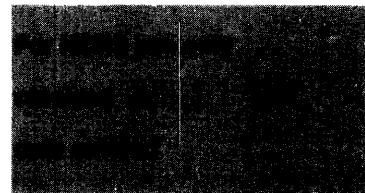


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Ulanga

and/or common Antiguo Tribunal Superior de Arecibo

**2. Location**

street & number #7 Gonzalo Marín Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Arecibo \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Arecibo code 00090

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NP	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property**

name Municipal Government of Arecibo

street & number José de Diego Avenue

city, town Arecibo \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Puerto Rico 00612

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Appraisement Bureau of the Property

street & number Government Center, Building "B"

city, town Arecibo \_\_\_\_\_ state Puerto Rico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventario de Monumentos Históricos has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1965 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

city, town San Juan \_\_\_\_\_ state Puerto Rico

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Originally constructed as a dwelling for Don Francisco Ulanga in 1850, Casa Ulanga, is one of the most charming and majestic buildings of Arecibo.

Its prominent location near the town square, and its three story construction - the first example in the city-made the building notable and important to Arecibo's historical development.

The structure housed the family residence in its first and second stories. The basement level, facing Calle Ariosto Cruz, was the locale for a bank and a trade center.

Casa Ulanga is situated near Victor Rojas Park. It is flanked on the south by Ariosto Cruz street, on the east by an alley and on the north by Gonzalo Marín street. It is attached on its west side by Casa Cortés.

The building is rectangular in its overall plan with 78ft. x 74ft. The vertical divisions are emphasized by the window placement, five on the north and east sides and six on the south.

The basic material employed in the building's construction was brick, placed in a flemish bond. Exterior wall ornamentation was achieved through the application of smooth stucco which was tooled to create a simulated banded rustication. The interior finish was smooth stucco or plaster. The roof shape was and still is basically flat. The original roof was composed of brick laid out in a flat fashion which rested on "Ausubo" (ironwood) beams.

At a later time, the southwest and part of the north portion were removed and replaced with zinc.

In 1967, when the building was partly restored, these two portions were once again altered. This time one of the areas became a flat concrete roof, and the other became metal joist, metal deck and built up roof composite. This is the way the roof exists at present.

When the edifice was built, there existed a balcony on the second floor facing Gonzalo Marín street. This balcony was centered on the middle windows of the facade. For unknown reasons, some time after 1919 this balcony was removed.

The windows have been a very interesting feature of Casa Ulanga. They have been altered continuously throughout the building's history. Six different types of windows have ornamented this residence's facades. The ground floor of the north wall held the first type, which were four casement windows composed of six panels each. These openings were adorned by simple moldings placed around the faces of the jambs and lintels which formed an elliptical arch at the top. The openings were altered sometime after 1919 and it was then that they were transformed into the squared-off top shape they now possess.

The first floor of the east and south facades hold the second window type. These nine openings, five on the east and four on the south were originally six-pane casement windows framed by the simple, square-top molding or architrave. Most of the jambs and lintels remain, but the windows have been replaced and extremely altered.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1850

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

According to the famous Puerto Rican historian, Dr. Cayetano Coll y Toste, the City of Arecibo was founded in 1533.

In the year 1810, a young man by the name of Francisco Ulanga, native of Castro Urdiales, Santander, Spain, arrived in the city of Arecibo restless to become prosperous and well-known. In 1836 he reached the goals and prestige he wanted and was officially designated Town Representative by the Governor Don Miguel de la Torre. (G.D. 7/9/1822-14/1/1837). In partnership with Manuel Ortiz he established the first agricultural bank of the island named "Ulanga and Company".

He was the first person to introduce and finance the steam engine for the sugar mills, which were previously powered by oxen, and supervised the same due to his mechanical knowledge. His great dedication to agriculture did not keep him away from community problems, and as a result, was named Town Benefactor.

In 1850 he saw the need of urban development in Arecibo and built the first three-story building of the city - the Casa Ulanga. Besides its architectural importance, amply discussed in section seven (7) of this nomination, the Casa Ulanga is significant in the historical development of the city of Arecibo.

Casa Ulanga has served many uses since it was first constructed. Its original use was as a trade center and bank.

During the 1855-56 cholera epidemic which struck the city and claimed the life of Mayor Vicente Balseiro, Casa Ulanga served as a hospital and food center.

After the plague, Francisco Ulanga was named official Mayor of Arecibo, and Casa Ulanga was used as City Hall. In 1868 during the Lares Revolution it served as the city jail. In the years from 1900 to 1904, it was utilized as Superior and District Court, Police Station and the Insular Telegraph Office. In 1904 it was purchased by the U.S. Government

In 1948 Casa Ulanga was transferred to the Elected Government of Puerto Rico for use as a District Court.

Since 1963 the building has been unoccupied.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

páginas 24-25

- 1) Annual - Anuario de Arecibo. Fiestas Patronales del Apóstol - San Felipe-mayo 7-16-1965
- 2) Cadilla, Francisco M., Los ochocentistas, Ediciones Rumbos, Barcelona, España 1961 página 119.
- 3) Alcaide, José A., Víctor Rojas (Salvador de doscientas vidas), Ediciones Rumbos, Barcelona. 1963, páginas 142-166

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.13 Approx

Quadrangle name Arecibo

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UMT References Puerto Rico coordinate system

A 

1	8
---	---

6	6	4	2	4	7
---	---	---	---	---	---

1	8	2	8	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property nominated is a rectangular lot 78' by 74' Bounded on the north by Gonzalo Marín St.; south by Ariosto Cruz St., west by the Cortés family house and east by Quintín de Jesús house.

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

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

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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Angel R. Matos-President and Joaquin J. Fuentes (Architecture Student)

organization Junta de Preservación Histórica de Arecibo Inc. date 809 - 878-2269

street & number 105 A. Ruiz Gancía St. Box 1942 telephone 809 - 878-1893

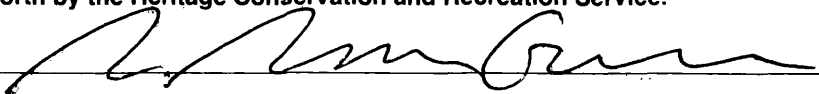
city or town Arecibo state Puerto Rico 00612

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

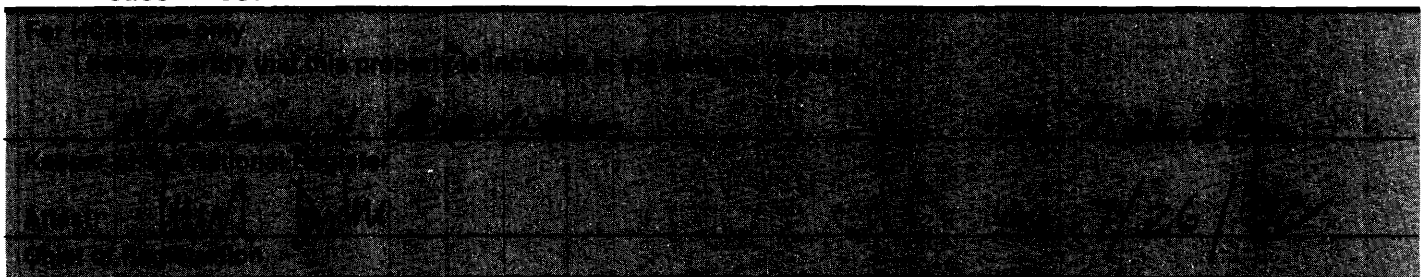
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 06-01-82



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7 Description

Page 2

The second floor of the building was embellished by the third window type which consisted of fourteen casement windows, also six panes each. These were originally, and still are, crowned by a fronton or pediment, and flanked by the same simple side moldings which ornament most of the windows of this building.

The fourth window type is exemplified by seven deep-set windows located on the basement level, two on the east wall and five on the south wall.

The fifth type consists of two multi-light sash windows which are located at the west end of the second floor, 6 x 4 panes.

The last window type consists of a casement window on the west end of the first floor.

The wooden frames and components of these windows have been altered throughout the years, and finally, most of them were removed in the 1967 restoration. There are still a few of these windows as parts in the basement level and they remain in fairly good condition.

There are only two entrances to Casa Ulanga, the principal door at Gonzalo Marin street and the service door. The main entrance is crowned by an architrave cornice, simple, yet elegant.

The service entrance is located at the basement level through Ariosto Cruz Street. It is a portico flanked by a pair of un-adorned capital columns which support the architrave - cornice. This element, the cornice, has a resemblance to that of the main entrance, maybe constructed to provide some type of continuity or uniformity between these two entrances. The basement door is located on the west end of the south facade and has been closed-off with concrete. It is believed that it can be re-opened without causing any major problems to the door or ornamentation.

Of the original interior doors, nothing is left. These were framed by elliptical-arched moldings which still remain in parts of the building. Since this building has had such uses, some of these major elements have been lost through it's 130 years of existence.

The building's exterior is a composition of elegant, decorative elements. One of the main features is a dominant cornice which is framed at its inferior end by dentils.

Other decorative elements include simple frieze, the applied doric pilasters, and the simulated stone rustication. The pedimented windows on the second floor, as well as the simple molded doors and windows of the first floor add to complete balance and quiet grandeur.

The interior of Casa Ulanga has been altered extensively, yet there are some major inner features which have contributed to the significance of the building, and are worthy of reconstruction/restoration as should apply.

During the 1967 restoration, many of the building's major features were altered. Among those elements which suffered the greatest damage, was the original marble stair case which was torn down in 1967 and re-constructed in concrete.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7 Description

Page 3

A cornice still exists along the lower edge of the floor of the second story and other high points of some of the walls, and in most cases is in perfect condition.

The elliptical arched doorway openings which still remain are quite elaborated and in most cases are flanked by small doric engaged columns or pilasters.

Some of the original wood beams remain below the modern second floor concrete slab. These still show their "cyma reversa" ends.

The elements of the building which have undergone the most drastic change have been the floors. The authentic floors were terrazo for the basement, marble tile on part of the first floor and wood on the remaining portions of the building. During the 1967 restoration, all the original floors were removed and replaced by modern concrete slabs. Part of the flooring removed on the second floor was not replaced so there would be a two-story interior space in part of the area.

The only original hardware that remains is part of the ironwork that pertained to be basement windows. This hardware was constructed in 1865 for the prisoners of the Lares Revolution.

There is documentation that states that in 1919, there was a small room constructed at the top of the stairs, basically to provide access to the roof. At a later date it was removed for unknown reasons.