

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 8 1987

date entered

OCT 28

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

1. Name

historic Residencia Subirá

and/or common Residencia Frau

2. Location

street & number Calle Raina No. 107

not for publication

city, town Ponce vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county of Ponce Municipality code 0760

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Mercedes Frau de González and William González García

street & number Box 925

city, town Ponce vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registro de la Propiedad

street & number Centro Gubernamental de Ponce

city, town Ponce

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historical-Architectural Survey of Ponce

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Frau Residence, at Calle Reina No. 107, is a raised, one-storey, stone, brick-masonry and plaster structure with a flat roof. It is located on the south side of the street between Calle Méndez Vigo and Calle Torres in the historic urban center of Ponce. In plan, the structure is organized in an inverted "L" shape around a side court at the rear-left.

An ample gallery raised on a local-stone podium spans the width of the facade, the central one-third portion projecting forward approximately six feet in a square form. Defining the balcony is a series of Corinthian columns raised upon a concrete balustrade, one at each intersection of two perpendicular planes. These columns support a full-entablature, ornate cornice and balustered parapet with pommels over each column.

Bilateral stairs access the verandah from either side of the projecting central section. The steps contain marble treads and polychrome tile risers.

Within the verandah, four bays are organized into an ABA rhythm of two paired, central bays flanked by singular bays at the extremes. Each bay is intricately articulated in the same manner: a circular arch defined by an ornate hood mould with floral and festoon plaster ornament above. Each bay contains wooden, louvered double-doors with ornate leaded-glass panels and a stained-glass fanlight.

Between the paired, central bays is an arriculate, full-relief, feminine bust sculpture occupying the spandrel area. Plaster ornaments composed of two small, circular medallions flanking a larger, central one decorate the areas between bays 1-2 and 3-4.

In plan, the living room, dining room, and finally a louvered gallery overlooking the side garden are disposed in sequence from front to rear. Bedrooms open onto the gallery around the court. Interior spaces are large and generally have high ceilings and the floors are covered with "Loza Isleña" (Native ceramic tile) in intricate designs. Of particular significance are the stained-glass panels found at the transoms of the main doors and the circular window in the bathroom.

Alterations have been limited to reversible wooden partitions within some of the interior spaces and the installation of modern, metallic "Miami" windows in some areas. The overall character of the interior spaces has not changed nonetheless, and the exterior remains faithful to the original design.

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

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Blas C. Silva

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frau Residence is a magnificent example of the architecture of Ponce's aristocracy of the late XIX and early XX centuries. This structure is one of the remaining symbols of Ponce's "Golden Period" in which landed families lived in the urban core and great immigrations from Europe, Latin America and the other Antilles had turned the originally small settlement into the cultural capital of Puerto Rico. The "Criollo Ponceño" or Ponce Creole architecture to which this building belongs is extremely important in itself since it represents the birth of a high-style native architecture, a hybrid of influences rather than the purely Spanish, or spontaneous vernacular expressions of previous centuries.

In particular, the Frau Residence is significant within this genre as it was designed by one of Ponce's most well-known architects, Blás Silva. Silva was particularly renowned among the wealthy classes of the period. His buildings can usually be characterized by what is popularly referred to as "wedding-cake architecture" of the landed nouveau riche, for the richness of ornament and detail. Other buildings by Silva include the Monsanto Residence (NR-Po-06-84-7) and the Salazar-Candal Residence (NR-Po-06-84-18), both in process of nomination.

The Frau Residence is one of Silva's most reserved houses, architecturally, as it is relatively simple and not as richly detailed as others. Rather, it relies more upon scale and form, and the beauty of the classical elements themselves, more than upon the applied ornamentation to portray the prominence of the original residents. It also remains very faithful to the traditional vernacular house type of the region, in plan and in execution, resulting in a graceful, refined version of the one-storey, full-width front balcony house of the southern coast of Puerto Rico. In addition to the local influences, Silva reflects the interests of the Arts and Crafts movement and the academicism of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in the facade treatment, resulting in an austere and grand, yet lightweight elevation. Thus, Silva, as had other foreign-trained architects, succeeded in integrating classical education with the traditional elements of the Spanish Caribbean.

Because of its location only two blocks away from the urban plaza, the Frau Residence forms a principal and integral part of the historic urban core of Ponce.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archivo Histórico de Ponce, Teatro La Perla, Ponce.

Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico. Estudio Arquitectónico de Ponce, 1985

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ponce, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

1	9	7	5	2	3	8	0	1	9	9	3	4	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded: to the north by Calle Reina; to the south by the Pérez Residence; to the east by Reina 105; to the west by Reina 109, the Higuera Residence.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo / State Historian and Héctor F. Santiago / State Architectural Historian

organization P.R. S.H.P.O. date August 1987

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3737

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register 

date 10/28/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

OCT 26 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Residencia Frau, Calle Reina #107
Ponce, Puerto Rico

