

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 23 1984

date entered SEP 4 1984

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

1. Name

historic Casa Natal de Luis Muñoz Rivera

and/or common Museo-Biblioteca Muñoz Rivera (Muñoz Rivera Library- Museum)

2. Location

street & number ~~Corner of~~ Muñoz Rivera and Manuel Torres Streets not for publication

city, town Barranquitas _____ vicinity of _____

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Guayama code 0130

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: library

4. Owner of Property

name Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

street & number Norzagaray Street #98

city, town San Juan _____ vicinity of _____ state Puerto Rico 00905

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Barranquitas City Hall

city, town Barranquitas _____ state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventario de Monumentos Históricos has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

city, town San Juan _____ state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 basic plan of the "Casa Natal de Luis Muñoz Rivera" is a rectangular shaped structure measuring twenty-six (26'-0") feet in width and fifty-five feet, six inches (55'-6") in length with a continuous wooden balaustrade portico on its front. It is a one-storied wooden structure house raised above a crawl space about three feet high above street level, located at the corner of Muñoz Rivera and Manuel Torres Streets. The crawl space is enclosed by masonry panels which are smoothly plastered in cement. Structurally, it is a simple wooden frame house with an eave roof, its ridge parallel to the main facade, covered with galvanized zinc sheets. Exterior and interior cladding is made out of horizontal wooden siding. The house has wooden doors and windows of the shutter type, very common in the Island at this time. Interior floors are made out of 1" by 6" tongue-and-groove wooden slats; the ceiling material used throughout the house is 1" by 2" tongue-and-groove wooden slats with moldings at the borders.

Architecturally speaking, this house represents the traditional type of residence often found in the interior of the Island, at the time. These houses were characterized by their architectural simplicity (please refer to Item 8). The front facade (Muñoz Rivera Street) consists of a covered wooden portico (or "balcón") supported by four wood columns, with a wooden balaustrade railing between them. The raised portico is reached by way of a smooth trowelled cement-finished stairway. The portico ceiling is made out of 1" by 2" tongue-and-groove wooden slats with moldings at its borders. The whole ensemble is roofed with galvanized zinc sheets. The main wall elevation stands after the portico and consists of exterior clad horizontal wooden siding with three rectangular openings. Each opening has wooden double doors of the shutter type.

The house was restored and converted into a library-museum in 1959 by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. Some interior partitions were removed to make way for a large space that was dedicated to the library. A few wooden doors and windows were taken out because of their badly deteriorated conditions (due to termites and rot). They were replaced by new ones, which exactly duplicate the original ones. The same was done with some deteriorated wooden slats and exterior cladding. These replacements and restoration work, however, has not detracted from the original integrity of the building. The interior of the house consists of an "L" shaped library (where documents of Don Luis Muñoz Rivera are kept), of Muñoz's original small studio at the right side (all furniture is original) and at the far end of the structure a garage. The car that Muñoz drove for many years is kept here. The house is adequately maintained and it is in good conditions.

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 1850

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Casa Natal de Luis Muñoz Rivera" is a very good representative example of the traditional residential residence of the interior of the Island. These special typology, the residential house (middle-class) of the interior of the Island, is characterized by the simplicity of its architectural components and the use of wood as the basic material, not only for the structure but also for the architectural details as well. The basic morphological component of this type of house is a simple floor plan, rectangular in shape. Its elevation consists of a one storey wooden structure with a gable roof and a continuous wooden balaustrade portico at its front. This type of house is a constant reminder of a very important type of development in the vernacular architecture of the Island, but also a reminder of our artistic and cultural bond with other islands in the Caribbean basin.

In addition to exemplifying one of the very few examples left of this traditional dwelling in Puerto Rico, this house is of extreme importance for it was the birthplace of Don Luis Muñoz Rivera, the illustrious Puerto Rican writer and politician. Muñoz, a great political leader at the turn of the century, was also the father of Luis Muñoz Marín, the first elected governor of Puerto Rico. Muñoz Rivera, born in 1859, was a most distinguished politician sponsoring liberal ideas. He was also an important orator, writer, journalist and poet. As a writer, journalist and poet he collaborated with most of the newspapers of the time such as: El Pueblo, El Clamor del País, El Buscapie, among others. He was founder of the well-known newspaper La Democracia. During the brief autonomous regime in Puerto Rico, he was appointed Secretary of State. He founded the Liberal Party and also the Partido Unión de Puerto Rico in 1904. He was appointed by the President of the United States Resident Commissioner in Washington D.C. from 1911 until 1916.

This house, Muñoz's house, is associated with this great man and his family for he lived here, on and off, during all his life. It is a very important social and cultural symbol not only to the town of Barranquitas but also to all Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture Magazine; 1960, pp. 37-39.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 198.77 sq. meters

Quadrangle name Barranquitas

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 18°-11'-21" North, Longitude 66°-18'-29 West

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by a grocery store; to the South by Muñoz Rivera Street; to the West by Manuel Torres Street and to the East by the Barranquitas Cultural Center. (See enclosed location plan: property marked in red.)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Pares; State Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date July 10, 1984

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3012

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

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 *Sebastián de los Angeles*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 10, 1984

For NPS use only

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

William Dinkie

date 9/4/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration