

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAY 3 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 Logia Unión y Amparo #44  
other names/site number Logia Masónica de Caguas

2. Location

street & number Calle Acosta #39  not for publication N/A  
city, town Caguas  vicinity N/A  
state Puerto Rico code P.R. county Caguas code 025 zip code 00625

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>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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 G. Coronas Castro S.H.P.O. April 25, 1988

Signature of certifying official Puerto Rico S.H.P.O. Date

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 Schlegel 6/15/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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Social/Meeting Hall

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Social/Meeting Hall

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

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Classical revival

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foundation concretewalls concreteroof concreteother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Logia Unión y Amparo 44 is a two storey Greek Revival style building which is still in good conditions and has greatly preserved throughout the years its integrity of construction and design. Its original use as a freemason's lodge is also maintained.

Its facade portrays a projecting neoclassical portico in a monumental Doric order. The porch is crowned by a triangular pediment with a port hole window at the tympanum.

Four fluted Doric columns sustain the pediment and articulate the facade's three bays. The portico's inner wall recedes slightly into the building's main body and a Doric entablature runs throughout the main facade to the midsection of the building's side facades. It displays the decorative elements of the Doric order: a cornice, epistyle and a frieze which is articulated at the porch section into triglyphs and metopes. The building stands on a rather low podium.

Though rather small in size, the building's main facade was designed to achieve monumentality in proportions. The building's design basically follows the basilica type plan. Its floor plan is divided into three long halls with a central nave wider than the flanking aisles.

The first floor is mainly for administrative purposes and presents a single room. The walls of the room have been articulated into bays by pilasters that bend to become ribs at the ceiling level. The ribs' disposition echoes the basilica concept: a central wider space and narrower flanking areas.

The second floor, a ceremonial hall, follows much more closely the basilica plan. It maintains a central nave and side aisles. The central nave terminates at the main ceremonial altar space. This altar is a mahogany dias which stands on a graded mahogany platform. The altar area is outlined at the floor level by a mahogany balustrade that surrounds it.

The floor at the ceremonial hall is higher than the normal level. Its two-level galleries surround the central nave on three sides. A compound-Ionic colonnade makes up the galleries which, at the second level,

See continuation sheet

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

 nationally     statewide     locallyApplicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Antonin Nechodoma

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

The Logia Unión y Amparo #44 is an important architectonic landmark in the city of Caguas. It was designed and built in 1923 by Antonin Nechodoma for the town's freemasons in the traditional Greek Revival style associated with the freemasons movement in Puerto Rico. The building's architecture, according to freemasons, expresses the universality of the brotherhood and their precepts: love of reason, liberty and friendship.

Antonin Nechodoma was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1877. He graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Prague in 1899 and emigrated to the United States two years later, settling in Chicago where he came in contact with Sullivan and F.L. Wright. Nechodoma came to Puerto Rico in 1905 bringing with him the latest construction techniques and stylistic tendencies. While many of his buildings were designed in the Prairie Style, he was more eclectic than generally thought of. Some of his works such as this lodge were designed in more traditional styles.

The Masonic Hall stands as a tribute to the man who designed it and as a landmark for its beauty, unique style and scale within the traditional urban core of the city of Caguas.

 See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Minutes of the meeting, Unión y Amparo #44 lodge series 1924.  
Martínez de la Torre, Roberto. "The Man and his work, Nechodoma".  
San Juan Star, May 15, 1985.

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:

U.P.R. School of Architecture  
Private archives

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

19	8	13	6	2	5
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2	10	1	8	7	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet N/A

Verbal Boundary Description

The property occupies an urban lot surrounded by private properties on three if its sides and Calle Acosta to the west.

See enclosed location plan

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title José A. Rodríguez  
organization P.R. SHPO date December 1, 1987  
street & number PO Box 82 La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3737  
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00901

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open to the main hall through shallow, wooden balustrade balconies. The compound piers bend to form a "basket handle" type of arcade. A barrel-vault crowns the central nave and rises above its surrounding galleries. The vault portrays an allegorical ceiling painting made by renowned local artist, Víctor Torres Lizardi.

Under the vault, the floor is articulated into a rectangle that recesses slightly from the overall floor level. At the center of each of the rectangle's sides there is an altar. Of the four altars, the main one, the southern altar, rises at the end of the central nave, opposite the entrance area.

The floor design displays black and white, checkered, native tiles. This type of tile design was used extensively during the early XX century in government and institutional buildings in Puerto Rico.

The interior of the structure has been maintained as built, with only few changes in the projection room and ladies' room. Alterations to the building were made in order to meet modern needs. They do not affect the architectural integrity of this early XX century building.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000661

Date Listed: 6/15/88

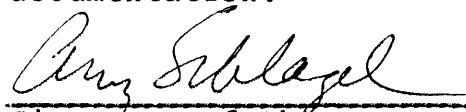
Logia Union y Amparo No. 44  
Property Name

Caguas County  
County

PR  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6/15/88  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

**The property is significant at the local level within the city.**

**Discussed and concurred in by Puerto Rico SHPO on June 15, 1988.**

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

PLANO DE LOCALIZACION  
LOGIA UNION Y AMPARO  
Acosta #39, Caguas P.R.  
Escala Aproximada: 1:3,000

