

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

For NPS use only

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

received 5/23/84
date entered 2/14/85

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

1. Name

historic Hacienda La Sabana

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number PR State Road 119, Km. 9.9, Barrio Camuy Arriba not for publication

city, town Camuy — vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Aguadilla code 0180

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Leonor Soto González

street & number Box 185

city, town Camuy — vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00627

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Treasury Department, Division of the Registry Property

street & number Government Center

city, town Arecibo state Puerto Rico 00612

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Quebradillas-Hatillo-Camuy Inv. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Puerto Rico

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

This two-story dwelling was built for the owner of the Hacienda La Sabana, Don Gregorio Rodríguez, around 1773. It was intended both as a residence and as a storage place. The house is situated in the midst of a "sabana," or extended plain, between the Camuy and the Guajataca Rivers. The name of the hacienda reflects this location. The front of the house, which faces north, is close to the old main transport road, known as the Camino Real. The south facade looks towards the working area of the property.

The house is rectangular in plan, with a strong horizontal division in the two-storey elevation. The division is emphasized by the use of two different materials: rubble masonry covered with mortar for the first storey, and wood for the second. A wooden balcony in the upper storey, no longer extant, would have made the horizontal division more emphatic. A long insert of bricks in a "zig-zag" pattern at the top of the masonry provides an additional horizontal accent at the front.

All openings in the four-sided elevation are rectangular. All doors and windows are made of wood. The main facade has three windows in the lower storey, and two doors flanked by windows on the level above. The west elevation has openings only on the second level, these being one window and one door. At the rear of the house, there are lateral doors on the lower level, framing a masonry staircase off to one side. This "L-shaped" structure has two landings, and leads to a central doorway on the second floor. Three windows are distributed across this upper storey.

The house is finished off with a high hip roof, interrupted at the front by a small dormer centered at the lower edge. The roof was originally made of a large wooden shingles, but these were replaced by zinc.

A sunken slab, which constitutes the remains of an oven ("hornalla") used in the processing of sugar, is located 128 feet northwest of the house on the hacienda property. The slab measures approximately 20' x 20'. It is felt that, most probably, part of the foundation ruins of other structures that constituted the work area of the hacienda lie under the soil, next to or close by the sunken slab of the "hornalla."

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 checked="" 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 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 ca. 1773 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This 18th century dwelling is of considerable architectural and historic interest. It is one of a very few (less than three) existing examples of a particular vernacular type of hacienda. This type consists of a masonry first level, second wooden level and a high-pitched roof. Of special interest and importance is the fact that although the wooden shingles of the roof have been replaced by zinc sheets during the early 20th century (as happened all over the Island), the original hip roof (very rare in the Island) was kept. The beautiful proportions of this very simple cubic block embody the classical traditions that were shaped anew in the process of creating Puerto Rican vernacular architecture.

Of extreme importance is the relationship that still exists between this house and the surrounding unspoiled countryside. The agricultural land surrounding it help preserve the original pastoral milieu original to this type of dwelling. Of very special interest is the house's relationship to the old Camino Real or "Royal Way" (the main road in the Island during Spanish colonial times connecting the capital city with the rest of the island). This is one of the very few stretches of the Camino still in existence today.

Because of the strategic position of the house with regards to the "Camino", the main entrance to the house is not located in the facade facing the Camino (or the front of the property as usual) but on the opposite facade. This change provided a sense of security and privacy in terms of the vulnerable entrance. A stately staircase (masonry) provides access to the living area or the piano nobile. The first level was used as storage or servant's quarters. This alteration in terms of localization of the main entrance with regards to the basic facade alters, in a curious way, the usual interdependence between the main entrance to the house proper and main access to the property.

This house was built for the owner of the hacienda. Like others of its type in this early period, which no longer exist, most of its construction materials are indigenous to the site. These include such rare specimens of Puerto Rican woods as ausubos, moralón, caracolillo and capá prieto. Valued for their hardness and for their resistance to insects, some of these native woods have long since disappeared from the Island. Of special interest are the construction method and techniques employed in the building of the house. All construction elements (except the roof tiles), including nails, were made of wood. This house is an example of an unique manner of construction which presents building details of great ingenuity already lost to our people.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3,602.52 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Quebradillas

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 18°-27'-12'' North; Longitude 66°-53' -04'' West

A

Zone	Easting								

B

Zone	Easting								

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the north 63.66 mts. by State Road 119; to the south 63.66 mts. by property owned by Mrs. Leonor Soto González; and to the east and west 56.59 mts. by property owned by Mrs. Leonor Soto González.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See enclosed location plan)

state	N/A	code	county	code	plan
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Víctor J. López Reyes, Architect (reviewed by Dr. Bernice Thomas, State Historian, S.H.P.O., San Juan)

organization Historical-Archeological Society of Hatillo date August 30, 1983

street & number Box 539 telephone (809) 721-3012; 721-4389

city or town Camuy state Puerto Rico, 00627

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 Steven Sabido Rosendo

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 10, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Carl O. Hull

date 2-14-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

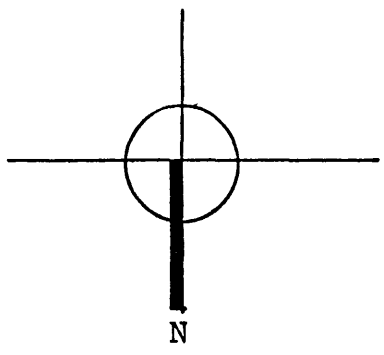
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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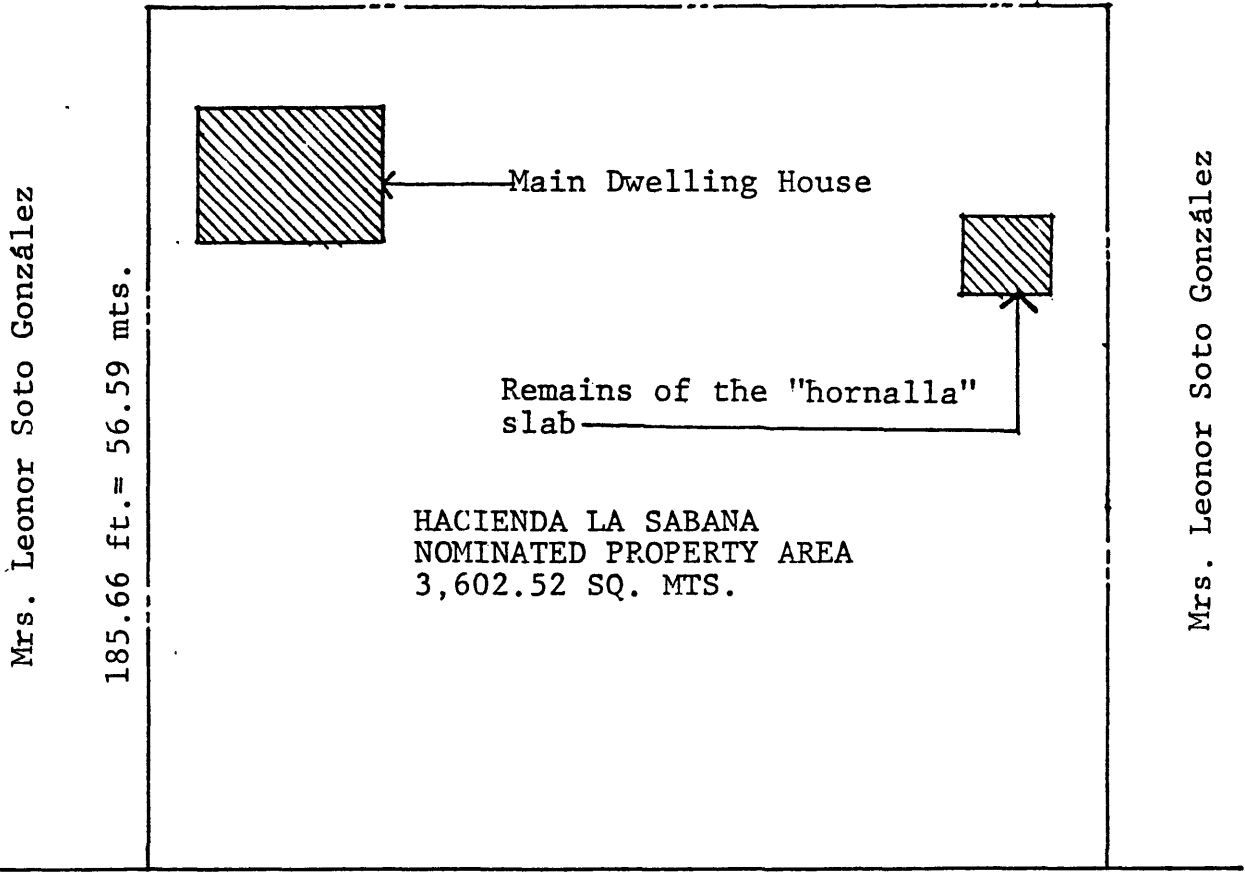
Eventhough the house is deteriorated, boarded up and abandoned, it is an unique example of importance and significance not only in the development of Puerto Rican architecture and in the development of the hacienda type, but also in terms of the stylistic and morphological links that might be established with similar properties located in neighbouring islands in the Caribbean.

5/23/84



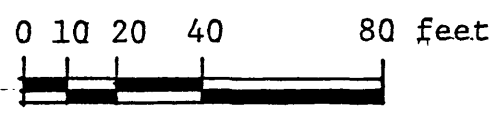
Mrs. Leonor Soto González

203.83 ft. = 63.66 mts.



State Road #119 (Old "Camino Real" from Arecibo to "San Antonio de Padua de la Tuna")

Location Plan



Graphic Scale