

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG 19 1988

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Casa de la Diosa Mita

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 251 Fernandez Juncos st.

not for publication na

city, town Arecibo

vicinity na

state Puerto Rico

code PR

county Arecibo

code 013

zip code 00612

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

0

0

0

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings

0 sites

0 structures

0 objects

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

na

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

Signature of certifying official

Aug. 1, 1988

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.

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:)

*Ann Schlägel*

9/9/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls concrete

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roof concreteother concrete ornaments

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

This is a raised one storey, brick masonry and reinforced concrete residential structure in the historic urban center of Arecibo. This rectangular building with flat roof is oriented along an axis perpendicular to the street. Its overall appearance can be described as consisting of a naive interpretation of the urban, front balcony one storey dwellings of the upper classes in the southern and western coasts of Puerto Rico.

A podium approximately 3 and 1/2 feet high, with three small ventilation holes serve as a base for the ample front verendah. A concrete balaustrade rail supports a colonnade consisting of a series of 4 sets of paired, slender, ionic columns which define the three bays. The columns support a full entablature cornice with a balaustraded parapet which serves as roof to the front verendah. The date of construction, 1914, appears on the frieze of the cornice.

Access to the verendah is by means of a set of lateral stairs. Within the verendah the recessed main facade is also articulated into three equivalent bays, each bay consists of a rectangular opening with planar surrounds which incorporates an architrave or hood-mold. The architrave consists of a pair of flat brackets supporting an architrave which curves upward at the center in the form of a half ellipse. Each bay contains wooden double doors with various rectangular and square glass panels.

Although the house is currently unoccupied and appears to be deteriorated, the exterior and many of the interior elements are intact thus maintaining its integrity. Most deteriorated are the wooden floors and other wooden elements which are decaying. These elements are easily replaced without damaging the property.

**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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1914  
\_\_\_\_\_

1914  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation    na  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person    na  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder    unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Architecturally this house is significant for its unique and naive interpretation of the turn of the century highly ornamental local architecture which developed in the south coast of Puerto Rico. Generally Arecibo's architecture can be described as a provincial version of the 19th C. Spanish Neoclassical style of San Juan. In Turn, The typical provincial classical motifs of the buildings of Arecibo and the massiveness of Spanish architecture of San Juan are applied to a typology native to the South of the island characterized by much lightweight ornamentation and gracefulness.

La Casa de la Diosa Mita is the only example of this typology in Arecibo, incorporating the nuances of the local north coast vocabulary. Because of its distinction among the houses in Arecibo it is considered a popular local landmark.

At a future date the significance of this property should be revised to include as significant person associated with the house the founder of the Mita religious sect, who according to the sect, received the inspiration of founding a new religion in this house in the 1950's.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián, Un Paseo Por El Arecibo De Ayer , Ed. Almaca Arecibo, 1985

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Mita Church Archives

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 19 740890 2043985  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see enclosed location plan

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Félix Julián del Campo, State Historian/ Hector F. Santiago, Architectural Historian

organization Puerto Rico SHPO date September 1987

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city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00901

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Casa de la Diosa Mita Item number 10

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