

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

For NPS use only

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

received

MAY - 8 1984

date entered

JUN 11 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Casa Cautiño

and/or common Casa Cautiño

**2. Location**

street & number Vicente Palés Arés Street corner Palmer Street not for publication

city, town Guayama vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Guayama code 0430

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property**

name Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

street & number #98 Norzagaray Street

city, town San Juan vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00905

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Guayama Municipal Center

city, town Guayama state Puerto Rico 00654

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventario de 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 00905

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date

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

The "Casa Cautiño" structure is a U-shaped, one storied building with an interior patio at its center, located at the corner of Vicente Palés Arés Street, Palmer and Fernando Genaro Bruno Streets; measuring 18 meters wide by 40 meters in length. The structural system consists of thick masonry walls, "ausubo" wooden beams topped by a flat galvanized zinc roof. Exterior doors and windows are movable wooden louvers with wicket type. The original interior partitions are 12" and 15" white mahogany boards (caoba blanca) that were covered with vinyl sheet covering in 1950. The ceiling is also 12" and 15" white mahogany boards. The original flooring material was 1" by 2" wood slats that were substituted by terrazo tiles in 1969.

In the "Casa Cautiño" design, certain features of the Neo-classical style were blended with some of the best details of the popular architecture of the southern part of Puerto Rico that prevailed at that time (Refer to Item No.8 for a detailed description of said style). The main entrance elevation, on Vicente Palés Arés Street (Photos No.1,2#3), presents an exquisite covered marble tiled portico supported by six thin forged iron columns bordered by fine forged iron lacework at its top. This portico is raised three feet above street level and is reached by a marble tiled stairway. An iron grille-work railing between the columns blends perfectly with the columnade portico striking a sense of lightness in the structure with a flavor of the New Orleans creole. The portico is topped by a continuous masonry cornice roofed with galvanized zinc sheets. The portico ceiling is 12" and 15" white mahogany boards, with a continuous molding at its borders. The main wall facade stands out after the portico and consists of a row of five archway openings with wooden movable louvers with wicket doors; each flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by a continuous small masonry cornice that runs throughout the entire wall facade flowing into the rest of the building. Each door opening is crowned by a delicate woodwork lacework fan at the arch opening. Delicate floral garlands motif are placed between each arch opening. The entire facade is crowned by a large continuous masonry cornice with a masonry parapet at its top, which is divided into five panels; each separated by pilasters with "candelabra" or pinnacles placed on top of each one. The center parapet panel stands one foot higher than the rest of the panels with a garland motif at its center.

The Palmer Street facade (Photos No.4#5) continues the details as that of the main facade (Vicente Palés Arés Street); the use of roman arch openings (three openings per area); decorative lacework fan on top of the wooden movable louvered doors; continuous small cornice on top of doors and arches; delicate floral garlands motif on each side of the arches; a large continuous cornice crowning the facade with a masonry parapet at its top divided into three panels with "candelabra" or pinnacles on top. A notable feature on this facade is the entranceway to the interior patio (Photo #7). The entranceway consists of a roman archway flanked by pilasters with "candelabra" at its top. An original solid steel double door with ornamental steelwork at its top encloses the opening. This was probably the coach entrance area. The interior patio facades (Photos #8,9#10) consists of a continuous roofed gallery on all

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input 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 1887

Builder/Architect Architect Texidor

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The "Casa Cautiño" was designed by an architect from Guayama named Texidor who graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris, France, for Don Genaro Cautiño Vázquez, a rich landowner of Guayama in 1887. Don Genaro Cautiño Vázquez was the Guayama Municipal Judge in 1885; Mayor of Guayama in 1887; Representative to the Guayama Insular House in 1898 and Colonel of the Volunteer Battalion of the Spanish Army. In 1898, during the Spanish American War, the house was used as the headquarters of the American forces. It was occupied by General Ulises Simpson Grant, son of a former president of the United States, Ulises Grant; and by General Wilson, who entered Puerto Rico on July 21, 1898, and occupied the city of Ponce on July 28, 1898.

Some features of the Neo-classical style (cornices, pilasters, "candelabra", roman arches, relief motifs, and classical ornamentation) were blended with some of the details of the popular architecture of the southern area of Puerto Rico that prevailed at that time. It is at this time when basically the popular architecture of the south of Puerto Rico was born: a mixture of European mannerism with reminiscence of "Art Nouveau"; elaborated balconies, grille-work, delicate forged iron and woodwork details, were some of the details typical of the ornamentation of this XIX Century architectural style.

Old San Juan developed at that time a solid mediterranean architecture using masonry, "argamasa", terraces, balconies, interior patios; where in the towns at the center and on the Caribbean shore line of Puerto Rico, a more sophisticated and lightweight architecture, with European reminiscence that had the flavor of the victorian and creole of New Orleans developed. Its expressive material was forged iron and wood. The best example of this domestic architecture is the "Casa Cautiño", characterized by its fastuous ornamentation in its masonry, wood and metal work (Refer to Item No.7 for a detailed description of the house). This type of architecture can be seen on the old historic sections of Ponce and Guayama. Unfortunately, these structures are deteriorating because of lack of maintenance, irresponsibility and ignorance of their values, in part by municipal authorities, and by the commercial speculation of its owners that prefer to destroy and replace them with structures of highly economic rental income. Fortunately, the "Casa Cautiño" is in the process of being restored by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture to be dedicated as a museum and will stand as a symbol of the architectural heritage of the town of Guayama and of all Puerto Rico.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. La Gran Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico; Vol.#9, Arquitectura y Leyes, 1976
2. Newspaper "Reacciones"; Article "La Casa Cautiño", Oct. 1983, Vol.22

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 640 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name Guayama

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 17°-59'-16" North, Longitude 66°-06'-49" West

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by Fernando Genaro Bruno Street, to the South by Vicente Palés Arés Street, to the East by Palmer Street and to the West by a Methodist Church.

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 Armando Morales Parés-State Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date April 23, 1984

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone (809)-721-3012, 721-4389

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

## 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 *Armando Morales Parés*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 23, 1984

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

*Walter D. Miller*

date 6/11/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

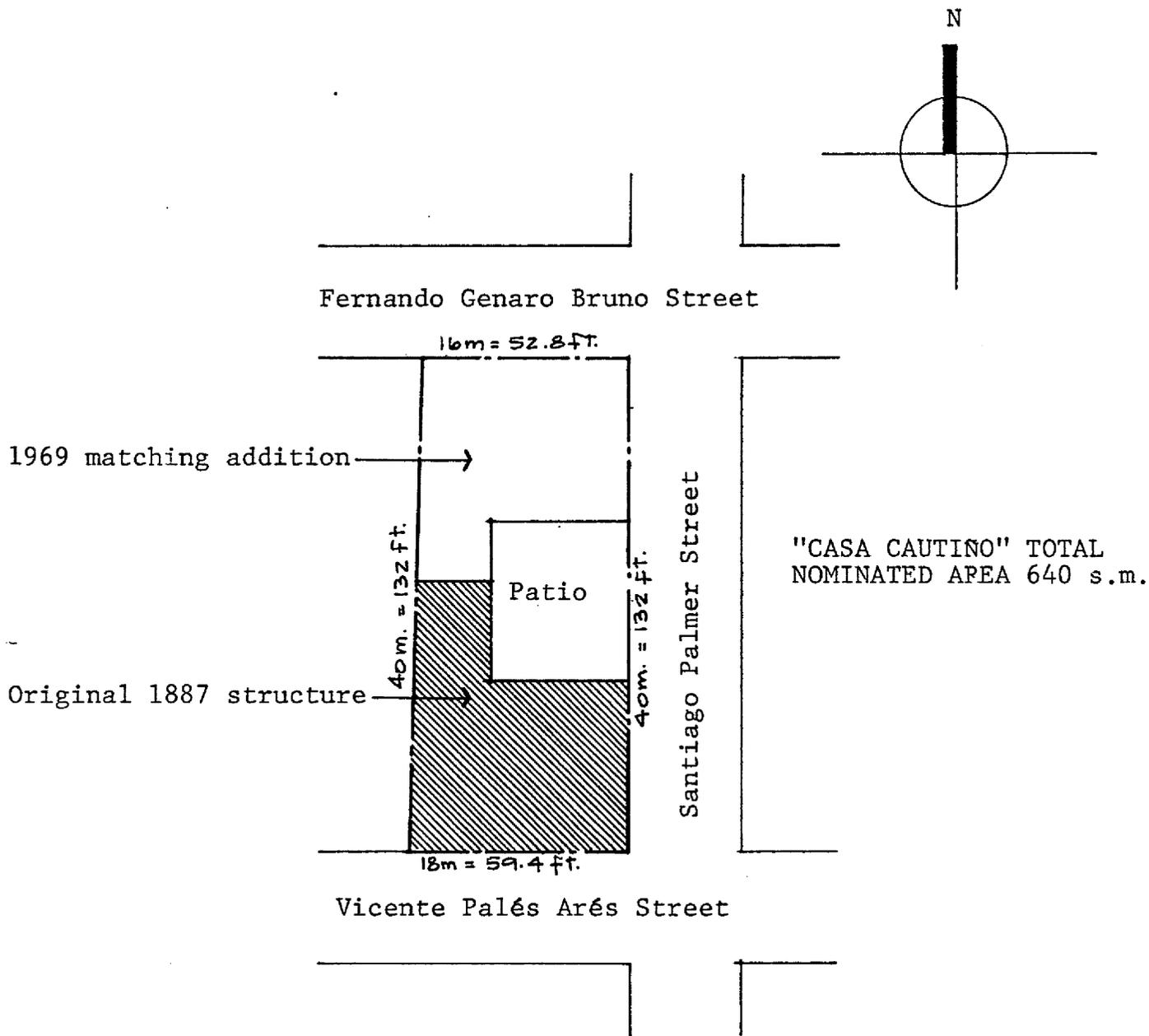
Page 2

sides connecting all areas of the house. The gallery is distinguished by the use of wooden columns, a continuous wooden balustrade railing and a continuous fixed wooden louvered windows on top of the columnade.

At the end of the property there was a structure that was used as a garage and or servants quarters. This structure was not architecturally significant and in a very deteriorated condition. In 1969, Don Genaro Cautiño Bruno, owner of the house, ordered it torn down and in its place built a structure that was to be used as a library (See Enclosure No.1). He commissioned architect Frank Molther to carry out the design of this wing following the style of the original structure. Architect Molther designed this area of the house (Photos No.5#6) reproducing exactly the style and details of the "Casa Cautiño". The thickness of the walls; its roof height, doors and windows; its archways and wood lacework; and finally its facades were carefully matched as that of the original structure. This part of the house blends perfectly with that of the original "L"-shaped structure finally fashioning the "U"-shape form that now stands.

In 1979 the house became the property of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and is in the process of being restored to be dedicated as a museum of the history of the town of Guayama.

ENCLOSURE #1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN  
SHOWING ORIGINAL 1887 STRUCTURE AND  
1969 MATCHING STYLE ADDITION



LOCATION PLAN

0 10 20 40 80 feet



Graphic Scale