

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 19 1987

date entered JUN 25 1987

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

1. Name

historic Banco Crédito y Ahorro Ponceño

and/or common Banco de Santander

2. Location

street & number Marina and Amor Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Ponce

N/A vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

code 072

county Ponce

code 113

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" 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 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 Banco de Santander - Puerto Rico

street & number G.P.O. Box 2589

city, town San Juan

N/A vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ponce Registry of Deeds

street & number Las Américas Ave. Government Center

city, town Ponce

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hist. Arch. Survey of Ponce

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records P.R.S.H.P.O.

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

This building is a two-story masonry and concrete building located near the southeastern end of Ponce's main square. It sits on a corner lot, looking south-westward towards the main street.

It is a single, compact volume which wraps it self around the corner in a dramatic curve that corresponds to the chamfered corner required since the late 19th century by city ordinances. The main two levels have nearly twenty-foot-high ceilings, thus giving the structure sufficient bulk so as to stand out within its context. Verticality is accented by the use of colossal Corinthian pilasters, square and paired at the facades to each street and round and single at the corner.

The exterior is compositionally organized in three levels: the bottom one is a base executed in the pink lime-stone common to this area; the central and main body is defined by the aforementioned colossal pilasters, which articulate the openings of the two main floors in three-bay modules with additional one-bay modules flanking the longer, Amor Street facade.

The upper body is an elaborate entablature with garlands, dentils and a projecting, bracketed upper cornice. On top there is a balustered railing filling the space between three broken pediments, the one on the corner curved, with medallions on their centers. The medallions on the facades contain stained glass inserts, and the one on the corner a clock. First-floor openings are arched, those on the second are rectangular.

The first-floor windows are covered by bulging cages of fine cast-iron bars; those on the second floor are balustered.

The entire ensemble is topped by a copper roof in a Mansard configuration.

The Banco Crédito building, overall, is a fine example of the early twentieth century Beaux-Arts style which is extensively represented in the Ponce architecture of this period.

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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1924-25 **Builder/Architect** Francisco Porrata Doria

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1924 as the main office for the expanding "Banco Crédito y Ahorro Ponceño" bank this building represents one of the last examples of the once popular turn of the century eclectic architecture so common in Ponce after the 1918 earthquake.

The "Banco Crédito" was designed and built by Francisco Porrata Doria, who at the time had recently returned to Puerto Rico after studying engineering at Cornell University and architectural courses at Columbia University*.

This building together with the one next door, "Banco de Ponce", exemplify the effort of local financial institutions to compete with US based banks for the wealth of Puerto Rico's booming sugar economy.

Banco Credito's monumental exuberance expresses the pride of the institution, its solidity and its capacity to hold its own against far more wealthy Stateside institutions competing for the dollars of the local moneyed classes.

The "Banco Crédito y Ahorro" setting on the city's main square contributes to the elegance of this part of the city. Several adjacent structures are already listed in the National Register: the old Firehouse (1883, NR 07-12-84) the City Hall (1845, NR 11-19-86) and the Cathedral (1841, NR 12-10-84). The latter's facade is a 1932 Porrata-Doria design.

*Porrata Doria was one of the island's finest architects, a pioneer in the development of a local modern architecture and one of the architects responsible for what can be called "Ponce Monumental Architecture", of which the "Banco Crédito" is a good example.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ponce City Archives
Banco de Santander Archives
Porrata Doria Family Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ponce

Quadrangle scale 1:20000

UTM References

A

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|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded to the North by Felipe Garcia Building; to the South by Amor St.; to the East by a modern office building; and to the West by Marina St. (see enclosed plan)

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 Félix J. del Campo, State Historian/Jorge Ortiz, Architect

organization PRSHPO date March 27, 1987

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone (809) 721-3737

city or town San Juan 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 Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 27, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlazel date 6/25/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| |
|----------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED MAY 19 1987 |
| DATE ENTERED |

CONTINUATION SHEET

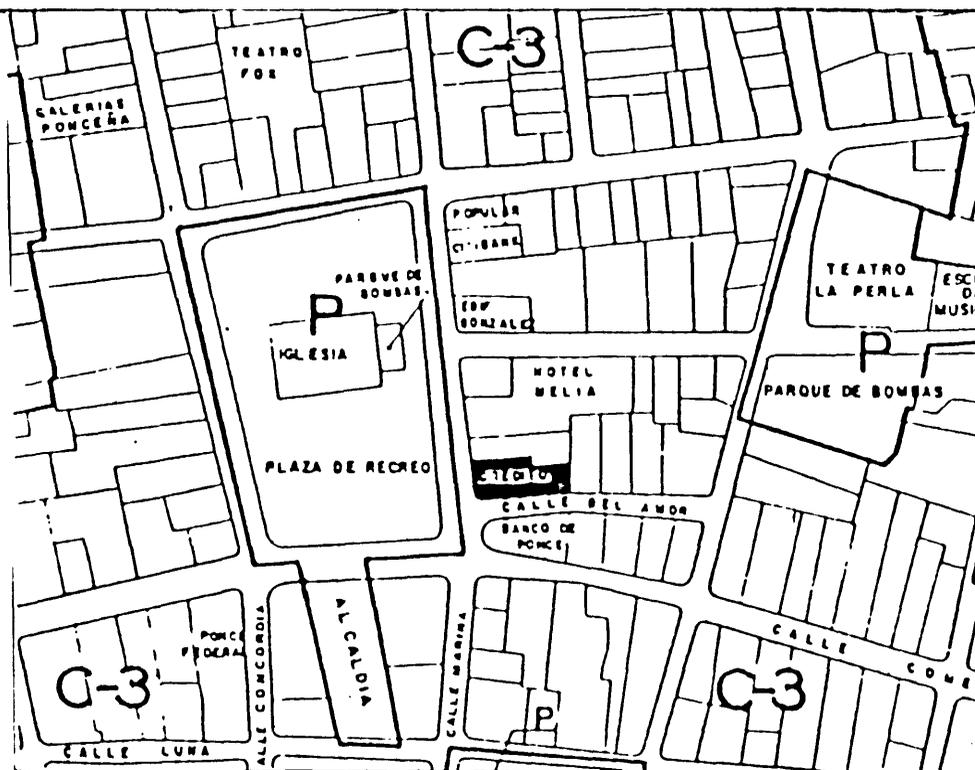
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Banco de Santander

Plaza Degetau esq. Amor - Ponce

Banco de Santander

Ponce



SCALE 1:200