

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

For NPS use only

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

received
date entered **NOV 21 1986**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Villa Julita

and/or common Villa Julita

2. Location

street & number 401 San José Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Aibonito N/A vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Aibonito code 0060

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Carlos Juan Rivera Rivera

street & number 401 East San José Avenue

city, town Aibonito N/A vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Barranquitas, Registry of Deeds

street & number Muñoz Rivera Ave.

city, town Barranquitas state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This wood and concrete single-story house follows the creole style typical of local plantation and summer residences. The ample balcony, raised floor level, pitched roofs and elegant central stair are all characteristic of the latter. In this example, however, elements of distinctive neoclassic taste were used, as can be seen in the balcony railing and the simplified doric columns. The round porch projecting from one of the main facade's corners shows the influence of Victorian architecture as well as the curved brackets, wood lattices, roof metal shingles and the hexagonal nook in the living room.

The use of concrete is limited to the balcony railing, columns and base walls that support the wood post and beam structure. Wood siding is used for the walls, floors and ceilings (some floors have been covered with vinyl and concrete tiles). The fine exterior windows and doors combine wood louvers and glass panes providing both ventilation and light. Paneled doors were used for the interiors with the traditional transoms made of wood sticks. Good craftsmanship is evident in the detailing of mouldings, bases, etc. the kitchen is particularly interesting, with its masonry oven and tile flooring. Pitched and sloped roofs are used throughout the house.

The residence is in good condition. Modern alterations are limited to the enclosure of the back porch, and minor changes to the interior finishes (vinyl tiles, light fixtures, etc.). These elements are non contributing but do not affect the structure's integrity.

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 type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect** Alfredo Weichers, Arch. Salvador Landó, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Villa Julita, a summer residence for the wealthy Vendrell-Suarez family, was designed and built by one of Puerto Rico's most renowned Architects, Alfredo Weichers using a variation of his typical Beaux Arts Style. Weichers, a native of Ponce studied architecture in the Beaux Arts Academy in Paris where he obtained a gold medal for outstanding achievements in 1901. He graduated in 1905 and worked for the famous Barcelonian (Barcelona, Spain) architect Enric Sangier until 1911 when he returned to his native city. Some of his best works, most of them in the city of Ponce, are: The Logia Aurora (Freemasons Lodge), the Bank of Ponce, The Serrallés City Mansion, and his own residence (Villaronga House), included in the NRHP in 08-24-84.

For this Summer Villa Weicher combined the traditional Puerto Rican "Criollo style with the more sophisticated Beaux Arts elements creating a unique structure for its time and a model for similar structures.

In 1917 the property was purchased by the wealthy Ponce family, the Wirshing Serrallés, who sold it to the Ulrich Foundation in 1972. This foundation used the property since 1950, making it a residence for conscientious objectors, to the Korean and Viet Nam Wars. This Menonite foundation used the Villa's land for agricultural education purposes in the Aibonito area. They introduced many modern methods for vegetable and fruit mass production, and were one of the first to bring cattle artificial insemination techniques to the island.

The property was bought in 1974 by its present owner who uses a part of the structure as a Integral Development Center for preschool children, thus introducing modern educational concepts to this rural community.

Villa Julita still preserves its elegant style and stands as a reminder of Aibonito's golden years where many of the Wealthy families of Puerto Rico had their Summer Houses. Today most of these vacation mansions have disappeared, only a few, like Villa Julita, still struggle to survive.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Mr. Carlos Juan Rivera in November 1985

Register of Deeds, Barranquitas, Vol. 128 P. 34 #108

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .92 acres=3938.25m²

Quadrangle name Barranquitas

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	9	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	8	1	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See location plan

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 Félix J. del Campo, State Historian and Joaquín Acevedo, State Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date January, 1986

street & number La Fortaleza

telephone 721-3737/2676 (809)

city or town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register And Schlager

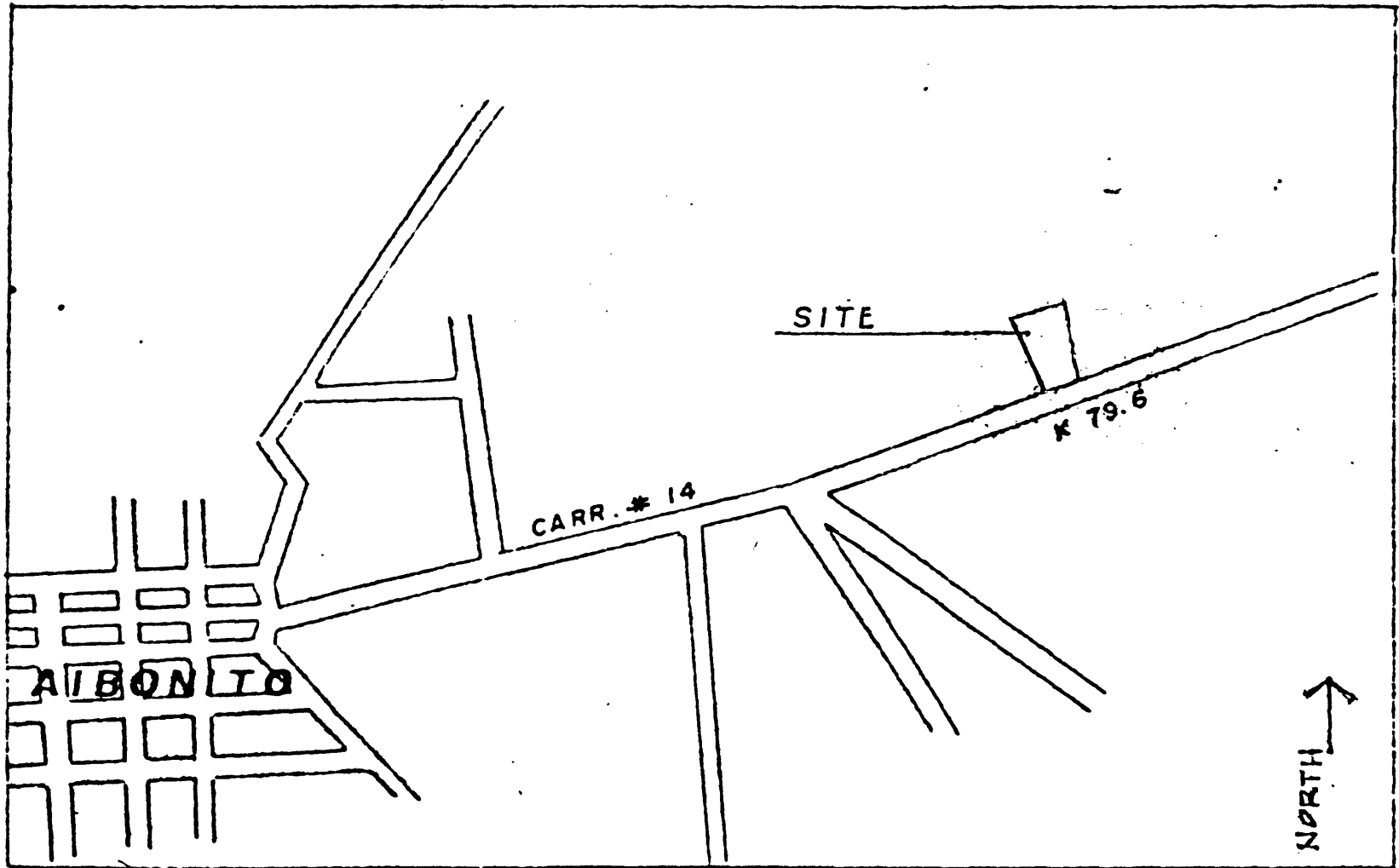
date 12/19/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

VILLA JULITA



NOT TO SCALE