

274



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin 68 to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Washington Irving Graded School

Other names/site number Escuela Washington Irving

Name of related multiple property listing Early Twentieth Century Schools in Puerto Rico
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number Rodulfo González Street, corner with Martínez de Andino Street

City or town Adjuntas State Puerto Rico County Adjuntas

Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Diana López Sotomayor
Diana López Sotomayor SHPO/Director

April 8, 2015

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain):

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

5-26-2015
Date of Action

Washington Irving Graded School

Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/ school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Neoclassical

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick and masonry; concrete; metal

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The **Washington Irving Graded School** is a 1903, one story, four-classrooms, C-shaped, brick and masonry, Neoclassical, flat-with-parapet-concrete-roofed building. The property, with a footprint of three hundred and ninety five (395) square meters, sits in a one thousand five hundred and twenty-nine (1,529) square meters lot, located one block southeast of the main town square in the municipality of Adjuntas. The oldest school building in Adjuntas and one of the earliest schoolhouses in the island, the resource was the first institutional facility in the municipality built under the new United States' authorities.¹ With some changes in its design, the resource retains every other element of integrity.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The **Washington Irving Graded School** faces Rudolfo González Street, the main street in Adjuntas' urban core. Responding to the population's increase, the **Washington Irving Graded School**, as a facility, has grown through the years. During the 1970s, additional school buildings were erected in a lot east of the 1903 building. The entire educational facility (including the old school building) occupies a lot of 18,215 square meters.² The Department of Education assigned the name *Washington Irving School* to all the buildings in the complex. Mostly facing east and north, the added buildings have their main facades away from the 1903 resource, which faces southwest (**Fig. 1**)

Placed at a higher grading than the street level, the Washington Irving's building is set off about fifty feet from the main road, granting ample ground at the building's front and rear. Used as a regular academic graded school, the **Washington Irving** served also as an agricultural school, during its initial years. In 1903, that meant that a large amount of land usually accompanied the building, providing ample ground for hands-on agricultural classes.

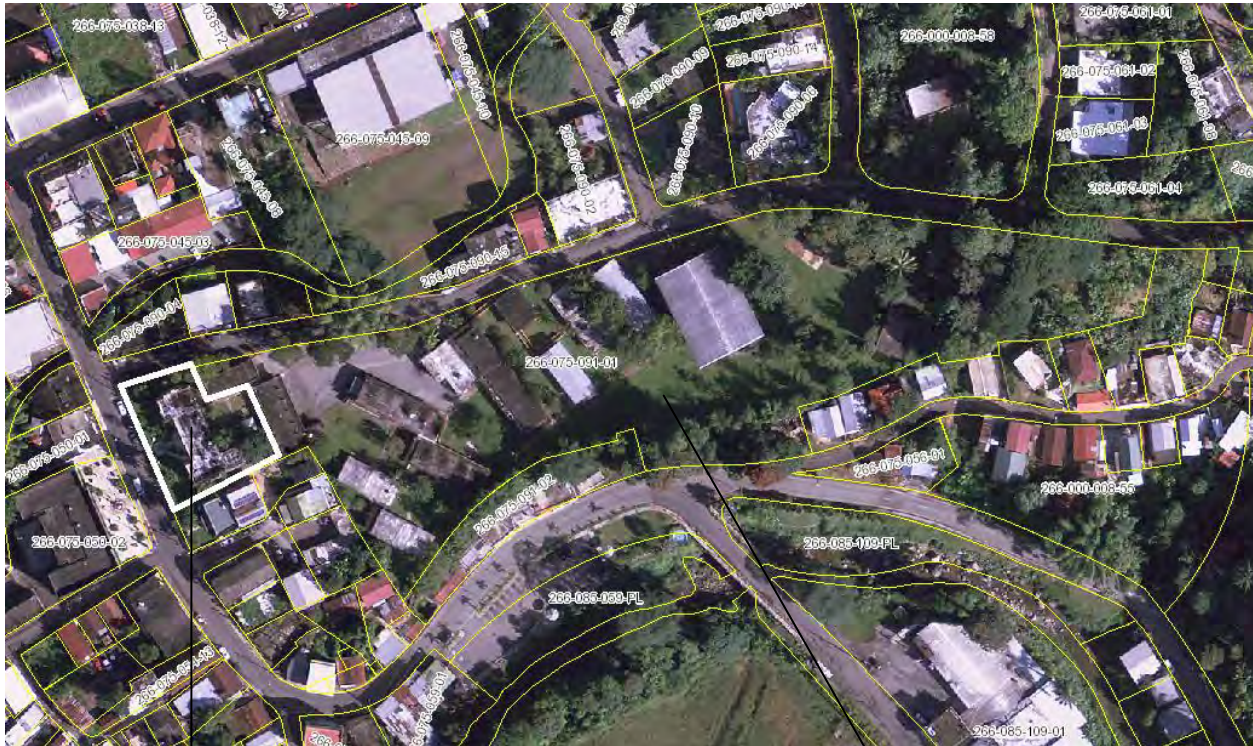
¹ Prior to the Washington Irving Graded School, no other undertaking was conducted by the American authorities in Adjuntas related to public institutional facilities such as schoolhouses, city halls, slaughter houses, hospitals, jails, etc. The Washington Irving is the first civic construction in town, properly documented.

² Centro de Recaudaciones de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM). The entire 18,215 square meters lot has only one registered number assigned to it by the CRIM: 266-075-091-01. For nomination purposes, only a lot of 1,390 square meters, out of the entire 18,215 square meters lot, is submitted as directly associated to the 1903 building.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Figure 1. View of the 18,215 square meters lot. The 1,390 square meters directly associated with the Washington Irving are comprised within the highlighted area.



1903 Washington
Irving Graded School
Building

1970 Irving
School Complex

The lower grading of the main street requires an original set of steps to reach the building's ground level from the sidewalk. The steps guide directly to the building's main entrance, which has its own set of steps as part of the original design. The **Washington Irving Graded School's** 1903 building, designed in the neoclassical style, underlines a symmetrical three-unit arrangement in its elevation. The main central volume (west façade) is set back and flanked by two identical volumes projecting outwards at each end. The entrance is highlighted by a very austere set of pilasters, crowned with a classical pediment. A shaped gable, with multi-curved sides, is found center of the central volume parapet, right above the main entrance. The year 1903, construction date, is placed at the gable's center in high-relief numbering (**Fig. 3**)

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Figure 3. Washington Irving Graded School's main facade, 2014, looking east. (Source: Juan Llanes Santos)



The central volume has two evenly spaced aluminum jalousie windows on each side of the entrance, topped with a set of transparent ornamental blocks.³ These windows correspond to the two classrooms located in this section. Two sets of metal windows are located on each one of the projecting flanking volumes, equally spaced and properly identifying the other two classrooms. The two projecting volumes in the main façade are crowned with a pediment. The same stylistic treatment was given to the northern and southern facades. The flanking rooms have independent entrances with wooden doors from the main façade. In the original design, the north and south facades (lateral facades), were symmetrically identical with three evenly spaced windows on each side and a pediment at the top.

During the early 2000s, reflecting changes in the interior, the most easterly window opening in the southern façade was converted into an entranceway. A wooden deck, removable if necessary, was annexed to this new entrance. The wooden deck has a ramp, making the building accessible to people with disabilities, through this sideway entrance (**Fig. 4**). The changes and additions to the southern façade are hidden from view by well-placed vegetation. The rear section of the building (eastern façade), as originally designed, presents an austere appearance, with its walls plastered, with only the openings of doors and windows breaking the walls continuity. During the early 1950s, a concrete room was attached to the southern wing's rear, to be used as a girls/boys bathroom, replacing the original wooden outhouses (**Fig. 5**).

³ Sometime during the 1960s, the original wooden double sided windows were replaced by the aluminum type throughout the entire building. The openings of the original fenestration had to be expanded to accommodate the new metal windows.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Figure 4. Entrance on east wing, with wooden deck, looking northwest. (Source: Juan Llanes Santos)



Figure 5. Building's rear, with the 1950's concrete bathroom annexed at the southern wing's rear.



Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

A masonry parapet atop the main and lateral facades hides the thin, flat concrete slab roof from the street. The concrete roof, an early 1950s addition, replaced an earlier wooden, corrugated galvanized metal roof. In the earlier version, the roof had a gentle, single-slope towards the building's rear, to properly drain through gravity the heavy rainfall that characterizes Adjuntas' mountainous region. Because of this design, no parapet was built on the rear section of the roof. As the present flat concrete roof lacks the original inclination toward the building's rear, drainage metal pipes were added to dispose of the rainfall.

The building's exterior reflects its interior layout. The main entrance guides to a straight lobby that runs easterly toward another exit at the rear, as originally designed, providing access to the buildings backyard. At each side of the hallway, spaces are symmetrically disposed: one equal size room on each side, with access provided directly from the linear hallway. Currently a civic facility, one of the classrooms is used for music classes and the other one is set as a biology/ physics laboratory (**Fig. 6**). Each one of the classrooms on the main volume has a doorway that allows interior access to the adjacent classrooms in the projecting volumes, as part of the original layout. The two rooms in the lateral wings are the largest rooms. The one on the northern wing is used as a music room. The one located on the southern volume has received the most changes, as it has been converted into an auditorium.

Figure 6. Left, classroom on the north wing. Right, laboratory on central volume. (Source: Juan Llanes)



Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Throughout most of the building the floors are finished in exposed polished concrete, slightly grooved to imitate a reticulated flooring pattern. The auditorium's floor is covered with carpet. The change of the roof from a corrugated metal to concrete required the addition of concrete columns to support the roof. These columns are visible in each classroom. The concrete ceiling, visible in three out of the four classrooms, is about twelve-feet high, the lowest part of the original roof. In the auditorium, the concrete ceiling is out of view, hidden by acoustic panels. Able to sit eighty people, the seating rows in the auditorium rise in elevation toward the room's rear (**Fig. 7**)

Figure. 7. Auditorium (Source: Juan Llanes)



Even with the changes in design, the **Washington Irving Graded School** still retains its ability to convey its historic significance through its location, material, setting, workmanship, feeling and association.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- F** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Social History

Period of Significance

1903-1965

Significant Dates

1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Post, Charles G.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The **Washington Irving Graded School** is statewide significant under Criterion A in Social History as the property is one of the earliest twentieth century schoolhouses built in the island. The building became the first institutional resource built in Adjuntas during the United States' early stages administering Puerto Rico, exemplifying the arrival in the municipality of the new metropolis' educational and social discourse. The **Washington Irving Graded School** represents the social project undertaken by the United States in Puerto Rico to promote the education and the economic well-being, combined with the political project of promoting the American values and the acculturation process of the Puerto Rican society. The period of significance extends from 1903-1965, coinciding with the construction date until the fifty-year cut-off time.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

When Puerto Rico was transferred to the United States in 1898 as consequence of the Spanish Cuban American War, the US authorities found an Island with approximately 500 schools and an illiteracy rate estimated between 79 and 85 percent. The census of 1899, taken about a year after the American occupation, showed that out of 951,836 persons questioned, 143,472 stated they were able to read and write; while only 5,045, claimed to have more than an elementary education. The same source gives the number of children between the ages of 5 and 17 in 1899 as 322,393. Of this number only 25,644 pupils, a little over 8%, were enrolled in the public schools by June 30, 1898.⁴ Not a single public schooling was conducted in a building erected or adapted to the purpose, the majority being carried on in rented buildings or in the teachers' homes, who were allowed a small sum for house rent in addition to their salaries. The teachers' salaries came directly from the municipalities taxing capacity. The new American authorities found teachers whose salaries were years overdue. Many local instructors developed the practice of charging a fee to the pupils attending the school. As such, the public schools became untitled properties of the teachers.

As an educational policy for the newly acquire territory was consider essential from the very beginning, great efforts were put in understanding the local situation: special envoys were sent to the island to research and conformed policies; commissions composed of Puerto Ricans and Americans intellectuals were created; special committees were established. Eventually and quickly, an educational project evolved out of these studies. A juxtaposition of comments and recommendations presented by some of these new policy makers provides an overview of the discourse that dominated the educational trend during, at least, the first thirty years of the twentieth century in the island:

⁴ *Report of the Military Governor of Porto Rico on Civil Affairs*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902, 121.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

*“The great mass of Puerto Ricans is as yet passive and plastic. Their ideals are in our hands to create and mold. If the schools are made Americans and the teachers and the pupils are inspired with the American...the island will become in its sympathies, views and attitudes toward life and toward government essentially American”.*⁵

*“We believe that the public school system which now prevails in the United States should be provided for Porto Rico and that the same system of education and the same character of books now regarded most favorable in this country should be given to them...Put an American schoolhouse in every valley and upon every hilltop in Porto Rico, and in these place the well-fitted and accomplished American school-teachers, and the cloud of ignorance will disappear as the fog flies before the morning sun. The question of good citizenship and education can be more easily settled through the public schools than by any other method.”*⁶

*“Colonization carried forward by the armies of war is vastly more costly than that carried forward by the armies of peace, whose outpost and garrisons are the public schools of the advancing nation”.*⁷

A significant problem found by the new administrators was the absence of proper schoolhouses facilities. Spain never developed a schoolhouse-building-policy in Puerto Rico. When the US assumed charged there were no buildings in the island that have been erected for school purposes and just one building was owned by the public authorities as a schoolhouse, all others were rented. From 1898 until 1901, because of lack of funds, the US authorities in the local Department of Education continued with the same renting-policy (**Fig. 8**).

Figure 8. Examples of rented-schoolhouses buildings. (Source: *Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico*, 1901)



⁵ Henry K. Carroll. *Report on the Island of Porto Rico: Its population, civil government, commerce, industries, productions, roads, traffic and currency with recommendations*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899, 180.

⁶ War Department. Division of Custom and Insular Affairs. *Report of the United States Insular Commission to the Secretary of War upon investigations made into the civil affairs of the island of Porto Rico*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899, 53.

⁷ *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Education*, 1902. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902, 257.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

On January 2, 1901, however, a School Trust Fund was initiated for the purpose of school construction and extension with the transfer of \$200,000 to the local Treasure Department, directly ordered by the United States' president.⁸ A new school law was also passed that very same year providing that every municipality would have a school board composed of three qualified electors. Among the responsibilities of the school boards was taking charge of all school buildings in their districts, erect and repair school property, rent buildings for school purposes and nominate to the Commissioner of Education the name of those teachers whom they wish to employ.

The allocation of monies in 1901 came with the significant creation of the Division of School Extension within the Department of Education. The division had the responsibility of administering such portions of the trust fund allotted to the construction of school buildings. Plans and specifications for buildings were prepared by the division; contract let; and the actual construction work was supervised by the division's inspectors.

From 1901, at least until 1906, the division was headed by architect Charles G. Post, under the title of "Inspector in Charge". During 1901-1902, with the new trust fund, the division's production was mostly oriented toward the construction of rural schools and some graded schools within urban centers. On either case, wood was the dominant construction material (**Fig. 9**)

Figure 9. Examples of 1901 rural schoolhouses. (Source: *Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, 1901*)



⁸ *Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, 1901*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, 355-356.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

However, by the time the **Washington Irving Graded School** was built in 1903, a distinct improvement had been made in the general architectural features of the buildings constructed. These changes were based, as expressed by Post himself (in third person), *“upon the increased experience in school construction attained in this office by the supervising architect as he has struggled to overcome the peculiar difficulties which attend all building in this climate”*.⁹

By 1903, guided by Post, the division adhere to the policy of constructing buildings that had more than the average permanency, and yet without expending large sums for any unnecessary features or for mere matters of adornment. The division constrained to keep school construction under the simplest scale and to the simplest type of building practical for school purposes, permanent and enduring in the service which may be expected. To maximize efforts and reduce costs, Post and its Division of School Extension adopted the innovative practice of using the same building plan for equal sizes schools, regardless of their future sites. Very sober external architectural details and ornaments were used to differentiate one schoolhouse from the other, but the layout was essentially the very same.

In 1901, as soon as the school fund was established, offers were made by the Department of Education to build a graded and a rural school building in each district, all expenses borne by the department. The result was that the districts supervisors recommended the graded schools for their largest and most prosperous towns. By 1902, trying to *“put an American schoolhouse in every valley and upon every hilltop in Porto Rico”* and not just the in the large municipalities and to extend the life expectancy of the funds allocated, a new policy was approved. Beginning that year, the Department of Education could enter into a contract with any municipality through the town council or school board, or both, in which it agreed to furnish the funds to construct a schoolhouse, providing that the municipal authorities furnish the land and agree to repay, in equal monthly payments extended over a period of five years, a sum sufficient to reimburse the department for half the cost of the building.¹⁰ Among the very first municipalities that took advantage of the half-and-half plan were Cabo Rojo (*J.M. Curry Graded School*), Sabana Grande (*James Fennimore Cooper Graded School*), Guánica (*James Garfield Graded School*), Añasco (*Eugenio Maria de Hostos Graded School*) and the town of Adjuntas with its **Washington Irving Graded School**.

⁹ *Third Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico covering the period from July 1, 1902 to June 30, 1903*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, 152-153.

¹⁰ *Third Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico covering the period from July 1, 1902 to June 30, 1903*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, 177-178.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Washington Irving Graded School

Adjuntas is located in the midwest-center region of the island, up in the mountainous area of the Cordillera Central. Its territorial extension of 66.47 square miles adjoin Yauco, Guayanilla and Peñuelas in the south; Utuado in the north; Lares in the west and Ponce to the southeast. Adjuntas is spread over sixteen rural wards and Adjuntas Pueblo, the municipal downtown area and administrative center (**Fig. 10**).

Figure 10. Adjuntas' location and its wards.



With various nicknames like "the Switzerland of Puerto Rico", "the Land of the Lakes" and the "City of the Sleeping Giant", all due to its climate and topography, Adjuntas was officially founded on August 24, 1815.¹¹ During the entire nineteenth century, Adjuntas remained a small town, with most of its population living in the countryside sustained by subsistence agriculture. Eventually, its fertile ground, cool climate, thick forests, its many rivers and streams, and plenty of rainfall, facilitated a strong economy based on coffee production, making Adjuntas one of the most important producers within the Cordillera Central coffee-belt during the last decades of the nineteenth century.

By the 1870s, barrio Pueblo, the urban center, consisted of the always present town square and ten streets. Within the urban core, the public buildings consisted of a church, in a state of ruin; City hall, located in a wooden building; a wooden building for slaughterhouse and a rented wooden house, occupied by the *Guardia Civil*. By that time, Adjuntas had a population of approximately 14,172 inhabitants. Out of a total of 1,990 families in the municipality, 149 families were residing in Pueblo, distributed among 80 wooden houses and 75 *bohios*. Public instruction in the municipality was provided by six schools: two in Pueblo (one for boys and one for girls) and the other four scattered in the countryside. These country schools were exclusively for boys.¹²

¹¹ Wilhelm Hernández, *Adjuntas: Notas para su historia*. Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica. San Juan, 1986, 28.

¹² Manuel Ubeda y Delgado, *Isla de Puerto Rico. Estudio histórico, geográfico y estadístico de la misma*. Establecimiento tip. Del Boletín, 1878, 234-236.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Immediately following the transfer of Puerto Rico to the United States in 1898, a chain of events had a negative impact upon Adjuntas. In 1899, the island was devastated by San Ciriaco, one of the strongest hurricanes in the local recorded history, creating havoc among the coffee production for many years after. The natural disaster combined with the island's newly imposed fiscal and political reality. The United States' commercial forces that came to invest in the island had little interest in the coffee production; as such, it was not protected by the new tariffs, as it was the local sugar production. Equally, the transfer to the US caused the loss of the island's European markets, main buyers of the local coffee production.

The collapse of the coffee production island-wide and its social consequences placed Adjuntas at a very precarious state. The disarray was such that, in 1899, Major General George W. Davis, last military commander before the installation of the civil government in 1900, sent an envoy to destitute Adjuntas' mayor, vice-mayor and every member of the city council.¹³ In 1902, Mayor José Jiménez still described the town's economic situation as "*abnormal, distressing and difficult*".¹⁴ In 1904, the Examiner of Municipal Accounts from the Bureau Municipal Finance Office reported that "*the financial condition of this municipality (Adjuntas) is comparatively the worst in Porto Rico*".¹⁵

With such financial condition, the Department of Education's half-and-half program for schoolhouses was ideal for the troubled municipality. By December 31, 1897, Adjuntas still had only six schools, the very same number it had during the 1870s. Between 1898 and 1902, seven additional schoolhouses were added, totaling thirteen educational facilities throughout the municipality.¹⁶ Still, every schoolhouse was rented. By 1900, the town authorities were incurring in a \$490.00 a year expense, just in the building-renting practice.¹⁷ It was clear to the town authorities that rented dwellings, storehouses and factories did not offered the same facilities as purposely constructed school buildings.

By 1901, Adjuntas' officials reported to the Commissioner of Education that steps were taken to acquire a lot to build a graded school, few blocks south of the town' square. A local researcher indicates that the land was bought from Luis Santaella, a town's resident.¹⁸ In 1902, the Department of Education included Adjuntas in his half-and-half program allocating the amount of \$10,000 for the construction of a four-classroom, brick and stone graded school building.¹⁹ Because of the foreseen transportation costs of the construction's materials to the hardly accessible mountain town, the

¹³ Archivo General de Puerto Rico (AGPR). Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 82, Expediente 4774.

¹⁴ AGPR. Ibid., Caja 83. Letter dated February 8, 1902.

¹⁵ AGPR. Ibid., Caja 83. Letter dated January 28, 1904.

¹⁶ *Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico*, 1902, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902, 42.

¹⁷ AGPR. Fondo; Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 11, Expediente: Estadísticas Junio 1899- Octubre 1900.

¹⁸ Rafael J. Mirabal Linares, *Entre Fotos y Palabras*. Imprenta Llorens, Inc, 67.

¹⁹ AGPR. Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 14, Special Report on School Extension on Porto Rico, from January 2, 1901 to December 3, 1903.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

amount allocated was larger than the \$9,000 already estimated by the Division of School for a building of such size and material. As indicated in the 1903 report, based on the half-and-half plan, Adjuntas was to repay the amount of \$5,000 by fiscal year 1907-1908. The layout and design selected for the Adjuntas graded school was the model already worked by Charles G. Post in the Division of School Extension and pre-approved by the Department of Education, consisting of a one story, four-classrooms, C-shaped, brick and masonry, Neoclassical building. In the list of graded schools completed during the year ending June 30, 1904, the **Washington Irving Graded School** was included. The building, built at a total cost of \$10,130.50 was officially accepted by the Department of Education on November 10, 1903 (**Fig. 11**).²⁰

Figure 11. **Washington Irving Graded School** in 1903. (Source: *Annual Report of the Governor*, 1904)



As the very first institutional building constructed in Adjuntas by the new US authorities, the **Washington Irving Graded School** became immediately a symbol of local success and progress. It would also represent the arrival of the cultural and political project of the new northern metropolis upon the small town in the mountain region. The new school building, with its new flag up high, became the “*the outpost and garrison of the advancing nation*”, from where the new social power could be taught and enforced. An example of the new outlook on things could be

²⁰ *Report of the Commissioner of Education for Porto Rico to the Secretary of Interior, USA, 1904*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904, 226.

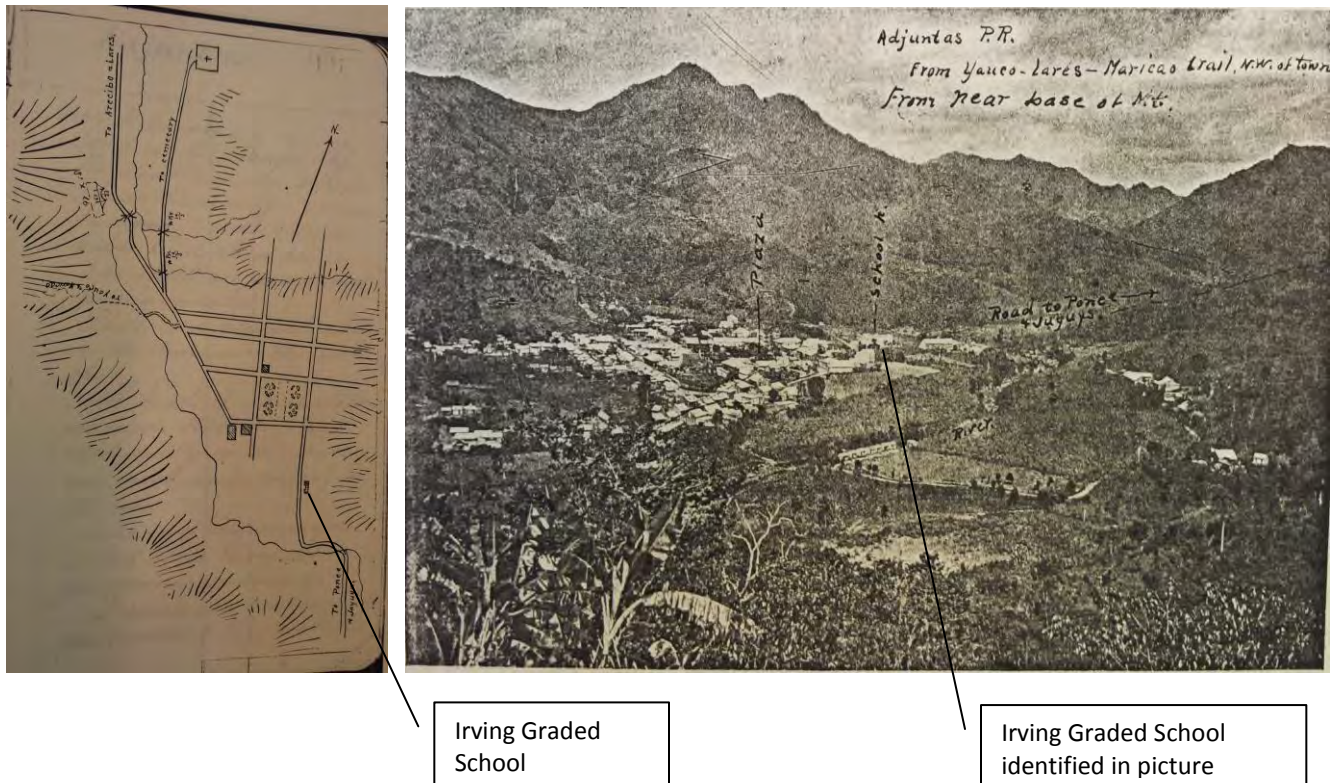
Washington Irving Graded School
 Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
 County and State

observed on the formation of the cadre of teachers for the new schoolhouse. At the turn of the century, the school teacher in the elementary school for boys in Pueblo (the urban ward) was Rosendo Cordero. In an 1899 letter by Victor Clark, Acting Director of Public Instruction, Cordero was described as *“a political agitator and an enemy to Americans and American Institutions”*. It was indicated in the letter that at the time of the landing of the American troops, Cordero made a public appeal in Adjuntas’s town square to resist the American invasion. Clark expressed that the teacher was a *“disturbing element in the community and the sooner its rid of him the better”*. The letter mentioned that Cordero’s wife, teacher at the town’s elementary school for girls, needed also to be watched.²¹ Neither of them would teach at the new schoolhouse.

For many years, the **Washington Irving Graded School** was the only graded school in town. The building itself became a distinguish landmark among the town’s urban landscape. When Lt. William Armstrong prepared Adjuntas’ map as part of his 1909-1912 island wide topographical survey for the United Sates’ Army, the **Washington Irving Graded School** C-shaped building was among the few represented (**Fig. 12**).²² Its design, solid construction and institutional presence were dominant.

Figure 12. Adjuntas’ urban center lay-out and picture, prepared and taken by Armstrong, 1910.



²¹ AGPR. Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia general. Caja 13. Expediente 3941.

²² William Armstrong. *Manuscritos sobre algunos pueblos de Puerto Rico, 1909-1912*. Volumen 2. Colección Puertorriqueña, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

The elegant building became the main site for official activities. On the occasion of President Theodore Roosevelt's historic visit to Puerto Rico in 1906, the **Washington Irving Graded School** was used as the presidential receiving center and the school's English teacher, Jaime L. Drew, served as translator during the presidential speech in town (**Fig. 13**).

Figure 13. The Irving Graded School preparing to received President Roosevelt in 1906.



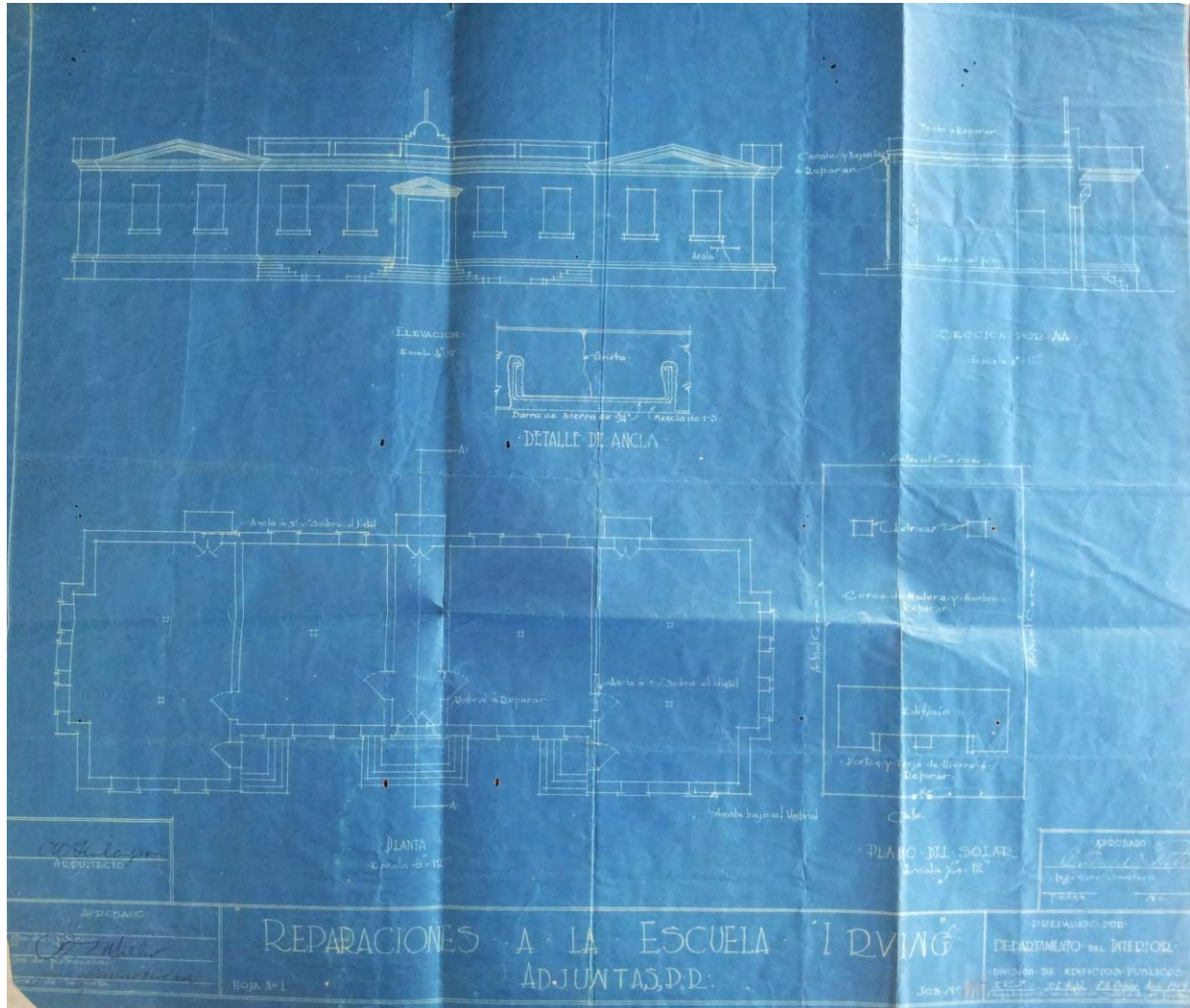
Although the original 1903's plans have not been located, one blueprint for the school was drawn in 1919 by well-known architect Adrian C. Finlayson, assigned at the moment to the Department of the Interior (**Fig. 14**). In 1918, the island was tragically shaken by a very strong earthquake. The Department of Education, along with the House of Representatives, established a fund to help the municipalities in repairing those schoolhouses damaged by the seism. A report was submitted by Adjuntas to the department explaining the damages to the **Washington Irving Graded School's** building. In order to properly identify the repairs to be made, Finlayson prepared the blueprint, showing the building as it was by 1919. The repairs to the schoolhouse were minimum: arches in doorways were rebuilt; cracks were filled with concrete mortar; broken glass on the windows was replaced; the damaged metal gate in the school fence was repaired. More significant, Finlayson's drawing allows perceiving the building's historic layout.²³

²³ AGPR. Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Edificios Escolares. Caja 0983, Legajo 1, Expediente 2. *Reparaciones a la escuela "Irving", Adjuntas, 1919, Agosto.*

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Figure 14. Washington Irving Graded School's 1919 drawing. (Source: AGPR)



Through the years, the building has endured structural changes, physical additions and new trends on its functionality. By the 1940s, a small reinforced concrete rectangular building was erected on the backyard to be used as the school mess hall. Around the very same time, the wooden outhouses were replaced by the still present concrete building, annexed to the original building's southern volume. During the 1950s, the corrugated metal roof was replaced with a thin, concrete slab roof. As in every other school building in the island, the original louvered wooden windows were replaced sometime during the 1960s. During the 1970s, a school complex was built on the very same lot of the **Washington Irving Graded School**. The new complex resources, located east of the original building, face mostly west and north, away from the **Washington Irving Graded School**.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

During the 1990s, “the Irving”, as people call it, cease to be used as a schoolhouse. Since then, retaining ownership of the building, the Department of Education has loaned it to *Casa Pueblo*, a non-profit organization, which uses the building to provide educational and social services to the surrounding community.

After one hundred and twelve years, the **Washington Irving Graded School** is still appreciated in Adjuntas as the most significant schoolhouse in the town’s collective memory, ratifying the veracity in Martin G. Brumbaugh’s 1901 words when he expressed, as first Commissioner of Education, that these schoolhouses would “*become in all respects a source of pride*”.²⁴ As one of the oldest and best kept early twentieth century schools in Puerto Rico, the property retains most of its physical features, its mass, spatial relationship, and proportion (**Fig. 15**). Possessing most aspects of integrity like its location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, the changes in design have not impaired the property’s ability to convey its significance.

Figure 15. A comparison between the 1903 and 2014 pictures shows the remarkable level of integrity.



²⁴ *Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico*, 1901. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, 356.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

The **Washington Irving Graded School** is of statewide significance under Criterion A in Social History, as it is one of the best examples of the social project undertaken by the United States in Puerto Rico to promote the education combined with the political project of promoting the American values and the acculturation process in every part of Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Education, 1902. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902.

Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, 1901. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901.

Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, 1902, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902.

Archivo General de Puerto Rico (AGPR).

Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 82, Expediente 4774.

Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 83. Carta fechada 8 de febrero de 1902.

Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General Caja 83. Carta fechada 28 de enero de 1904.

Fondo; Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 11, Expediente: Estadísticas Junio 1899- Octubre 1900.

Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 14, Special Report on School Extension on Porto Rico, from January 2, 1901 to December 3, 1903.

Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Edificios Escolares. Caja 0983, Legajo 1, Expediente 2. Reparaciones a la escuela "Irving", Adjuntas, 1919, Agosto.

Fondo: Oficina del Gobernador. Serie: Correspondencia General. Caja 13. Expediente 3941.

Armstrong, William. *Manuscritos sobre algunos pueblos de Puerto Rico, 1909-1912.* Volumen 2. Colección Puertorriqueña. Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras.

Carroll, Henry K. *Report on the Island of Porto Rico: Its population, civil government, commerce, industries, productions, roads, traffic and currency with recommendations.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899.

Centro de Recaudaciones de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM). Aerial view of Washington Graded School lot. CRIM # 266-075-091-01.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Hernández, Wilhelm. *Adjuntas: Notas para su historia*. Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica. San Juan, 1986.

National Register of Historic Places. *Early 20th Century Schools in Puerto Rico*. Amended June, 2012.

Mirabal Linares, Rafael J. *Entre Fotos y Palabras*. Imprenta Llorens, Inc.

Report of the Commissioner of Education for Porto Rico to the Secretary of Interior, USA, 1904. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.

Report of the Military Governor of Porto Rico on Civil Affairs. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902.

Third Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico covering the period from July 1, 1902 to June 30, 1903. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903.

Ubeda y Delgado, Manuel. *Isla de Puerto Rico. Estudio histórico, geográfico y estadístico de la misma*. Establecimiento tip. Del Boletín, 1878, 234-236

War Department. Division of Custom and Insular Affairs. *Report of the United States Insular Commission to the Secretary of War upon investigations made into the civil affairs of the island of Porto Rico*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

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 #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than an acre (0.343 acres) USGS Quadrangle _____

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): _____

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | | | | | |
|----|------|------------|---------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| 1. | Zone | <u>19Q</u> | Easting | <u>740977</u> | Northing | <u>2009557</u> |
| 2. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 3. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |
| 4. | Zone | _____ | Easting | _____ | Northing | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot of one thousand three hundred and ninety (1,390) meters, recorded at the Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) under number 266-075-091-01

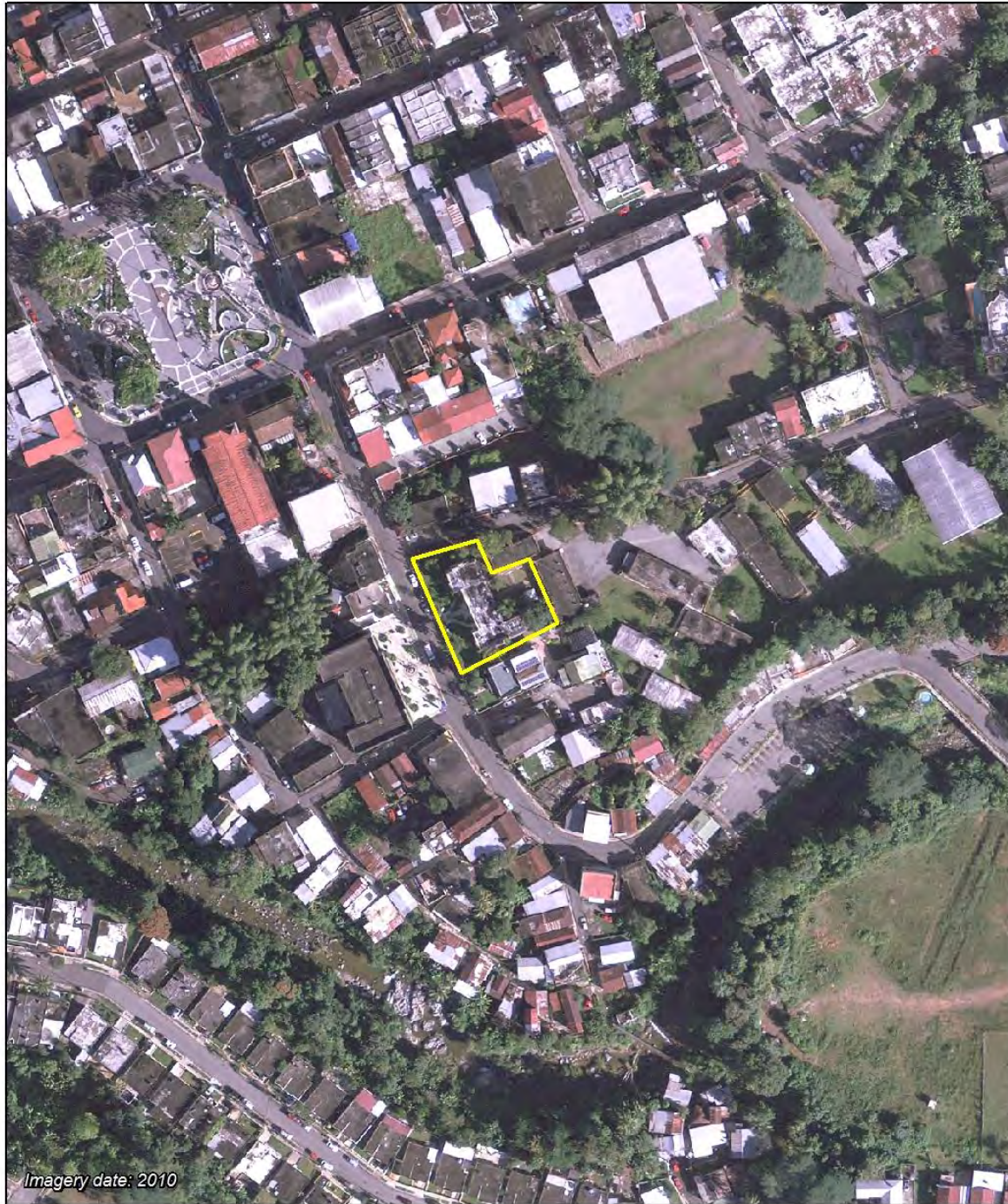
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the lot most directly and historically associated with the school.

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Map 1. Regional Vicinity Map. (Scale 1: 1,800)



Washington Irving Graded School

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

19Q E740977 N2009557 UTM

1:1,800

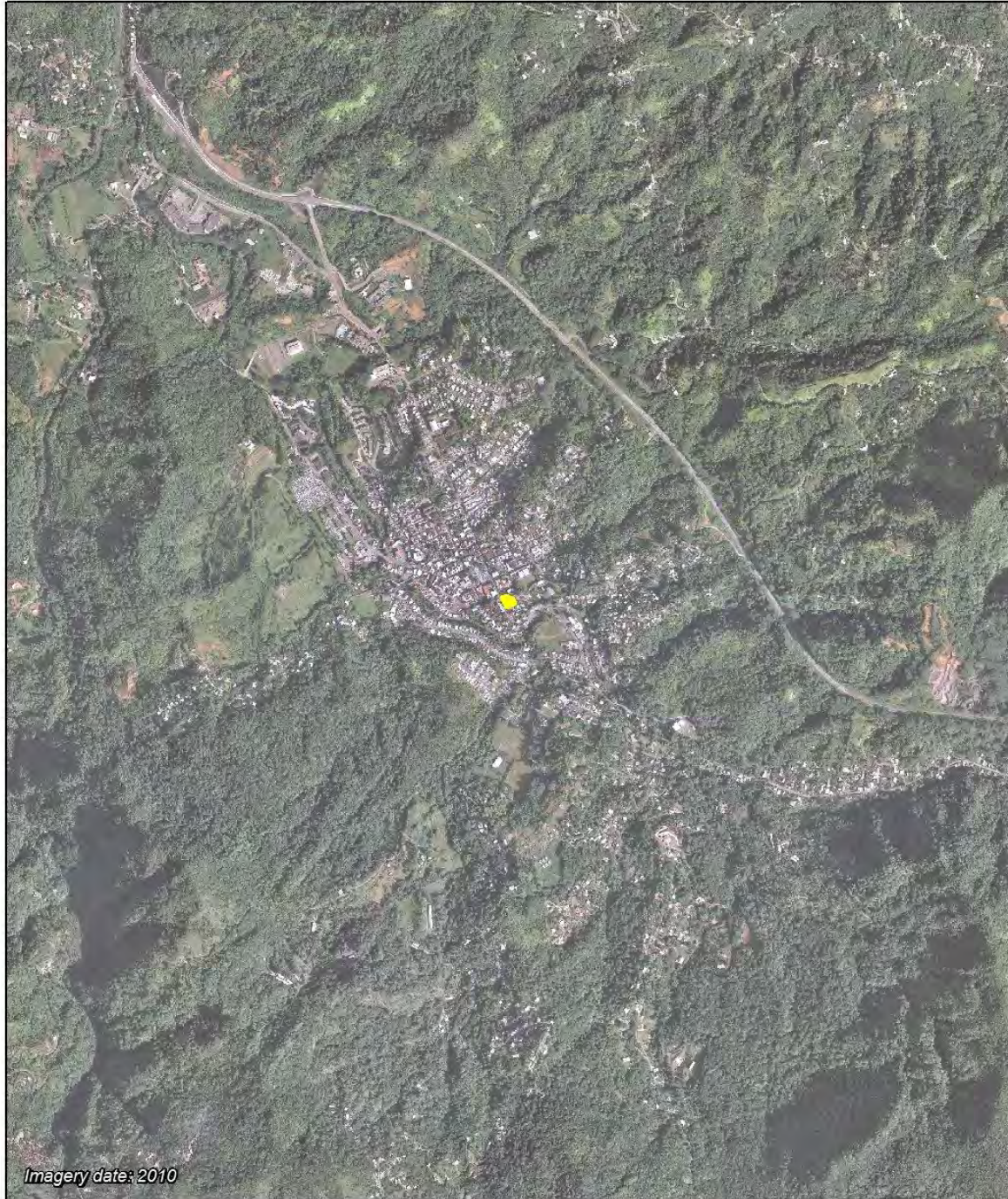


0 50 100
Feet


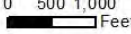
Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

Map 2. Site Map (Scale 1: 20,000)



Washington Irving Graded School
Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
19Q E740977 N2009557 UTM

1:20,000 
0 500 1,000 Feet 

Washington Irving Graded School
Name of Property

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Juan Llanes Santos, Historian
organization State Historic Preservation Office date April 6, 2015
street & number PO Box 9023935 telephone 787-721-3737
city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00902-3935
email jllanes@prshpo.gobierno.pr

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Washington Irving Graded School
City or Vicinity Adjuntas County Adjuntas State Puerto Rico
Photographer Juan Llanes Santos Date Photographed September 6, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. Main façade; looking east. Photo 0001.
2. Main façade, looking southwest. Photo 0002
3. Main façade; looking north. Photo 0003
4. Detail of gable at main façade with school name and construction date; looking north. Photo 0004
5. Partial view of auditorium on building's south wing; looking southwest. Photo 0005
6. Partial view of classroom on building's north wing; looking northeast. Photo 0006

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



1903
ESCUELA
WASHINGTON GRAHAM







ESPERANZA

1903

ESCUELA

WASHINGTON IRVING





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Washington Irving Graded School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Early 20th Century Schools in Puerto Rico MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PUERTO RICO, Adjuntas

DATE RECEIVED: 4/10/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/21/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/26/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000274

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Meets Reg. Requirements of MPS

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept A*

REVIEWER *J. Suber* DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N *see attached SLR Y/N*

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE
PUERTO RICO

Oficina Estatal de Conservación Histórica
State Historic Preservation Office



April 7, 2015

Ms. Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

SUBMISSION – (WASHINGTON IRVING GRADED SCHOOL)

Dear Ms. Toothman:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Washington Irving Graded School** to the National Register of Historic Places. The property is located in the Municipality of Adjuntas, Puerto Rico.

Should you have any questions on the nomination, please contact Berenice Sueiro, Historic Preservation Manager, at 787-721-3737, ext. 2002 or bsueiro@prshpo.gobierno.pr

Sincerely,

Diana López Sotomayor, Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLS/NPT/BRS/JLS/jvr

Enclosures