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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 25 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Teatro Ideal
other names/site number Teatro de la Plaza

2. Location

street & number Calle Comercio N/A not for publication
city, town Yauco, P.R. N/A vicinity
state Puerto Rico code P.R. county Yauco code 153 zip code 00768

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mariano Gerardo Coronas Castro April 13, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Amy Schaezel 6/9/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Theater

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls concrete

roof sheet metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Teatro Ideal is a concrete, 2-storey eclectic theatre building on the south side of Calle Comerío, between Calle San Rafael and Calle José Celso Barbosa, in the historic urban center of Yauco. In plan, the building presents a long, rectangular volume on a north-south axis with a short end towards the street.

The facade on Calle Comerío consists of a two-storey monumental "Tuscan" order of 4 columns with exaggerated entasis. The colonnade supports a decorative cornice and parapet which spans horizontally from column 1 to column 2; in a "rainbow" semicircular arch from column 2 to column 3; and horizontally, again, from column 3 to column 4. The entablature modulates according to the column placement, and incorporates a Lion's head above each of the columns at the frieze. A large, sculpted estutcheon with a glockenspiel motif marks the center of the curvilinear cornice. Above the solid parapet, a Roman amphora crowns each extreme of the building and a small scroll-like element adorns the apex of the curve.

At the ground floor, the front portico has been incorporated as lobby space and now displays a wide, central entrance, a non-articulated, rectangular doorway at the eastern bay, and a large, square glass window at the western bay.

A concrete balcony or porch spans across the facade at the shaft of the columns, between the first and second floors. Within this balcony, two central, arched doors open out under the round cornice. A circular oculus above the these doors permits light to enter the second level. At each extreme bay, one rectangular door accesses the balcony.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Performing Arts
Architecture
Politics
Literature

Period of Significance

1920's-1930's
Early XX century
1920's-1930's

Significant Dates

1926
1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jesús Buil Lluveras

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Teatro Ideal is a good example of early XX Century eclecticism in the City of Yauco. For many years it was the only performing arts center in the city of Yauco and the most luxurious one in the region.

Built in 1926 for the Yauco Moving Picture Company, the Teatro Ideal has served as showcase for the most famous and visiting performers. Spanish "Zarzuela" and "Opereta" musical companies visited this theatre regularly, providing the southwest of the island with first-class cultural entertainment during the 1920's and 1930's. Literary contests were also common. Poets like Francisco Villaespesa (famous Spanish poet), Luis Lloréns Torres, Evaristo Ribera Chevremont and José Gordils (famous local poets) were honored in this theatre. The famous Argentinian singer and composer Carlos Gardel also performed on this stage.

Decisive political meetings were held in the Teatro Ideal, such as the 1936 Partido Liberal General Assembly. The party's leader Antonio R. Barceló was defeated in his attempt to maintain the unity of the organization when Luis Muñoz Marín left the party, taking with him a large majority of its members to form a new organization, the Partido Popular Democrático. Under this new party, Luis Muñoz Marín became the island's first Puerto Rican, elected governor and "father" of the Puerto Rican constitution.

Architecturally, the Teatro Ideal is the only example of Broadway-type early XX century eclectic theatres. The two-storey portico successfully achieved the integration of lobby and street, utilizing the grand, monumental vocabulary typical of American theatres of the period. The theatre was designed by Jesús Buil Lluveras, a local performer, music-lover, and member of one of Yauco's most prominent families.

The building has a capacity of six hundred (600) people, in a circular orchestra and surrounding boxes. At the interior, the theatre follows the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abruña, Enrique and Amelia Pérez. La Arquitectura del Pueblo de Yauco, 1973.
Torres Santiago, Jerry. Preliminary NRHP Nomination Form. CECY, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	9
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7	2	7	7	6	0
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1	1	9	5	4	6	5
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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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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded on the north by 19 meters of Calle Comerío; on the south by 20 meters of the Colegio del Santísimo Rosario; on the east by 45 meters of the same "Colegio" and on the west by 23 meters of the property of Rafael Barrera.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

European "Opera House" prototype. Despite the ground floor alterations, the building maintains most of its original character.

The Teatro Ideal was certainly the center of Yauco's political and cultural life of many years. At present, it is being restored by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture to its original magnificence.