

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 3 1986

date entered APR - 3 1986

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

1. Name

historic LA CASA SOLARIEGA DE JOSE DE DIEGO

and/or common RESIDENCIA LERIA ESMORIS (LERIA ESMORIS RESIDENCE)

2. Location

street & number LICEO STREET NO. 52, BLOCK 363 LOT 9 not for publication

city, town MAYAGUEZ vicinity of

state PUERTO RICO code PR72 county MAYAGUEZ code 0650

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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
	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 DR. JOSE P. LERIA ESMORIS

street & number BOX 1598

city, town MAYAGUEZ vicinity of state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD, DEPARTAMENTO DE HACIENDA

(RECORDER'S OFFICE)

street & number GOVERNMENT OFFICE, BARRIO MIRADERO

city, town MAYAGUEZ state PUERTO RICO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title SURVEY & PLANNING PROJECT OF MAYAGUEZ has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date JULY, 1984 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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**

Built in late 1890, the Lería Residence is a true urban mansion. Located East of Mayaguez's center, the Lería house is an L-shaped, one story, single family dwelling with a carport. Built of wood and stuccoed masonry, the Lería house follows the construction regulations of the time: a podium rises the building from the street level to provide the floors with ventilation, the facade is lined up with the street; for the soffit, metallic net is used; perforations are provided in the high ceilings for ventilation.

The house is entered on its side, from where a foyer leads to a vestibule, living room, dining room, and a hallway. A balcony is cut out into the facade. Pilasters, cornices, dentils, iron railings and mascarons adorn the front facade.

The balcony doors are a combination of movable louvers, colored glass and ventilation transoms. The residence has four bedrooms. The living and dining rooms are the house's main asset. In these spaces, all the ceilings exhibit perforated ornate patterns which facilitate ventilation.

Red and violet colored glass is used in the transoms of the dining area. Floors are in wood and a locally produced, ornamental cement tile is appreciated in important rooms. The wood work in interior transoms is highly elaborate, based on both geometric and floral patterns.

Of particular importance is the wood screen at the foyer, a sophisticated device to control access to the interior of the house.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) HISTORIC

**Specific dates** End of 19th Century      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lería residence claims its position amongst the best Architecture of Mayaguez for diverse reasons. Besides being aesthetically correct and rich in classical motifs usage, its detailing and spatial layout are the product of a mature artist/builder knowledgeable of his environment and sensitive to it.

At the house are present many of Mayaguez singular traits, as Architecture goes: and L shaped plan, elaborate use of wood, adherence to local codes, provision of air circulation and decorative elaboration of ventilation devices, use of locally produced cement tile, and so on. All of it can only be found on a few structures in Mayaguez; some of these have been nominated and therefore, the Lería Residence, included.

From a historical point of view, it is important to underline that José De Diego lived in this house. Many of his finest Poems and Political writings were produced during the years he dwelled in this structure which he called "Mi Casa Solariega", (My Manor House), in one of his famous collection of poems entitled "Pomarrosa". José De Diego finished his law studies at the University of Havana, in 1891. In 1897, when the Autonomous Government was established at Puerto Rico, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Government and Justice. Under the Autonomous Government he was Magistrate of the Territorial Audience. In 1899 he was designated by General Brooke, to act as prosecuting attorney, and President of the Criminal Audience at Mayaguez, and in 1900 was appointed to the Executive Council by President McKinley, thus ending his judicial functions. In 1903 his legislative work began in the House of Delegates, to which he was elected by the District of Mayaguez, and as leader of the Federal Minority he fought there a memorable campaign in defense of the rights of the

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

DE DIEGO, JOSE POMARROSA (POEMARIO).

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOSE P. LERIA, MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO, JUNE, 1984.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 717sq.mts./ .017acres

Quadrangle name USGS MAYAGUEZ 1964

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Lambert:  $18^{\circ}12'07.0''$   
 $67^{\circ}08'10.5''$

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (SITE PLAN)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title ARCH. JORGE RIGAU

organization COLEGIO DE ARQUITECTOS DE PUERTO RICO

date SEPTEMBER, 1985

street & number BOX 2299

telephone (809) 724-1213

city or town HATO REY

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 ARCH. MARIANO G. CORONAS CASTRO

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date JANUARY 9, 1986

For NPS use only

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

date 4/3/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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date entered

Continuation sheet

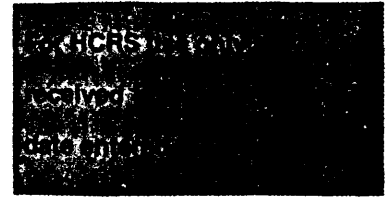
Item number 8

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people. José De Diego was considered a prominent jurist, as an orator was one of the most applauded. As legislator he paid attention to all the fundamental problems of the country and many improvements in the law were due to his constant, thoughtful action.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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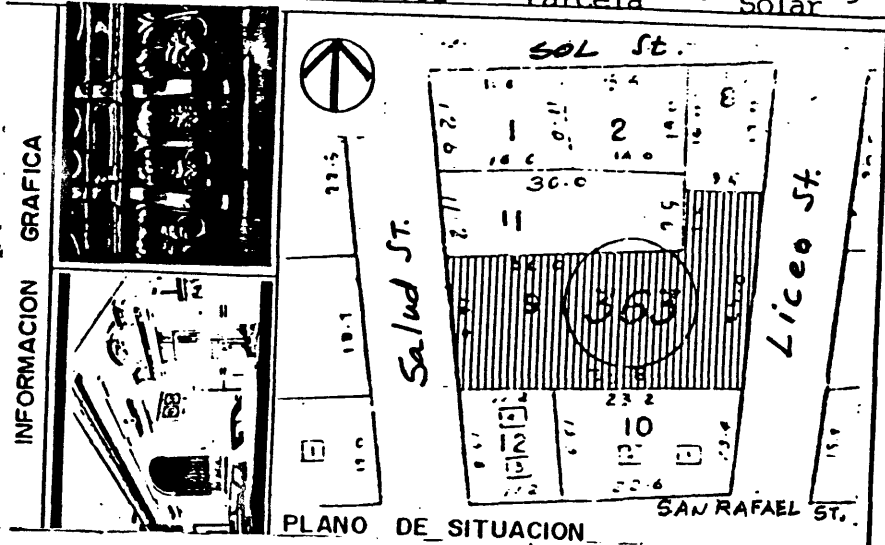


Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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NOMBRE COMUN	RESIDENCIA LERIA ESMORIS
NOMBRE HISTORICO	"LA CASA SOLARIFGA DE JOSE DE DIEGO
ARQUITECTO	DESCONOCIDO
DIRECCION	CALLE LICEO #52 Parcela 363 Solar 9



Scale: 1:1000