

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

For NPS use only

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

received

JUN 20 1984

date entered

JUL 30 1984

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

1. Name

historic "Panteón Otero-Martínez" (Otero-Martínez Mausoleum)

and/or common "Panteón Otero-Martínez" (Otero-Martínez Mausoleum)

2. Location

street & number Old Vega Baja Cemetery, State Road #670 not for publication

city, town Vega Baja vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Arecibo code 1020

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Francisca Otero de Becerra

street & number #509 Sergio C. Bustamante Street

city, town Hato Rey vicinity of San Juan state Puerto Rico 00918

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Vega Baja Government Center

city, town Vega Baja state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | <input type="checkbox"/> date |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The basic plan of the "Panteón Otero-Martínez" (Otero-Martínez Mausoleum) is a rectangular shaped structure measuring ten feet and three inches (10'-3") in width by eleven feet and ten inches (11'-10") in length, located on an enclosed fenced lot, nineteen feet (19'-0") wide by seventeen feet and eight inches (17'-8") in length, at the Old Vega Baja Cemetery (See Location Plan). The structure of the mausoleum is thick brick walls supporting its own weight, plastered with a smooth stucco finish.

The structure is composed of three basic elements; namely: a base or podium; the main body and a dome. The pseudo-rusticated base creates a podium (10'-3" in width by 11'-10" in length) on which the main body or element rests. This podium was used for interments. The main body or element is square in plan (7'-0" by 7'-0") and was also used for interments. Each corner has a tuscan fluted pilaster which creates a visual end to each side and also creates a vertical visual support for the entablature which crowns the central portion. Crisp classical architectural details contrast delicately with the overall severity and weight of the structure. The entablature follows the outline of the central main body. The whole entablature is crowned by a dome. Transitions to this curved element is made out by means of small finials at each corner. The half dome is crowned by an element which supports a cross. The elongated character of this element gives the dome a curious "arabic" character.

The "Panteón Otero-Martínez" is enclosed by an ornamental cast iron fence brought specially from England for the mausoleum. The structure is painted a light hue green with the crisp details in white. It has been excellently maintained throughout the years by the descendants of the Otero Martínez family and stands out as an excellent example of funerary Puerto Rican architecture.

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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) historic |

Specific dates 1886 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Panteón Otero-Martínez" was donated by Don Francisco Otero Martínez; born in 1844 in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, for the use of all his family descendants. He died in 1908 and was buried here. Important citizens of Vega Baja are buried in this mausoleum. Don Tulio Otero-Martínez, mayor of Vega Baja when the American troops entered Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War and attorney Don Eladio Rodríguez-Otero, grandfather of the president of the "Ateneo Puertorriqueño" (noted cultural institution in Puerto Rico) during its centenary are buried here.

Architecturally speaking, the "Panteón Otero-Martínez" presents a non-typical solution to the mausoleum design in Puerto Rico. Typical box-like solutions has been abandoned in Puerto Rico for a prismatic one vertically oriented. The excellent condition of the building, the pristine character of the architectural features and its unique architectural treatment (its rusticated podium; its classical detailed entablature; its fluted pilasters; its moorish dome; among others) makes it a building of great importance in terms of funerary Puerto Rican architecture. Of great interest also are the sculptured reliefs that marks the different interments. They are of great beauty and are an excellent example of funerary art.

9. Major Bibliographical References

P. A.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 335.73 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Manatí

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

Latitude 18°-26'-49" North; Longitude 66°-23'-34" West

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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by a lot owned by the Casellas-Pérez family; to the South by a lot owned by the Lomba Sobrino family; to the East by the Vega Baja Cemetery main walkway and to the West by a lot owned by the Martínez-Maisonet family. See Location Plan.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales-Parés: State Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date June 6, 1984

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone (809)-721-3012; 721-4389

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

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 *Armando Morales-Parés*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 6, 1984

For NPS use only

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

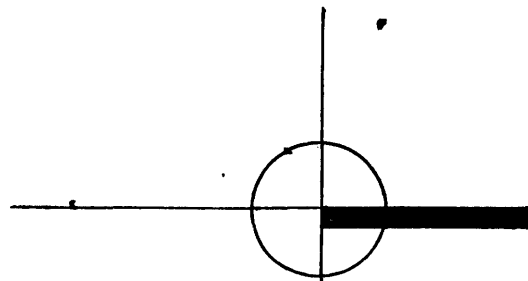
W. M. Davis
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/30/84

Attest:

date

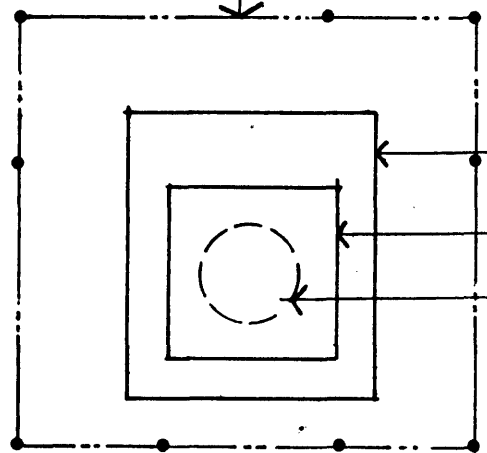
Chief of Registration



Martínez-Maisonet Family

NOMINATED PROPERTY
PANTEON OTERO-MARTINEZ
335.72 SQ. FT.

Lomba-Sobrino Family



Casellas-Pérez Family

Base or podium

Main body

Moorish dome

Old Vega Baja Cemetery Entrance

Main Cemetery Walkway

Location Plan

Graphic Scale

