

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

For NPS use only

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

received **APR 20 1986**

date entered

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

APR 30 1986

1. Name

historic CASA MIGUEL C. GODREAU

and/or common CASA GODREAU

2. Location

street & number Calle Reina No. 146 _____ not for publication

city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Ponce code 0115

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Leonina Godreau

street & number Calle Reina No. 146

city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00733

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registro de la Propiedad, Depto. de Justicia (2nd Section)
(Recorder's Office)

street & number Box 2151

city, town Ponce _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00733

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colegio Arquitectos de Puerto Rico has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Colegio de Arquitectos de Puerto Rico

city, town San Juan _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

Check one

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

original site
 moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

In 1919, Eng. Julio Conesa designed and constructed the wooden house located at 146 Reina Street in the city of Ponce for his friend Miguel C. Godreau. The structure was a wedding present for his young wife Leonina.

A central corridor divides the plan of the house into three parts and leads from the living room to the dining area, one of the most comfortable and important spaces of the house. Among the outstanding interior features are the paintings of the walls of the living room and corridor or marbleizing, which simulate marble and/or stone and completely mask the wooden surface on which they are painted. The chair rails throughout the house and the wainscot in the dining room are made of variegated woods. The original color scheme has been retained up to the present in all details, both inside and out, with only minor retouching. An asymmetrical wood divider or "mediopunto" articulates the living room space and plays a vital role in the spatial division of the house. Elaborate stained glass saloon doors provide privacy to the corridor when needed. Designed in geometrical patterns, these swinging doors act as the only physical, yet translucent, barrier between the semi-public and private areas of the house.

Other spaces in the house include four bedrooms, an office, four built-in closets, two comfortable bathrooms, a large kitchen and a pantry, all part of the original design. Some of these features emerge, in size and distribution as highly modern and sophisticated commodities, given the time in which the house was built. An "L" shaped balcony wraps around the S.E. corner of the house, another feature typical and repetitive in Ponce architecture.

The facades are simple yet elegant. A dark forest green color covers the wood siding; its windows and decorative elements are painted in white. Double-hung, translucent paneled windows are the main decorative features in the living room. Louvered doors and windows provide the ventilation to most of the other spaces. Roof vents are also main decorative elements of the facades.

Among the original structures still standing on the site are: the coach house, a children's playhouse, a charcoal storage structure, an orchidarium, a water tower with pump house, a gazebo and a concrete laundry wash basin. The property is delineated to the South by a low concrete wall with ornamental iron grille-work.

The only major feature altered is the roof covering of the balcony area, which in recent years was replaced by zinc when the original red, curved clay tiles deteriorated. The zinc roof is still painted red to simulate the tiles.

Mrs. Leonina Godreau still uses the house as her residence. Original furnishings and ornaments dating back to the inauguration of the house are still in use.

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 1919

Builder/Architect Eng. Julio Conesa, designer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Julio Morales, master builder
Bértoli, marbleizing technique

Unlike most of the architecture of early 20th century Ponce, which has Neo-classical influence, Casa Godreau stands out as one of the best examples of the changing design concepts of residential construction of that period. The three-part plan layout and organizing spatial sequence which commences with the living room and culminates with the dining room are typical of innumerable later examples. Architectural elements such as the asymmetrical "mediopunto" or wood divider, the stained glass saloon doors, and the marbleizing technique,¹ painted by the local artist, Bertoli, make this residence significant. Its significance is augmented by the excellent state of preservation due to continued use and maintenance by its original owners.

In 1919, Miguel Godreau had his friend Eng. Julio Conesa Design and construct the wooden house located at 146 Reina Street in the City of Ponce. The structure was a wedding present for his young wife Leonina. The elegant, yet unpretentious, exterior of this house belies its interior distribution which is highly significant in terms of residential architecture in Ponce.

Built-in closets, comfortable bathrooms and a large kitchen part of the original design, emerge as highly "modern" and sophisticated commodities, given the time in which the house was built. An "L" shaped exterior balcony wraps around the S.E. corner of the house, another feature typical of Ponce architecture.

¹ MARBLEIZING: the use of antiquing techniques to achieve the appearance of marble in a paint film.

MARBLEIZED: having the appearance of marble, or made to look like marble by a special application of paint, as in marbled woodwork.

(Definitions taken from Dictionary of Architecture and Construction, edited by Cyril M. Harris, Mc Graw-Hill, Inc., 1975, pg. 308.)

9. Major Bibliographical References plans for the house.

Borges, Norma. "Ponce Abraza su Rico Legado Arquitectónico", Redacción de Periódico El Mundo Sección Diario Vivir, 21 de julio, 1985.
Rigau, Jorge. "El Ponce que no se Conoce, Un Legado de Todos". Periódico El Reportero Especial para Sección Viva, 30 de julio, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 18,440 sq. ft. or .42332 acres
Quadrangle name USGS Ponce 1970 Quadrangle scale 1: 20,000

UTM References LAMBERT: 18°0'50"
66°37'9"
A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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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. Beatriz del Cueto Pantel
organization Colegio de Arquitectos de P.R. date February, 1986
street & number Box 2299 telephone (809) 724-1213
city or town Hato Rey state Puerto Rico 00919

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 December 27, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlager date 4/30/90
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

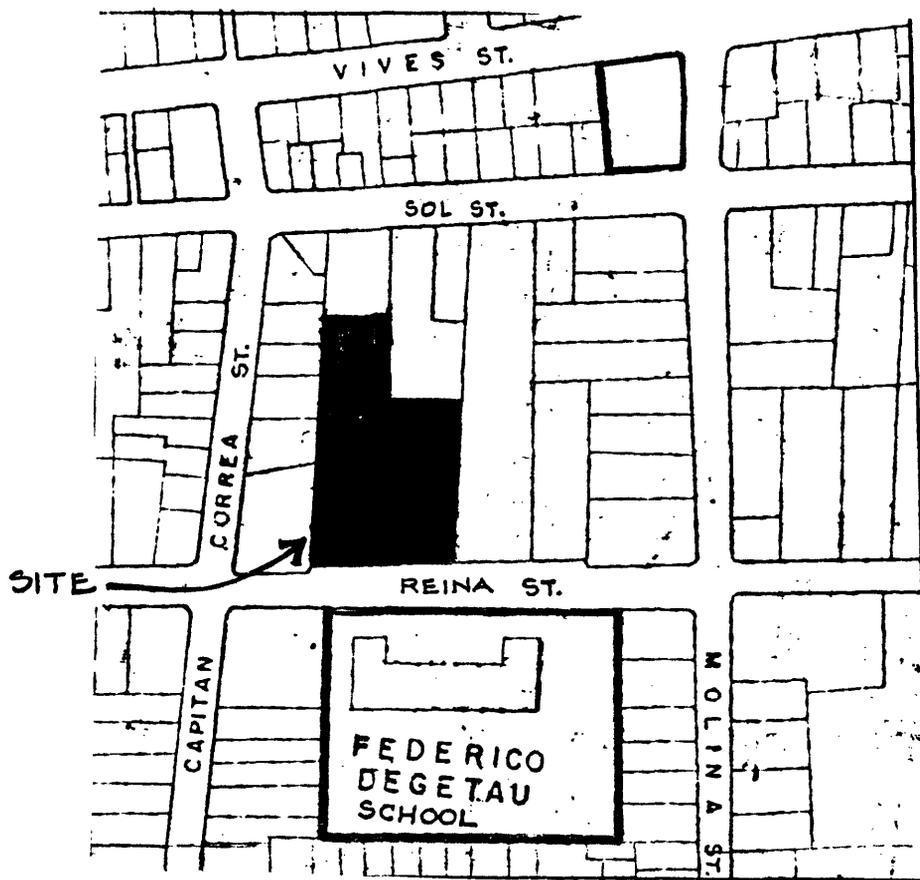
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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1



SITE PLAN SCALE: 1:2,000

The House is surrounded by Godreau family properties.