United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS u	se only	/		
received	OCT	9	1986	j
date ente	red	r.	5	1901

_ not for publication

code 0650

n/a

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

1. Name

historic RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO EN GUANAJIBO

and/or common RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO (Ramírez de Arellano Residence)

2. Location

street & number PR STATE ROAD NO. 102

city, town MAYAGUEZ

____ vicinity of N/A

county MAYAGUEZ

72

state PUERTO RICO

code PR

3. Classification

district	Ownership public _X_ private both	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied	Present Use agriculture commercial	museum park
	Public Acquisition	work in progress Accessible	educational	_X_ private residence religious
•	in process being considered N/A	X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	government industrial military	scientific transportation other:

4. Owner of Property

name DR	. RAF	AEL 1	ADAL ARRI	ILLAGA							
street & nu	umber	STATI	E ROAD NO.	. 102							
city, town	MAYA	GUEZ		vi	icinity of	N/A		state	PUER	TO RICO	
5. Lo	oca	tion	of Leg	al Des	crip	tion					
courthouse	e, regist	ry of dee	eds, etc. REGI (REC	STRO DE L CORDER'S (LA PRO OFFICE	PIEDAD,	DEPA	RTAME	NTO	DE HACI	ENDA
street & nu	umber (OVERI	MENT BUII	DING, BA	RRIO M	IRADERO					
city, town	MAYA	GUEZ	7					state	PUER	TO RICO	
6. R	epro	ese	ntation	in Exi	sting	g Surv	reys	;			
-			PLANNING MAYAGUEZ		has this	property be	en deter	mined e	ligible	? yes	_X no
date J	ULY,	1984					federal	X sta	ate	county	local
depository	for surv	vey reco	rds STATE	HISTORIC	PRESE	RVATION	OFFI	CE			

city, town SAN JUAN,

state PUERTO RICO

7. Description

Condition X excellent deteriorate good ruins fair unexposed	altered	Check one _X original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Ramirez de Arellano residence is a vast estate located along the shore road on the southern outskirts of Mayaguez. It is composed of a main house, two stories high, and a garage structure towards the rear of the property. The garage has a two level section which houses the servant's quarters. In an adjacent area is a semi-formal garden and the remaining property is covered with exhuberant native vegetation and enclosed by a low wall.

The plan of the main house is square, divided into six bays. The ground floor is partially enclosed along the front, probably done so to prevent extensive damage should there be flooding from the sea, directly located across from this side of the property. This may also have been done to give this principal facade a fuller appearance. The rooms in this area were also used by servants and as additional guest quarters.

A large exterior staircase located on the northern edge of the house leads to the second and main floor. From the staircase a vast veranda is reached. This element embraces the western portion as well as part of the northern area of the square plan. The main facade on the West side faces the sunset and the ocean. This is still where most of the daytime living and entertainement takes place. The veranda leads to a screened porch area and later to a square dining room which is located at the very center of the plan. The enclosed part of the house is entered at this point. The living room located North of the dining room is of the same width. A simple arched opening connects both spaces. A spacious kitchen, three bedrooms and two bathrooms are distributed in the remaining L-shape portion of the house or southeast area of the plan.

The materials which make up the structure of the residence are concrete and wood. The ground floor is composed of a series of columns distributed to form square bays. These support a concrete slab that holds the floor of the main house above. Only the columns on the edge of the plan project through the second floor. A separate series of columns in the central dining room support the wooden beams that span from the edge of the building. The corrugated zinc roofs are pitched and the wood ceilings are finished in simple patterns. A wave-pattern bargeboard conceals the ends of the rafters along the overhang edge. The roof of the dining room projects higher than the rest. Clerestory windows crown the interior space providing it with natural light and ventilation. A dormer window located above the main bathroom accents the East facade and serves to ventilate the space. The interior partitions are wood.

The facades are very simple. The veranda is surrounded by a concrete railing with rectangular planters spanning the space between the columns. Most of the exterior surfaces are simple and unpretentious. Wood, horizontal, louvered, casement-type windows provide the house with the needed ventilation and light. The versatility and posible positions of these openings is further improved by the placement of rectangular wood-grilled transoms above each which, even if windows are closed, provide the residence with a constant flow of natural air. The interior doors also have this element. There is a covered staircase at the rear (East) of the

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of SignificanceC archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X. architecture art commerce communications		Iandscape architecture Iaw Iterature	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Circa 1930	Builder/Architect U	nknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Circa 1930 , Don Alfredo Ramírez de Arellano y Rosell ordered built his second home and beach house at a site on State Road 102. This noteworthy citizen was a banker, politician and a prominent senator in the district of Mayaguez for the Unionist Party, a leading party during those times. In 1925 he founded one of the largest sugar mills in Puerto Rico, Hacienda Igualdad, which he presided until his death. He was a major philanthropist who donated substantial amounts of money to church and welfare organizations in the southwest of Puerto Rico.

The Ramirez de Arellano vacation home is highly significant because it is one of the best examples of a twentieth century revival of the "plantation type" house.

The plantation style was a building type which matured in the mid nineteenth century and developed as a response to specific purposes related to the growing industries of sugar and coffee in Puerto Rico. The original layout kept the ground floor open for storage and needed service areas, while the main family residence was located on the more elaborate and sometimes elegant second floor.

The de Arellano house was built following the same basic layout, although using refined craftsmanship. It is also interesting to note that the house was constructed as a second family home and definitely had no direct use as a plantation, although inspired by the type.

A new element was incorporated which did not belong to the original style but relates strongly to the best architecture produced in Mayaguez at the time: an astonishing ceiling height. This feature, truly characteristic of Mayaguez and now existing in only a few structures remaining, is made evident at the Nadal House* in its dining room area. In the early twentieth century, extensive reconstructions were carried out in the city of Mayaguez following a major earthquake. All new construction after the disaster pursued higher interior spaces, taller than those of any dwellings of any period in other Island towns. The "scale" of the Mayaguezan spaces is a noteworthy characteristic of the area's residential construction and the Ramírez de Arellano residence is one of the best exponents of this feature.

*Ramirez de Arellano House

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gaudier y Cabassa, Martín. Genealogía. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, 1959.

	Geographic	al Data				
Acreage of	nominated property 3	acres				
Quadrangle		GUEZ 1964	,	Qua	drangle scale <u>1</u> :	_20,000
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List all et	ates and counties for p	properties over!	ipping state or	county bound	aries	
	N/A		/A county	N/A		N/A
state	N/A			IN / A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code N	/ A county	N/A	code	N/A
11. F	Form Prepa	red By			<u> </u>	
name/title	Architects José	<u>é Ramírez a</u>	nd Beatriz	del Cueto	de Pantel	
organizatio	n Colegio de Arc	quitectos de	≥ P.R	date Sept	ember, 1984	
street & nu	mber Box 2299			telephone (809) 724-1213	3
city or towr	Hato Rey,			state Puer	to Rico	
	State Histor	ic Prese	rvation	Office	r Certifica	ation
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United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Ramírez de Arellano Residence Continuation sheet

Item number

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house. Part of the sides of the stair are enclosed by a wood, squarepatterned grill.

The framing of the porch screens exhibits an elaborate, geometrical pattern in a series of squares with inset diamonds. Ornate, multicolored native Puerto Rican cement tiles were used throughout the house to create diverse floor patterns.

The garage building is a wooden structure divided into five bays. The second story, slightly wider than the middle bay, has its axis perpendicular to that of the floor below, and a balcony projects to the front. The balcony's wood railing pattern and ceiling edge are ornamented. The garage has a two-way pitched, corrugated zinc roof at each level which are perpendicular to each other.

The surrounding garden is informal, and basically defined by large grass areas with a wide variety of tropical plants, palms and diverse trees.

Due to the fact that up to a year ago the house remained in the hands of the same family that had it constructed, the alterations and changes have been minor and have left no major impact on the building fabrics or grounds.

It is in an excellent state of preservation.

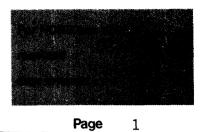
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

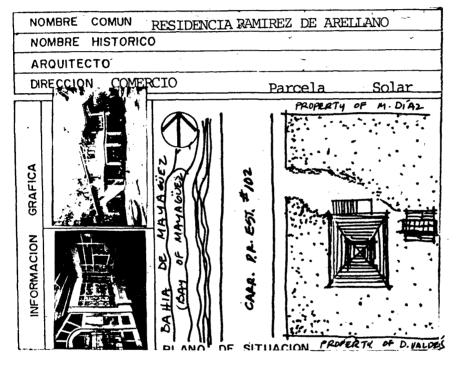
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Item number

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Scale: 1:1000