NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED 410
MAR 15 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: **López de Pereyó, Palmira, House**

other names/site number: **Casa Pereyó**

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2. Location

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street & number **Font Martelo St., corner Minerva St.,** ___not for publication
city or town **Humacao** vicinity ___
state **Puerto Rico** code **PR** county **Humacao** code **069**
zip code **00791**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X__ 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 _X__ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally _X__ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____ March 9, 1995
Signature of certifying official Date

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 for additional comments.)

_____ _____
Signature of commenting or other official Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register — Edson W. Beall — 4.14.95
___ See continuation sheet.

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

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): _____

Entered in the
National Register
for Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: **Domestic** Sub: **Single Dwelling**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: **Education** Sub: **School**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/Prairie School

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation **Concrete**
roof **Metal**
walls **Concrete**
other **Wood**

Narrative Description: **See continuation sheet**

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: **Architecture**

Period of Significance: **c.1930**

Significant Dates: **c.1930, 1932**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Francisco Valines Cofresí**

Narrative Statement of Significance: **See continuation sheet**

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_X_ Other

Name of repository: **Pereyó Family Records**

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: **Less than one acre**
UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	**20**	**201360**	**2009230**	3	__	_____	_____
2	__	_____	_____	4	__	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: **See continuation sheet**
Boundary Justification: **See continuation sheet**

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11. Form Prepared By

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first original nomination draft: **Héctor F. Santiago Cazull/Cruz Ortiz Cuadra**

revised and rewritten by: **Karen González/ Staff Architect; Arleen Pabón PhD/State Historic Preservation Officer; Berenice R. Sueiro/ Staff Architect**

organization: **Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office**

date: **February 13, 1995**
street & number: **109 San José St.** telephone: **(809) 721-3737**
city or town: **San Juan** state: **PR** zip code: **00901**

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Property Owner

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name: **Mr. Manuel Pereyó**
street & number: **Serranía St. A-6** telephone:
Garden Hills
city or town: **Guaynabo** state: **PR** zip code: **00966**

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López de Pereyó, Palmira, House
Humacao, Puerto Rico

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The López de Pereyó House, also known as the Casa Pereyó, is a one story, concrete and wooden, bungalow type house in the Prairie Style, with a wood and corrugated metal-sheet roof. The house sits at the center of a large, wooded urban lot. The surrounding neighborhood is built upon the land originally belonging to the Pereyó House, currently a suburban, residential area.

The basic house organization is composed of two rectangular hipped-roof volumes, one shorter than the other, that intersect forming a cross-shaped plan. The shorter volume, which contains the living areas, receives added emphasis due to its different height. The facade shows a tripartite horizontal division, composed of the roof, the main body of the house and a base or podium. The organization is characteristic of Prairie style architecture. The podium changes in treatment throughout the house, transforming itself into planter area, a staircase, an extended balcony, treated as a half-basement with circulation vents (a vernacular architecture element that helps to maintain a cool temperature in the interior). A continuous balcony with a projecting roof begins as an entrance porch and extends itself around the narrow lateral facade. On the other side, the roof projects to form a "porte cochere" or carport (See photo #1). The extended roof that roofs the carport, as well as the balcony and porch, are supported by the repetitive use of short pairs of columns with eclectic capital (See photo #5). The balcony, typical of the Prairie style vocabulary as well as of vernacular architecture, projects from the volume of the house and enhances the stair that leads to the main entrance. A secondary service entrance leads from the carport to the interior of the house (See photo #2).

The exterior maintains its historic integrity, although the roofing material has been changed. The original roof was of local, "terra cotta" roof tile or "teja criolla"; these were severely damaged by Hurricane San Ciprián in 1932 and replaced with corrugated metal-sheet roof. In doing this, the family -- perhaps unconsciously -- gave it a more traditional vernacular treatment.

The main entrance is through the porch and defined, on the facade, by the flight

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of stairs. Once on the porch, the spatial sequence initiated by means of the flight of stairs is followed by a recess created by the wall, which frames the main entrance door (See photo #6). The porch, in the characteristic manner, serves as a transition between the exterior and the interior world. As multiple doors open from various interior spaces unto the porch, the balcony serves as a climate control architectural feature (See photo #4). The house still shows the colorful patterns of hydraulic cement tiles or "losa isleña," utilized as a finish for the floors of its porch as well as in the interior of the house. Opening unto the exterior, one finds a combination of double french doors and windows (all made of wood with glass panels; windows have a movable transom, yet another ventilation control element), and double wooden doors and windows with louvers and wooden-louvered transoms. On the interior doors have a vertical grille transom, used also as a ventilation device, as well as an aesthetic one (See photo #7). The two living spaces are divided by a sliding door, made of wood, which recedes into the wall. The wall of the living and bedroom areas are all of stuccoed, painted concrete. The bathrooms have hexagonal, white, mosaic tiles with decorative, hand-painted border in a colorful floral motif, typical of the 1930's. In some places, the original plank tread ceiling or "tabloncillo," was covered by a hanging-ceiling made of particle-board panels; this change does not detract from the original composition and iconographical importance of the house.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Palmira López de Pereyó House is a bungalow house in the Prairie style. The Prairie style, exemplified by a cluster of houses constructed by Nechodoma, directly influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, became the perfect style for the island. Respecting traditional beloved motifs, such as balconies, verandahs, french doors, hipped roofs, among others, they were also examples of modernity and American chic. This house's importance directly relates to the fact that it was not built by Nechodoma. It is a local adaptation of the Prairie style in the island; a vernacular analysis of the main important features of this style. Because of this, it is an excellent example of its kind in the island.

The building was designed by Francisco Valines Cofresí, an architect who worked at the beginning of the 20th century. He had graduated from an architectural studies program offered by the International Correspondence School at Scranton, Pennsylvania. This was the way many architects were educated in the island. Via

the mail they received not only a training but architectural ideas from the mainland. At that time, Wright's influence was widespread, Valines even had copies of Wright's work constructed by Nechodoma in Humacao; all these elements proved important when designing this house. Traditional elements, as mentioned before, part of this new style reinforced certain vernacular tastes, such as the use of balconies and verandahs. Yet the style presented important innovations to the architectural repertoire of the island. Most importantly is the fact that this architecture dealt with suburban artifacts to be used by the important families, as they abandoned urban cores to live in the outskirts of towns. Because of this, the "porte cochere," is perhaps the quintessential element of this new architecture. This new element, an example of the times, is the direct result of the introduction of the car into everyday life and the need of an elegant, safe and comfortable place to make the transition from the vehicle into the house, and vice versa. The sprawling, low house, the use of concrete, glass window panes, the geometrical arrangement of the composition, the use of columns all speak of the new social status the owners desired to acquire by means of this external facade. Previously, houses were not seen as status symbol objects, at the beginning of the century and under the influence of the new relationship with the mainland, houses and their facades became the external facade of a family's sense of propriety, decorum and elegance.

Because, due to its style, it represents a prime example of local interpretation of national and international ideas, put to the service of the new emerging Puerto Rican family, the Palmira López de Pereyó House is eligible for inclusion to the National Register, under Criterion C, as it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and period of particular relevance to the island.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Ortiz Cuadra, Cruz M. and Santiago Cazull, Héctor. "Inventario de Edificios Históricos del Municipio de Humacao." Centro Cultural Antonia Sáez with Survey and Planning funds from the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. July 1994.

Abreu Vega, Salvador. "Apuntes para la Historia de Humacao". Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1984.

del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián. Draft for National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. 1989.

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Pabón Charneco, Arleen. "Home is Where the Heart is: A Re-interpretation of Puerto Rican Domestic Architecture." Presented at the First Preserving Women's History Through Historic Preservation Symposium, Bryan Mawr, Pennsylvania, May 1994.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the property are: Font Martelo St. along the south property line; Orión St. along the east property line; Minerva St. along the west property line; privately owned urban lots 8 and 10 of block 181 along the north property line.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries correspond to the urban lot upon which the house is centered, remnant of the original parcel from which the property was segregated.

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López de Pereyó, Palmira, House
Humacao, Puerto Rico

All photographs taken by Héctor Santiago Cazull, June, 1994.

Negatives found within the Historic Buildings Survey of Humacao, at the archives of the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office.

Photos:

#1 General view of the facade, Font Martelo St., facing north.
#2 Detail of carport, Font Martelo St., facing north.
#4 Front balcony, facing west.
#5 Detail of columns at front balcony, facing south.
#6 Detail of main entrance, within front balcony, facing north.
#7 Detail of typical door at Dining Room, facing west.