

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

For NPS use only

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

received 6/30/84

date entered AUG 24 1984

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

1. Name

historic Casa Natal Dr. José Celso Barbosa

and or common "Casa Barbosa"

2. Location

street & number 13 Barbosa Street not for publication

city, town Bayamón vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county San Juan code 0410

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

street & number 98 Norzagaray Street

city, town San Juan vicinity of state Puerto Rico, 00905

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Bayamón City Hall

city, town Bayamón state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inv. de Monumentos Históricos has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico, 00905

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The basic plan of the "Casa Natal Dr. José Celso Barbosa" (birthplace of Dr. Barbosa) is a rectangular shaped structure measuring 32.41 feet in width by 46.58 feet in length, with a continuous four column wooden balustrade covered portico at its front facade (Barbosa Street). It is a simple one-story wooden structure raised above a crawl space about three feet above the street level. The crawl space is totally enclosed by masonry panels smoothly cement plastered. Structurally, it is a simple wooden frame building with an eaved roof draining toward the front (Barbosa Street) and rear of the house and covered with galvanized zinc sheets. The covered portico facade (Barbosa Street) has three wooden movable louvered double doors with lintels at its top. The rest of the wooden doors and windows are of the shutter type. Exterior cladding is horizontal siding; interior partitions are wooden framed with 1" by 4" tongue and groove siding. Interior floors are 1" by 6" tongue and groove wooden slats and the ceiling material used throughout the house is 1" by 2" wooden slats with moldings at its borders.

The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture restored the house in 1969 to its original form, and in 1980, replaced parts of the wooden flooring; siding and balustrade covered portico because of its badly deteriorated condition. Only a few siding boards (6) were replaced at the South facade. The rest were restored and re-used. The portico was taken down and restored. Some of the balusters (10) were replaced using the existing ones as model. The ports were restored and re-used. Only the worst flooring boards (1"x6") were replaced by new ones on both the interior and balcony floors. The rest was restored and re-used. This accounted for less than 5% of the original flooring material. Totally, the amount of new material used in the 1980' restorations accounted for less than 3 % of the original material. Afterwards, the house was completely fumigated to preserve the new and original materials. The house is furnished in some areas with the original furniture donated by one of Dr. Barbosa's daughters, Doña Pilar Barbosa. The studio of Dr. Barbosa is kept as it was before, including medical tools, books, documents and objects used by him. At the far end of the house, a library is kept linked to the life and work of Dr. Barbosa. The structure is adequately maintained and it is in good condition. At this moment most of the furniture is being restored by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture.

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1850

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Casa Natal Dr. José Celso Barbosa" is representative of one of the most typical styles of traditional residential architecture, so popular in the interior of Puerto Rico that is characterized by its simplicity in its architecture and the use of wood as its main material, both structurally and architecturally. This style consists of a rather simple plan, rectangular or square, and it is a one-storied wooden structure with gable roof covered with galvanized zinc sheets and a continuous wooden balustrade covered portico at its front facade.

Aside from being a good example of the traditional residential architecture, so common throughout the interior of Puerto Rico; this house is the birthplace of Don José Celso Barbosa (1857-1921); a distinguished and notable physician, journalist, educator and politician. His birthdate (July 27) is a national holiday in Puerto Rico. Dr. Barbosa was raised in this house and after he graduated from the States, he started his medical practice in a small room of the house, where he lived and worked most of his life. He was an important educator who helped forged modern Puerto Rican identity. Dr. Barbosa graduated from the University of Michigan in 1880 where he obtained a Medicine and Surgery Degree. In 1917 he was awarded a honorary doctoral degree in Law from the University of Puerto Rico. He worked at the "Sociedad de Socorro Mutuo de Puerto Rico" where he accomplished a magnificent task during the smallpox out-break in the Island. Dr. Barbosa was a member of the Liberal Reform Committee in 1886 and a delegate to the Ponce Autonomous Assembly in 18887 presided by Don Ramón Baldorioty de Castro. He was appointed Under-Secretary of Education during the brief autonomous regimen of Puerto Rico. On July 4, 1899, he founded the once prominent Republican Party of Puerto Rico, based on two assertions: accept the annexion of Puerto Rico to the United States and that Puerto Rico be governed as a territory until converted into a state of the Union afterwards.

The house was acquired by the Government of Puerto Rico who entrusted it to the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture for its restoration in 1969. The structure was restored to its original form and preserved as a monument to the memory of Dr. Barbosa. It was converted into a library-museum where documents, tools, objects and furniture linked to the life and work of Dr. Barbosa are kept.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. "El Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña: 1955-1973"; Dr. Ricardo Alegría

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1,509.66 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Bayamón

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 18°24'-01" North; Longitude 66°09'21" West

A

Zone	Easting				

B

Zone	Easting				

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by a Commercial Building; to the South and West by the "Paseo Barbosa" (Barbosa Mall) and to the East by Dr. José C. Barbosa Street. See Location Plan; nominated property marked in red.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales-Parés: State Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date May 18, 1984

street & number 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 May 18, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Carol O. Skelton

date

8-24-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration