

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

For NPS use only

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

received **OCT 9 1986**

date entered **NOV 17 1986**

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

1. Name

historic Casa Córdova

and/or common Casa de las Conchas (Seashel/House)

2. Location

street & number 14 Gonzalo Marín Street

N/Anot for publication

city, town Arecibo

vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico

code 072

county Arecibo

code 0090

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Olga I. Cotto

street & number 191-08-37 Ave.

city, town Flushing

vicinity of N.Y.

state N.Y.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Arecibo Registry of Deeds

street & number Arecibo Government Center

city, town Arecibo

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hist. Arch. Survey of Arecibo

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records P.R.S.H.P.O.

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Córdova Residence is a detached, two-storey, plastered brick and wood building located on the north side of Calle Gonzalo Marín between the Callejón Salicrup and the Paseo Víctor Rojas, in the historic urban center of Arecibo. Originally intended for solely residential purposes, today the building houses office and commercial space below and a residence above.

The flat-roofed rectangular structure is divided at the street facade into four equivalent and evenly-spaced bays, typical of the neo-classical period in Puerto Rican architecture. At the ground storey, a base molding serves as a defining element between the wall and the sidewalk. All bays at this level were originally treated without distinction: vertical rectangular openings with planar surrounds housed wooden double-doors. The third bay entrance was distinguishable only by the additional step provided for more comfortable access.

Today, the first and fourth bays house white, metallic Miami-type blinds and concrete balusters of connected oval-shapes. The two central bays have been diminished in size within the original surrounds: the second bay houses an aluminum and glass commercial-type door as access to a lawyer's office, and the third bay consists a four-panel wooden door as access to the upper level residence.

At the second level, a continuous balcony is supported by decorative brackets with sea-shell motifs. The balcony railings, altered from wrought iron to concrete in the 1930's consist of three piers infilled with a concrete lattice of interlaced circular forms. The upper storey bays were also originally indistinguishable, consisting of wooden, louvered, double-door windows. Today, bays one and two contain metallic Miami blinds and bays three and four house plain, double-casement planks as doors, and glazed transom panels. The original surrounds remain, each composed of an eared antepagment crowned by a segmental arch pediment with a sea-shell motif tympanum.

A series of five corinthian pilasters visually defines each bay and supports a cornice consisting of an entablature with floral relief at the freize.

The interior spaces maintain original materials and volumes, consisting of local hardwood floors, walls, and ceilings. Many of the original wooden panel double-doors and floral latticework transoms also remain.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Córdova Residence or "Casa de las Conchas" as it is commonly known in Arecibo is located in an area developed by the city's wealthiest families during the turn of the century and its value is primarily architectural. As an upper class residential sector Gonzalo Marín St. boasts some of the best examples of architectural eclecticism in Arecibo. This building is a magnificent example of integration of various architectural tendencies such as:

- Isabelino neo-classic, present in the structure's general layout.
- Criollo (local style) present in the interior partitions, materials used and the way these were handled by the local artisan.
- Beaux arts, present in the rich ornamental details, frieze, sea-shell tympanum, sea-shell motives supporting brackets and many interior ornaments, partitions and lattice work.

Built for residential purposes the property was altered for business-residential uses during the depression when most of the owners of properties in this section of town lost their wealth and had to use the properties as means of support. Alterations to the property were minimal and can easily be reversed.

At present the city government is considering to purchase the structures, restore it and use it for cultural-educational purposes since it is located across from the "Casa Ulanga" (AR-07-26-82) Arecibo's Cultural Center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián; Un Paseo por el Arecibo de Ayer; ed. ALMACA, 1985
Limón de Arce, José; Arecibo Histórico; ed. Rosado, Manatí, 1935

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Arecibo

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	4	1	4	6	0	2	0	4	4	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification SEE ENCLOSED LOCATION PLAN

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo Blanco/Héctor Santiago

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date August 26, 1986

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza

telephone (809) 721-3737

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 Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 26, 1986

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

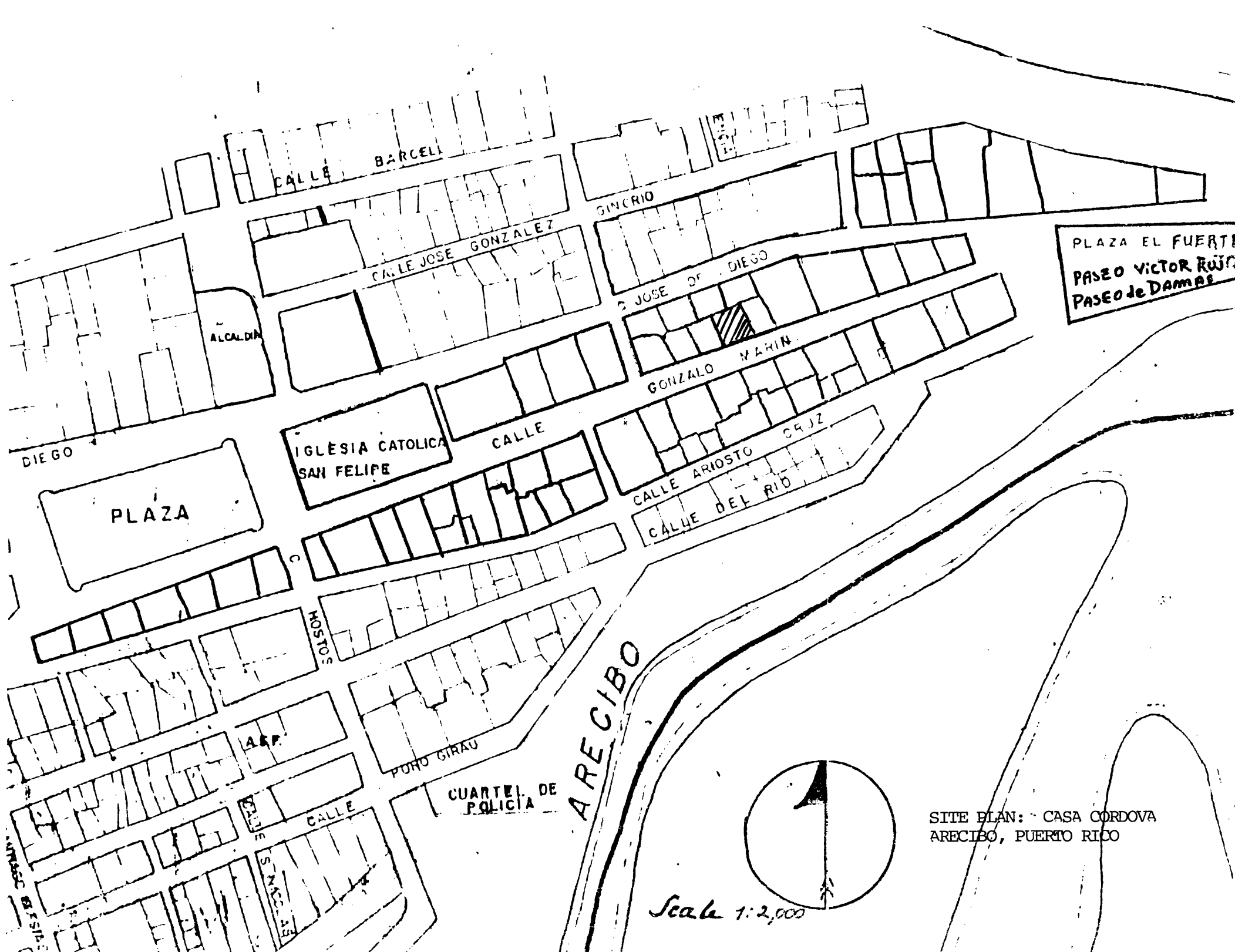
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/17/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



CALLE BARCEL

GINCRIO

CALLE JOSE GONZALEZ

CALLE JOSE DE DIEGO

ALCALDIA

GONZALO MARIN

PLAZA EL FUERTE
PASEO VICTOR RUIZ
PASEO de DAMAS

DIEGO

PLAZA

IGLESIA CATOLICA
SAN FELIPE

CALLE

CALLE ARIOSTO CRUZ
CALLE DEL RIO

ARIOSTO

ARECIBO

PORO GIRAU

CUARTEL DE
POLICIA

CALLE

A.P.

SITE PLAN: CASA CORDOVA
ARECIBO, PUERTO RICO

Scale 1:2,000