

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Agostini

other names/site number Casa Agostini

2. Location

street & number Calle San Rafael

N/A

not for publication

city, town Yauco

N/A

vicinity

state Puerto Rico

code P.R.

county Yauco

code 153

zip code 00768

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

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

 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 Gerardo Coronas Castro

April 8, 1988

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.

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:)

Mary Schlegel

6/9/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Residence/Commerce

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neoclassical

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Mortarwalls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Casa Agostini is a two-storey stuccoed-masonry commercial and residential building on the west side of Calle San Rafael between calle del Río and calle Comercio, in the historic urban center of Yauco. The volume is that of an inverted "L", with its long side along the street, the short wing along the south, and a low, gabled roof with its ridge parallel to the street.

The 30 meter long main facade consists of eight bays, of which the southern four are closely spaced and the northern four are further apart. At the ground storey, a series of nine pilaster strip defines the eight bays. These stem from a horizontal base-moulding at the sidewalk level, and support a shallow cornice above. All openings to the street at ground level consist of narrow round arches with recessed, double-leaf wooden jalousie doors. The main entrance or "zaguán" at bay number five consists of larger and wider round arch with planar impost mouldings and large, double-leaf iron doors.

At the upper level, a base moulding above the shallow cornice of the ground floor supports a series of nine tuscan pilasters. These support a simple tuscan cornice above. All bays 1 to 5 consist of full-height segmental-arched doorways with wooden jalousies which open out onto wrought-iron railings at bays 1 to 5, and onto a long, projecting wrought-iron balcony from bays 2 to 4. Bays 6 to 8 are articulated similarly, but windows consist of waist-high sills rather than full-height doors. All bays at the second level are framed by planar surrounds with rectilinear architraves above. An additional, diminished arch window was added at the northern extreme.

The entire composition is capped by a timber and corrugated sheet-metal roof. It is assumed that this roof replaced an original ceramic-tile roof during the late XIX or early XX.

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
Early XIX century

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Angel Pedro Agostini Natali

Architect/Builder

Miguel Briganti Pinti

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

Casa Agostini is an extraordinary example of an early XIX century, urban, coffee warehouse and processing plant and residence, excelling for the integrity of its architecture and the lack of major additions and significant alterations. The house maintains the feeling of its period of construction especially in the interior courtyard with its original, masonry water-filter, cistern and projecting, wooden, balustered balcony. The kitchen maintains the original masonry hood and exhaust holes. The plan maintains the original residential layout of antichamber, salon, and lateral bedrooms.

The residence and warehouse was constructed in the early XIX century by corsican immigrant José María Agostini Santini. The Agostini family was widely known for its prosperous coffee export business, "Sobrinos de Agostini y Compañía". One member of the family, Angel Pedro Agostini Natalí (born ca. 1824) invented the "piladora de café", a machine derived from a cotton gin, altered to serve as a coffee-grain peeler. This invention was essential to the development of the coffee industry in Puerto Rico. Not only did the "piladora" make the Agostini coffee famous, but it also uplited the demand for Puerto Rican coffee in European markets and afford the "Golden Age" of Yauco's economy. As a result, Puerto Rican coffee came to be known internationally as the best coffee during the later XIX century.

The construction of the building is ascribed to Neopolitan immigrant Miguel Briganti Pinti. The classical detailing reveals the influence of the European neoclassical architecture of the Mediterranean, widespread in Puerto Rico during the late XIX century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Agruña, Enrique, y Pérez, Amelia, La Arquitectura del Siglo XIX-Pueblo de Yauco, 1973

Baralt, Guillermo, Yauco, La Mina de Oro Cafetalera, 1980

Torres Santiago, Jerry, Historic Architectural Survey of Yauco, 1984

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	9
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7	2	7	8	5	0
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1	9	9	5	4	2	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

East-Calle San Rafael

North-Dr. Julio Roca Residence and Col. del Santisimo Rosario

West-Col. Santisimo Rosario

South-Col. del Santisimo Rosario

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix J. del Campo-State Historian
organization Puerto Rico State Hist. Preser. Office date April 8, 1988
street & number San José St. 109 telephone (809) 721-3737
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00754

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The wide entranceway or "zaguán" at the center of the facade is a unique element among local examples as it is typical of buildings of even earlier construction. In fact, the townspeople commonly refer to Casa Agostini as the oldest house in the city. Although this fact cannot be verified, it is probably correct since the building's architecture is representative of the early boom in Yauco. If not the oldest building in Yauco, it is certainly the oldest building remaining in almost-unaltered conditions.

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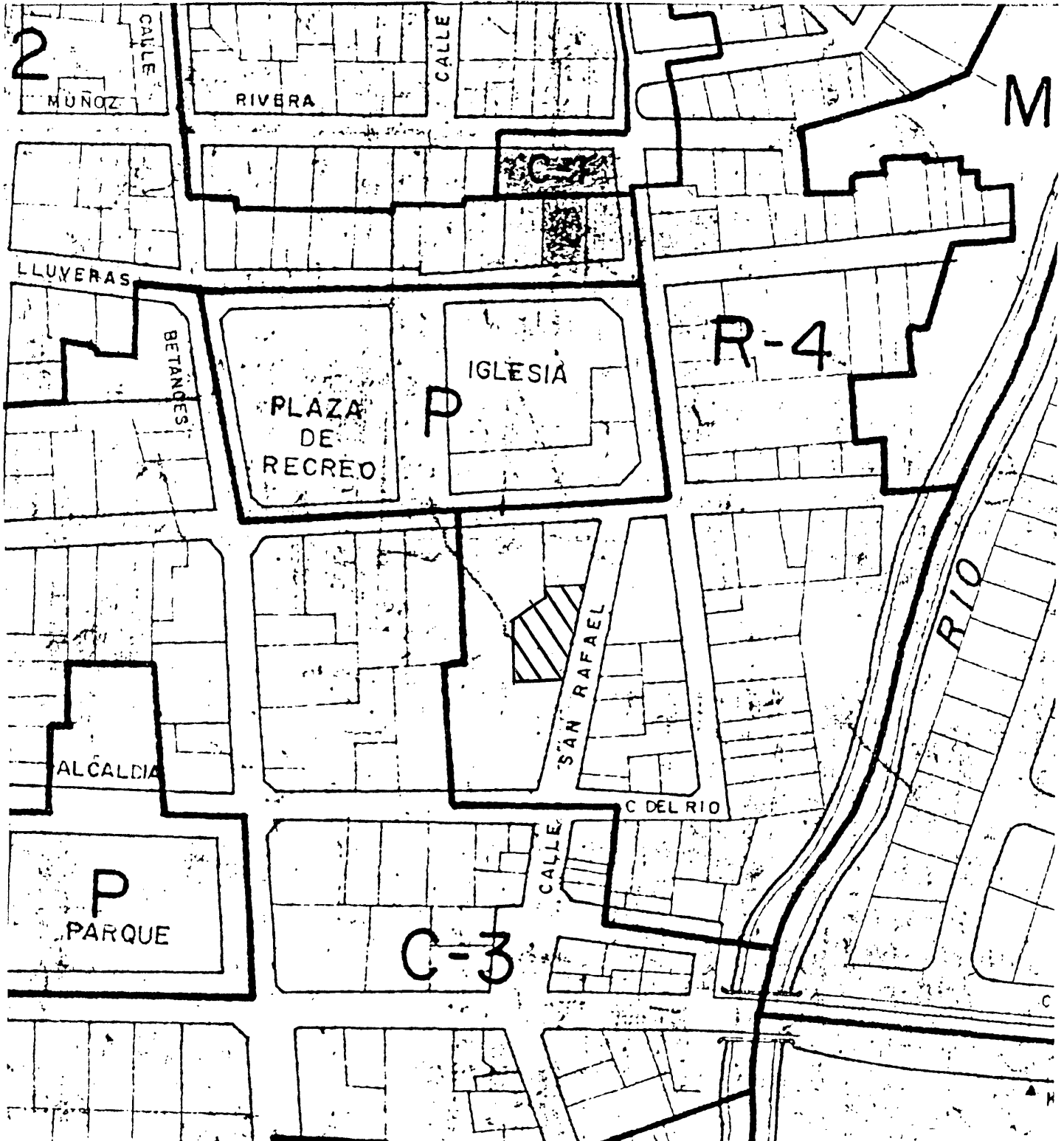
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Casa Agostini

Item number 10

Page 1



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: <u>88000682</u>	Date Listed: <u>6/9/88</u>	
<u>Casa Agostini</u>	<u>Yauco County</u>	<u>PR</u>
<u>Property Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Schlazel
Signature of the Keeper

6/9/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Industry is the area which goes with Angel Pedro Agostini Natali's major contribution to coffee production in Puerto Rico. Criterion B should also be checked for this individual.

The materials of the building should be brick mortar for the walls, sheet metal for the roof as noted in the description.

Discussed and concurred in by Puerto Rican SHPO on June 9, 1988.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)