

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

For NPS use only

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

received 12-5-85

date entered

JAN 19 1986
1-13-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic EL PARTERRE- OJO DE AGUA

and/or common EL PARTERRE

2. Location

bounded by Muñoz Rivera, Gonzalo Firpo, De Diego and
street & number Mangó Streets _____ not for publication

city, town Aguadilla _____ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Aguadilla code 0030

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name MUNICIPALITY OF AGUADILLA

street & number CITY HALL, SAN CARLOS AVENUE

city, town AGUADILLA _____ vicinity of state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Progreso Street, Courthouse

city, town Aguadilla _____ state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Aguadilla Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

city, town San Juan _____ state Puerto Rico 00901

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

El Parterre is a small park enclosing a natural water spring known as "El Ojo de Agua", which empties into a rivulet named "El Rfo Chico".

A subterranean river which originates on the North coast of the Island, travels more than thirty miles and emerges in the middle of downtown Aguadilla, in a small park constructed around the water spring known as "El Parterre". To commemorate the gift of "God's Water", the townspeople constructed the park where monuments to past poets, politicians and statesmen remind future generations of their heritage and of the fact that "God's bread belongs to all men, but God's water belongs only to Agudillanos".

Guarded by a low concrete fence and wrought iron gates, (Exhibit 6A,) the park's entrance gate sports an arched wrought iron lettering in dedication to a local patrician, (Exhibit 6B) whose bronze bust greets the visitors upon entering the facilities. (Exhibit 6C). Busts of other famous personalities and statesmen have been located throughout the premises. (Exhibit 6C,D.). But the real homage and motif of this Town Square is nature itself; and trees, birds, water, wind and tropical light shine all throughout (Exhibits 6C, E, F, G). The homage to the underwater well or "eye", as it is widely known by townfolks, is its most important asset. Water that is born by water somewhere distant, and returns to water, the Caribbean Sea at the Aguadilla bay. To this effect the big "water box" (Exhibit 6G, I, J) was constructed; with balustered balconies, statues of vestals, arched bridges, raised balconies, channelled basings and the never ending sound of the flowing water. (Exhibit 6I, J.)

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

Specific dates 1851-1852 **Builder/Architect** E. HAU (Fountain) 1851-1852

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Parterre" is the name given to the park which encloses the "ojo del agua" (spring) which was the main source of water supply for the island's first settlers. It was widely used during the XVI, XVII and XVIII Centuries for this same purpose by ships on their way to the continent. Even Sir Frances Drake after his defeat in the late XVI Century used this spot to freshen his water supplies before his long journey back to England.

It was this great activity in the area of the "Parterre" which contributed to the founding, development and prosperity of the city of Aguadilla. Even the city's name is derived from the spring.

During a visit to the Island in 1778, Fray Iñigo Abad & La Sierra describes the spot as one of great beauty.

In 1851-1852, under the direction of the German master Enrique Hau, a mortar and stone enclosure was built around the spring. Also a shallow brick pool and a stone encasement for the rivulet were built. The plans for the park were the work of the Spanish painter Rada. In 1865 Dr. Adolfo Ruiz, the Spanish Magistrate at the time, had the "Puente de la Reina" (The Queen's Bridge) constructed, which provided the easternmost background for the parterre.

In 1882, Mayor Don Ramón Méndez de Arcay, backed by a number of well to do citizens, built a small park by the fountain. This adjoining park, next to the public square, became a favorite recreational area and a source of Inspiration for great poets such as José de Diego and José J. Esteves, whose monuments now stand near the main entrance. El Parterre was enlarged, fenced and embellished with statues and tropical plants in recent decades. Because of the water spring or "Ojo del Agua", Aguadilla is known throughout the Island as "La Villa del Ojo". The fountain was known as "Fuente de la Princesa", after an unnamed Spanish princess, and Muñoz Rivera Street was originally called "Calle de la Fuente" (Fountain Street).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abbad, I., Historia de la Isla de Puerto Rico, 1866 Ed., S.J., Acosta
Abril Asunción, "El Parterre de Aguadilla", Publ. in El Mundo, S. J. March 19, 1944
Brau, Salvador, Puerto Rico y Su Historia, 1894, Valencia
Reichard, Herman, El Parterre de Aguadilla, 1966, S. J. P. R. Planning Board

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4,648 Sq. Meters

Quadrangle name Aguadilla

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References 67°-08'-47" South 18°-25'-57" East

A

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B

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 Governmental Center, to the South by Gonzalo Firpo Street; to the East by De Diego Street, and to the West by Muñoz Rivera Street.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eng. José Rafael Bourdony, J. & B. Associates
Herman Reichard, Associate Professor of History, Ret.

organization Centro Cultural José de Diego date July, 1984

street & number San Carlos Avenue telephone 891-1458

city or town Aguadilla state Puerto Rico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

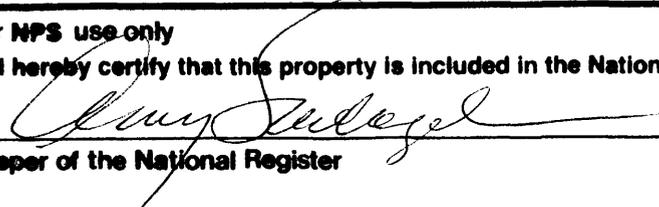
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Arch. Mariano G. Coronas VASIRO

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 1/13/88

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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The park, an integral part of the nominated property, was built to enclose the spring and is an important element of the property's setting. It is significant because it reflects the nineteenth century interpretation of the spring and commemorates its historic importance. The spring, and its encasement, together with the bridge, the park and its ornamentation are contributing elements.