

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

For NPS use only

received 18  
date entered APR 3 1984

**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 Casa de Piedra

and/or common Residence Amparo Roldán

**2. Location**

street & number 14 Progreso St not for publication

city, town Aguadilla vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_

state Puerto Rico code 00605 county Aguadilla code 0030

**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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Amparo Roldán de Roldán

street & number 14 Progreso St.

city, town Aguadilla vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Puerto Rico

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds (Courthouse)

street & number Progreso Street

city, town Aguadilla state Puerto Rico 00605

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Arquitectonic Survey, Aguadilla has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Office

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**

The Roldán family residence is a single story, brick masonry structure built in 1875. It was constructed over the remains of a very old building erected, supposedly by the Island's Conqueror Juan Ponce de León in 1511. The 1875 house follows the original structure's outer walls and footings layout.

The present house is a good example of sober Spanish colonial architecture. The facades are divided into 4 bays by simple doric pilasters. Each bay has a window or door. A fine cornice tops the upper frieze which extends around the side elevations. The interior distribution is typical of the period, with the living areas centrally located and the bedrooms distributed symmetrically on each side. Elegant doors and windows combine wood louvers and glass panes, and are the only distinctive features of the rather simple interiors.

New addition include the front porch and two rooms in the back of the house, built in the late 1940's. The wood and metal hipped roof is also a later addition. Changes to the interiors include the modern concrete tiles and board ceilings. All this changes are non contributing to the 1875 house, although they do not distract form the original features of the structures.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input checked="" 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 c/1511/1875

Builder/Architect Bernardo Balbuquet, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1875 for Don Pelegrín Seguro in the then fashionable sober Spanish Colonial Style. This house is the only remaining private property of this period in the city of Aguadilla. Other XIX century residences were badly damaged by the 1918 earthquake and were later demolished.

This particular structure remained intact thus making it the only example of Spanish Colonial residential architecture in the area. Neighbors of Barrio Higuey have traditionally called this property "El Sitio de la Casa de Piedra" (The Site of the Stone House), because the stone foundations, walls and partitions of what seemingly had been the basement of an ancient structure were still in view in 1875. The mason who worked for Bernardo Balbuquet, builder of the 1875 house, attested before Don Rafael Reichard Sapia in 1915 that he had erected the walls of the new structure over the old stone foundations which may well be those of Ponce de Leon's house built during the early years of the Spanish colonization of Puerto Rico. This theory was first proposed by Reichard Tapia and later by Esteves Volkers in his "Tarjetero Histórico" and is, of course open for further investigation by archaeologists. The existence of this theory adds a historic archaeological value to the property.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Esteves Volkers, Carlos "La Casa de Piedra en Aguadilla" in Jaicoa Vol. No. 58, 1975.  
Esteves Volkers, Guillermo, Tarjetero Histórico, Madrid, 1960, pp.362,372-375,425  
Tapia & Rivera, Alejandro, Biblioteca Histórica de Puerto Rico, (2da. Ed., ICP  
San Juan, P.R. 1945, p. 263)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 641.38 sq. mts.=.15 acres

Quadrangle name Aguadilla

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References 18°-25'-22" Lat. North, 67°-08'-48" Long West

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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 by the "Cafeteria Los Pollos", to the South and East by Progreso Street, and to the West Vista Mar Apartments.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eng. José R. Bourdony, J.B. Associates

organization Centro Cultural José de Diego

date July 30, 1984

street & number San Carlos Box 966

telephone 891-7671/1458

city or town Aguadilla

state Puerto Rico 00605

## 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 Arch. Mariano G. Coronas-Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 1986

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/3/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration