

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 8 1987
date entered OCT 29 1987
OCT 29 1987

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

1. Name

historic Residencia Oppenheimer

and/or common Casa del Abogado

2. Location

street & number Calle Salud #47 not for publication

city, town Ponce vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Ponce code 113

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: professional

4. Owner of Property

name Casa del Abogado, Inc.

street & number c/o Lic. Wendell William Colón P.O. Box 7970,

city, town Ponce vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registro de la propiedad de Ponce

street & number Centro Gubernamental de Ponce Ave. Las Américas

city, town Ponce state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Puerto Rico State 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

Calle Salud #47 is a raised, one-storey, brick-masonry residential structure on the northwest corner of Calle Salud and Calle Aurora, in the historic urban center of Ponce. The overall volume of the house is oriented on a diagonal, the main facade facing the street corner. At either end, the plan turns an angle inward, allowing the volume's extremes to present facades perpendicular to their corresponding streets. The property is surrounded by a low, plastered masonry wall with wrought iron railings above, that also cuts the corner with a small diagonal wrought-iron gate. The lot is landscaped with gardens along the front triangular-shaped yard.

The main facade presents an angular concave-shape consisting of a podium, a series of Ionic columns defining a full-width, recessed loggia, and a cornice with a battlement parapet above. An inward-sweeping stair or "stoop" accesses the raised loggia at center. A concrete balustrade defines the loggia and serves as a base for a series of symmetrically arranged Ionic columns: one at either side of the main stair and one at either extreme of each segment of the concave facade. A simple, unornamented cornice wraps around the entire structure and supports a battlement parapet consisting of alternating rounded embrasures and rectangular merlons.

Within the loggia, 5 equivalent bays define the central segment of the concave facade, 2 rectangular bays define the left segment, and a planar wall wraps around the side of the right segment onto an extension of the loggia parallel to Calle Aurora.

The 5 arched windows of the central segment consist of narrow openings housing wooden, double-doors with jalousie panels, intricately carved wooden transoms, and stained-glass fanlights above. A planar surround defines each opening and an ornate hood-mould or architrave, supported by brackets, crowns each arch. The central entrance bay is treated differently only within the door design: intricate, curvilinear wrought-iron railings enclose circular openings in a typically European Art-nouveau manner. All other windows are similar to the arched windows of the facade, but adapted to rectangular openings.

The house has not been altered in any significant manner and thus preserves the original exterior design and interior distribution and elements.

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 1913 **Builder/Architect** Alfredo Weichers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Calle Salud 47 is one of Ponce's most distinctive residential structures. It was designed in 1913 for Doña Isabel Oppenheimer de Santiago by one of Puerto Rico's foremost early XX century architects, Alfredo Weichers. Mr. Weichers studied in Barcelona, Spain and returned to Puerto Rico, where he left much Spanish-Art Nouveau influence. Specifically, Weichers designed many of the mansions of Ponce's aristocracy, of which Salud #47 is one, integrating the contemporary modernist movement to the folk building tradition of the southern coast of Puerto Rico.

In Salud #47, in response to city ordinances which required a chamfered corner for urban lots, Weichers utilized the exact negative of the chamfer for the overall form of the house and reduced the actual street-line chamfer to the configuration of the surrounding gate. Thus, an almost suburban residence with front gardens and open galleries resulted within an urban lot, only two blocks away from the Plaza. In all, Calle Salud #47 is one of the best examples in Ponce of the Puerto Rican adaptation of the architecture of the Barcelona School, and, forms an integral part of the series of late XIX and early XX century grand houses which defines the unique urban character of the center of Ponce.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Plástica, Revista de la Liga de Arte de San Juan, No. 15, Vol. 2. Sept. 1986.
Archivo Histórico de Ponce, Plans of houses designed by Alfredo Weichers
Gran Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico, Arquitectura

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~less than one acre~~

Quadrangle name Ponce, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	5	2	8	4	1	0	1	9	9	1	2	9	1	6	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 map

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 Héctor F. Santiago - State Architectural Historian.

organization Puerto Rico State Historic Pres. Office date 14/8/87

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3737

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

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 State Historic Preservation Officer date August, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 10/29/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

001 26 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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CASA DEL ABOGADO, Calle Salud #47
Ponce, Puerto Rico

