NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 9 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO EN GUANAJIBO

and/or common RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO (Ramírez de Arellano Residence)

2. Location

street & number PR STATE ROAD NO. 102 n/a ___ not for publication

city, town MAYAGUEZ ___ vicinity of N/A

state PUERTO RICO code PR 72 county MAYAGUEZ code 0650

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X 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 DR. RAFAEL NADAL ARRILLAGA

street & number STATE ROAD NO. 102

city, town MAYAGUEZ ___ vicinity of N/A state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD, DEPARTAMENTO DE HACIENDA (RECORDER'S OFFICE)

street & number GOVERNMENT BUILDING, BARRIO MIRADERO

city, town MAYAGUEZ, state PUERTO RICO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title SURVEY AND PLANNING PROJECT OF MAYAGUEZ has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date JULY, 1984 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

city, town SAN JUAN, state PUERTO RICO

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date ___
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Ramírez de Arellano residence is a vast estate located along the shore road on the southern outskirts of Mayaguez. It is composed of a main house, two stories high, and a garage structure towards the rear of the property. The garage has a two level section which houses the servant's quarters. In an adjacent area is a semi-formal garden and the remaining property is covered with exhuberant native vegetation and enclosed by a low wall.

The plan of the main house is square,divided into six bays. The ground floor is partially enclosed along the front, probably done so to prevent extensive damage should there be flooding from the sea, directly located across from this side of the property. This may also have been done to give this principal facade a fuller appearance. The rooms in this area were also used by servants and as additional guest quarters.

A large exterior staircase located on the northern edge of the house leads to the second and main floor. From the staircase a vast veranda is reached. This element embraces the western portion as well as part of the northern area of the square plan. The main facade on the West side faces the sunset and the ocean. This is still where most of the daytime living and entertainement takes place. The veranda leads to a screened porch area and later to a square dining room which is located at the very center of the plan. The enclosed part of the house is entered at this point. The living room located North of the dining room is of the same width. A simple arched opening connects both spaces. A spacious kitchen, three bedrooms and two bathrooms are distributed in the remaining L-shape portion of the house or southeast area of the plan.

The materials which make up the structure of the residence are concrete and wood. The ground floor is composed of a series of columns distributed to form square bays. These support a concrete slab that holds the floor of the main house above. Only the columns on the edge of the plan project through the second floor. A separate series of columns in the central dining room support the wooden beams that span from the edge of the building. The corrugated zinc roofs are pitched and the wood ceilings are finished in simple patterns. A wave-pattern bargeboard conceals the ends of the rafters along the overhang edge. The roof of the dining room projects higher than the rest. Clerestory windows crown the interior space providing it with natural light and ventilation. A dormer window located above the main bathroom accents the East facade and serves to ventilate the space. The interior partitions are wood.

The facades are very simple. The veranda is surrounded by a concrete railing with rectangular planters spanning the space between the columns. Most of the exterior surfaces are simple and unpretentious. Wood, horizontal, louvered, casement-type windows provide the house with the needed ventilation and light. The versatility and posible positions of these openings is further improved by the placement of rectangular wood-grilled transoms above each which, even if windows are closed, provide the residence with a constant flow of natural air. The interior doors also have this element. There is a covered staircase at the rear (East) of the

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	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates Circa 1930 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Circa 1930 , Don Alfredo Ramírez de Arellano y Rosell ordered built his second home and beach house at a site on State Road 102. This noteworthy citizen was a banker, politician and a prominent senator in the district of Mayaguez for the Unionist Party, a leading party during those times. In 1925 he founded one of the largest sugar mills in Puerto Rico, Hacienda Igualdad, which he presided until his death. He was a major philanthropist who donated substantial amounts of money to church and welfare organizations in the southwest of Puerto Rico.

The Ramírez de Arellano vacation home is highly significant because it is one of the best examples of a twentieth century revival of the "plantation type" house.

The plantation style was a building type which matured in the mid nineteenth century and developed as aresponse to specific purposes related to the growing industries of sugar and coffee in Puerto Rico. The original layout kept the ground floor open for storage and needed service areas, while the main family residence was located on the more elaborate and sometimes elegant second floor.

The de Arellano house was built following the same basic layout, although using refined craftsmanship. It is also interesting to note that the house was constructed as a second family home and definitely had no direct use as a plantation, although inspired by the type.

A new element was incorporated which did not belong to the original style but relates strongly to the best architecture produced in Mayaguez at the time: an astonishing ceiling height. This feature, truly characteristic of Mayaguez and now existing in only a few structures remaining, is made evident at the Nadal House* in its dining room area. In the early twentieth century, extensive reconstructions were carried out in the city of Mayaguez following a major earthquake. All new construction after the disaster pursued higher interior spaces, taller than those of any dwellings of any period in other Island towns. The "scale" of the Mayaguezan spaces is a noteworthy characteristic of the area's residential construction and the Ramírez de Arellano residence is one of the best exponents of this feature.

*Ramirez de Arellano House

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gaudier y Cabassa, Martín. Genealogía. Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, 1959.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name USGS MAYAGUEZ 1964 Quadrangle scale 1: 20,000

UTM References Lambert: 18°10'30" 67°11'01"

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET (SITE PLAN)

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architects José Ramírez and Beatriz del Cueto de Pantel

organization Colegio de Arquitectos de P.R. date September, 1984

street & number Box 2299 telephone (809) 724-1213

city or town Hato Rey, 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 Arch. Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 20, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlagel date 2/5/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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house. Part of the sides of the stair are enclosed by a wood, square-patterned grill.

The framing of the porch screens exhibits an elaborate, geometrical pattern in a series of squares with inset diamonds. Ornate, multi-colored native Puerto Rican cement tiles were used throughout the house to create diverse floor patterns.

The garage building is a wooden structure divided into five bays. The second story, slightly wider than the middle bay, has its axis perpendicular to that of the floor below, and a balcony projects to the front. The balcony's wood railing pattern and ceiling edge are ornamented. The garage has a two-way pitched, corrugated zinc roof at each level which are perpendicular to each other.

The surrounding garden is informal, and basically defined by large grass areas with a wide variety of tropical plants, palms and diverse trees.

Due to the fact that up to a year ago the house remained in the hands of the same family that had it constructed, the alterations and changes have been minor and have left no major impact on the building fabrics or grounds.

It is in an excellent state of preservation.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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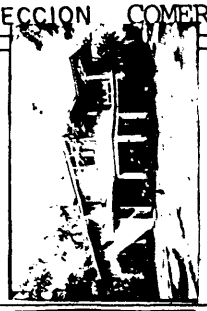
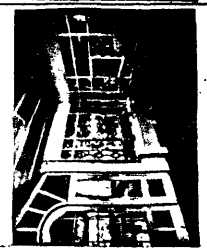
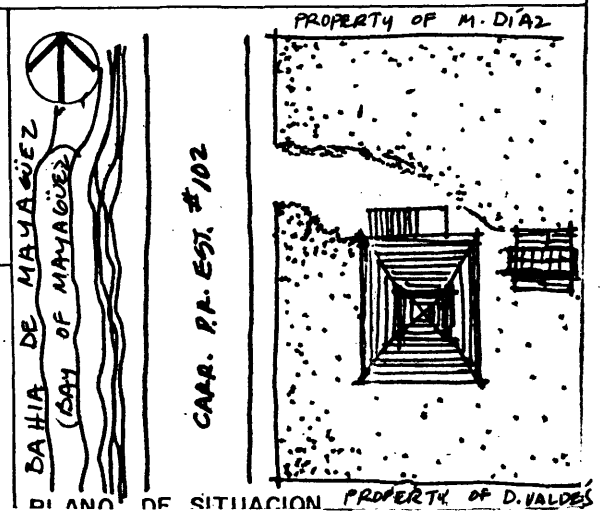
NOMBRE COMUN	RESIDENCIA RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO
NOMBRE HISTORICO	
ARQUITECTO	
DIRECCION	COMERCIO Parcela Solar

INFORMACION GRAFICA







PLANO DE SITUACION

Scale: 1:1000