

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 6 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Alcaldía de Caguas
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Calle Muñoz Rivera #42 not for publication n/a
city, town Caguas vicinity n/a
state Puerto Rico code PR county Caguas code 025 zip code 00625

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____ n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mariano G. Coronas Castro June 14, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Amy Surlazel 3/22/89
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other/Isabelino Neoclassical

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof brick

other mahogany staircase

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Caguas City Hall is a two-storey brick and masonry building completed in 1887. It is an "Isabelino" neoclassical style administrative building. Its main facade design makes it stand out from the urban landscape, thus imposing its function symbolically on the viewer.

Its main facade is articulated horizontally into a ground level and a principal upper story by a cornice at the top of the upper floor and a string course between floors one and two. This facade displays a classical, symmetrical, tripartite organization of seven bays in an A-B-A rhythm. It has an emphasized three-bay central section, and two flanking double-bay sections. Its central section is emphasized by a triangular pediment which crowns it, and by a three-bay projecting balcony that spans it horizontally at the second floor. The balcony projects from the facade, is adorned with wrought iron railings and is supported by decorative iron brackets.

Rusticated quoins mark the corners of the facade. The building's central section bays are emphasized on its two floors by a series of pilasters consisting of two single pilasters, flanking the center bay, and double pilasters at each end of the section. The pilasters support the string course and cornice at the first and second floors respectively. At the upper story the cornice supports a parapet wall above.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1856-1887
1887-1938

Significant Dates
1887

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
Spanish Royal Corps of Engineers

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Caguas was founded officially in 1775. Its rapid growth during the XIX century made it one of the largest and most important local government centers in the central region of the island, a position which it still enjoys.

In 1856 due to the town's growth new government facilities were needed and thus the construction of the new City Hall began. Due to the financial difficulties it was not completed until 1887. The building was designed and built by the Spanish Royal Corps of Engineers, who were responsible for most of the island's public buildings, churches and defense systems. In this particular case they designed a structure that would serve as a true government center. The building had to house not only the Mayor's offices and the Municipal Assembly but also the local jail house, the public library, the first public elementary school, and the spanish military post.

This building was designed in the popular "Neoclásico Isabelino" style and it was the best example of this type in the area of Caguas. It has an elegant severe main facade which stands out amidst the surrounding urban streetscape. The use of a central triangular pediment crowning the entablature and the use of central balcony over the main entrance reflects the function for which it was built. This City Hall is the only remaining example of Spanish civil architecture in the Caguas Urban core.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Historic Evaluation: Architectural Inventory, City of Caguas, Puerto Rico, October 1986.
- Civil Architecture in Puerto Rico-Historic Context, 1987.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Archivo General de Puerto Rico

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 19 813430 2018780
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

North: Private House
 South: P.R.Communication Administration Building
 East : Muñoz Rivera Street
 West : Padial Street

See continuation sheet

See enclosed location plan

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title José A. Rodríguez/Planner
 organization Municipality of Caguas date September, 1987
 street & number Muñoz Rivera #42 telephone (809)746-1110
 city or town Caguas state Puerto Rico zip code 00623

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

Bays of each level are differentiated from those of the other. At the upper level, bays are articulated with segmental arches and at the first floor as round arches. Central section arches display at section bays at the first floor and second floor bays house double jalousies.

The building's floor plan is rectangular. At the interior of the building a "Y" type gallery serves on both floor as circulation space. A modified "T" shaped mahogany and concrete stairway connects the two floors. This stairway is located in the main lobby. It was remodeled during the 1960's when the original tiles were changed to terazzo tiles.

At the center of the main lobby there is a brick well which was sealed during the 1960's for safety purposes.

The building is still in use for administration purposes. Most spaces contain administrative offices, nevertheless, there are also reunion halls: on the first floor, the Luis Muñoz Marín Hall, and on the second, the "Salón Herradura" (Horseshoe Hall) maintains its original furniture, that includes a "horseshoe" shaped mahogany table after which the hall is named. This room is the Municipal Assembly reunion hall.

The structure has suffered some interior and rear facade alteration. New office areas have been created in order to meet the growing needs of the City Hall. These alterations do not affect the architectural integrity of the building.

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As center of the local government this building has witnessed the making of many laws in its one hundred and one years of existence. From its offices the destiny of Caguas has been guided very positively making it the most important city in the central region of the Island. Since it is still the center of for local government and a place were very important decisions are taken we are choosing an arbitrary date of fifty years ago (1938) to end the period of significance for the area of politics/government, this date may be reviewed at a future period.

PLANO DE LOCALIZACION
CASA ALCALDIA DE CAGUAS

Escala Aproximada: 1:3,000

