

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 21 1984

date entered JAN 2 1985

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

1. Name

historic DISTRICT COURTHOUSE

and/or common MUSEO DE ARTE DE AGUADILLA

2. Location

street & number Progreso _____ not for publication

city, town Aguadilla N/A— vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code _____ county *Aguadilla* code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 Puerto Rico Public Building Authority

street & number

city, town San Juan, Puerto Rico _____ vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Progreso St., 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 P. R. 00901

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A rectangular concrete two-story building with a statekt Greek-portico in the ionic style, topped by an elaborate frieze. The second floor main hall has ornate ceiling. The facade doorways and windows are ornamented in harmony with the classical style. It is being remodelled to be used as an art museum.

The old courthouse building is a modern neo-classical structure with moldings, truncated arcs, scrolls, and simple molded windows; ionic columns; simple and elaborate moldings; balustered upper roof balcony and upper front central heraldic Puerto Rican lamb emblem. (See Exhibits 26 A,C,D,E).

The interior space has been symmetrically disposed with it's various rooms, both lower and upper floor; with a center staircase single at lower floor and double from mid-floor to second floor. Interior columns both in high and low relief have been executed in simple doric style and rendered square instead of cylindrical. The lower floor ceiling has been simply stated and bordered with a classical doveled molding and molded massive concrete rectangular beams. (The whole structure built of concrete also). All passage hallways connected with arched frames - give way to interdependences and rooms. The second floor ceiling is divided into equal molded relief squares bordered with simple moldings. (See Exhibits 26 F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M).

The front elevation contains 6 windows (altered) at first floor level and 7 windows at the second floor level. Six ionic columns decorate the recessed center rectangle where three lower center floor truncated arches and five pairs of window and door scrolls support arches and upper moldings. (See exhibits 25 A,D.) The back elevation exhibits a center regressed vertical rectangle, with four front and two side windows; two recessed vertical rectangles with four windows and two side regressed vertical rectangles with two windows each. (See Exhibit 26 B.)

Side elevations are simple moderated rectangles with five windows on each floor each (See Exhibits 26 C,D.).

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Historic

Specific dates 1925

Builder/Architect

Rafael Carmoega

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old District Courthouse was built in 1925 to provide facilities for judiciary proceedings at a Regional level. Even since it was built, it became a landmark in the Southern part of the town where the only notable buildings were a few public schools and health units and a railroad station which was razed years ago. Even today it stands out for the beauty of its classic simplicity, harmony of proportion, and refinement of line, in marked contrast with neighboring structures. In the early 1970's the workload and the need for more space made the old building inadequate, and a new judiciary center was built next to it. The second story of the old building was rehabilitated and turned into the Aguadilla Art Museum. Important works of our most significant artists are on permanent display here, among them Carmen Arroyo Gely, Susana Marrero, Rafael Motta, Cajiga, Rafael Tufiño, Hernández Cruz, Sadotnski, Eliseo Echevarría, and López del Campo

Rafael Carmoega was a true forerunner of our 20th. Century Architecture in Puerto Rico. He studied his grade and graduated from the well-known Cornell University in 1918. He worked for the Department of the Interior (Public Works) from 1919 under commissioner Guillermo Esteves, another well-known native of Aguadilla. Carmoega worked together with another architect, A. C. Finlaryson, with whom he directed the construction of the State Capitol in San Juan, a beautiful example of a classical lines in architecture with its marble arches, columnade and stone.

In his search of the aesthetic and those characteristics that were recognized throughout history, Carmoega isled to follow the colonial spanish style in his work as well as some moorish and renacentist list.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Professor Herman Reichard.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5,254.21 sq. meters

Quadrangle name Aguadilla

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References 18°- 25'-36" Lat. North, 67°- 08'-48" Long. West

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by Jesús T. Piñero Street, to the South by Courthouse City, to the East by Progreso Street, and to the West by Comercio Avenue.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ENG. JOSE R. BOURDONY J. B. ASSOCIATES

organization Centro Cultural José de Diego date July 30, 1984

street & number San Carlos Ave. Box 966 telephone 891-7671

city or town Aguadilla state Puerto Rico 00605

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 *[Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 8, 1984

For NPS use only

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

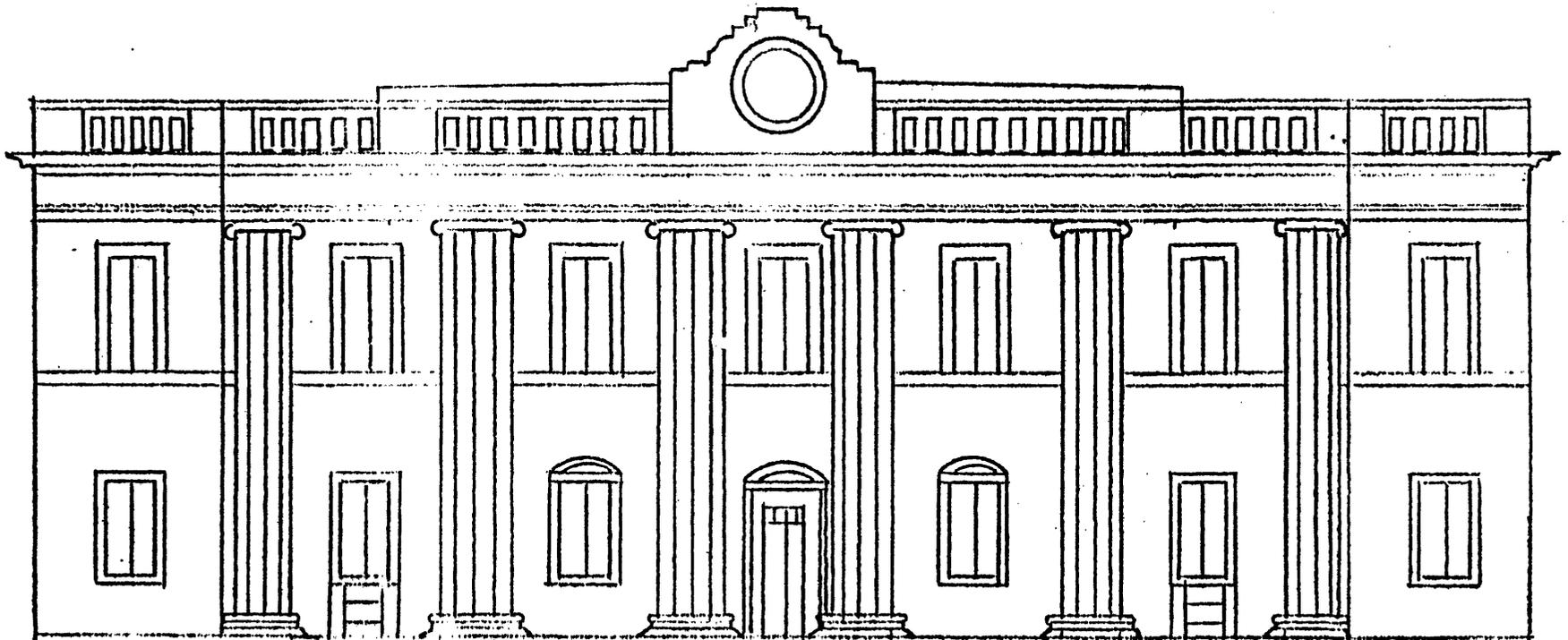
[Signature] Patrick Andrews date 1/2/85

[Signature] Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

ANTIQUE COURTHOUSE



FRONT VIEW

(NOT TO SCALE)