

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 3 1988

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 Palacio del Marqués de las Claras
other names/site number Casino de Arecibo

2. Location

street & number Calle Gonzalo Marín #58 not for publication N/A
city, town Arecibo vicinity N/A
state Puerto Rico code PR county Arecibo code 013 zip code 00612

3. Classification

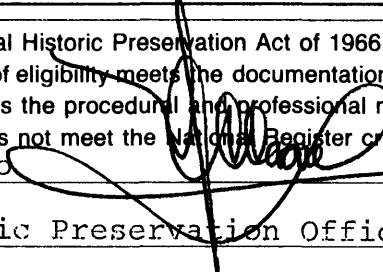
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input 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: _____

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 G. Coronas Castro  • April 11, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Officer
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. Amy Schtaegel 7/12/88
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Social/Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neoclassic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

stucco

roof brick

other wrought/iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Casino de Arecibo, originally the Palacio del Marqués de las Claras, is a two-storey, plastered masonry structure located on the north side of Calle Gonzalo Marín, in a through-lot bounded by Avenida de Diego to the north and the Cathedral of Arecibo to the west. The building represents a local builder's interpretation of an urban Italian Palazzo.

The main facade consists of four equivalent bays, arranged as a pediment two-bay central section, flanked by single-bay sections. At the ground floor a water table approximately four feet high surrounds the building. Banded rusticated quoining, rising one-storey from the water-table, defines the corners of the facade and the two-bay central section. Another rusticated pilaster mass also divides the two central bays. The bays of the ground-storey all consist of segmental-arched openings containing original warehouse-type metal double-doors. Only the third bay has been sealed with concrete. Each bay is crowned by a hoodmold following the curvature of the openings. The entrance-bay (4th) hoodmold is more elaborately articulated, consisting of a segmental curved molding-running between the lower extremes of two vertical brackets which support a narrow entablature.

A projecting string course encircles the building between the first and second levels, encompassing narrow, individual balconies at the first and fourth bays and a wider, continuous balcony along the width of the two-bay central section. Four floral-pattern iron brackets support the central balcony along the three sides.

Windows at the upper level consists of wooden double-doors with two-light transoms above. Molded, eared surrounds articulate the bays, crowned by an entablature with festooned tablet at the frieze. The corner quoining at the upper storey stems from pedestals with oval relief tablets on the dadoes. The central section is here articulated by a series of three reinterpreted ionic pilaster masses instead of the quoining of the first storey. An unornamental full-entablature, cornice and parapet terminate the composition, supported by the quoining and pilasters of the second level. Crowning the central section above the parapet is a frontispiece consisting of an almost planar pediment, decorated at the center by a pair of pedestals with festooning in between, and capped by another diminutive pair of pedestals supporting an additional miniature pediment. The composition is reminiscent of a small-scale bell-gable.

See continuation sheet

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1878-1896

1896

Social History

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Fernando Fernández Umpierre, Marqués
de las Claras

N/A

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

The Palacio del Marqués de las Claras was built in 1888 by the noble Fernández y Umpierre, one of the island's wealthiest XIX century aristocrats. The Palacio was one of the island's main gathering places for the aristocracy of Puerto Rico during the late XIX and early XX centuries.

The Marqués de las Claras, Umpierre, was owner of many sugar plantations influential in uplifting the economy of the northwestern region of Puerto Rico, a true patron of the arts, and a very important figure in the conservative, Spanish political parties of the late Spanish reign in Puerto Rico. In this house the Marqués held gatherings in which conservative politics were discussed and important party policies were formulated concerning high finance and the administration of the military government of Puerto Rico, prior to the Autonomía Charter of 1897. Together with the Marqués de Santurce, the Marqués de las Claras virtually controlled the economy of the island during the late years of the XIX century.

The parlours of this house also bore witness to both artistic and intellectual figures. Afternoon gatherings at the Palacio included some of Europe's best playwrights, actors and operatic figures, mingling with the influential local intellectual and political crowds. Some of Puerto Rico's best poets such as Gonzalo Marín, María Cadilla and Nicolás Machiavelo were regulars at the Palacio, where party recitals were often held by the Marqués.

The Marqués de las Claras was responsible for building the Teatro de la Plaza del Corregimiento. In 1876 the first large-scale theater in the northwestern region of Puerto Rico. While the theatre served as a cultural center for the general population of Arecibo, the Marqués' Palacio functioned as Residence of the Marqués and exclusive meeting place for the nobility and social elite.

After Fernández Umpierre's death in 1896, the Palacio's life as an aristocrat social center continued as a result of the founding of the Casino de Arecibo, an exclusive club for the influential families of the town, which

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

del Campo, Félix Julián, Un paseo por el Arecibo de Ayer,
Arecibo: Almaca, 1985

Cruz Ramírez, Eileen Y., Arecibo: Notas para su historia, 2da. Edición,
San Juan: PR SHPO, 1986

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Casino de Arecibo

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	9
---	---

7	4	1	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

2	0	4	4	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

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

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

B

--	--

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

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

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded by Calle Gonzalo Marín on the south, Calle José de Diego on the north, an alley behind the Catedral de Arecibo to the west and the Oliver property to the east.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property consists of the entire urban lot historically associated with the structure.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Héctor Santiago, State Arch. Hist./Félix J. del Campo, State Historian
 organization Puerto Rico State Hist. Preser. Office date December, 1987
 street & number Calle San José 109 telephone (809) 721-3737
 city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00901

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

RECEIVED

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

JUN 3 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Section number 7 Page 1

Modifications to the exterior have been few, the major of which was the alteration of a long, continuous balcony to the current condition at the main facade. Also, a makeshift sheet-metal balcony roof was recently installed at the level of the transom bars of the second and third bays, supported from the balcony itself by a series of four metal rods, and is a non contributing element to the structure.

The rear facade is similar to the main elevation, incorporating a few differences and alterations:

- at the ground level, the third and fourth bays have been shortened and the doors replaced with glass and aluminum doors access to a subdivided commercial space;
- at the upper level, the balcony railings of the westernmost bay have been altered to solid concrete;
- window surrounds at the upper storey are treated with reinterpreted doric elements, such as triglyphs and fluted shafts;
- no pilasters or rustication divide the second and third bays on this facade, and rustication is limited to the ground floor;
- no pediment is used to cap the central bays, creating a more homogenous appearance of less importance.

The structures' interiors have been altered with wooden divisions and acoustic ceilings in recent years to accommodate various commercial places.

The piano nobile has not been altered significantly and still preserves its magnificent marble and bronze staircase, maple floors, its ornamented tracery on all interior doors and some of the Marqués 19th century mahogany "isabelino" furniture and ornaments. Although the Casino has suffered various alterations in recent years, these have not been permanent structural alterations and can thus be easily reversed, preserving the palace's architectural integrity.

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

RECEIVED

JUN 3 1988

Section number 8 Page 1NATIONAL
REGISTER

included the many literary, artistic and political figures of Arecibo that frequented the Marqués' gatherings. In town of economic and/or cultural importance, the Casino served as a social center for the elite, and as a such, participated, hosted, or organized many festivals and cultural and artistic events for the whole population from the XIX century through the mid XX century.

The Casino de Arecibo, which has miraculously survived to-date along with those of very few towns, was socially significant up to the 1940's, decade in which the status of the club decayed due to the Second World War. The exodus of the elite to the Capital City of San Juan and the changing priorities of modern life. With subsequent construction of a modern country club at the outskirts of Arecibo, the Casino fell into secondary category as a social club, and today hosts occasional wedding receptions or similar private activities.

The Palacio, located behind the town's cathedral, occupies one of the town's most prominent lots, and, along with Ulanga Residence (AR-07-26-82) set the pace that turned Calle Gonzalo Marín into the most elegant residential section of town during the late XIX century. Residence of one of Arecibo's historically most influential people and vestige of the elegant lifestyle of Arecibo's rich and noble of "fin de siècle", the Palacio del Marqués de las Claras is one of Arecibo's grand houses, preserving the character of the historic Plaza area and defining the character of the wealthy Calle Gonzalo Marín.

Unfortunately the current conditions of the Palacio depict faithfully the states of the old club for the intellectual and elite. Nonetheless, the Palacio's age, architecture, prominent location, history and social significance qualify it as a priority for preservation and inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 880003186
Palacio del Marques de las Claras
Property Name

Date Listed: 7/12/88
Arecibo PR
County State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Schaeff
Signature of the Keeper

7/12/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance for this property can be extended through 1940. The Casino clearly played a role is the social history of Arecibo in the 1920s and 1930s.

Discussed and concurred in by Puerto Rico HPO on July 11, 1988.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



PALACIO DEL MARQUES DE LAS CLARAS
CASINO DE ARECIBO
GONZALO MARIN ST. ARECIBO PUERTO RICO
SCALE: 1:2200

