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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 18 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Residencia Don Andrés Hernández
other names/site number Residencia Don Modesto Hernández

2. Location

street & number Calle Norte #196 not for publication n/a
city, town Dorado vicinity n/a
state Puerto Rico code PR county Dorado code 051 zip code 00616

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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 1, 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. Patrick Andrews 5/22/89
 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:)

Jan Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic (Fisherman's Dwelling)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other (no formal style; vernacular architectural expression)

foundation Woodwalls Wood"Spanish" zinc sheetsroof metal zinc sheetsother Wooden pegs

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This small and simple rectangular structure with a gable roof has two entrances located on the long side of the rectangle. Short concrete staircase stand where wooden ones once probably stood. This wooden (the walls are made of wood covered with zinc metal sheets) dwelling is raised on ausubo (local precious hardwood, almost extinct nowadays) posts over its site.

The floor plan presents a simple rectangle composed of two interconnecting areas: which could be interpreted as the original living and sleeping areas. A low wooden wall divides the small house into these two areas, along the side of the rectangle. This dividing wall, was probably meant to give visual privacy to the sleeping. The very primitive kitchen and bathroom facilities were located on the outside of the house (they no longer exist).

Doors and windows were built as solid shutters with wooden slats used as effective closing elements. The house has only two windows. A third door (made out of two, solid leaves) open unto the backyard. As there is no false ceiling, the metal roof is exposed on the interior.

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

Period of Significance
1880~

Significant Dates
1880

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
n/a

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

Upon encountering for the first time this dwelling, the common observer might think that it is a shack of no particular importance. This humble construction, however, embodies the distinct characteristics of a type that was extremely common in Puerto Rico (up to c. the 1930's) and which has all but disappeared from the Island. Hundreds of Puerto Ricans lived all their lives in houses like this.

The house, following historic interior patterns, had no specialized areas, just two informal areas, one probably used as "living room" and the other one as "sleeping room". The house, then, had no formal area as such to be used as kitchen, bathroom or dining room (on its interior), as was common (and still is in some parts of the Caribbean Basin) in this humble historic type. The morphological arrangement of entrance (or entrances) on the long axis, opposite the gable end, is the most common arrangement throughout the Caribbean and might relate to a tradition that goes back to pre-historic dwellings of the area.

The wooden frame, due to the extreme poverty of the owner, was covered, as well as the walls, with all types of materials that the dweller could get: pieces of cans, metal zinc, soap boxes, among others. This situation is responsible of the veritable collage present in the walls, which represent the naive and creative architectural approach of the popular dwelling.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Berthelot, J & M Gaumé, Kaz Antiyé Jan Moun Ka Reté, (Paris Editions Caribéennes), 1982.
- Department of Labor, charities and correction, government of Puerto Rico.
- Report on the Housing Conditions of Laborers in Puerto Rico. (San Juan, Puerto Rico), 1914.
- Pabón-Charneco, Arleen, "The Puerto Rican House: Its roots and development".
- La presencia de la mujer en la arquitectura Puertorriqueña", (Unpublished), 1987.

See continuation sheet

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 # n/a
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # n/a

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 19 | 789235 | 7043425
 Zone Easting Northing

C | |

B | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See enclosed plan.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lot historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Arleen Pabón de Rocafort
 organization Municipality of Dorado date February, 1989
 street & number Box 588 telephone (809)764-6040
 city or town Dorado state Puerto Rico zip code 00646

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Needless to say again, it was also ample proof of the poverty of its dweller. Wooden columns on the interior, still showing their natural, organic form, support a zinc sheet gabled roof and stabilize walls made out of wood and zinc sheets. The zinc sheets used in some of the walls are called locally "Spanish" zinc describing the characteristic type of metal sheet that was imported to the Island during the Spanish regime. In addition to these very unique materials and methods of construction, wooden pegs, instead of nails, are used all over the interior, as well as "escopladuras".

Since the basic integrity of the house has been faithfully preserved and because this once Dorado- & Puerto Rican-common type has all but disappeared from the Island, it is of extreme architectural importance.

Because the town of Dorado's history is a relatively short one (it was founded formally in 1842) and because its urban growth might have been arrested until the 20th century, it is significant to find this type of humble house in front of the town's plaza. As Puerto Rican towns developed, along the centuries, it is usual to find only the most important, relevant and prominent (socially and architecturally-speaking) buildings around the plaza. This structure is a significant exception to this standard situation. It is a real example of the social "scrambling" that might have existed in all Puerto Rican towns before they formalized themselves as a coherent urban fabric.

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Investigation and oral tradition show that this might very well be the second-oldest house in all of Dorado. The sunken level of property, with regards to the current level of the town, testifies as to the old age of the house. As very few structures representing this type exist today in Puerto Rico, it is a unique example of the general social patterns of our culture.

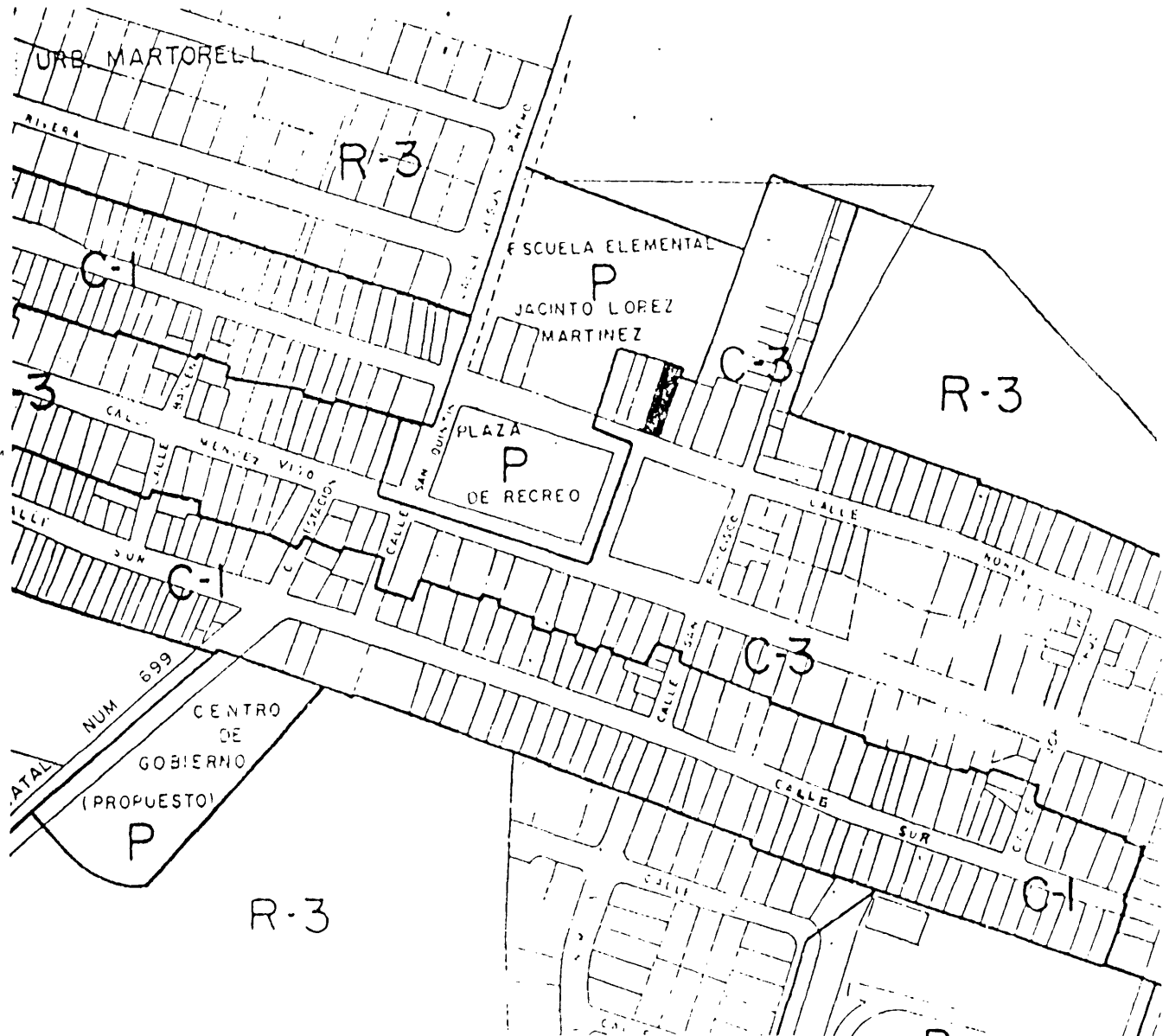
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Location Plan

Residencia Don Andrés Hernández
Dorado, Puerto Rico



Residencia Don Andrés Hernández

