

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1078

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Escuela Guillermo Estéves  
other names/site number Guillermo Esteves Junior High School, Escuela Intermedia Mercedes Rosado, Mercedes Rosado Middle School

## 2. Location

street & number Jct. of Georgetti Street (SR 164 interior) and Achiote Street  not for publication  
city or town Naranjito  vicinity  
state Puerto Rico code PR county Naranjito code 105 zip code 00719

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local  
Carlos A. Rubio  
Carlos A. Rubio Cancela, Architect, PRSHPO October 29, 2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)  
For Edson H. Beall 12.19.12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Escuela Guillermo Esteves  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	00	<b>Total 0</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Early XXth Century Schools in Puerto Rico

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/ school  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION/ school  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Mediterranean Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

foundation: Concrete  
 walls: Concrete  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: Metal  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* (Guillermo Esteves School) is a two-story, reinforced concrete, Mediterranean Revival building with a basement and flat, metal deck roofing. The property is located one block west of the urban core of the Municipality of Naranjito and the main façade faces north of State Road 164 interior (also known as Georgetty Street) corner of Achiote Street. It is bounded to the south by the Guadiana River. The building, which consists of a “U”-shaped floor plan, still retains its character defining features like the ornate portico, window and door openings, decorative moldings, bands and heraldry, stairways and galleries. In 2011 the building underwent a comprehensive rehabilitation work as part of the Puerto Rico School Modernization Project. The activities that were carried out included the replacement of the existing, aluminum louvered windows with new ones that are compatible with the original, double casement design; the replacement of interior doors and ventilators and; painting. In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and other local government agencies such as the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the project was completed in a way that the property still retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association

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### Narrative Description

The *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* is located in an urban lot one block to the west of the town square. The building, which has approximately 6,710 square feet, sits on a geographical depression below the State Road 164 (Georgetti Street) which gently slopes to the north toward the Guadiana River while its eastern façade is aligned with Achiote Street. Today, this school is part of a larger 1.1849-acre complex of three buildings that makes up Mercedes Rosario Middle School. The two other school buildings, located east of the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves*, face the State Road 164 and were built in 1947 and 2012. It is a “U”-shaped, two-story, reinforced concrete building with a basement and flat metal deck roof (see photo #1). This particular example is of Mediterranean Revival, designed by architect Rafael Carmoega Morales<sup>1</sup> is characterized by a symmetrical façade, smooth stucco finish walls, decorative moldings and bands between floors and open galleries, which are elements identified with the style. The main entrance portico is a cast-concrete ensemble that features a Roman arch within an entablature supported by pilasters of Composite order and crowned by a *cartouche* (edged with ornamental scrollwork and cornucopias), torch pinnacles and paired, arch windows (see photos #2, #3 and #4). Other ornamental features include arched moldings, heraldic symbols and *tondi*. The architrave bears a marble plaque with the inscription “Guillermo Esteves” in honor of Guillermo Esteves Volckers (1888-1988), Commissioner of the Interior of Puerto Rico from 1918-21 and a second term during which the school was built.

The *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* consists of three volumes arranged in a symmetrical layout. The central (or main) wing, facing south, features the main entrance which is aligned with the Georgetti Street and can be accessed from the sidewalk by a pedestrian bridge. Both east and west wings are vertically aligned and recessed twelve feet from the wall of the main wing (see photo #5 and #6). The building is located in a depression so the south, east and west wings partly sit below the street level.

The building is three stories high –a basement level, first and second floors. The basement level has window openings for each of the two classrooms all facing the open area between the building and the sidewalk. The first and second floors

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<sup>1</sup> Rafael Carmoega Morales (1894-1968) was a renowned Puerto Rican architect. A Cornell University graduate (1919) he held the position of State Architect within the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico from 1921-36 under Esteves’ supervision. He designed some of Puerto Rico’s outstanding government buildings such as the Insular Capitol, the School of Tropical Medicine and the quadrangle of the University of Puerto Rico, which today are NRHP listed.

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have two classrooms that are separated by the entrance portico each with five tall, rectangular narrow window openings set symmetrically with flat moldings varying in design at each story. A wide, belted course horizontally divides the first and second floors throughout the south, east and west wings (see photos #6 and #7). At each corner of the south wing, the horizontal band is decorated with heraldic symbols. The east and west volumes overlooking the south façade each have three, tall narrow openings in the first floor and three recessed, arched openings in the second floor. The three tall window openings retain their original window sills and moldings.

The main access through the entrance portico is symmetrically located and defined by a vestibule that divides the classrooms to the east and west and proceeded by a small, pedestrian concrete bridge. The 1924 original design did not contemplate to maintain the topographic unevenness between the school building and the sidewalk. However, three classrooms were added at basement level during construction.

Spatially, the south wing at the first floor shows an axial relationship between the entrance, vestibule, interior gallery and stairway to a partially enclosed patio (see photo #12). The 10 feet-wide vestibule separates and leads to two 30 X 24 feet classrooms in this wing. The classrooms feature polished concrete floors. An arched gallery that intersects with the two main entrances (portico and patio) runs east to west along the three volumes interrupted at the fifth opening as an access to and from the patio stairway (see photo #9). This important feature of interior circulation connects with said entrances (portico and patio), four classrooms (two in the southern wing and two in the east and west wings), two interior stairways (east and west) that lead to the second floor (see photo #11) and basement galleries (see photo #8) and the girls (east) and boys (west) bathrooms. The polished concrete stairways feature a massive banister and railings.

The second floor gallery that connects to four classrooms and two administrative spaces is supported by eight undecorated columns that form rectangular openings resting on the arched gallery of the first floor (see photos #10 and #13). The classrooms in the southern wing each have four ventilation openings in the upper portion of the wall towards the gallery. Each of the remaining two classrooms has five ventilations opening that overlook the interior patio.

The ceilings of the basement and first floor along with the building's roof were all replaced during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a metal deck structure. The documentary evidence seems to suggest that the basement and first floor originally had a concrete slab and the original second floor had a truss-rafter structural system which supported a hipped roof covered with galvanized sheathing.

In 2010 the Mercedes Rosario Middle School complex was among the schools selected island wide by the Government of Puerto Rico for the Puerto Rico School Modernization Program<sup>ii</sup>. At a cost of \$5,000,000.00 the project replaced furnishings and made improvements to the buildings. In particular, the project's documentation of the property revealed that the basement of the Guillermo Esteves building (or first floor as mentioned in the documentation) exhibited "...an unhealthy learning environment. It is to be abated and inspected by health officials. Resolution of mold and water issues in this building at this level [is] needed...."<sup>iii</sup>

For the Guillermo Esteves building specifically, a new program called for the integration of additional administrative spaces now located in two former classrooms in the first floor and a security/data/communication center. All new partitions that have been installed to provide individual office spaces for a director, two social workers, one counselor, three speech therapists, one psychologist and a faculty room are removable with the exception of those corresponding to two small bathrooms for the faculty room located in the first floor. Also, an exterior, traction elevator has been installed to provide accessibility between the first and second floors, adjacent to the staircase leading to the interior patio and detached from the building's façade.

The original openings featured exterior, wooden double-casement windows and ventilation grilles towards the corridors. At an undetermined date during the second half of the past century the units were replaced with standard, aluminum jalousie windows. To accommodate their standardized, rectangular dimension, all arched openings were filled with reinforced concrete. The scope of work of the current modernization project included the replacement of all windows

<sup>ii</sup> This project was made through a cooperative effort between the Puerto Rico Department of Education, Public Building Authority and Public-Private Partnership Authority.

<sup>iii</sup> Project overview & Scope – Puerto Rico School Modernization Mercedes Rosado, 500 students Grades 7-9, August 23, 2010.

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which are now displayed in the original casement, louvered design. For this intervention the reinforced concrete filling in the arched fenestration has been reverted and new windows installed also according to the documented original design. The original, elaborate massive wood doors at the entrance portico – also removed at an unknown date – have been replicated according to Carmoega’s design as well.

Exterior finishes were also carried out in a manner that the selected chromatic scheme now enhances all the qualifying architectural features of the property.

This recent rehabilitation project has been reviewed by the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

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**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.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1925-1962

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1925, 1947, 1950

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Carmoega, Rafael

Colón Virela, José Moisés

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance starts when the building began to be used as a school (1925) and is closed off in the 50 year cut off date (1962).

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

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*Escuela Guillermo Esteves* is significant, at state level, under Criterion C for architecture and Criterion A for education. This school embodies a method of construction used in early 20<sup>th</sup> century school buildings in Puerto Rico. This building reflected the island wide education program implemented by the Government of Puerto Rico during the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the area of education the school, at the time of its construction, served as the largest institutional concrete building built locally and was the primary educational center for the municipality in the first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The school's plans were prepared by the Division of Public Buildings of the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico and were revised by Architect Rafael Carmoega. The building's contractor, José Moisés Colón Virella, started work at the site in 1924 and completed work in 1926.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Municipal Government of Naranjito petitioned funding from the Insular Government for building a school in its urban core. At that time, almost all of the classrooms used in the urban core were housed in private buildings<sup>iv</sup>. In 1917 the Legislature of Puerto Rico approved \$10,000.00 for the construction of a school building for Naranjito<sup>v</sup>. However, construction was delayed four years until the Municipality secured a plot a land for the school. By 1921 the Municipal Assembly of Naranjito acquired a plot of land at the outskirts of town one block from the town plaza<sup>vi</sup>. The original project was for a three-classroom school<sup>vii</sup>. However, in 1923 the project changed when the Legislature's Economic Commission provided an additional \$24,000.00 (by Law #13)<sup>viii</sup>.

On May 31, 1924 the Division of Public Buildings of the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico completed the specifications and plans for a nine-room school with an estimated budget of \$34,000.00. Architect Rafael Carmoega, Chief of the Division of Public Buildings, Department of the Interior, revised the school's specifications and plans<sup>ix</sup>. As designed, the school building had two floors and a basement that provided space for nine classrooms, office, storage room and two bathrooms (one for boys and another for girls). The four classrooms were distributed on each of the two floors and one in the basement (left wing). The second floor, on the main façade (looking toward the Georgetti Street), had two rooms that were separated by a folding division that could be removed to convert this space into an assembly room (24 feet 6 inches by 72 feet). The building's walls, stairways, gallery and toilets were all to be made of concrete. The floor of the classrooms would be made of wood. Corrugated galvanized steel covered building's hipped roof<sup>x</sup>.

On July 2, 1924 the local contractors José Moisés Colón Virella and Antonio Benítez won the bid from the Department of Interior of Puerto Rico for the construction of the nine-room school for Naranjito<sup>xi</sup>. The project's contract was signed on

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<sup>iv</sup> These private buildings were either rented or received in donation. In fiscal year 1922-23 in this municipality there were one public building (4 classrooms) while there were three private buildings being used as schools. Information found in the Report of the Commissioner of the Interior, Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, together with Report of the heads of the several Departments of the Porto Rican Government for fiscal year ended in June 30, 1923. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1923), 203, 204.

<sup>v</sup> A joint resolution, Law # 64, of the 1917 session of the Legislature of Puerto Rico.

<sup>vi</sup> Minutas del Consejo de Administración de Naranjito, 10 de septiembre de 1921. AGPR, Municipal, Naranjito, Caja 2. The Municipality bought for \$950.00 a plot land of a "cuerda y tres cuartas parte de otra" (approximately 1.214 acre) from Rafael Valles Santos for the construction of a school building.

<sup>vii</sup> Project in course of preparation, "Report of the Commissioner of the Interior", Message from the President of the United States transmitting Twenty-Second Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, together with the Reports fo the Heads of several Departments of the Porto Rican Government for fiscal year ending ended June 30, 1922. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1923), 205.

<sup>viii</sup> "Especificaciones construcción escuela de nueve salones, Naranjito, Puerto Rico preparada por la División de Edificios Públicos, Rafael Carmoega Arquitecto", 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid. In June 7, 1924 the Municipal Assembly of Naranjito decided to name the nine-room school in honor of Guillermo Esteves, Commissioner of Interior. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099. Guillermo Esteves Volckers served as Comissioner of the Puerto Rico's Department of the Interior from 1918-1921 and 1923-1932. Quién es quién en Puerto Rico: Diccionario Bibliográfico de Record Personal. Conrado Asenjo, ed., 2da. edición, 1936-1937. (San Juan: Real Hermanos, Inc. 1936), 63.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xi</sup>, Memorandum, Rafael Carmoega a la Junta de Subasta, Julio 2, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

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August 18, 1924 with a budget of \$31,379.75. Shortly after work began (on August 28, 1924)<sup>xii</sup>, the Commissioner of the Interior was informed that Antonio Benítez ceded all his rights and contractual obligations to José Moises Colón Virella<sup>xiii</sup>. By December 19, 1924 the Chief of the Division of Public Works informed taking advantage of the site's irregular terrain project additional classrooms were built in the school's basement. However, this new work went over approved budget. Due to restrictions on further insular spending, Commissioner of the Interior requested from the Municipality of Naranjito additional funding to cover these expenses<sup>xiv</sup>. On January 30, 1925 the Municipal Assembly approved the transfer of \$8,000.00 from its project to build a new city hall to the construction of the school<sup>xv</sup>. However, more funding was necessary before completing the project. The total the cost of the construction for the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* ascended to \$41,398.18<sup>vi</sup>. The building was delivered provisionally by the contractor to the Department of the Interior on September 15, 1925. Shortly after, the local school board started to use this building. In February 25, 1926 school was finally accepted by the Department of the Interior. Although the school had been planned to provide nine classrooms, during its construction changes were made in the design to accommodate twelve rooms (four in each level)<sup>xvii</sup>. This school had sufficient capacity to receive not only primary students of the urban core but also from the rural areas of the municipality.

When the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* opened in 1925 it provided education for the first to eight grades<sup>xviii</sup>. The school was built at the eastern end of the 1.214 acre school lot. A large playground, west of the school building, was prepared and maintained by teachers and students<sup>xix</sup>. In 1940-1941, when changes in the Department of Education were implemented the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* housed students from primary and intermediate grades<sup>xx</sup>. Prior to 1946 several facilities for the school were built to the west of the playground area. A one-story frame building dining hall, the largest of these facilities, was located immediately to the west of the playground. Farther west were a one classroom frame building and milk station (straw shack). At the western corner of the property there was a one story frame house.

By 1945 the number of school age students exceeded the capacity of education facilities in Naranjito. The school population (ages 6 to 18) in the municipality had grown to 5,235, while the education facilities were only able to take in 2,589, leaving out 2,646 school age students<sup>xxi</sup>. The Legislature of Puerto Rico approved on May 15, 1945 funding for the War Emergency Program for the construction of classrooms for various municipalities, including four assigned to Naranjito. However, it was not until 1946 that a project for an eleven classroom urban school was prepared by the Design Committee of Public Works<sup>xxii</sup>. This project's described the justification for the new building and the current conditions of the Escuela Guillemro Esteves.

<sup>xii</sup> Carta del Comisionado del Interior al Sr. Presidente, Comisión de Indemnizaciones a Obreros, Agosto 25, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

<sup>xiii</sup> Carta del Comisionado al Hon. Attorney General de P.R., Septiembre 5, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

<sup>xiv</sup> Memorandum, Rafael Carmoega al Comisionado, Diciembre 19, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

<sup>xv</sup> Minuta del Consejo de Administración de Naranjito. 30 de enero de 1925. AGPR, Municipal, Naranjito, Caja 3.

<sup>xvi</sup> Liquidation of Contract for the Complete Construction of Nine Room Concrete School Building at Naranjito, P.R., AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099.

<sup>xvii</sup> Memorandum, Rafael Carmoega al Comisionado, Diciembre 19, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Caja 1099. The memorandum mentions that classrooms were added to the basement by taking advantage of the irregular geography of the property. In May 3, 2011 conversation with Mrs. Milagros Cintrón, Director of Mercedes Rosario Middle School, confirmed that the building ended with twelve school rooms. A map prepared by the Design Committee of Public Works for a 1946 project of an eleven classroom school identified the Escuela Guillermo Esteves as a "School (12 rooms 3 stories conc. bldg.)". "Eleven Room Urban School, Naranjito, P.R.", AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 333, Caja 1193.

<sup>xviii</sup> Since 1915 the Puerto Rico the Department of Education had an 8-4 plan, which divided the twelve grades into primary (first-eight grades) and secondary (ninth-twelve). Silvestre Morales Morales, El Cambio: Apuntes Históricos de Puerto Rico. Publication found in <http://edicionesdigitales.info/biblioteca/historianaranjito.pdf>. Note: the pages in this electronic publication are not numbered. However, the information cited here can be found in the web page 171.

<sup>xix</sup> Silvestre Morales Morales, El Cambio: Apuntes Históricos de Puerto Rico. Web page 177, <http://edicionesdigitales.info/biblioteca/historianaranjito.pdf>.

<sup>xx</sup> The new plan divided the grade system to 6-3-3 (six elementary, three intermediate and three high school grades). Silvestre Morales Morales, El Cambio: Apuntes Históricos de Puerto Rico. Web page 116, <http://edicionesdigitales.info/biblioteca/historianaranjito.pdf>.

<sup>xxi</sup> AGPR, Oficina del Gobernador, Tarea 96-20, Caja 1115.

<sup>xxii</sup> Government of Puerto Rico. "Eleven Room Urban School, Naranjito, P.R.", AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 333, Caja 1193.

The plans were prepared on July 8, 1946 by Santiago Iglesias, Jr., Design Committee of Public Works. This 1947 school received the name Mercedes Rosado.

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The Municipality of Naranjito has an urban population of 3,000 and there is an enrollment of 528 students in its elementary grades functioning in interlocking sessions from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

They attend the "Guillermo Esteves Junior High School" occupying 4 of its 9 classrooms, a separate frame school room in the patio and a classroom in the local church rented at a cost of \$180.00 per annum.

The main building is a 3 story concrete structure constructed in 1925 by the Department of the Interior and is in good condition. The frame annex adjoin it serves as a lunchroom for intermediate and elementary students during lunch hour. A playground area with basketball court completes the existing elementary school facilities in Naranjito<sup>xxiii</sup>.

When the Mercedes Rosario School opened in 1947<sup>xxiv</sup>, it took over elementary classes, while the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* became a middle or junior high school. Three years later (1950), the Department of Education extended to Naranjito the Morovis Plan<sup>xxv</sup>. In the 1948-1949 Commissioner of Education's Annual Report explained the plan,

The Morovis Plan represents an attempt to make secondary educational opportunities available, to some extent at least in towns such as Morovis which do not at present have either high schools or facilities to transport students to existing senior high schools in other towns. This plan, the try out of which was initiated in the towns of Morovis at the start of the 1948-1949 school year, is based on a system of free studies; therefore, it require neither the classrooms nor the organization of the traditional type of high school. Rather, students meet in a study and orientation center equipped with tables and chairs, a library and the necessary scientific apparatus, in accordance with a flexible schedule adjusted to the needs of the students and the specific purposes of the plan. In this room students attend general conferences and showings of educational films, conduct experiments related to the science courses, and consult reference books. Much of the students' work is, however, done at home, following course outlines providing definite assignments<sup>xxvi</sup>.

In the 1950-51 school year, about eighty students were matriculated. The students met at *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* daily for couple of hours from Monday to Thursday, while Fridays were reserved for social activities. In following year (1951-1952) one hundred forty students were enrolled in the program. In the first graduation (1952) the twelve students graduated. From the 1952-1953 the *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* became the center of junior high and high school education in the Municipality<sup>xxvii</sup>.

The *Escuela Guillermo Esteves* served as a high school in the Municipality until early in the 1960s when the Francisco Morales Rivera High School was completed. In the 1970s or 1980s the Department of Education built two concrete buildings over old playgrounds to provide additional classroom and facilities.

### Architecture

The architectural significance of this property is directly linked to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century efforts of the Government of Puerto Rico to introduce new architectural vocabulary throughout the Island. Also, this building was very distinctive in a period in the urban development of the town of the time. In the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the majority of residences in the Municipality were still made of wood. The building's local importance was demonstrated when the Municipal Government decided to spend the funds, assigned to the construction of a new town hall, in the new school. The new building was important also because it introduced new spaces for social interaction in the community. Furthermore, the size and

<sup>xxiii</sup> Louis Sturcke, Design Committee of Public Works. "Program for a new building for 4 urban School Rooms for Naranjito". Although the original project called for the construction of four classrooms, additional funding permitted increasing the classrooms to eleven. "Eleven Room Urban School, Naranjito, P.R.", AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 333, Caja 1193.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Work on the school building was finished on October 6, 1947. The Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico finally accepted the building on January 9, 1948. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 333, Caja 1194.

<sup>xxv</sup> The Morovis Plan was established in 1948 by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico as a rural outreach program that sought extend high school education (grades 10, 11 and 12) to nineteen municipalities. The plan was first tested in the José Fontán School in Morovis. This school in Morovis was listed on August 20, 2012 in the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Department of Education. *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Education, 1948-1949*. (San Juan: Division of Publications and Documents, Department of Education), 21.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Silvestre J. Morales Morales. *El Cambio: Apuntes Históricos del Pueblo de Naranjito*. Web pages 116 and 117,

<http://edicionesdigitales.info/biblioteca/historianaranjito.pdf>.

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position astride a major avenue (the old Corozal-Naranjito Road) close to the town's plaza made it early on an important architectural icon. Only the slaughter house (1910-1911) had preceded this school in the urban core.

#### Education

During the Spanish Regime school facilities in Puerto Rico the education was girls and boys were segregated by sex and children of different ages were taught in the same room. After 1898, the Government of Puerto Rico sought to integrate the sexes in the classrooms and establish a grade system. In the 1910's the Government constructed rural schools in the Lomas, Cedro Arriba and Anones Arriba Wards. However, since these schools were wooden one-room construction that permitted limited implementation of the new education program. The lack of sufficient education facilities continued in early 1920's when six buildings were being used as school buildings in the urban core of the municipality. Of these five buildings were rented or granted freely (one room in each building), while one publicly owned (with four rooms). The construction of the Escuela Guillermo Esteves sought to fulfill the need of building a facility that would properly meet the education program expectation. It is significant that building's education for 20 years it served as the only elementary school of the urban core. Also, it became the first middle school for the municipality in 1947. Later, in 1950, its facilities were used to implement the Morovis Plan in Naranjito and thus becoming the first secondary public educational facility in the history of the municipality of Naranjito. The property has been intricately linked to the 20<sup>th</sup> century educational history of the municipality.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

Escuela Guillermo Esteves  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Comisionado del Interior. Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico. San Juan: Negociado de Materiales, Imprenta y Transporte, 1926.

Comissioner of Education. Report of the Comissioner of Education of Porto Rico, 1922. From Report of the Governor of Porto Rico, 1922. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923.

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División de Edificios Públicos, Departamento del Interior. "Especificaciones para la construcción de una escuela de hormigón de nueve salones en Naranjito, Puerto Rico", 1924. Fondo Obras Públicas, Serie Edificios Escolares, Legajo 112, Caja 1099.

Governor of Porto Rico. Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Governor of Porto Rico. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1926.

Morales Morales, Silvestre J. El Chango: Apuntes históricos del pueblo de Naranjito 1824-1998. <http://edicionesdigitales.info/biblioteca/historianaranjito.pdf>.

Puerto Rico Department of Education, Public Buildings Authority and Public-Private Partnership Authority. "Escuela Mercedes Rosario, Naranjito, Puerto Rico". Puerto Rico School Modernization, August 23, 2010.

Pumarada, Rafael. Escuela Guillermo Esteves, Inventario de recursos arquitectónicos de Puerto Rico, Colación, Inc. July 1986.

Rigau, Jorge. "Early XXth Century Schools in Puerto Rico." Cover documented for the PRSHPO. Approved by NPS on August 8, 2012.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Archivo General de Puerto Rico

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>790860</u> Easting	<u>2025726</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is bounded to the south by the SR 164 interior, to the north by the school grounds, to the east by the Achiote Street and to the west by the school building #2 of the Mercedes Rosado Middle School

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property's original boundary extended west to encompass the 1.214 acre lot bought by the Municipality of Naranjito. However, this boundary was reduced after 1947 as result of the construction of two schools to the west. The property currently encompasses the area of the 1926 building up to the new 2012 construction (to the east) and the chain link fence to the north and the Achiote Street to the west.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title José E. Marull, Historian/ Santiago Gala, Architect  
organization Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office date October 25, 2012  
street & number PO Box 9023935 telephone (787) 721-3737  
city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00902  
e-mail jmarull@prshpo.gobierno.pr

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the southern (central) and eastern wing taken from the Georgetti Street facing northwest.

1 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of entrance portico in the southern wing, facing north.

2 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Detail of a pilaster of the entrance portico in the southern wing, facing north.

3 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the entrance portico as seen from within the building, facing south.

4 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Close up of the three recessed arched opening of the second floor of the school's eastern wing.

5 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the southern façade and western wing taken on the Georgetti Street facing northeast.

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6 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the rear of the school taken from the yard. This picture shows the western and eastern wings.

7 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the basement gallery, facing east.

8 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the first floor gallery and entrance traction elevator facing west.

9 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the second floor gallery facing west. Also, you can see where the traction elevator is incorporated.

10 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of western stairway on the first floor landing, facing west.

11 of 13.

**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of the stairway from the first floor to the basement on the northern façade of the southern wing, facing south.

12 of 13.

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**Name of Property:** Escuela Guillermo Esteves

**City or Vicinity:** Naranjito

**County:** Naranjito

**State:** Puerto Rico

**Photographer:** Santiago Gala

**Date Photographed:** September 20, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** View of landing in the eastern stairway between the first and second floors, facing west.

**13 of 13**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

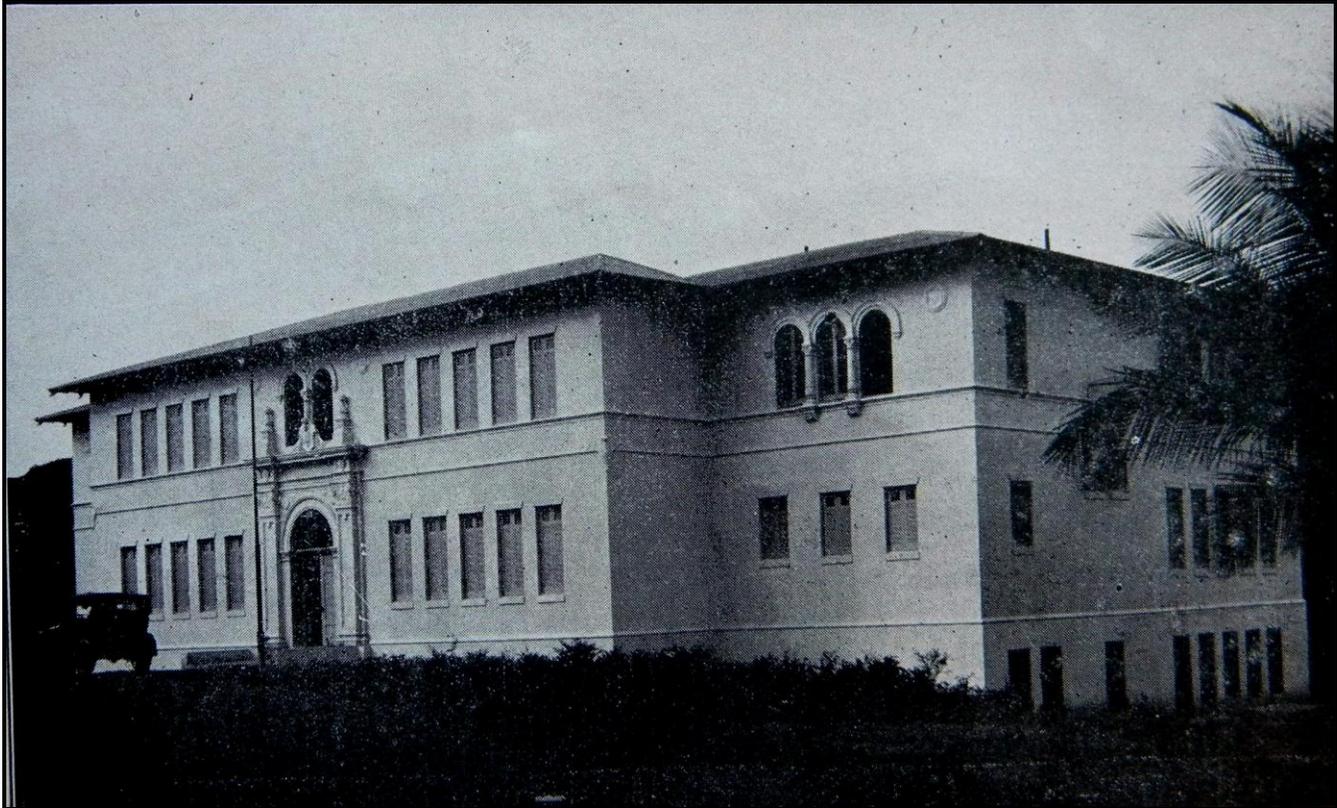
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Figure 1.** Photo of Guillermo Esteves Volckers, Register of Porto Rico, 1924.



**Figure 2.** Photograph of the Graduate School of Naranjito. Álbum de Obras Municipales de Puerto Rico, 1919-1928. Note: this photograph also appeared in the November 1926 issue of "Revista de Obras Públicas".

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National Park Service

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Figure 3. Drawing of southern wing, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 112, Caja 1099.

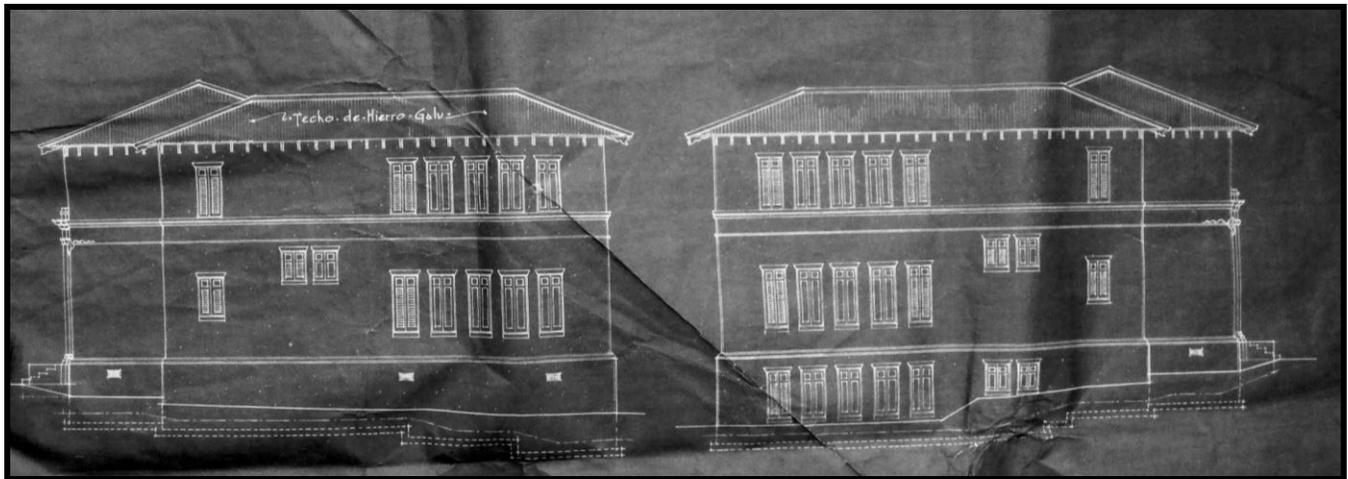


Figure 4. Plans showing the right (*Fachada lateral derecha*) and the left (*Fachada lateral izquierda*) wings of the building, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 112, Caja 1099.

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National Park Service

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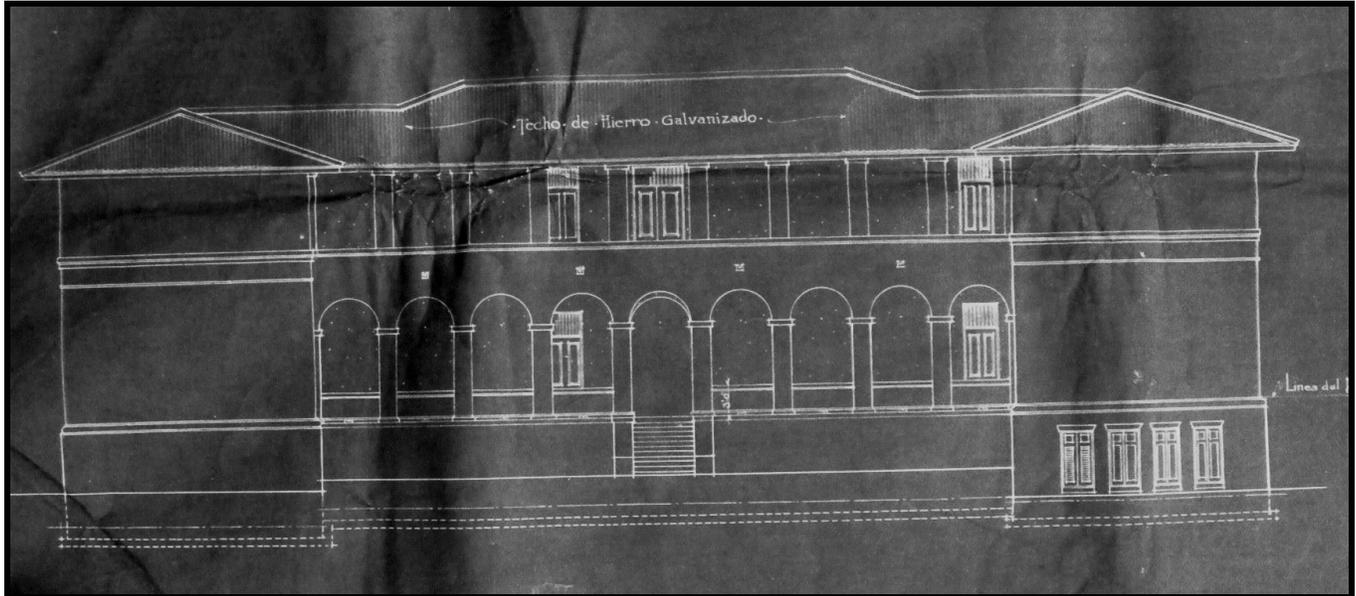


Figure 5. Plan showing rear or northern façade of the school building, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 112, Caja 1099.

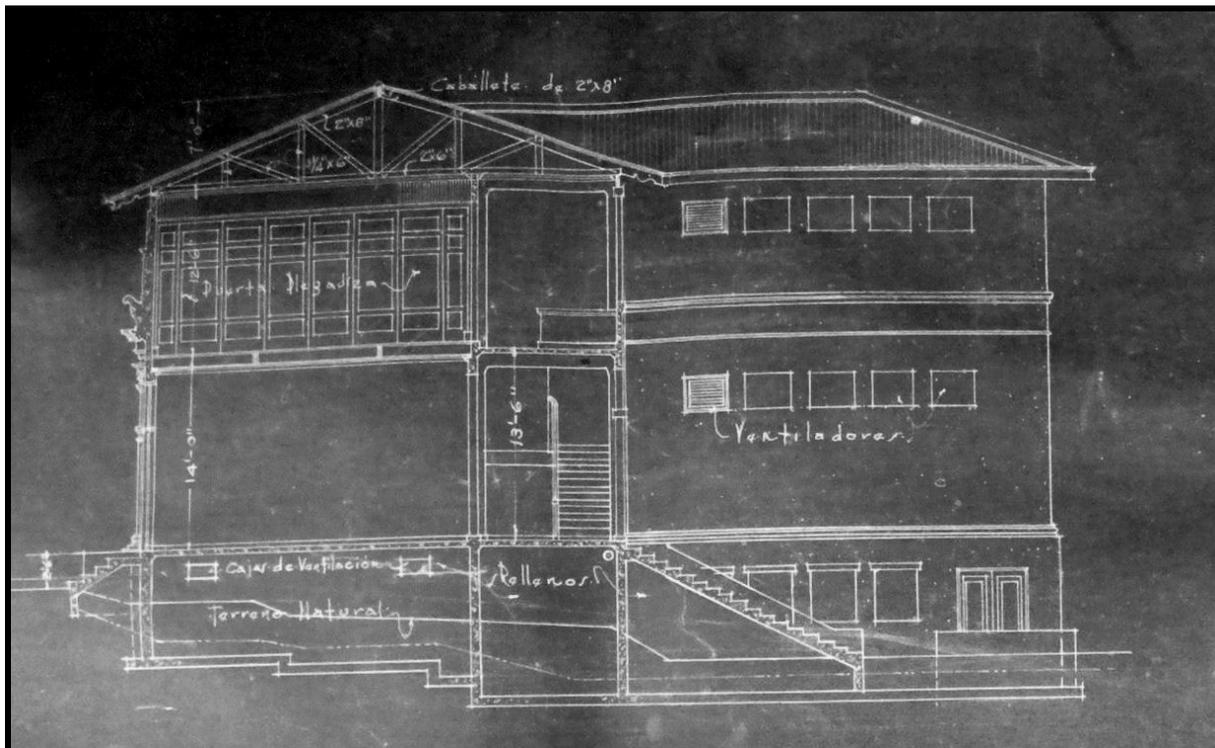


Figure 6. Section B.B. that shows view of the stairways (interior and exterior), hipped roof system and ventilation windows, 1924. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, Legajo 112, Caja 1099.

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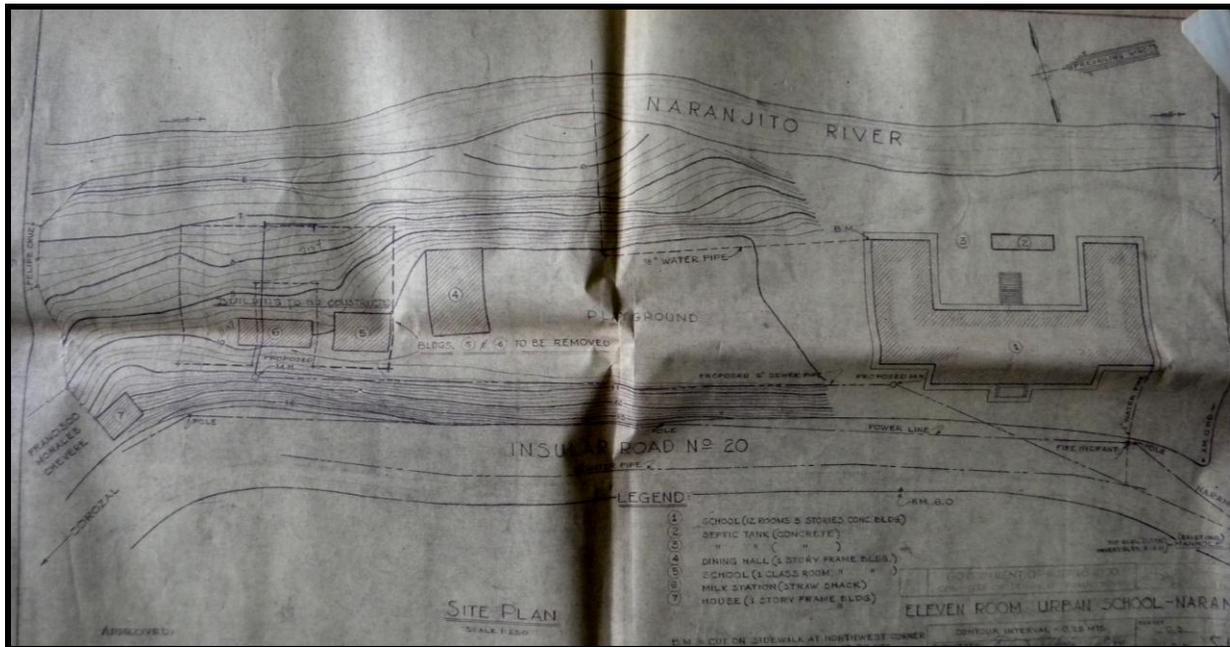


Figure 7. Site map, Eleven Room Urban School, Naranjito, Committee on Design of Public Works, 1946. AGPR, Obras Públicas, Edificios Escolares, legajo 333, Caja 1193.

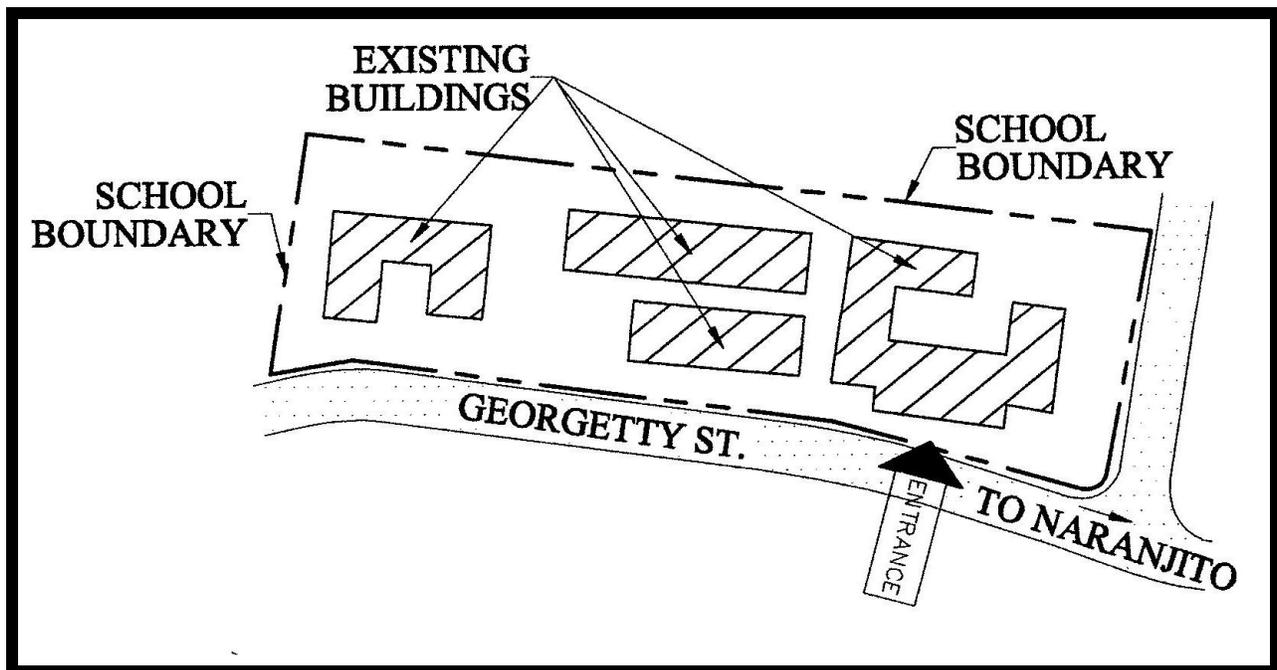


Figure 8. Location map of the Mercedes Rosario Middle School prepared for AFI- Puerto Rico Modernization Project, July 21, 2010. The easternmost building is the former Guillermo Esteves School.

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Figure 9. Pedestrian bridge and window openings in the southern wing, facing west, PRSHPO 09/20/12.



Figure 10 First floor vestibule, facing north. PRSHPO, 09/20/12.

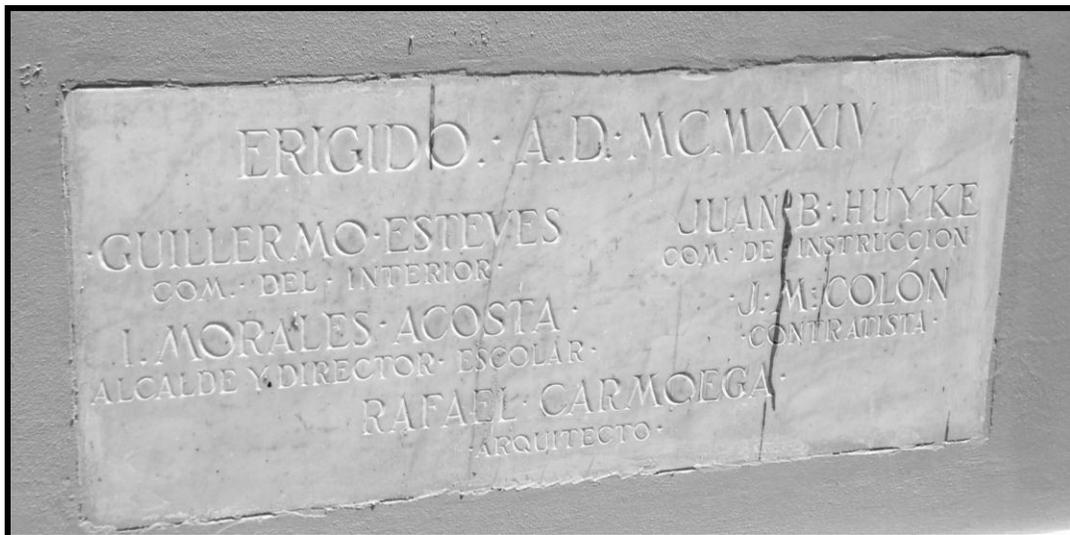


Figure 11. Marble commemorative plaque of Escuela Guillermo Esteves on the façade of the southern wing. Photo taken by José E. Marull, PRSHPO, 09/20/12.

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**Figure 12.** Close up of the heraldic symbol in the southeast corner of the southern wing. Photo taken by José E. Marull, PRSHPO, 09/20/12.



**Figure 12.** View of the patio and northernmost boundary of the property. Beyond the chain-link fence is the

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Guadiana River. Photo taken by José E. Marull, PRSHPO, 09/20/12.



**Figure 14.** View of the stairway to interior patio facing east. Photo taken on 09/20/12.



**Figure 15.** Close up of the traction elevator built in the northern façade. Photo taken on 09/20/12.

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Figure 15. General location map of the town of Naranjito that shows location of PR 164 where the Guillermo Esteves School is located. Image U.S. Geological Survey, Imagery date 10/31/2006, Google, 2011.



Figure 16. Boundary of the Escuela Guillermo Esteves (Guillermo Esteves School) Naranjito, Puerto Rico. Imagery from 2006 taken from Google Earth.