

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 25 1986**

date entered **SEP 29 1986**

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

1. Name

historic Casa Alcaldía de Arecibo

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number José de Diego Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Arecibo vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Arecibo code 013
0090

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 Municipal Government of Arecibo

street & number José de Diego Ave.

city, town Arecibo vicinity of N/A state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Arecibo registry of deeds

street & number Arecibo Government Center

city, town Arecibo state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hist. Arch. Survey of Arecibo has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1985 federal state county local

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

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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

The Arecibo City Hall is a two storey brick and masonry structure. Its main facade is articulated horizontally into rusticated base section and a principal upper storey. The street facade displays a Palladian tripartite organization of 5 bays, in an A-B-A rhythm consisting of a central 3-bay section and 2 flanking, slightly recessed single-bay sections. Rusticated quoins turn the corners of the facade and distinguish the central section from the flanking ones. The quoining stems from a base molding which surrounds the structure, and supports a running cornice which, in turn, supports a parapet wall above. The central section is emphasized further by a pediment rising above the rest of the facade.

The bays of each level are differentiated from those of the other. All bays at the upper level are articulated as rectangular openings with a planar surround, housing wooden double-door jalousies. Flanking, slender pilasters supporting a blind, curved pediment frame the openings, while remaining completely separate from them. All bays of the first level consist of semi-circular arches articulated with voussoirs formed by the joints of the base rustication. A small, decorative keystone protrudes from the center voussoir of each arch. The openings of the central bays which access the lobby enclose wrought-iron grillework gates, and those of the flanking bays are closed by double-shutter jalousie windows.

A running balcony supported by modillion brackets and spanning the central three bays is decorated with wrought iron railings at the upper level. The flanking bays open to similar individual balconies.

The 7-bay side facade on the "Callejón del Correjimientto" is sectioned into two parts: a 2-bay southern section and a 5-bay northern one. The 2-bay section follows the characteristics of the main facade, but the rear section appears to be a later addition, articulated only by a string-course cornice, and rectangular windows of equal proportions (same period).

Arecibo City Hall follows a U-shaped plan which provides light and ventilation to the offices which open out onto its three sides. Arcaded galleries on both floors serve as circulation space as in most Isabellian civil architecture.

The structure has suffered few alterations despite its longevity. The main lobby, which was originally divided into various areas, has been consolidated to provide a larger interior public space. The principal mahogany, marble and mosaic stairway which allows access the upper level has recently been restored. During the restoration, ceilings were installed which cover the original wood beam and brick floor construction.

In brief, alterations to the structure have consisted mainly of meeting the needs of the growing functions of the City Hall, without affecting the architectural integrity which still represents faithfully the stately elegance of the Queen Isabel II 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1866 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Arecibo City Hall (1866), located on the Plaza Mayor on the north west corner of Avenida de Diego, at the corner of the "Callejón del Correjimiento", is the finest example of the civil architecture of the reign of Spain's Queen Isabel II in the region. This two-storey structure uses elements of design typical of the neo-classical vocabulary which dominated Spain and her possessions during the 19th century. Its simple, yet powerful elegance represents clearly the function for which it was intended. Together with the Cathedral of Arecibo, also on the Plaza Mayor, this structure set the trends in this region for the construction of civilian and other important structures.

As political center for the whole northwest region of Puerto Rico, many crucial government decisions were forged by the mayors of Arecibo from this City Hall.

In 1866, it claimed the dubious honor of housing in its first-floor prison the Puerto Rican patriots that comprised the first and only rebellion against Spanish rule, the "Grito de Lares". Among the imprisoned were several important political figures of 19th century Puerto Rican history, such as José Julián Acosta, Julián Blanco Sosa, Pedro Gerónimo Goyco and Calixto Romero.

By the 1890's the prison had been turned into a storage area which ironically housed a marble statue of Queen Isabel II upon its removal from its pedestal on the town Plaza. Today the statue is back in display in another plaza in Arecibo.

The Arecibo City Hall today stands as a vivid and faithful example of 19th century Spanish thought in architecture and government. Occupying an imposing site on the Plaza Mayor in the town of Arecibo, the structure serves as a link between the city's past, present and future.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cadilla, Francisco; Los Ochocentistas; ed. Rumbos; 1961.

Del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián; Un Paseo por el Arecibo de Ayer; ALMACA; ed. 1985.

Limón de Arce, José; Arecibo Histórico; Cantero ed., Manatí; 1938.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .291 acres (1180.53 m²)

Quadrangle name Arecibo

Quadrangle scale 1:20000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification:

North - Old Arecibo Firehouse

East - "Callejón del Correjimiento"

See enclosed

South - José de Diego Ave.

West - Vacant lot

location map

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 Julián del Campo Blanco/ Héctor Santiago, Assistant Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date July 8, 1986

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 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. Corrales Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 8, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 9/29/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

