

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 26 1983**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic VILLA DEL MAR

and/or common EL CASTILLO

**2. Location**

street & number F.R. ~~State Road No.~~ 3 Km. 66.2  not for publication

city, town Naguabo Beach  vicinity of Naguabo

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Humacao code 0690

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 Arnaldo Castro López

street & number State Road No. 3 Km. 66.2

city, town Naguabo Beach  vicinity of Naguabo state Puerto Rico

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds-Naguabo

street & number Government Center Building

city, town Humacao state Puerto Rico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventario Monumentos Históricos has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date 1977 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The main body of "Villa del Mar" residence is shaped as a square measuring 39'2" in length by 37'11" wide. It is attached by a circular tower or turret, 11'8" in diameter, and a rectangular shaped portico, 11' in length by 6'3" wide, both with its gothic columnade at the east side (photograph #1); a square shaped area used as a kitchen measuring 10'7" in length by 10' wide at the west side; a rectangular shaped open veranda, 8' in length by 5' wide, at the south side (photograph #3) and a rectangular shaped portico with its gothic columnade, 16'7" in length by 5'6" wide, at the north side of the building (photograph #2). It stands two stories high with a small basement at the south side of the building. The residence sits next to the shore with its south facade to the Caribbean Sea (photograph #3).

The main structural system consists of reinforced concrete walls and columns. All walls are smoothly cement plastered. The irregular shaped roof system with its different heights and levels (pitched to the sides at the entrance portico, hipped to all sides at the main body area, hexagonal at the turret) are covered with glazed clay roof tile on a steel structure. The roof at the kitchen area is covered with galvanized zinc sheets on a wood structure (photograph #3 left side). Most doors and windows are of wood with glass inlets in the majority of them, with some aluminum jalousies windows at the south facade. Native cement tiles in different colors and patterns and native glazed tiles in different shapes and patterns, are used as floor covering throughout the building. This type of floor finish is no longer manufactured.

The Late Victorian influence (Queen Anne version) is manifested immediately as one approaches the structure. Its irregular shaped form, complicated roof system, its tower or turret with a pointed roof, and the use of open verandas, porticos and balconies on both floors are some of the details particular to this style.

The first floor area is used as a restaurant owned and administered by its proprietor. The basement level is used as a bar. The entrance areas are located at the main portico and open turret, both with their classic gothic columnade. The floor on the entrance at the turret area is very interesting for its use of native glazed tile patterns at its borders and a main central shaped pattern (photograph #6). The ceiling material used throughout this floor is 1" by 2" wood slats with mouldings at its borders, very typical of buildings of that period.

The second floor serves as the residence of the present owner, Mr. Arnaldo Castro. An old wooden stairway with wood balausters provides access to this part of the house where native glazed tiles with different shapes and patterns are used extensively (photographs #5 & #7). The ceiling material used is the same as in the restaurant area. The circular turret serves as the office of the proprietor.

A small structure attached to the main body was added at a later date and is used as a garage (photograph #2 right side). It is covered with galvanized zinc sheets on a wood structure.

The building has retained its architectural integrity and it is kept in excellent condition.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1917 **Builder/Architect** Antonio Higuera

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Villa del Mar residence is significant for its architecture and its role in the development of the early XXth century sugarcane export industry in this southeastern area of Puerto Rico.

It was built as the residence of Mr. Faustino Rodríguez and Mrs. Carmen Fuertes, owners of the Triunfo Central of Naguabo, one of the many sugarcane factories or "centrales" that developed in Puerto Rico as a result of the U.S. government interest in fostering the development of the island's sugarcane industry as an export cash crop.

The Villa del Mar residence, which was located next to the shore, had a moor which was utilized by the owners of the Triunfo Central for the export of sugar and other products to the Greater and Lesser Antilles. As such, it is significant in the early commercial development of the sugarcane industry in this section of the island of Puerto Rico.

When the owners of the residence died, it was leased to the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to be used as the residence of a nurse who worked at the Base. Afterwards, it was purchased by Mr. Luciano Rodríguez Fuertes. The house was closed shortly afterwards until it was purchased by its present owner, Mr. Arnaldo Castro, who has repaired and restored it during the years of 1980 to 1982.

The restoration work included the removal of all wood beams supporting the roof structure because of its badly deteriorated condition. The wooden beams were substituted by steel beams for their durability. The roof tiles were carefully removed, cleaned and placed back into position. Some wood doors and windows were removed and substituted for similar ones. Floor tiles were carefully cleaned. Concrete walls were plastered in some places, scraped, cleaned and painted. Some wooden ceiling panels were removed and substituted for similar ones.

The Villa del Mar residence is of architectural significance since it is one of the few examples of the Late Victorian style (particularly Queen Anne version) remaining on the island. Its irregular shaped structure, complicated roof system, its turret with pointed roof, extensive use of verandas, porticos and balconies with posts with rounded shapes, are some of the details that characterized this particular style and residence. It has retained its architectural integrity, suffering only minor alterations throughout the years. It is being carefully restored by its current owner.

