

MAR 22 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Teatro Liberty
other names/site number Teatro Liberty

2. Location

street & number Calle Rafols #157 not for publication n/a
city, town Quebradillas vicinity n/a
state Puerto Rico code PR county Quebradillas code 115 zip code 00742

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> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

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 January 31, 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.
 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:)

Amy Schlager 5/4/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Recreation and Culture

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 Recreation and Culture/Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Revival

foundation concrete

walls concrete

wood

roof metal/iron (galvanized)

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Liberty Theater is a two-storey, reinforced concrete building on the west side of Calle Rafols in the urban center of Quebradillas. It presents a rectangular plan, with its short side facing the street.

The facade is almost square in proportions, and consists of a series of 3 large arched voids (a larger central arch and flanking smaller arches), defining a recessed portico, a simple cornice, a solid parapet, and applied ornamentation. A pitched wood and sheet-metal roof is oriented with its ridge perpendicular to the street and is hidden from view by the facade parapet.

The facade ornamentation is eclectic in character. Along the bottom of the facade, a rusticated base serves as pedestal for the arch piers. Twisted half-column mouldings stem from the base rustication at the arches and support a coarse at the level of the arch impost.

False concrete stone-facing covers the entire spandrel area between the arcades' impost and the building cornice. Moulded surrounds frame the arches above the impost level. Fluted pilaster strips frame the facade borders and support a shallow and simple, concrete cornice. A cameo-shaped medallion with the initials RC is located above each of the smaller arches, and a parchment-motif plaque above the central arch reads the theater's name: LIBERTY.

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

Entertainment

Significant Person

n/a

Period of Significance

1921

1921-1938

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Dates

1921

Architect/Builder

Arcilo Rosa

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

The Teatro Liberty is a magnificent example of a vernacular non professional interpretation of the architectural trends in vogue in Puerto Rico during the 1920's. The designer of the building was a well known artist, not an architect or engineer, who as a sideline designed small scale or residential structures or facades in the town of Quebradillas. This was Arcilio Rosa's most important and ambitious undertaking. Rosets over the main facades lateral arches present the artists monogram, his signature as in all his paintings.

This building was the first and only performing arts and silent-movie show place in the town. In its stage many local and latin american actors and singers performed for mostly poor, rural population of the region during the theater's period of splendor during the 1920's and 30's. It brought to the masses a cultural experience they would not have enjoyed otherwise. Classic Spanish drama, "zarzuelas", "operetas" were performed by Spanish and local companies as well as amateur presentations by the town's people.

The Teatro Liberty is a local landmark for the people of Quebradillas and the surrounding less fortunate towns who had never had such a place in their communities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Archivo General de Puerto Rico
- Archivos Municipales de Quebradillas
- Registro de la Propiedad de Quebradillas
- Various interviews with residents of Quebradillas

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:

Sociedad Histórica-arqueológica
Camuy-Hatillo

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References N. 18° 28' 31"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

W. 66° 56' 23"

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

- North-Calle Rafols #159
- South-Calle Rafols #155
- East-Calle Rafols
- West-Finca Iribas

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Félix Julián del Campo, Héctor F. Santiago and Arq. Víctor J. López</u>	date <u>January 31, 1989</u>
organization <u>State Historic Preservation Office</u>	telephone <u>(809)721-3737</u>
street & number <u>Box 82, La Fortaleza</u>	state <u>Puerto Rico</u> zip code <u>00901</u>
city or town <u>San Juan</u>	

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

MAR 22 1989

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

The parapet supports a series of 4 amhorae and an eclectic central, upward projecting ornament consisting of combined angles' wings, scrolls, pineapple and acroterion motifs. The date of construction (1921) and a pair of rosettes or paterae are located under this decorative element at the parapet.

Within the entrance portico three entrance doors lead into the main lobby. The long rectangular plan is divided into 4 consecutive sections in an almost railroad fashion: the portico, the lobby with stairs at either end leading to the balcony and projection room, the orchestra with seating capacity of 380; the stage, with dressing room facilities arranged around its rear and sides.

The lobby contains original, pressed-tin ceilings of Victorian character, imported from the USA. A recently reconstructed wooden wall with two entrance doors divides the lobby from the auditorium.

The auditorium is divided into 3 sections: a central orchestra with various rows of seats, and flanking box seats, separated from the central row by aisles. The box seats are surrounded by a decorative balustrade.

Recently-installed wooden panels decorate the ceiling of the theater area.

All recently-reconstructed or installed elements are the result of a restoration project carried out in 1978.