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APR 11 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Casa del Rey  
other names/site number Cuartel de la Guardia de Milicias, Parador, Cárcel Municipal, Casa Alonso, Casa Goenága

2. Location

street & number Calle Méndez Vigo #292  not for publication n/a  
city, town Dorado  vicinity n/a  
state Puerto Rico code PR county Dorado code 051 zip code 00646

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
				<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 • February 9, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office  
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. Oliver Schlager 5/19/89  
 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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Military FacilityGovernment/Government OfficeDomestic/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Museum

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Spanish Military Neoclassic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls rubblestuccoroof brickother cast-ironzinc

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

This structure was built c. 1823 as a parador (institutional housing for Spanish government personnel) and as military headquarters to be used for the vigilance of the El Dorado Area, at the time a suburb of the nearby town of Toa Baja.

Curiously, the front facade wall is the only one made of brick and brick rubble covered with stucco, while the rest of the walls are made of wood. The original structure probably had a rectangular floor plan and a simple cubic-like exterior, inkeeping with its military use. The rectangular portion directly behind the brick wall still concerves the original azotea (flat roof) made up of woodens beams, alfajías (sleepers) and flat bricks.

In 1848, the structure was bought by Don Jacinto López, who added two wooden wings to the original rectangle, thus creating the existing U-shaped floor plan around an interior patio (which still sports a well). The bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and other services were located in these wings; while the living room and, probably the master bedroom were located in the original rectangular part of the building. The left wing is composed of five rooms, including the kitchen and bathroom; the right wing has four rooms.

**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)

Architecture  
Military  
Literature

Period of Significance

ca. 1823-1848  
1848-ca.1900  
1871

Significant Dates

ca. 1823  
1848  
1871

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Alonso y Pacheco, Manuel

Architect/Builder

n/a

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

Architecturally-speaking, the significance of the property rests, primarily, on the fact that it is the only local adaptation of a military building (institutional housing and defensive from 1839-1848) into a domestic structure from 1848 onward. Because of the adaptation that the building underwent throughout the years, it is a fascinating compendium of different materials, modes of construction, architectural techniques, decorative elements and morphologies. The building is a physical summary of the architectural, functional and aesthetic changes that took place in the 19th and 20th centuries Puerto Rican dwelling.

This building is the oldest building in the town of Dorado, for it was built before the town even existed. On July 16, 1825, for example the Toa Baja (neighboring town from which Dorado seceded) official archives were moved here, after destructive Hurricane St. Anna hit the area, causing floods in Toa Baja. For some time, then, it was truly the Casa del Rey of Toa Baja (mayoralty), a physical representation of Spanish Government. Because of this, it is a key and intrinsic structure, deeply related to the community town planning and to the town's urban development. In a sense, its change in use, is a direct reflection of the town's growth and formalization. Being the first formal building, and having served as a jail and military headquarters (among others), it has been directly (as a seat of government) and indirectly (as an architectural symbol),

See continuation sheet



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historic patterns not only of the town of Dorado but the neighboring town of Toa Baja.

The building was constructed ca. 1823 as the only parador (institutional military housing) and military site of el Dorado area. In a sense, it was an outpost which directly served the neighboring town of Toa Baja. Architecturally it represents a versatile type that was used indiscriminately for many official uses throughout the island, whether as military headquarters or government facility. Symbolically, it stands as the only symbol of Spanish rule and government in Dorado, in terms of its architectural features and materials.

In 1848 the "Casa del Rey" was turned into a private dwelling with the addition of residential spaces (see description).

Around 1871 it was the home of Don Manuel Alonso y Pacheco, the first Puerto Rican Romantic writer. It was in this house that Alonso wrote what he termed his "estampas costumbristas", the second volume of his well known book El Jíbaro. Alonso's "Estampas Costumbristas" (popular life sketches) tried to capture the genre modes characteristic to 19th century Puerto Rico. El Jíbaro was Puerto Rico's first literary statement of national identity. It depicts the life and folklore of the native peasants, exactly, their picaresque and shrewd character together with their hardships as one of the island's poorest social strata. He idealizes this stoicism turning the folk figure into a "symbol" of national pride.

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Other important personages who have resided in this house but who have not necessarily contributed to the significance of the property are the first mayor of Dorado, Don Jacinto López Martínez and Don Francisco Goenága y Olza, who lived in the house during the mid 1800's. Goenága was not only Director of the only insane asylum on the Island but also collaborated with Dr. Agustín Stahl in one of the very first ovary operations to be performed in the Américas.

The latest significant alterations to the house occurred ca. 1900. The house was recently restored and today houses the Municipality's historical museum.

A building so rich in symbolic and historic connotations never ceases to become sort of icon in such a small town. The fact that it is still known as the Casa del Rey (the King's House), reflects the romantic and historic symbol that the structure has become to the town of Dorado.

