NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Casa de la Diosa Mita

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 251 Fernandez Juncos st. ☐ not for publication na

city, town Arecibo ☐ vicinity na

state Puerto Rico code PR county Arecibo code 013 zip code 00612

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
☒ private	☒ building(s)	1	0	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	0	0	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	0	0	structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure	0	0	objects
	☐ object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: na

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Mariano G. Coronas Castro — Aug. 1,1988
Signature of certifying official — 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.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. — Amy Schlagel — 9/9/88

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/ Single Dwelling	Domestic/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls concrete
roof concrete
other concrete ornaments

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This is a raised one storey, brick masonry and reinforced concrete residential structure in the historic urban center of Arecibo. This rectangular building with flat roof is oriented along an axis perpendicular to the street. Its overall appearance can be described as consisting of a naive interpretation of the urban, front balcony one storey dwellings of the upper classes in the southern and western coasts of Puerto Rico.

A podium approximately 3 and 1/2 feet high, with three small ventilation holes serve as a base for the ample front verendah. A concrete balaustrade rail supports a colonnade consisting of a series of 4 sets of paired,slender, ionic colums which define the three bays. The columns support a full entablature cornice with a balaustraded parapet which serves as roof to the front verendah. The date of construction, 1914, appears on the frieze of the cornice.

Access to the verendah is by means of a set of lateral stairs. Within the verendah the recessed main facade is also articulated into three equivalent bays, each bay consists of a rectangular oppening with planar surrounds which incorporates an architrave or hood-mold. The architrave consists of a pair of flat brackets supporting an architrave which curves upward at the center in the form of a half elipse. Each bay contains wooden double doors with various rectangular and square glass panels.

Although the house is currently unoccupied and appears to be deteriorated, the exterior and many of the interior elements are intact thus maintaining its integrity. Most deteriorated are the wooden floors and other wooden elements which are decaying. These elements are easily replaced without damaging the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1914	1914

Cultural Affiliation na

Significant Person na

Architect/Builder unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Architecturaly this house is significant for its unique and naive interpretation of the turn of the century highly ornamental local architecture which developed in the south coast of Puerto Rico. Generally Arecibo's architecture can be described as a provincial version of the 19th C. Spanish Neoclasical style of San Juan. In Turn, The typical provincial classical motifs of the buildings of Arecibo and the massivness of Spanish architecture of San Juan are applied to a typology native to the South of the island characterized by much lightweight ornamentation and gracefullnes.

La Casa de la Diosa Mita is the only example of this typology in Arecibo, incorporating the nuances of the local north coast vocabulary. Because of its distinction among the houses in Arecibo it is considered a popular local landmark.

At a future date the significance of this property should be revised to include as significant person associated with the house the founder of the Mita religious sect, who according to the sect, recived the inspiration of founding a new religion in this house in the 1950's.

☐ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián, Un Paseo Por El Arecibo De Ayer , Ed. Almaca Arecibo, 1985

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: Mita Church Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	19	740890	204385
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

see enclosed location plan

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

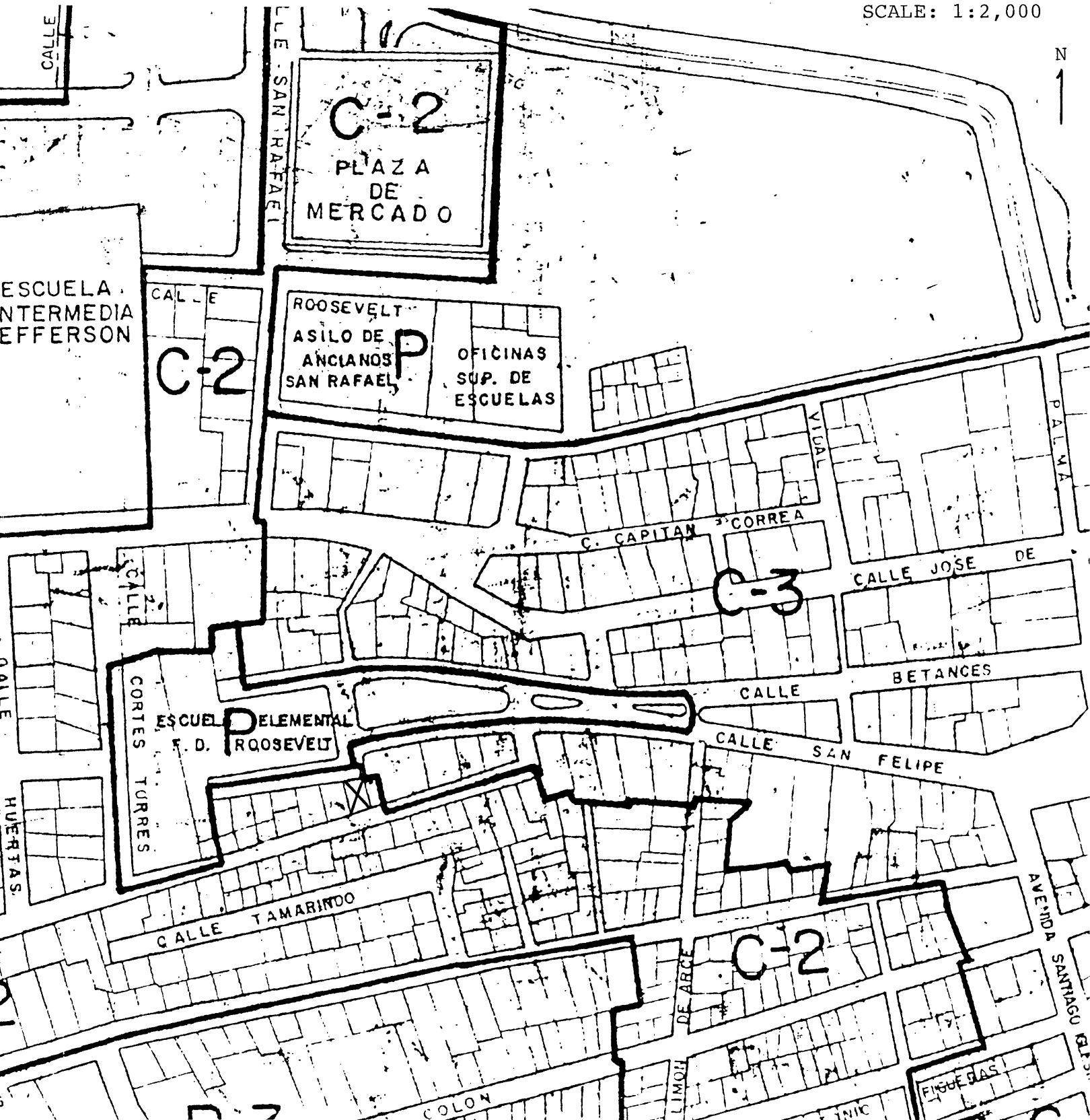
The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the property

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo, State Historian / Hector F. Santiago, Architectural Historian
organization Puerto Rico SHPO date September 1987
street & number Box 82 La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3737
city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00901

SCALE: 1:2,000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CALLE
LLE SAN RAFAEL
C-2
PLAZA DE MERCADO
ESCUELA INTERMEDIA JEFFERSON
CALLE
C-2
ROOSEVELT
ASILO DE ANCIANOS SAN RAFAEL
P
OFICINAS SUP. DE ESCUELAS
VIGAL
PALMA
C. CAPITAN CORREA
C-3
CALLE JOSE DE BETANCES
CALLE
CALLE
CORTES TURRES
ESCUELA ELEMENTAL F. D. ROOSEVELT
P
CALLE SAN FELIPE
HUERTAS
CALLE TAMARINDO
C-2
DE ARCE
AVENIDA SANTIAGO
COLON
LIMON
FIGUERAS