

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 20 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: **Casa Augusto Delerme (Augusto Delerme House)**

other names/site number: **Casa de Pablo Delerme, Calle Benítez Guzmán #7**

2. Location

street & number: **7 Benítez Guzmán Street**  
city or town: **Isabel Segunda** vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state: **Puerto Rico** code: **PR** county: **Vieques** code: **147**  
zip code: **00765**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  X  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  X  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  X  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arleen Pabón PhD  
Signature of certifying official

December 13, 1993  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau



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6. Function or Use  
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Historic Functions  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions  
Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification - other : Four-room Creole House

Materials  
foundation: Stone  
roof: Metal  
walls: Wood, Shingle  
other:

Narrative Description  
See accompanying continuation sheets.

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: **Architecture**

Period of Significance: **circa 1850**

Significant Dates: **circa 1850**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Unknown**

Narrative Statement of Significance

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **Registro de la Propiedad, Fajardo**

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property: **Less than one acre**

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	241600	2008620	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description  
Boundary Justification  
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11. Form Prepared By  
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name/title: **Héctor Santiago Cazull / Architectural Conservator, and ; Robert Rabin / Historian, Centro Cultural Yaureibo. Revised by PRSHPO.**

organization: **Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña** date: **September 30, 1992**

street & number: **Ulises Martínez St.** telephone: **(809) 850-1885**

city or town: **Humacao** state: **PR** zip code: **00791**

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Property Owner  
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name: **Mr. Pablo Delerme**

street & number: **Calle Benítez Guzmán #7** telephone:

city or town: **Isabel Segunda, Vieques** state: **PR** zip code: **00765**

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

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Casa de Augusto Delerme  
Vieques, Puerto Rico

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Augusto Neré Delerme House is a detached, one-storey, wood-frame, hipped-roofed, single-dwelling house with a verandah running along its entire front. The house is typical of many of the medium-sized vernacular houses, characteristic of the region, built by the colony of Guadaloupan settlers in Vieques during the mid-nineteenth century. The house is located on the main street that connects the town of Isabel Segunda with the seaport, on a small lot with a rear yard and narrow side corridors.

The verandah is covered by a roof supported by four slender posts; a simple wooden cross-pattern rail encloses the area that forms the balcony. [The iron grill is a later addition.] The core of the house is built upon a rubble and brick-masonry foundation, and the concrete-floored balcony rests at a lower level. The main façade of the house is sheathed with plain, flat, sheet-metal; the side and rear façades with patches of clapboard and flat, plain sheet-metal. The front portion of the west façade displays a section of the original wooden shingles.

The interior floor plan is typical of the four-room houses in Vieques built by French West-Indies settlers. It consists of four adjacent, interconnected rooms, forming a near square. The southwest room, located at the front of the house, is distinguished from the other rooms, by its simple and well-detailed woodwork. Its ceiling has wide, butt-jointed wooden boards. None of the other rooms has interior wall-sheathing, leaving visible the structural members and the butt-jointed, exterior wall-boards; also, none of these rooms has a ceiling, allowing visibility of the mortise and tenon ausubo [bullet-wood] roof structure, and the corrugated, sheet-metal roofing. All of the floors retain the original, butt-jointed, wooden boards, which have been covered with 12" X 12" vinyl tiles.

A physical and typological analysis of the Augusto Delerme House shows that the house maintains, despite the loss of certain elements and details, its original spatial characteristics and interior finishings. Therefore, it maintains the overall character associated with its typology. Physical deterioration is minor, considering the age of the property, its tropical

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context and the passage of Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Augusto Delerme House was built c. 1850 for one of the most prominent French-born landowners of Vieques; it was built as a speculative rental property on a lot which, as most others in the town of Isabel Segunda, pertained to the Municipality of Vieques. The house is eligible under Criterion C for architecture because it is an excellent example of the Guadaloupan influence in Puerto Rico, as it displays many of the characteristics which are common among the houses associated with the French-West-Indies immigrant population of Vieques, yet are rarely, if at all, present in the criollo houses of Puerto Rico. Among the significant elements of the Augusto Delerme house are: the cross-pattern balcony-rail with a central entrance onto the porch; the construction of the house at ground-level; the two-bay, door and window composition of the main façade; and, most importantly, the simple, unaltered, near-square, four-room plan. All of these significant elements remain intact at the Augusto Delerme House and, therefore, compare favorably among others of its period and typology. It is clearly the best example of the four-room-plan house type in Vieques, and one of the oldest residential structures on the Island-Municipality related to the French-immigrant population.

In addition to the characteristics which make it an excellent example of its type, the Augusto Delerme House retains qualities which add to its historic, cultural and architectural values: as one of the earliest houses of Vieques, it is constructed of local hardwoods, and is the only existing house on Vieques which preserves part of its original shingle [tejemaní] siding, an element typical of Puerto Rican and other West Indian houses up to the mid-nineteenth century. Its very high-pitched, nearly pyramidal, hipped roof is one of the highest remaining roofs in Vieques, and represents a genuinely West-Indian construction element that responds to its climatic Caribbean context. Historic descriptions of Vieques indicate that this small wooden-shingle structure was the most common type of house built in the Island-colony during the nineteenth century.

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Vieques, Puerto Rico

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In brief, the Augusto Delerme House is the only remaining, intact, small creole house associated with the architectural type associated with the French immigrant population that settled in Vieques shortly after its foundation as an Island-colony. As such, the house represents the only, clear, physical evidence of the earliest architecture of Vieques, an architecture that truly manifests the cultural, economical and geographical roots of the island-colony.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berthelot, Jack and Martin Gaumé. Kaz Antiyé Ja Rété (Caribbean Popular Dwelling) Guadeloupe: Editions Perspectives Créoles, 1892.

Buisenet, David. Historic Architecture of the Caribbean, London: Heinemann, 1980.

Gosner, Pamela W. Caribbean Georgian: The Great and Small Houses of the West Indies. First Edition. Washington, D.C.: Three Continents Press, 1982.

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "Sugar Haciendas in the Development of Vieques, 1824 - 1900", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941".

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Foundation and Settlement of Vieques, 1811-1860", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941".

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Immigrations to Vieques, 1823-1898", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de



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Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941".

Slesin, Suzanne, Stafford Cliff, Jack Berthelot, Martine Gaumé, Daniel Rozenstroch and Gilles de Chabaneix. Caribbean Style. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1985.

Registro de la Propiedad de Vieques. Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary includes all of the property corresponding to lot number fourteen (14) of urban block number eleven (11) of the town of Isabel Segunda, Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries comprehend the urban lot historically and currently associated with the property.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

SITE PLAN

Casa Augusto Delerme  
Isabel Segunda  
Vieques, P.R.



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Scale: 1:1000

