

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 3 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 Residencia Ramirez Fuentes

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Calle Méndez Vigo #117

not for publication na

city, town Mayagüez

vicinity na

state Puerto Rico code PR

county Mayagüez code 097

zip code 00708

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	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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

May 24, 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:)

Amy Schlager

7/12/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Iron/Corrugated

other Iron railings

Stained glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This significant family house was built circa 1925 on a lot with two corners, facing the small Plaza de Diego in the city of Mayaguez.

This residence exhibits most of the architectural components of an early XX Century Puerto Rican middle class family house, which were: a concrete base, wood post and beam structure, clapboard siding, a hipped sheet-metal roof, and a simple concrete balcony at the facade. The house is one story high, and has a partial basement on one side, and a raised belvedere (as tower) on the north facade.

The property's prominent location required the design of three main facades. They were resolved by the hierarchy given to each and the selection of components to ornament these. The South and East facade, which face the main streets and the Plaza respectively, were treated as those "public". An "L" shaped balcony links both facades and creates a smooth rounded turn on the street corner, while the wooden main body of the house is recessed and allows the entrance to the South. Double sets of wood and glass doors and windows, with very attractive geometric patterns, define each section and enhance both facades and the belvedere.

At the Northeast corner, the belvedere rises one-story above the house, with slightly tapering walls. A hipped zinc roof with a large overhang shelters this volume. The small tower is used as a pivot between the East and North facades; between public and services areas. Arched louvered windows provide the ventilation needed on the main floor, while square, "vault" type openings, and a simple access door occur at ground level, which is used only as a basement.

The house is entered through a narrow alley on its West side. The entrance leads to a corridor with bedrooms on both sides. Halfway through the hall, to the left, a small vestibule leads to kitchen, pantry and bathrooms. At the end of the corridor, on the right side, is the living room. A "medio-punto" (or fixed wooden division screen) created an interior transition from one area of this main room to the foyer. This architectural element (basically an interior facade of great importance in Puerto Rico architecture), exhibits the same geometric patterns of the door and window units. The balcony area is reached from the foyer. The bedroom doors, which open

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
1925

Significant Dates
1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pascasio Fajardo

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

Residencia Ramírez Fuentes is a magnificent example of the typical upper middle class Puerto Rican family house of the beginning 20th century. It comprises all the major components and trends of the characteristic vernacular Island dwelling of this period, elaborated to reflect the social position of the accommodated family.

Using modest and autoctonous materials, this architecture solved complex living requirements with properness, funcionalism and a strong sense of aesthetics. This house, with its clever facade treatment, the aknowledgement of its corner condition and the complex interior solution, incorporates all the elements that through the years have become part of the Puerto Rican architectural heritage. Its sense of unity of concept and detail make it a special examole of residencial architecture of its period and region.

The quality of the interior spaces is significant, not only for the materials used, but also the richness in plan. It is an excellent example of how good interior spaces can be created with the use of few, but ingeniously applied elements. The "mediopuntos" maintain the identity and character of each space, permitting however, a free flowing interior, of complex modern interpretations.

This bears witness to the organization of family life in the 1900's. The foyer and living room, as public spaces, were elegant and formal; the dining room could be both formal or private and casual, with the kitchen being the true heart of family activity.

Few houses today, very few indeed, being what many call, "vernacular" can claim integrity in design, such uniqueness in character, unity in personality, as the Ramírez Fuentes house can.

An ornamental screen, usually dividing a large living space into living and dining, or living and antechamber.

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

to these spaces, display the same patterns in colored glass, in addition to louvers and open grilles in the transoms for ventilation.

The richness of the space is notorious, since only modest materials and simple geometric forms were used. A mirror-like effect is obtained by the repetition of the forms, which against illuminated or dark backgrounds, create interesting positive and negative patterns. Ornate cement tile floors, produced locally, and simple wood ceiling mouldings add to general richness of the spaces.

The belvedere stair begins on one side of the living room, while at the other, the corridor leads to the entrance.

Changes have been mainly related to the windows. Most original windows have been substituted by louvered aluminum blinds and, in other instances, by operable glass blinds. Metal siding of temporary character, protects the tapered walls of the Belvedere, once entirely of wood.