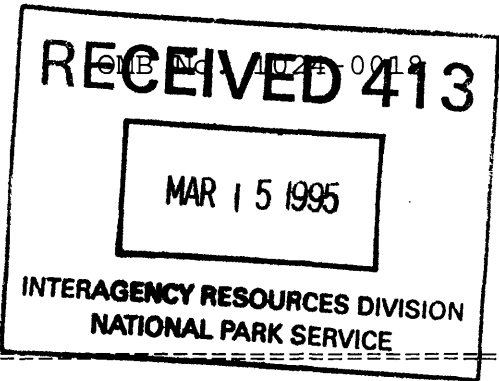


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name **Guzmán Family Pantheon**

other names/site number **Ermita Guzmán, Capilla del Perpetuo Socorro**

2. Location

street & number **Padre Rivera St., corner Miguel Casillas St.** not for publication
city or town **Humacao** vicinity _____
state **Puerto Rico** code **PR** county **Humacao** code **069**
zip code **00792**

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 X statewide _____ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

March 9, 1995
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

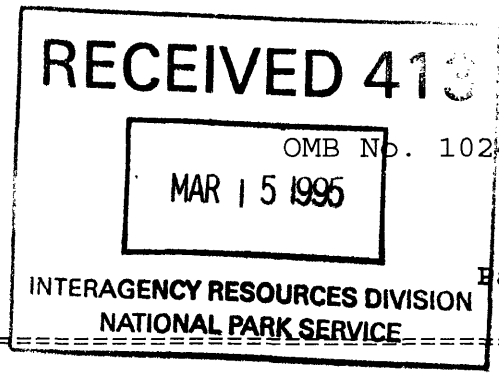
In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico



4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Automatically / See 4/17/95
 ___ 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): _____

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico**

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Funerary** Sub: **Grave**
 Religion **Religious Facility**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Funerary** Sub: **Grave**
 Religion **Religious Facility**

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Eclectic with Classic, Renaissance and Exotic architectural elements

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **Brick**
roof **Brick**
walls **Stucco**
 Brick
other **Wood**

Narrative Description: **See continuation sheet**

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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, possesses high artistic values.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico**

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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: **1864**

Significant Dates: **1864, 1918**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Unknown**

Narrative Statement of Significance: **See continuation sheet**

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico**

- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **General Archives of Humacao**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: **104 sq. meters**

UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>20</u>	<u>200760</u>	<u>2009440</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description: **See continuation sheet**

Boundary Justification: **See continuation sheet**

11. Form Prepared By

first original nomination draft: **Héctor F. Santiago Cazull/Cruz Ortiz Cuadra**

revised and rewritten by: **Karen González/Staff Architect; Arleen Pabón PhD/State Historic Preservation Officer; Berenice R. Sueiro/Staff Architect**

organization: **Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office**

date: **February 13, 1995**

street & number: **109 San José St.** telephone: **(809) 721-3737**

city or town: **San Juan** state: **PR** zip code: **00901**

Property Owner

name: **Mr. Antonio Roig Sucesores
c/o Adalberto Roig, Jr.**

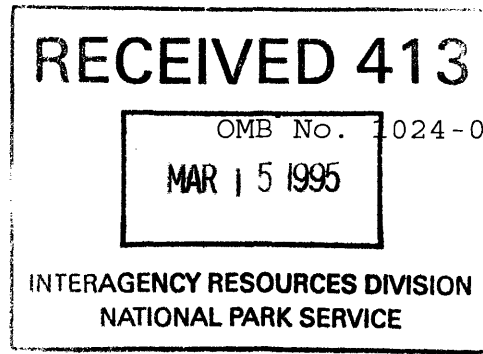
street & number: **P.O. Box 457** telephone:

city or town: **Humacao** state: **PR** zip code: **00792**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1



Guzmán Family Pantheon
name of property
Humacao, Puerto Rico
county and State

Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Guzmán Family Pantheon, also known as the Ermita Guzmán, is a single story, lime-stuccoed, brick masonry funerary chapel in the Eclectic style, with Classic, Renaissance and Exotic architectural elements. It occupies a 104 square meter urban lot, with a narrow yard on all four sides.

The building's overall external form is articulated in a ziggurat-like manner, composed of two volumes with slightly battered walls. The two were given different architectural treatments: the lower portion is treated in a Classically restrained manner, while the upper one presents a freer spirit. Walls on the lower volume have horizontal rustication and end with a parapet-like element composed of a pediment and acroteria-like elements. This element masks the brick cloister vault that roofs the building. The composition is crowned with a lantern. At various levels, acroteria-inspired ornamentation defines each corner.

The main facade is symmetrically organized. Four concentric semi-circular steps lead the way into the entrance, which is treated as a slightly-projected portico or portal. This portal is framed, on each side, by a pair of Tuscan pilasters. An arch springs between the pairs of pilasters and the whole arrangement is crowned by a pediment-like element. The rustication effectively provides a horizontal visual anchor to the very vertical organization of secondary elements. The lateral facades have arched windows located at their centers, crowned with a pediment. Each pediment ends with acroteria-inspired ornamentation. The rear facade is treated as a blank plane and it lacks any kind of fenestration. At the second level, the rustication treatment is transformed into a series of receding steps, which emphasize the general air of a ziggurat organization. This part is finished by means of a horizontal frieze with acroteria-inspired elements (See photo #1).

The interior walls of the chapel are divided into two spatial units by means of a cornice. A cube is created on the first level and a cloister vault conforms the second one. This arrangement follows the classical Renaissance tradition of representing the earthly sphere, by means of the cube, and its connotation of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7,8 Page 2

Guzmán Family Pantheon
name of property
Humacao, Puerto Rico
county and State

=====
mathematical perfection, and the celestial plane, by means of the profoundly symbolic dome. The unadorned walls gives the interior space a very different character than the one presented in the exterior, reflecting the sober activities taking place inside. The dome ends with an open "oculus" which is crowned by a lantern (See photo #3). The altar is located against the rear wall, at the end of the main axis. It is framed by a portico-like structure, that ends in a curved pediment. The interior floor is covered with two-tone gray marble tiles, organized in the traditional checkerboard pattern (See photo #2).

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The so-called Ermita Guzmán, built in 1864, was originally built as a funerary pantheon to house the mortal remains of the Guzmán family. It is possible that it was also originally intended to house the celebration of certain religious activities to honor their memory. It is an example of an architectural interpretation in the Eclectic style, with Classic, Renaissance and Exotic architectural elements, applied to funerary construction in Puerto Rico. The stylistic sources of inspiration are diverse, the resultant work is a harmonious and quite original artistic artifact. In spite of its unique story, the "ermita," has retained its integrity and, surprisingly, its original use.

Its unusual setting (close to the urban center of the town of Humacao) is due to the fact that, in 1918, the first Catholic Municipal Cemetery was moved to a new location. Tombs were either moved to the new site or lost with the passage of time; the Pantheon became the only surviving structure of this original cemetery. At some point during its history, it came to be also known as the Perpetuo Socorro Chapel. Its size and the economic power of the Guzmán family probably helped in its preservation; its architectural ornamentation and new location (very close to the expanding urban center) account for its new use as a chapel during the early part of the 20th century.

The Pantheon is a prime example of how powerful families in the 19th century faced the ritual passage of death. There was a desire, as well as a need, to perpetuate their power image through their funerary architecture. Funeral architecture, as demonstrated in this example, is far more than just an architectural example of a type and period. It is a well-known fact that cemeteries in the island were organized in a strict urban pattern: important and distinguished families constructed their pantheons lining the main axes that organized the necropolis. As families competed for these privileged positions,

United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8,9 Page 3

Guzmán Family Pantheon
name of property
Humacao, Puerto Rico
county and State

=====
they also tried to establish their social status by means of embellished pantheons. If compared to the dire economic circumstances that the island faced during most of its history, when even "haciendas" were scarce, it is amazing to discover these elegant and, at times, dramatic structures. Ziggurat and oriental motifs (it can be argued that acroteria-inspired motifs are of Oriental extraction) have always been associated with death. The Guzmán patriarch that ordered this building probably desired to let all of Humacao know not only of his social standing but of his general culture as well. Cemeteries in Puerto Rico have been described as the last "baile de casino" ("casinos" were private clubs where the well-to-do spend their time dancing, playing cards or simply talking to their social peers). Just as status was claimed depending on what "casino" you belonged to (there were "casinos de primera" and, later on as a response to a more "egalitarian" society "casinos de segunda"), status was also claimed by the type of structure your family lived forever after. The Guzmáns, as all Humacao was able to detect through this building, belonged to the "casino de primera" and the Pantheon enabled them to hope, and subtly suggest to those involved in the hereafter decisions, that they did belong to the "primera" level, all the way through Heaven.

The "ermita," as such, would have had a great social impact, but history deemed that this artifact was to have a far more profound effect to all of Humacao. As it remained "stranded" when its context (the old cemetery) abandoned it, it transformed itself from a funerary symbol into an urban element. These was accomplished not only in terms of location but also in terms of use. From a private funerary Pantheon, it became a public chapel; if privately owned, close to the center of town. As such, it is the only extant example in the island of this type of social, iconographical, typological and urban transformation.

The Ermita Guzmán is, therefore, eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as a particularly unique example of the Eclectic mode of architectural interpretation as applied to funerary architecture in Puerto Rico and as an example of small town social and urban changes.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Ortiz Cuadra, Cruz M. and Santiago Cazull, Hector. "Inventario de Edificios Históricos del Municipio de Humacao." Centro Cultural Antonia Sáez with Survey and Planning Funds from the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. July 1994.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9,10 Page 4

Guzmán Family Pantheon
name of property
Humacao, Puerto Rico
county and State

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Pabón, Arleen. "El Cementerio de Manatí, Bastión del Clasicismo Romántico."
Tertulia. Año 3, Tomo I (Enero-Mayo 1990).

Abreu Vega, Salvador. Apuntes para la historia de Humacao. Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic, 1984.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the property are: Padre Rivera St. along the south property line, Miguel Casillas St. along the west property line, land belonging to the Municipality along the north property line and lot #25 of urban block #27 along the east property line.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries correspond to the urban lot #26 of block #17, property of the Municipality of Humacao, created in 1946 out of the land originally belonging to the Municipal Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000436 Date Listed: 4/17/95

Guzman Family Pantheon
Property Name

Humacao County PR State

N/A
Multiple Name

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.

for Antonio d'Almeida
Signature of the Keeper

4/17/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: The Acreage of Property should read: less than one acre.

This information was confirmed with Karen Gonzalez of the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Additional Page 5
Information

Guzmán Family Pantheon
name of property
Humacao, Puerto Rico
county and State

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Guzmán Family Pantheon
Humacao, Puerto Rico

All photographs taken by Héctor Santiago Cazull, July 1994.

Negatives found within the Historic Buildings Survey of Humacao, at the archives of the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office.

Photos:

- #1 General View, facing northeast.
- #2 Interior, altar and aisle, facing north.
- #3 Interior, altar and vaulted ceiling, facing north.