NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 22 1985
date entered DEC 2 1985

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

1. Name

historic Teatro Yaguez

and/or common Teatro Yaguez(Yaguez Theater)

2. Location

street & number McKinley and Basora Streets, Block 329 Lots 9 and 10 ___ not for publication

city, town Mayaguez ___ vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code P.R. 72 county Mayaguez code 0650

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	X 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 Mayaguez Municipal Government, City Hall

street & number Peral and Mc Kinley Streets

city, town Mayaguez ___ vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of deeds, Departamento de Hacienda

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	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Yaguez is a traditional horseshoe-shaped theater dating from the 1920's eclectic in style. Throughout its notorious history, the theater has housed most of the perfoming arts and cinema presentations, thus endowing the building of historical and cultural significance, in a very few other theaters in the Island can claim.

The Yaguez is located at the corner of McKinley and Basora Streets in the gridded town of Mayaguez, now the largest city in the Southwestern part of Puerto Rico. The City Hall and a Community Center with additional performing space sit on the same block; the building occupies about one third of the whole lot.

The building has undergone several transformations. The original structure was built in wood in 1909, according to a design by Felix and Julio Medina Gónzalez. A three-leveled arrangement of orchestra, balcony and gallery areas faced, at the time, towards a proscenium arch with pasteboard and sackcloth decorations. It was all ravaged by a fire in 1919 during a movie presentation.

Architect Sabas Honoré then designed a completely new theater on the same site. It was built in 1920 by Engineer Manuel Font. Although for years the seat of cultural life in town, the Yaguez theater would deteriorate by the 1950's, exhibiting until recently serious damage to its structure. Recently reinaugurated, its last restoration started in 1977 under the auspices of the Municipal Government and according to designs by Architect Carlos Arcilla and Engineer Germán Rivera.

Highly articulated in elevation, the building exhibits different facades towards each street and an imposing portico whose chamfered feature is echoed by the three other structures at the intersection. The portico is topped by a pointed dome identifying the location of the main access to the theater. Both facades are different because, although the building is entered at a corner, the theater's longitudinal axis lies paralell to its Basora street facade. The additional entrance at McKinley Street becomes the building's main elevation, as evidenced by the huge pediment that crowns it. Here the name of the theater is to be found.

Raised on a stepped podium, the building exhibits a wide array of eclectic motifs in the form of detatched columns, pilasters, mouldings, cornices, finials, french doors and many others. The facade is recessed from Basora Stree, in order to allow room for the loading dock area. This section, the tallest part of the building, houses the lift space for the stage around five to six stories high. The building ends at Ramos Antonini Street where the facade is four stories high with small stained glass colored windows at the ground level and rectangular windows with colored glass at the others. Here the facade is less articulated, and the roof is flat. The building's rectangular plan, like that of most theaters, includes a tickets purchase area, a horse-shoe shaped three-leveled seating area, a stage, a loading dock and backstage areas, with the dressinf rooms. Concrete, cement block, wood and glass in French doors and windows, and paving in terrazo with metal joints, are common features. Projecting elements of the facade are painted in white, in order to make them stand out from the beige used at the lower wall. Bronze from the original rails was molten to construct the new ones, red velvet and Italian marble are used for the wall finishes, woolen fabric rugs, adorned with the Mayaguez city shield at the lobby. Smallboard and Nicaraguan plank wood were used for the stage floors. Located underneath the reinforced concrete ceiling and covered by a soffit are the technical systems such as the: air conditioning, diffusers and returns,illumination, sound and theater lights. The lamps and other interior ornaments were brought from Spain and Italy to complement the spaces.

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

Specific dates 1909-1920 **Builder/Architect** Felix and Julio Medina Gónzalez(1909) Sabas Honoré(1920)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Yaguez Theater is the most important performance space in Mayaguez and in the western area of Puerto Rico. Presently, it ranks fourth among the best Island theaters. Both its history and the building itself underline the structure's relevance.

Since 1909, the theater and movie house has been the forerunner of art and culture in Mayaguez, presenting grand opera, and also shows such as the Cuban "Bufos", dramas, Spanish "zarzuelas", and international dance companies, etc. The Yaguez Sextet, a chamber orchestra of noted musicians of the early 1900's, played in the Yaguez stage. Here, the town dwellers, rich and poor, have had the opportunity to engage in all the performing arts, both as artists and as audience.

The Yaguez was a pioneer movie house. It is well remembered for its "La Revista Yaguez", one of the first film periodicals in the Island, edited under the auspices of the Theaters' administration. The Yaguez was known as "La Catedral del Arte Sonoro"(The Cathedral of musical art).

For decades the Yaguez has been an urban landmark in the city. The building's eclectic design, striking both in concept and realization, is the product of one of the most brilliant architects of the era, Sabás Honoré. He was responsable for some of the best structures erected at the time, all of which indulge in stylistic considerations of a truly eclectic spirit of great merit and, so far, awarded little recognition. 1

The original owner, Francisco Maymon, requested his son before dying that it was his wish that the theater would never lose its role as a catalyst of culture. His son,Miguel Maymon, inherited the theater and struggled to preserve it. In 1977 it was declared by the Institute of Culture in Puerto Rico, a Historic Monument and bought by the municipality with federal Bicentennial funds issued to preserve buildings of important historical value. Recently, the Yaguez reopened its doors after considerable restoration efforts. The life of the theater was prolonged, revitalizing its cultural relevance in the Island's artistic development. The Yaguez is, no doubt, one of the important edifices in Mayaguez.

The present restoration took seven years to complete, from 1977 to 1984. This last revitalization project included the provision of new windows and colored glass, seats in red velvet, and red carpeting. The basement area was rehabilitated to include new stained glass windows of modern, geometrical patterns. New colors were added to the facades, now painted in beige and white. Modern theater equipment has been installed in the stage and dressing room areas which were re-designed to accommodate different performance needs. Accessibility for the handicapped was taken into consideration in all public areas.

Sabás Honoré and his father Víctor Honoré were well-known architects in Mayaguez, their hometown. Many of their original plans are preserved in the city's archives. Among Sabas' bestbuildings are: the Logia Adelphi, the Bechara Residence and the Gonzalez Residence, all in Mayaguez. Sabas Honoré studied in Spain; his descendents still live in Mayaguez.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Aguiló, Silva. Mayaguez: Notas para su Historia, State Historic Preservation Office, Puerto Rico, 1984.

Historia de Mayaguez 1760-1960. Published by the Bicentennial Committee, 1960

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1,018 sq.mts.

Quadrangle name USGSS Mayaguez 1964 Quadrangle scale 1: 20,000

UTM References Lambert: 18°12'11" 67°08'26"

	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 Ms. Cristina Cardalda, Ms. Olga Torres and Arch. Jorge Rigau

organization Colegio de Arquitectos de Puert Rico 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

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date October 15, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlagel date 12/2/85

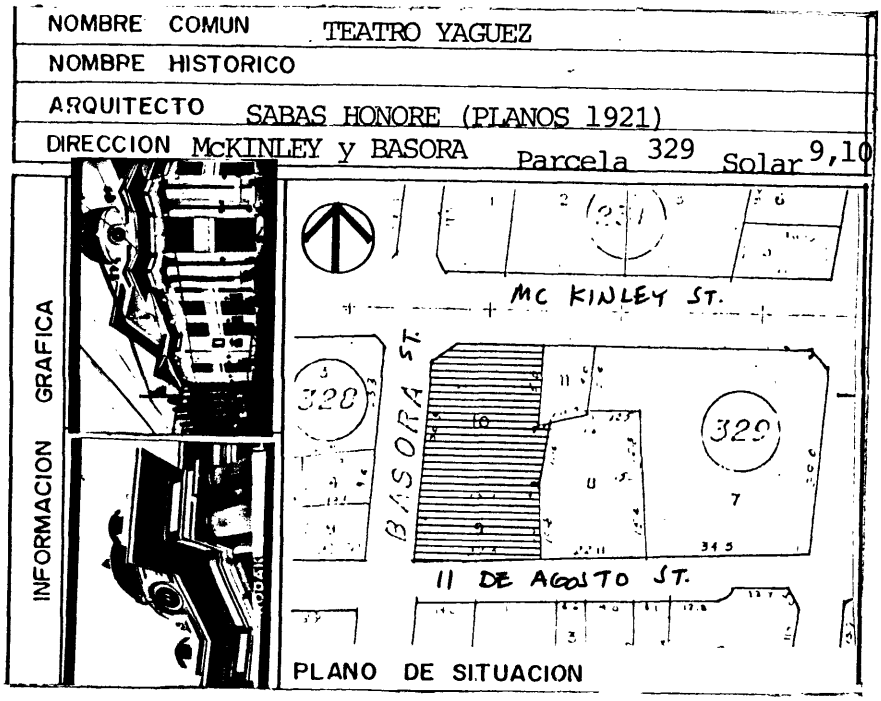
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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