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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

FEB 11 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: N/A

other names/site number: **Rafael Acevedo House; Mirella Acevedo Sanes House**

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2. Location

=====

street & number: **Victor Duteil St, Blk. 17 lot 2**
city or town: **Isabel Segunda** vicinity _____
state: **Puerto Rico** code: **PR** county: **Vieques** code: **147**
zip code: **00765**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arleen Pabón PhD
Signature of certifying official

February 8, 1994
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	<u>Edson H. Beall</u>	<u>3/17/94</u>
___ See continuation sheet.		
___ determined eligible for the National Register		Entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.		
___ determined not eligible for the National Register		
___ removed from the National Register		
___ other (explain): _____		
	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: **N/A**

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

=====
7. Description
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Architectural Classification: other: Four-room Vieques Creole; other:
Neoclásico.

Materials

foundation: wood
roof : metal
walls : wood
other :concrete

Narrative Description

See accompanying continuation sheets.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.

- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: **Architecture**

Period of Significance: **circa 1900-1942**

Significant Dates: **circa 1900**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Pedro Peterson**

Narrative Statement of Significance

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: **Deeds Registry, Fajardo**

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: **less than one acre**

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	241485	2008600	___	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: **Héctor Santiago Cazull / Architectural Conservator ; Robert Rabin / Historian. (Revised and edited by PRSHPO)**

organization: **Cultural Center Yaureibo and Institute of Puerto Rican Culture**

date: **September 30, 1993**

street & number: **54 Ulises Martínez St. telephone: (809) 850-1885**

city or town: **Humacao** state: **PR** zip code: **00791**

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Property Owner
=====

name: **Mirella Acevedo Sanes c/o Rafael Acevedo**

street & number: **P.O. Box 243 telephone: (809) 741-4201 / 874-7206**

city or town: **Vieques** state: **PR** zip code: **00765**

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Rafael Acevedo House
Vieques, Puerto Rico

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Rafael Acevedo House is a one-story, four-room single dwelling located at the south side of Víctor Duteil Street, between San José and Baldorioty de Castro Streets, in the town of Isabel Segunda, Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. The wood-frame house has a concrete balcony along the street façade, and corrugated-metal roof with hipped, side gables. It sits along the front line of the lot, allowing for only very narrow corridors along the sides, and a very small yard behind.

The principal core of the house is a small rectangle, with its longer side along the street façade, which sits upon low, wooden posts. The main façade, covered with narrow, horizontal tongue-and-groove wooden boards, has two openings: a wood-panel door with an aluminum, "Miami"-type window (a recent addition), and an aluminum "Miami"-type window at bay number two. Simple wooden moldings framing both openings, indicate that both bays were originally closed off by doors. A decorative, concrete balcony, raised upon a low concrete plinth, replaced the original wooden balcony during the 1940s. This element has three concrete, fluted columns with Ionic capitals with volutes on all four sides. The columns are located at the corners and at the center of the façade. A decorative, concrete-baluster railing spans the width between the columns and enclosed the balcony. The individual balusters display a vertical element at their center, from which spring halves of round arches toward either side, both above and below. When placed side-by-side, the balusters create a series of oval voids. The concrete columns support the original balcony-roof. It is a projection of the main roof, at a much lower, almost flat pitch. A simple cornice-like element, consisting of a thick, plan frieze and molding, spans the width of the balcony above the columns and supports the eave of the balcony roof. The façade composition is crowned by the side-gabled roof with hipped gables.

Access is gained to the balcony by means of a step at the eastern extreme of the balcony. The interior of the house presents a variety upon the vernacular four-room plan. One enters the house via the living room. By means of a centralized door (toward the West), one gains entrance into the principal bedroom, which runs along

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Vieques, Puerto Rico

the main façade. South of the living room is the dining room, located under a lean-to-roof at the rear of the house. To the west of the dining room and south of the main bedroom, is the second bedroom. By means of a centralized door on the south wall of the second bedroom, one enters the kitchen, which does not belong to the original plan of the house. The southwestern corner of the kitchen area has been walled-off in order to create a small bathroom. A centralized door on the east wall of the kitchen leads out onto a concrete terrace. The terrace occupies an area which "squares off" the plan, and has three octagonal columns on the east side and two on the south side. The terrace was constructed at the same time as the concrete balcony, and has been enclosed with wooden panels and aluminum "Miami" type windows. It is currently used as a laundry room.

The kitchen, bathroom and terrace area all have concrete floors. These spaces were built on top of an underground brick-masonry cistern, not used at the present time.

All interior doors are original wooden, jalousie double-doors, and all are well-conserved under various layers of paint. At the living room, the entrance and bedroom doors and a "Miami" type window at the eastern wall are articulated with decorative eared surrounds with classical moldings. All other doors and windows within the house display simple surrounds with Classical moldings. All doors and windows have ventilating transoms, consisting of a square opening with vertically placed wooden sticks.

The walls of the living room and main bedroom are covered with original, vertically-striated boards or *tabloncillo*. A chair-rail of classical moldings surrounds the four walls of the living room. The dining room and the second bedroom have exposed, braced-frame construction. All of the ceilings have *tabloncillo* boards, except for the kitchen and terrace areas, which have no ceiling. Octagonal Classical rosettes serve as a decorative mounting for the lamp installations at the living and dining rooms.

The main attraction of the interior of the Acevedo is the *mediopunto* or *grillé* that separates the living room from the dining room. This element consists of a millwork

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Vieques, Puerto Rico

arcade of three low, elliptical arches, supported by two slender, square pilasters at center, and engaged pilasters, at the sides. The arches are articulated with simple, plain surround moldings. The intercolumnar space under the central arch is spanned by a low (36"-high) shelving unit. There are tall and narrow wooden doors built into the dining room side of the engaged pilasters, which hide small "curio" areas with tiny shelves.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rafael Acevedo House was built circa 1900 by Pedro Peterson, a local master builder. The house is significant architecturally, as it is the best preserved example of the hipped-gable type of Vernacular dwellings in Vieques. Furthermore, it combines three significant features which associate it with the historic context "Immigrations to Vieques, 1823-1898." The combination of these features reveals the island's diverse cultural heritage and its effect upon popular architecture in Vieques. As a result, the Acevedo House provides an excellent example for the study of the evolution of Vernacular architecture in Vieques.

Historic information regarding this house is very scarce. There are no references regarding the original owners of the property, or even about the rightful users of the municipal lot at the time of the construction. Old-time residents concur that the house was built by Pedro Peterson, a fact confirmed by Gloria Peterson, the master builder's daughter. The original owner, a woman whose identity is still unknown, sold the property to Eleuterio Rodríguez Bermúdez, a local horse-racing agent. Mr. Rafael Acevedo, current owner of the house, claims to have bought the structure in 1958. None of these transactions have been as of yet recorded at the Property Deed's Register. The house is currently rented by Mrs. Clarissa Meléndez.

The house is significant in architectural terms, as an excellent example of the local four-room, hipped-gable Vernacular house type, evolved under the influences of 19th-

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Vieques, Puerto Rico

century immigrations to Vieques Island. Both of these elements reveal a relation to similar examples of popular architecture in the Island of Guadeloupe. The combination of the basic four-room plan, the hipped-gable roof, the *mediopunto*, and the concrete balcony, emphasizes the diversity of local architecture. Although it is not the only house which combines these diverse architectural elements, the Acevedo House is the best-preserved of the few remaining examples of the type.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Berthelot Jack, and Martin Gaumé. Kas Antiyé Jan Moun Ka Rété (Caribbean Popular Dwelling) Guadeloupe: Editions Perspectives Créoles, 1982.

Buisenet, David. Historic Architecture of the Caribbean. London: Heinemann, 1980.

Gosner, Pamela W. Caribbean Georgian: The Great and Small Houses of the West Indies, First Edition. Washington, D.C.: Three Continents Press, 1982.

Meléndez, Clarissa. Interview with Clarissa Meléndez, current resident of the property, as carried out by Héctor Santiago on August 13, 1992.

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Foundation and Settlement of Vieques, 1811 - 1860," a historical context prepared with a 'Survey and Planning' grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941."

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Immigrations to Vieques, 1823-1898," a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941."

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Rafael Acevedo House
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Slesin, Suzanne, Stafford Cliff, Jack Berthelot, Martine Gaumé, Daniel Rozenstroch and Gilles de Chabaneix. Caribbean Style. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1985.

Registro de la Propiedad. Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is defined by the property limits corresponding to lot number two (2) of urban block number seventeen (17) of the town of Isabel Segunda, Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries comprehend the urban lot currently associated with the property.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SITE PLAN
Casa Rafael Acevedo
Isabel Segunda
Vieques, P.R.
Scale: 1:1000

