

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

For NPS use only

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

received DEC 6 1984

date entered JAN 16 1985

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

1. Name

historic Filardi House

and/or common Muñoz House

2. Location

street & number 25 de Julio Street ^{and} corner Baldorioty Street ~~S.~~ not for publication

city, town Yauco vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Mayagüez code 1060

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Julio C. Muñoz-Rivera

street & number José C. Barbosa Avenue, corner Matienzo Cintrón Street

city, town Yauco vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Germán Property Registry (yauco Volume)

street & number Government Center

city, town San Germán state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Yauco Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

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 Muñoz House is a reinforced concrete two-storied building located at the corner of the 25 de Julio Street and the Baldorioty Street in Yauco, Puerto Rico. The structural system consists of reinforced concrete walls (smoothly plastered) topped by a flat reinforced concrete roof. The flooring material used throughout the building are native colores cement tiles.

The thirty meters-long facade has a curved corner that acts as the entrance or "zaguán" to the building. The first level has ten ornamental roman arches door openings that are divided by a central archway entrance located at the curved section of the facade (see photo #1). All arched openings are flanked by ornamental pilasters (Composite order) and are crowned by a coat of arms. A "respiradero," or ventilation holes are incorporated into this coat of arms. This ventilation system acted as another source of ventilation at the level of the "entre pisos" or crawl space between the two floors (see photo #2). The transom of all the arches was covered with wooden carved transoms. These deteriorated and were replaced by glass blocks during the thirties. Another change to the facade was the replacement of some of the original wooden doors (five) by window openings (aluminum and glass fixed panes).

The buildings rests visually and physically on a rusticated podium. Although the engaged pilasters do not rest on this podium, they run the entire height of the building supporting the beautiful and decorative cornice that runs horizontally across the building. An engaged balauster crowns the facade composition. Slight vertical accents are provided by the four urns that are located on top of the balauster. The curved corner is further accentuated by these elements.

The second level presents the same number of arches as the first floor with the same details and features, with the exception of the two arches that substitute the lower arch located on the left entrance way (see photo #1). All arches on the second floor have an elaborated ornamental concrete motif in the form of grape clusters (see photo #3). Eight of these arched openings, including the one over the central curved corner, have an ornamental cast iron breastwork balcony. These balconies are supported by ornamental concrete brackets. All wooden doors have been replaced with glass and aluminum fixed panels. An interesting feature in the second floor is the creation of a continuous balcony spanning two arches supported by four massive brackets. The ending of each bracket is exquisitely shaped in the figure of a fantastic creature, half dog, half dragon or serpent (see photos #4 & 5).

This highly ornamented facade with such a varied cluster of details such as: Composite capitals, grape clusters, moldures, garlands, coat of arms, among others is an extraordinary example of local craftsmanship and artistic skills blending with local traditions in architecture such as the curved corner, the balcony and others.

The first level is presently used as a commercial area: the second level, formerly a residence, is now a warehouse. Of great importance is the fact that the interior of the building maintains the original partitions between all important spaces. Of particular importance, is the fact that the "mediopunto" is still intact. This "mediopunto" consists of three roman arches supported by four Corinthian columns, which separate and divide the main room into two spaces. The central arch of the "mediopunto" is crowned by a coat of arms motif. The building still preserves the original electrical system installed in the 1920's.

Although the building has been altered by the replacement of the original wooden doors for aluminum and glass fixed pane windows and doors, this can be considered a very minor alteration in terms of the basic architectural components for the basic integrity of the building remains intact.

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

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** Vicente, Juan Bautista and Domingo Filardi

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Muñoz House was designed and constructed in 1916 by Italian immigrant Vicente Filardi and his sons Juan Bautista and Domingo Filardi Cantizani. Mr. Filardi Ponzi was the contractor of many houses in Ponce and Yauco. Juan Bautista and Domingo worked as contractors, water-works engineers, land surveyors and architects. They built the Yauco Aqueduct in 1912 and established a hydroelectrical power plant in the Yauco vicinity. Their style is distinguished by the sophisticated use of the elaborate sculptural decoration, which at the time was quite a novelty if compared to the traditional colonial style or the vernacular style of construction. The Filardi brothers constructed molds made out of wood for each one of their original moldures and decorative details. During the later part of their lives, they became experts in the creation of decorative details casted from concrete. They invented a type of pre-fabricated panel that imitated the rustication of stone blocks. The Muñoz House and the Amparo Clinic are the most outstanding examples of the creative abilities of this group of architects.

The Muñoz House is an outstanding showpiece of local craftsmanship and artistic skill incorporated into a traditional Beaux-Arts pattern of forms and details. It is fine example of the integration of the decorative arts to architecture. The house stands out in Yauco, and in the Island, for the richness of the facade ornamentation, originally covered with a light ochre plaster imitating stone, alla Italian tradition. The beautiful sculptural carvings made of concrete are a very good example of the old designs and forms aptly adapted to the new 20th century material (concrete). This 30 meters long facade with its eclectic assembly and its curved corner is opposite to the town's plaza achieving by this means its privileged location in terms of the urban context and landscape.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abruña, E.; Pérez, A. La arquitectura del siglo 19, Pueblo de Yauco. 1973.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 225 sq. meters

Quadrangle name Yauco

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 18°-02'-08" North; Longitude 66°-51'-02" West

A

Zone	Easting			Northing	

B

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

This property is bounded to the North, 15 meters, by the 25 de Julio Street; to the South, 15 meters, by the property of Mrs. Ramonita Torres; to the East, 15 meters, by the Baldorioty Street and to the West, 15 meters, by the property of Mr. Julio C. Muñoz.

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 Architect Jerry Torres; revised by Architect Armando Morales (State Architect)

organization Corporación para la Educación Cul. de Yauco date August 1984

street & number Bo. Palomas, Calle #9 #26 telephone 856-2849

city or town Yauco 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 [Signature]
title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 20, 1984

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] date 1/16/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration