

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 17 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 4 2 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Antiguo Casino de Puerto Rico

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Avenida Ponce de León 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Puerto Rico

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: none

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico - Public Works

STREET & NUMBER

Ave. Jose de Diego

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Puerto Rico 00911

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registro de la Propriedad

STREET & NUMBER

Fortaleza

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Monuments of Puerto Rico

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building height is approximately 50' and it is rectangular in plan. The material is concrete for all the main supporting walls; structural members are steel.

The exterior is painted in pastel green with ornament, columns, and balustrades in white. The floors are of local tile to produce a large checker pattern on the main reception halls, and in colored mosaic in entrance areas and corridors. The interior walls and columns are painted to produce an appearance of marble finish.

The style of the building is an attempt at the Beaux Arts, at the reproduction of a cultural building to be found in European capitals at the turn of the century. The plan is symmetrical, and the columns are both ionic and corinthian. The portico, terraces, and roof are balustraded but the neo-classical details are then embellished by additional decoration and ornament of eclectic origin. The windows accommodate the shutters necessary to a tropical climate, and they are often crowned by colored glass, similar to the Tiffany lamp, a very common practice in Puerto Rico for edifices of more luxurious purposes or ownership.

The 'mansard' roof is of zinc sheeting, and it covers an interior plaster ceiling and walls which are of rocaille reliefs, when they are not marbelized.

The alterations are not to the structure or form of the building but wooden partitions which may be removed quite easily.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914-1917 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Montilla & Ferrer, engineers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is located at what may be considered the entrance to old San Juan, next to Plaza Colón and the Municipal Theatre, Teatro Tapia. Near there is also the Carnegie Library, and other cultural buildings.

The Casino was built as a gathering place for prominent citizens of the island, as a centre for the cultural, political and literary elite of the 1920's. Since the high bourgeoisie of the islands wished to emulate their European counterparts, they designed buildings to accommodate events which were both an imitation of the society in vogue whether in Madrid or Paris.

The poet and patriot Jose de Diego was President of the Casino when the building was inaugurated, and it was utilized for these important occasions until 1943. At that time, the US Army expropriated it and it was converted to a USO club. Following the war, the Government of Puerto Rico acquired it and it was used by the Free School of Music, the first to be established by law, introduced by Att. Ernesto Ramos Antonini, then President of the House of Representatives.

In 1955 it became the headquarters for the newly created Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, thus re-introducing cultural events and activities as a function of the building. It is currently unoccupied since the Institute moved.

The designers were Fernando Montilla and Miguel Ferrer, both engineers. The interior decoration was done by Jose Albrizzio, an artist.

The building is significant because both architecturally and historically it is representative of a period of great cultural activity and renaissance for Puerto Rican society. It signified a renewed participation in European affairs, and the reaffirmation of 'civilization' in the tropical environment.

Currently, the Government's Tourism Development Company expects to restore the structure and use it as Cultural Centre.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

El Libro de Puerto Rico, Fernandez Ed. San Juan, P.R.

Puerto Rico Ilustrado, San Juan Puerto Rico, Num 152, Año IV, Jan. 25, 1913

Revista del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.8 acre approx.

UTM REFERENCES 5 41  
N lat. 18°28'8" W Lon. 66°06'38"

A 


  
C 


B 


  
D 


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

A. Tarr consulting architect

ORGANIZATION

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

DATE

Jan. 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Plaza San Jose

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

# 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

TITLE

Executive Director Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

DATE

Jan 15, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-22-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

9-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER