20, 1984

Dorado  
Fajardo  
Maricao  
Toa Alta  
Vega Alta

have undergone interior changes (removal of plaster in some areas, addition of acoustic ceilings, among others) but since the basic external integrity has not been lost and since we strongly feel that these churches qualify under Criterion A we are thus recommending them to the Register.

All of these buildings are associated with social, urban and religious events that made a significant contribution not only to the local or national patterns but also to architectural and religious patterns of Spain and Europe. Because they are standing memorials of a past that is still lived every day and because they are the visual bond that unites urbanistically and architecturally all of Puerto Rico to its colonial past and to its European tradition we feel they merit inclusion in the Register.

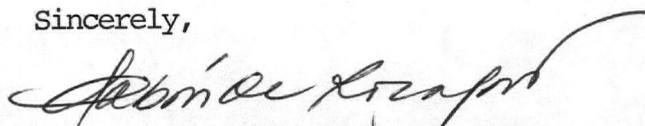
The owners of the following churches have objected to inclusion:

Arecibo  
Dorado

We would also like to point out that these buildings, built before 1898, are not formally registered in the Puerto Rico Registry of Deeds. We have provided the Register with the court case nomenclature that legally registered these churches as the property of the Catholic Church of Puerto Rico. This is all the information that exists concerning this issue. In some cases (church of Maricao) however, not even this evidence exists. Extensive research has shown that item 5 is no application to this church. If further research sheds any light on this issue we will inform the Register.

Should you have any questions concerning this nomination please contact us at the following phone numbers: 809-721-3012, 809-721-4389, 809-721-1437 or 809-721-7000 (Ext. 2212).

Sincerely,



Arleen Pabón de Rocafort, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

blg

Enclosure



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
LA FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901**

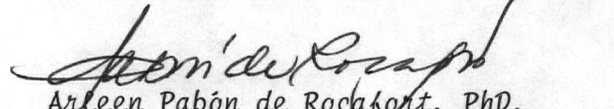
*July 24, 1984*

*Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240*

*Dear Ms. Shull:*

*Enclosed is the general statement for the Thematic Nomination:  
Historic Churches of Puerto Rico which was inadvertently left out of the  
nomination package we sent on July 23, 1984. We are sorry about any  
inconvenience this may have caused you.*

*Cordially yours,*

  
*Arleen Pabón de Rocafort, PhD.  
State Historic Preservation Officer*

*nr*



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO  
GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE CAROLINA  
APARTADO 8, CAROLINA, P.R. 00630

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OFICINA DE PLANIFICACION Y PRESUPUESTO  
TELEFONO: 757-2626  
EXT.: 315-323

September 4, 1984

National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Sir:

On the Federal Register of August 21, 1984 (Vol. 49 No. 163) was published the pending nominations of Historic Places to be included on the National Register. The list includes the Church San Fernando of Carolina, at Carolina, Puerto Rico.

This is to endorse the inclusion of this structure, since it has unique architectural and historic values.

Thanking in advance to your attention and cooperation on this matter.

Cordially yours,

HECTOR L. MULERO  
DIRECTOR

LEP/JES/AG/eg

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
LA FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901

October 8, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are enclosing the general nomination form for the thematic nomination of historic churches in Puerto Rico. We have completed part A of item 8 as directed, although we feel this is redundant since in all individual nominations this part was completed.

Owners who objected to listing of their properties in the National Register of Historic Places neglected to submit a notarized form as requested by our office. For this reason we were unable to send the notarized objection to the Register. If the Register feels that they cannot list as eligible the two properties submitted in this manner we will file these two properties without listing them.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, for this nomination was received by the Register on August 8, 1984. It would mean a lot to our staff if this nomination is included before December in the Register. At this time we are respectfully asking the Register to contact our office via the phone whenever possible, in order to clarify any detail concerning the nominations. This would shorten the amount of time between submission to the Register and actual inclusion.

We thank you kindly for your attention to this matter.

Cordially yours,

Arleen Pabón de Rocafort, PhD.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

nr

enclosures

Rec'd OCT 31 1984

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LA FORTALEZA  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00901



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

October 30, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the second part of the thematic nomination for historic churches throughout Puerto Rico. We appreciate the Register's acceptance of this thematic nomination in two parts for this will facilitate both our preparation process and the Registers. The churches of the towns of:

- |               |                  |               |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1) San Germán | 5) Sabana Grande | 9) Juana Díaz |
| 2) Utuado     | 6) Aibonito      | 10) Coamo     |
| 3) Hatillo    | 7) Cayey         | 11) Ponce     |
| 4) Guayanilla | 8) Naguabo       |               |

are included.

As explained in the general statement of significance, catholic churches were an intrinsic part of every town in Puerto Rico, socially, architecturally and urbanistically speaking. In all cases, the churches were the visual symbol or image of each town. I am sure that the Register's staff will recognize that most of these buildings qualify under Criterion C. Most of them present architecturally and/or engineering significant and distinguishable characteristics of great merit. As works they are likely to yield tremendous amounts of information regarding architecture, construction, religious and artistic matters.

These buildings have been used continuously for centuries. All of them are used daily by hundreds of people. Because of this, a few have undergone interior changes.

All of these buildings are associated with political, social, urban and religious events that made a significant contribution not only to the local or National patterns but also to architectural and religious patterns of Spain and Europe. Because they

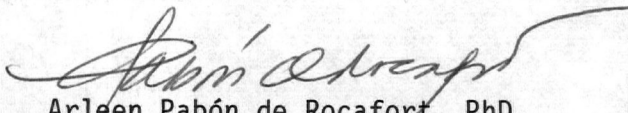
Ms. Carol Shull  
October 30, 1984  
Page 2

are standing memorials of a past that is still lived every day and because they are visual bond that unites urbanistically and architecturally all of Puerto Rico to its colonial past and to its European tradition we tell they merit inclusion in the Register.

It would be deeply appreciated by all the members of the staff, who have worked in this nomination all year long if these resources could be listed before December. We thank you most kindly for your attention to this matter.

Should you have any question concerning this nomination please contact us at the following phone numbers: 809-721-3012, 809-721-1437, 809-721-4389 or 809-721-7000 (Ext. 2212).

Sincerely,



Arleen Pabón de Rocafort, PhD.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

APR/lca

Enclosures

NOV 6 1984