

**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 FEB 5 1987

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

1. Name

historic RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO EN GUANAJIBO

and/or common RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO (Ramírez de Arellano Residence)

2. Location

street & number PR STATE ROAD NO. 102 n/a not for publication

city, town MAYAGUEZ vicinity of N/A

state PUERTO RICO code PR 72 county MAYAGUEZ code 0650

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input 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 DR. RAFAEL NADAL ARRILLAGA

street & number STATE ROAD NO. 102

city, town MAYAGUEZ vicinity of N/A state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD, DEPARTAMENTO DE HACIENDA
(RECORDER'S OFFICE)

street & number GOVERNMENT BUILDING, BARRIO MIRADERO

city, town MAYAGUEZ, state PUERTO RICO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title SURVEY AND PLANNING PROJECT OF MAYAGUEZ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date JULY, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

city, town SAN JUAN, state PUERTO RICO

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Ramírez de Arellano residence is a vast estate located along the shore road on the southern outskirts of Mayaguez. It is composed of a main house, two stories high, and a garage structure towards the rear of the property. The garage has a two level section which houses the servant's quarters. In an adjacent area is a semi-formal garden and the remaining property is covered with exuberant native vegetation and enclosed by a low wall.

The plan of the main house is square, divided into six bays. The ground floor is partially enclosed along the front, probably done so to prevent extensive damage should there be flooding from the sea, directly located across from this side of the property. This may also have been done to give this principal facade a fuller appearance. The rooms in this area were also used by servants and as additional guest quarters.

A large exterior staircase located on the northern edge of the house leads to the second and main floor. From the staircase a vast veranda is reached. This element embraces the western portion as well as part of the northern area of the square plan. The main facade on the West side faces the sunset and the ocean. This is still where most of the daytime living and entertainment takes place. The veranda leads to a screened porch area and later to a square dining room which is located at the very center of the plan. The enclosed part of the house is entered at this point. The living room located North of the dining room is of the same width. A simple arched opening connects both spaces. A spacious kitchen, three bedrooms and two bathrooms are distributed in the remaining L-shape portion of the house or southeast area of the plan.

The materials which make up the structure of the residence are concrete and wood. The ground floor is composed of a series of columns distributed to form square bays. These support a concrete slab that holds the floor of the main house above. Only the columns on the edge of the plan project through the second floor. A separate series of columns in the central dining room support the wooden beams that span from the edge of the building. The corrugated zinc roofs are pitched and the wood ceilings are finished in simple patterns. A wave-pattern bargeboard conceals the ends of the rafters along the overhang edge. The roof of the dining room projects higher than the rest. Clerestory windows crown the interior space providing it with natural light and ventilation. A dormer window located above the main bathroom accents the East facade and serves to ventilate the space. The interior partitions are wood.

The facades are very simple. The veranda is surrounded by a concrete railing with rectangular planters spanning the space between the columns. Most of the exterior surfaces are simple and unpretentious. Wood, horizontal, louvered, casement-type windows provide the house with the needed ventilation and light. The versatility and possible positions of these openings is further improved by the placement of rectangular wood-grilled transoms above each which, even if windows are closed, provide the residence with a constant flow of natural air. The interior doors also have this element. There is a covered staircase at the rear (East) of the

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	Circa 1930	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Circa 1930, Don Alfredo Ramírez de Arellano y Rosell ordered built his second home and beach house at a site on State Road 102. This noteworthy citizen was a banker, politician and a prominent senator in the district of Mayaguez for the Unionist Party, a leading party during those times. In 1925 he founded one of the largest sugar mills in Puerto Rico, Hacienda Igualdad, which he presided until his death. He was a major philanthropist who donated substantial amounts of money to church and welfare organizations in the southwest of Puerto Rico.

The Ramírez de Arellano vacation home is highly significant because it is one of the best examples of a twentieth century revival of the "plantation type" house.

The plantation style was a building type which matured in the mid nineteenth century and developed as a response to specific purposes related to the growing industries of sugar and coffee in Puerto Rico. The original layout kept the ground floor open for storage and needed service areas, while the main family residence was located on the more elaborate and sometimes elegant second floor.

The de Arellano house was built following the same basic layout, although using refined craftsmanship. It is also interesting to note that the house was constructed as a second family home and definitely had no direct use as a plantation, although inspired by the type.

A new element was incorporated which did not belong to the original style but relates strongly to the best architecture produced in Mayaguez at the time: an astonishing ceiling height. This feature, truly characteristic of Mayaguez and now existing in only a few structures remaining, is made evident at the Nadal House* in its dining room area. In the early twentieth century, extensive reconstructions were carried out in the city of Mayaguez following a major earthquake. All new construction after the disaster pursued higher interior spaces, taller than those of any dwellings of any period in other Island towns. The "scale" of the Mayaguezan spaces is a noteworthy characteristic of the area's residential construction and the Ramírez de Arellano residence is one of the best exponents of this feature.

*Ramirez de Arellano House

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gaudier y Cabassa, Martín. Genealogía. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, 1959.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name USGS MAYAGUEZ 1964

Quadrangle scale 1: 20,000

UTM References Lambert: 18°10'30"
67°11'01"

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (SITE PLAN)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architects José Ramírez and Beatriz del Cueto de Pantel

organization Colegio de Arquitectos de P.R. date September, 1984

street & number Box 2299 telephone (809) 724-1213

city or town Hato Rey, 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 Arch. Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 20, 1985

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

Amy Schlager
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/5/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Ramírez de Arellano Residence
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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house. Part of the sides of the stair are enclosed by a wood, square-patterned grill.

The framing of the porch screens exhibits an elaborate, geometrical pattern in a series of squares with inset diamonds. Ornate, multi-colored native Puerto Rican cement tiles were used throughout the house to create diverse floor patterns.

The garage building is a wooden structure divided into five bays. The second story, slightly wider than the middle bay, has its axis perpendicular to that of the floor below, and a balcony projects to the front. The balcony's wood railing pattern and ceiling edge are ornamented. The garage has a two-way pitched, corrugated zinc roof at each level which are perpendicular to each other.

The surrounding garden is informal, and basically defined by large grass areas with a wide variety of tropical plants, palms and diverse trees.

Due to the fact that up to a year ago the house remained in the hands of the same family that had it constructed, the alterations and changes have been minor and have left no major impact on the building fabrics or grounds.

It is in an excellent state of preservation.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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NOMBRE COMUN RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO	
NOMBRE HISTORICO	
ARQUITECTO	
DIRECCION COMERCIO Parcela Solar	
INFORMACION GRAFICA	
BAHIA DE MAYAGUEZ (BAY OF MAYAGUEZ)	
CARR. P.R. EST. #102	
PROPERTY OF M. DIAZ	
PROPERTY OF D. VALDES	

Scale: 1:1000