

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

AUG 31 1988

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 Jacinto Lopez Martinez Gramar School  
other names/site number na

2. Location

street & number Calle Norte and Calle San Quintin  not for publication na  
city, town Dorado  vicinity na  
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	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Early 20th Century Schools in P.R.  
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 . August 5, 1988  
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. Amy Schlegel 10/11/88  
 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)  
Education/ Grammar School

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Education/Grammar School

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Revival

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foundation Concrete

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walls Concrete

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Wood

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roof Concrete

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other Ceramic Tiles

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The school building is a two storey, "U" shaped structure. On the first floor, administrative offices are located in the central portion of the building as well as bathrooms. In this area, on the second floor, a multi-use space, bathrooms and a classroom are located. Classrooms, 11 in total, were placed on both sides of this central area on both wings of the U-shaped building. The classrooms are divided by wooden partitions and open unto corridors which provide not only the means of connecting all spaces but also natural illumination and ventilation to all the different classrooms.

Although the interiors were designed in a spartan fashion, this was not the case with regards to the exterior. The main facade, for example, is a study of contrasts in terms of its spatial organization, architectural components and decoration. A symmetrical arrangement emphasizes the pierced central corps with seven stilted arches which create a screen of sorts that integrates both levels, also screening the double set of staircase behind it. Next to the arches there exists symbolic mosaic decorations

This central portion is framed by two tower-like elements which provide a balance to the vertical rythm of the central portion. At the same time, these elements create entrances. A most unususual element is the Spanish fountain located in the center of the architectural composition. This monumental interpretation of such an exotic element, in terms of a school facade, is covered with Spanish-Moorish mosaics. Although it is not working presently, in the old days it must have added to the beauty and luxurious milieu of hte carefully manicured patio.

The school is kept in a remarkable state of conservation. The only major change has been the replacement of the original wooden trusses which formed the roof by a reinforced concrete structure. Windows have also been repalced for sturdier metal ones. The rest of the original reinforced concrete shell has been preserved quite close to the original, including the internal wooden partitions separating classrooms. These changes, in our opinion , have altered in no way the structures integrity.

## 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

Education

Period of Significance

1923-25

1925-1938

Significant Dates

1925

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

na

Architect/Builder

Arc. Pedro Adolfo de Castro

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

Dorado's first formal grammar school was truly, on the outside, a rich and monumental symbol of the new emphasis given to the education of the Puerto Rican youth in the 1920's and 1930's. While construction started in 1923, the school was formally inaugurated in August 1925. No expense was avoided to present a luxurious facade. The fact that well-known architect Pedro Adolfo de Castro was the designer immediately points out to this desire of creating a formal architectural interpretation of the new vision of what a school should be. Pedro de Castro, one of the island's most prominent builders and architects, is recognized as one of the best Spanish Revival designers, giving this style a new dimension, integrating it to our Caribbean milieu. He was known for his monumental and luxurious designs, looking for inspiration in a Spanish revival of sorts in terms of some forms and decorative motifs, in an effort to create a modern and "national" (Puerto Rican) interpretation of architectural space and form.

Designed in the latest architectural style, an architectural collage of Art Deco, forms incorporating Spanish revival motifs such as the use of stilted arches, mosaics, and monumental fountain; constructed in the most modern materials of the time, concrete and richly decorated (seen in the use of mosaics and the fountain incorporated to the central facade) it was conceived within a carefully landscaped patio, now sadly lost, as a showcase for the town of Dorado, representing the new ideals and modern educational goals.

The size, location (in front of the town's main plaza) and the architectural detailing were undoubtedly meant to emphasize the differences between the new system (American) and its ideals in terms of educational goals, and the old, Spanish, ways. Old people from Dorado like Mr. Marcos Alegria clearly remember that before this building was constructed, public education took place in private individual houses all over town. This was the first structure to be built for the sole purpose of education and has served the Dorado community since. The building can be read as a symbol of Dorado's coming into age, of becoming "modern".

Urbanistically this school is an important symbol. As a new element within the traditional Spanish urban setting of the Church (center of religious power) and the City Hall (center of political power), the school, a third major component, is the symbol of education, the hope for a better future.

The date closing the period of significance was selected to meet the 50 year period requirement. This date may be revised at a future time.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Canino, Marcelino, Historia de Dorado, San Juan, 1987  
Pabón de Rocafort, Arleen, "Breve reseña sobre la arquitectura puertorriqueña en el siglo XX"  
(Unpublished) 1985

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 19 789185 2043340  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see enclosed location plan

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the school

See continuation sheet

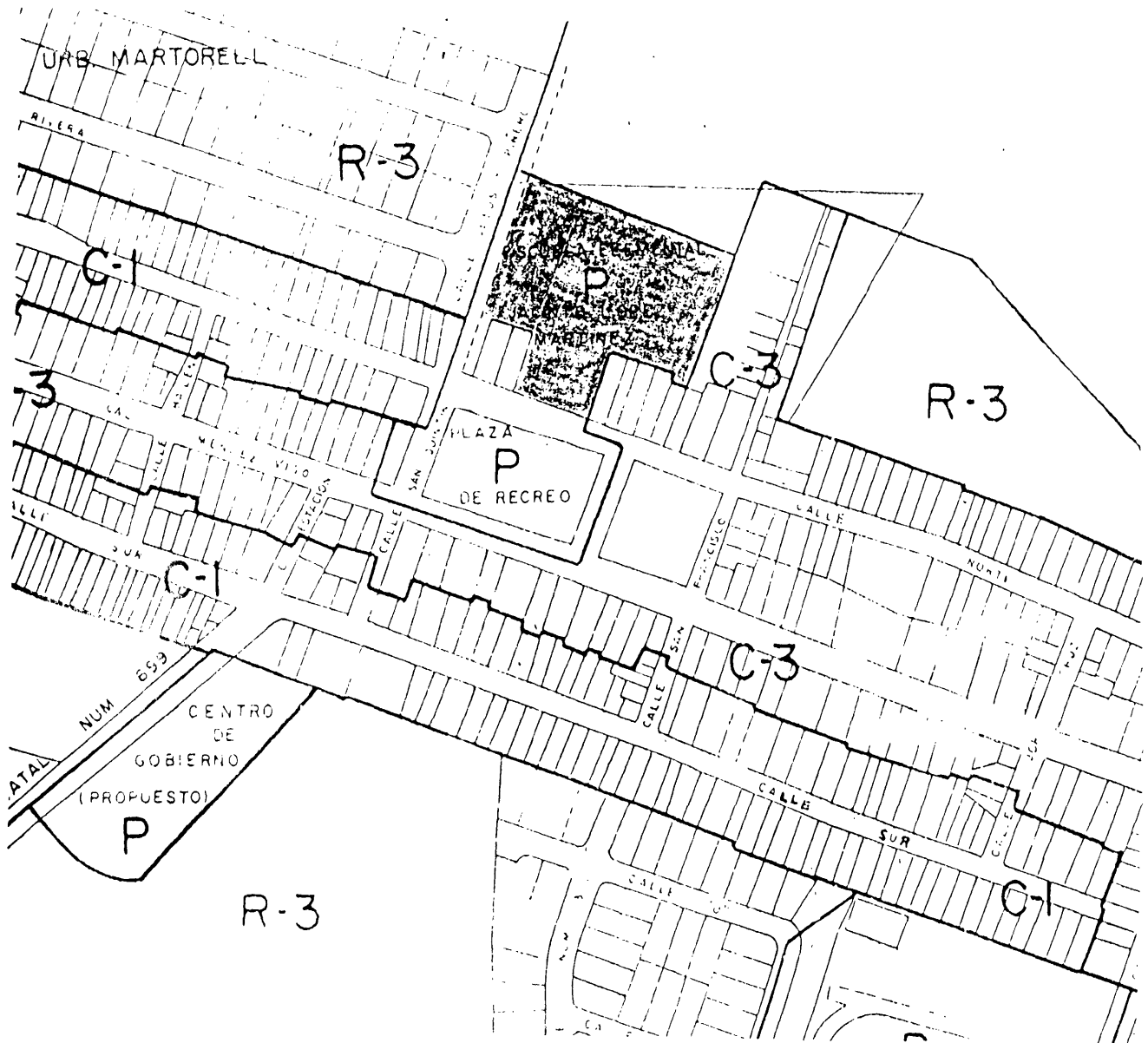
**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Arleen Pabón de Rocafort PHD  
 organization Municipality of Dorado date September 1987  
 street & number Box 588 telephone 809-781-1491  
 city or town Dorado state Puerto Rico zip code 00646

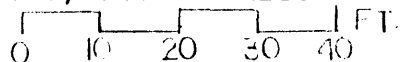
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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1



JACINTO LOPEZ MARTINEZ GRAMAR SCHOOL  
DORADO, PUERTO RICO



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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001846 Date Listed: 10/11/88  
Martinez, Jacinto Lopez, Grammer School Dorado Dorado PR  
Property Name County State<sup>2</sup>

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Amy Schlarzel*  
Signature of the Keeper

10/11/88  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion A should be checked to correlate with Education as an area of significance.

Discussed and concurred in by Puerto Rican SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)