

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 25 1986

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Edificio Cliver

and or common Edificio Cliver

2. Location

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave.

N/A not for publication

city, town Arecibo

vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico

code 072

county Arecibo

code 0090

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Central Federal Savings Bank

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave.

city, town Arecibo

vicinity of Arecibo

state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Arecibo Registry of Deeds

street & number Arecibo Government Center

city, town Arecibo

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hist. Arch. Survey of Arecibo

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1985

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records P.R.S.H.P.O.

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 Oliver Building is located at the northeast corner of the Callejón del Correjimientto and Avenida De Diego in the town center of Arecibo. The structure was built for residential and commercial purposes but today houses purely commercial activities. The three-storey structure presents facades on the north, west and south, with a chamfered southwest corner which serves as a main entrance. The north and west facades are divided into seven bays and the south facade into six. Horizontally, the building is composed of two parts: a one-storey base and a two-storey body.

At the base section, a sidewalk gallery is formed by an arcade of circular arches consisting of all bays on the south facade and the sixth and seventh bays of the west facade. All remaining bays are articulated as horseshoe arches and are closed by louvred wooden double-doors and fanlights. A continuous molding enframes each arc, crossing the piers at the impost level. A series of lions' heads butt up against a continuous stringcourse which separates the body of the building from its base.

The main section of the building comprises the second and third storeys. All bays are articulated as rectangular openings with planar surrounds. Each opening leads to a balustered balcony, supported by decorative brackets. Balconies are treated in size and shape as either individual, with rounded corners; or two-bay, rectangular. The body of the building is characterized by a two-storey monumental composite order, with each pilaster base resting on the string-course, directly above each lion head. The order supports an entablature which terminates this section.

Capping the composition is a balustered parapet with roman amphoræ placed at intervals coinciding with the pilasters of the monumental order. The balauster is interrupted at the chamfered corner by a curvilinear frontispiece which emphasizes the corner entrance and now displays a modern digital clock.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** 1914 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Oliver Building is located where, in 1765, the Spanish Government built the "King's House", a two-storey building used as a military garrison until 1868. Afterward, the structure became a courthouse, police headquarters and a public school. In 1913 the King's House was demolished to make way for Oliver's commercial venture.

The Oliver Building was innovative for its day and age in Arecibo in various ways. It was a venture in that it was the first building in Arecibo to utilize the urban concept of apartment living together with commercial viability; up to then, Arecibo's small town character was emphasized by the presence of single-family dwellings and small shops in and about the center. In this building came to live some of the "best" families of Arecibo. For a time it was also an "international house" of sorts, home to various foreign consulates. Shops occupied all first floor spaces.

Another breakthrough for Oliver, the building was the first to incorporate reinforced concrete construction methods in the Arecibo region. It was also the first structure in Arecibo to address the street and plaza on a diagonal by the use of a chamfered corner entrance. In brief, the building represents the arrival of modernization and then current urban concepts to the northwestern region of Puerto Rico.

Architecturally, the ornamentation reflects the Beaux Arts School of thought spreading throughout Europe and America, arriving in Puerto Rico with Spanish influence, incorporating elements of traditional Spanish design, such as arcades and massive wall articulation.

Recently, the Oliver Building underwent a restoration/rehabilitation in which the apartment spaces were converted to professional offices. A breakthrough in itself, the Central Federal Savings Bank was the first agency in Arecibo to commission a sensitive restoration, allowing original partitions and details to remain, arranging commercial functions around existing spaces.

Today the Oliver Building continues to address the plaza with the exuberance originally intended for such social spaces during their splendor in the 19th century.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián, Un Paseo por el Arecibo de Ayer; ed. ALMACA, Arecibo, Puerto Rico 1985

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .206 Acres (832.62 M<sup>2</sup>)

Quadrangle name Arecibo

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	7	4	1	2	4	0	2	0	4	4	1	0	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

North - González Ginorio St.  
South - José de Diego Ave.

East - Arecibo Drugstore  
West - Callejón del Corregimiento

See enclosed location map

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo / Héctor Santiago, Assistant Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date July, 1986

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza

telephone 721-3737 / 721-2676

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 Mariano Gerardo Coronado Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

Amy Schaezel

date 10/1/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

