NPS Form 10-900
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 25 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Edificio Oliver

and/or common Edificio Cliver

2. Location

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Arecibo ___ vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Arecibo code 0090

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Central Federal Savings Bank

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave.

city, town Arecibo ___ vicinity of Arecibo 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 X no

date July, 1985 ___ federal X 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
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Oliver Building is located at the northeast corner of the Callejón del Correjimiento and Avenida De Diego in the town center of Arecibo. The structure was built for residential and commercial purposes but today houses purely commercial activities. The three-storey structure presents facades on the north, west and south, with a chamfered southwest corner which serves as a main entrance. The north and west facades are divided into seven bays and the south facade into six. Horizontally, the building is composed of two parts: a one-storey base and a two-storey body.

At the base section, a sidewalk gallery is formed by an arcade of circular arches consisting of all bays on the south facade and the sixth and seventh bays of the west facade. All remaining bays are articulated as horseshoe arches and are closed by louvred wooden double-doors and fanlights. A continous molding enframes each arc, crossing the piers at the impost level. A series of lions' heads butt up against a continous stringcourse which separates the body of the building from its base.

The main section of the building comprises the second and third storeys. All bays are articulated as rectangular openings with planar surrounds. Each opening leads to a balustered balcony, supported by decorative brackets. Balconies are treated in size and shape as either individual, with rounded corners; or two-bay, rectangular. The body of the building is characterized by a two-storey monumental composite order, with each pilaster base resting on the string-couse, directly above each lion head. The order supports an entablature which terminates this section.

Capping the composition is a balustered parapet with roman amphorae placed at intervals coinciding with the pilasters of the monumental order. The balauster is interrupted at the chamfered corner by a curvilinear frontispiece which emphasizes the corner entrance and now displays a modern digital clock.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1914 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oliver Building is located where, in 1765, the Spanish Government built the "King's House", a two-storey building used as a military garrison until 1868. Afterward, the structure became a courthouse, police headquarters and a public school. In 1913 the King's House was demolished to make way for Oliver's commercial venture.

The Oliver Building was innovative for its day and age in Arecibo in various ways. It was a venture in that it was the first building in Arecibo to utilize the urban concept of apartment living together with commercial viability; up to then, Arecibo's small town character was emphasized by the presence of single-family dwellings and small shops in and about the center. In this building came to live some of the "best" families of Arecibo. For a time it was also an "international house" of sorts, home to various foreign consulates. Shops occupied all first floor spaces.

Another breakthrough for Oliver, the building was the first to incorporate reinforced concrete construction methods in the Arecibo region. It was also the first structure in Arecibo to address the street and plaza on a diagonal by the use of a chamfered corner entrance. In brief, the building represents the arrival of modernization and then current urban concepts to the northwestern region of Puerto Rico.

Architecturally, the ornamentation reflects the Beaux Arts School of thought spreading throurghout Europe and America, arriving in Puerto Rico with Spanish influence, incorporating elements of traditional Spanish design, such as arcades and massive wall articulation.

Recently, the Oliver Building underwent a restoration/rehabilitation in which the apartment spaces were converted to professional offices. A breakthrouth in itself, the Central Federal Savings Bank was the first agency in Arecibo to commission a sensitive restoration, allowing original partitions and details to remain, arranging commercial functions around existing spaces.

Today the Oliver Building continues to address the plaza with the exhuberance originally intended for such social spaces during their splendor in the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .206 Acres (832.62 M^2)

Quadrangle name Arecibo **Quadrangle scale** 1:20,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	19	741240	2044100	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

North - González Ginorio St.
South - José de Diego Ave.
East - Arecibo Drugstore
West - Callejón del Corregimiento

See enclosed 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 / Héctor Santiago, Assistant Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date July, 1986

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 721-3737 / 721-2676

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 X 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 Gerardo Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlagel date 10/1/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

SCALE: 1:2,000

Edificio Oliver