

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

**1. Name**

historic EDIFICIO ALCALDIA (TOWN HALL) - CAROLINA, P. R.

and/or common EDIFICIO ALCALDIA (TOWN HALL)

**2. Location**

street & number CALLE IGNACIO ARZUAGA, ESQ. DE DIEGO not for publication

city, town Carolina vicinity of congressional district

state Puerto Rico code county San Juan code 0200

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name MUNICIPALITY OF CAROLINA

street & number Calle Ignacio Arzuaga, Esq. Fernández Juncos, Apartado 8

city, town Carolina vicinity of state Puerto Rico 00628

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Juan Registry of Deeds, 4th. Section

street & number San Juan Judicial Center

city, town Hato Rey state P.R.

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Carolina Town Hall was designed and built in 1927 by the P.R. Department of Interior. Located across the street from the northwest corner of the town square (plaza) the L shaped building originally housed the municipal government, a medical dispensary, a jail for men and one for women, and a meeting hall. In continuous use for the past 55 years, it currently houses the Municipality's Music School. There are plans for restoring this and several other important buildings as part of a renovation of the town's center.

The reinforced concrete and steel building was constructed as designed, except for the omission of some ornamental details (mainly ceramic tiles) which were presumably left out because of budget limitations. In the 19 's a two story reinforced concrete annex was constructed in the courtyard formed by the wings of the L. Over the years, the wood and glass windows have been replaced with aluminum jalousies, an air conditioning system has been added, and a conventional acoustic tile hung ceiling has been installed. The clock on the belltower has not functioned since 19 . The building is, nonetheless, in excellent structural conditions. A full set of plans and specifications were located in the Municipal archives, making an accurate restoration possible.

The design is in a style peculiar to the period in Puerto Rico. Reminiscent of traditional Spanish architecture, with motifs as varied as hanging Moorish balconies on the one hand, and an austere Navarran portal on the other, the building is architecturally, one of the best in downtown Carolina. It was designed by Mr. Rafael Carmoega, AIA, with the assistance of Francisco Gardón. The construction is of reinforced concrete bearing walls, with major beams also of reinforced concrete. Steel joists for the framing for the floor, which is a 2" concrete topping over an open metal lath. The finished floor, which is applied over the topping, is either wood, terrazo or floated cement, depending on the area of the building. A ceiling composed of plaster on a metal lath, is suspended from the joists. The small cupola on the belltower is of reinforced concrete. Exterior ornamentation is applied to plaster reliefs in the concrete. The reliefs represent hanging balconies, portals and coats of arms. Spanish ceramic tiles for the cupola, American bronze and iron accessories, and locally made iron grilles and baluster complete the ornamentation.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927 **Builder/Architect** Rafael Carmoega

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carolina Town Hall is significant for three principal reasons, namely:

Historically, it is one of Carolina's older buildings, and it forms an integral part of the original town square. As the seat of government for this dynamic municipality, which has gone from a sleepy agricultural town in the 1950's to a major industrial area today, the town hall has been the site of some of the most important events in Carolina's history.

Architecturally, the building is also quite important to this town, which, because of its relatively short history, and its recent expansion, has few quality structures in the downtown area. The building represents a style that was unique to the period. Its designer, Mr. Rafael Carmoega, was one of Puerto Rico's foremost architects, and a principal exponent of that style on the Island, for many years, and has himself become an historical personage in architectural history. Among Architect Carmoega's other designs are the Capitol Building, the School of Tropical Medicine, and the original buildings at the University of Puerto Rico. His style, a local version of the historicism that characterized the later part of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century was shared by other notable local architects of the period, such as Joseph O'Kelly, Pedro de Castro and Francisco Roldán. The Town Hall is the only building in that style in downtown Carolina.

The Carolina Town Hall is a key element in the plans for the revitalization of the downtown area. Together with several other historic buildings around the square, this structure completes the elements traditionally located. The town hall is one of several buildings that were traditionally located around the plaza in Puerto Rico town, the others being the church, a barracks, and a hospital. When this building was designed, it was apparently intended to absorb the military and medical functions previously ascribed to other buildings, since it was provided with space for a dispensary and for the police (jail). Because a full set of plans and specifications for this building is available in the town archives it lends itself to a faithful restoration, which makes it all the more valuable a historic element in the revitalization plans. When the building is restored, it will be used as a museum and as a meeting place for cultural and artistic events.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"EDIFICIO ALCALDIA - CAROLINA, P.R." - Plans & Specifications by Mr. Rafael Carmoega, Architect for the Department of the Interior-1927

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4,409.50 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Carolina

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UMT References Latitude 18°-22'-59" North, Longitude 65°-57'-28" West

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North by a private dental office, to the South by Ignacio Arzuaga Street, to the East by José de Diego Street and to the West by "Super Ganga" Furniture Store. See Enclosed Site Plan (not to scale).

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title MUNICIPALITY OF CAROLINA

organization PLANNING AND BUDGET OFFICE

date APRIL/83

street & number BOX 8,

telephone 757-2626, Ext. 323 - 315

city or town CAROLINA

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 16, 1983

For NCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	<u>12/28/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	
Chief of Registration	