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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name **Antonia Sáez School**

other names/site number **Plaza de Mercado**

2. Location

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

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.)

Pilar Pabón 28-III-95
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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register	Edson H. Beall	5.15.95
___ See continuation sheet.	Entered in the National Register	
___ 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 Keeper	Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
___ public-local
_X_ 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: **Early XXth Century Schools in Puerto Rico**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	**Commerce/Trade**	Sub:	**Department Store**
	Education		**School**

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	**Education**	Sub:	**School**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Mission

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	**Concrete**
roof	**Concrete**
walls	**Concrete**
other	

Narrative Description: **See continuation sheet**

8. Statement of Significance

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: **1922-1927**

Significant Dates: **1922, 1927**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Rafael Carmoega and collaborators; Fidel Sevillano**

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: **General Archives of Puerto Rico**

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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**	**200490**	**2009320**	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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Nomination draft: **Héctor F. Santiago Cazull/Cruz Ortíz Cuadra**

Revised, edited and rewritten with additional information 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: **Government of Puerto Rico, Department of Education**
street & number: **P.O. Box 190759** telephone:
city or town: **San Juan** state: **PR** zip code: **00919-0759**

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Antonia Sáez School
Humacao, Puerto Rico

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Antonia Sáez School, formerly built as the Market building, or "Plaza del Mercado", was constructed in 1922 in the so-called Mission Style. Shortly afterwards, in 1927, the marketplace building was remodelled and transformed into an elementary school.

The new school required some changes to the original structure. The overall volume and form as well as the facades were preserved; the wide and high cathedral interior was divided into two stories. Each floor was organized along a central hall, with classrooms on both sides (See photo #6), and two symmetrically-placed staircases on either side of the entrance located to the south (See photo #5). The building rests on a base or podium; a series of stairs provides access to the interior. The overall form of the building consists of a rectangular volume crowned by parapets.

The facade consists of solid plane from which the central volume projects, emphasizing a tripartite and symmetrical composition. This portico-like element is crowned by a "Mission" style parapet; this parapet has an "oculi," or bull's eye window. It should be noted that Architect Sevillano, as well as many other architects of his time, were strongly influenced by the architectural elements present in Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, which was known in the island. So the "Mission" style influence can very well be attributed also to Wrights' architecture. The central portion is enhanced by a double set of flat pilasters at each end, crowned by two concrete spheres. (Again, the contrast of planes and spheres might directly relate to Wrights' geometric arrangements.) A central coping crowns the facade of the structure (See photo #4). At ground floor, the central entrance is flanked by two sealed openings with vertical grille transoms. A horizontal projecting concrete eave shelters these three bays (See photo #1). The north facade is identical to the south facade and the two identical east and west facades consist of a large plane modulated by vertical elements that divided it into nine continuous bays (See photo #3). All the floors are of polished,

poured-in-place concrete.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

In Puerto Rico, marketplace activities were traditionally held on a public space, or "plaza," created specifically for this purpose; although originally, in some towns, the "plaza del recreo" might have been used. After 1898, the United States Government issued public health regulations concerning this activity. As a result, the Public Buildings Division of the Department of Public Works, under the direction of the well-known Puerto Rican architect Rafael Carmoega, began to design and construct buildings to be used as formal marketplaces in the main towns throughout the island. The Plaza del Mercado of Humacao was one of this buildings.

This interest provided the continuation of the development of the typology in the island. Architects, in keeping with modern times, desired a new architectural style. The American "Mission" Style provided a source of inspiration that was packed with elements of Hispanic tradition. Carmoega, one of Puerto Rico's foremost architects, believed that a sort "national style" should be developed for Puerto Rico and, thus, restate via its architecture its Spanish heritage. Sources were many: Spanish Renaissance buildings, Moorish buildings and, even, Frank Lloyd Wright. Curiously, Wright was one of the sources of inspiration, of this going back to the past. The style was easily adaptable and functional, even for small structures, for this reason it was used for houses, resorts and train stations.

In response to the growing school-age population and the urban development of the town, in 1925, contractor/architect Fidel Sevillano drew plans to rehabilitate the marketplace into the first formal graded school in Humacao. The changes that were effected to house the Antonia Sáez School were constructed by Gabriel Benítez Rexach and Benítez Malpica; the school was inaugurated in 1927. The functional design of the marketplace and its architectural style was easily adapted to its new use; with minimum changes to the exterior.

A multiple property nomination, "Early XXth Century Schools in Puerto Rico," is included in the National Register of Historic Places, and includes school buildings constructed in the island between 1900-1940. Its historic context relates directly to the significance of the Antonia Sáez School and, thus, contributes with additional information. For all of the above reasons the Escuela Antonia Sáez is significant and eligible to be included in the National

Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and period. It is also an excellent example of the adaptation of a marketplace building into a school, attesting to the flexibility of the architectural modes presented by the "Mission" style.

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 from Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. July 1994.

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

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the property are: Roosevelt Avenue along the east property line; Font Martelo St. along south property line; Isidro Ortiz St. along the west property line and Tomás Cruz St. along the north property line.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries correspond to urban block #35, historically associated with the Antonia Sáez School.

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Antonia Sáez School
Humacao, Puerto Rico

All photographs by Héctor Santiago cazull, July, 1994.

All original negatives found within the Historic Buildings Survey of Humacao, at the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office.

Photos:
- #1 General view of the main facade, facing north.
- #3 General view, south and east facades, facing northwest.
- #4 Detail of the parapet at the south facade, facing north.
- #5 Interior, detail of the east stairway, facing northwest.
- #6 Interior hallway at ground floor, facing north.