

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **SEP 8 1987**

date entered **OCT 28 1987**

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

1. Name

historic Casino de Ponce

and/or common Antiguo Casino de Ponce

2. Location

street & number Calle Marina and Calle Luna not for publication

city, town Ponce vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Municipality of Ponce code 0790

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Municipality of Ponce

street & number Casa Alcaldía de Ponce, Plaza Degetau

city, town Ponce vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registro de la Propiedad

street & number Centro Gubernamental de Ponce

city, town Ponce state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural-Historical Inventory of Ponce has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Casino de Ponce is an ornate, two-storey, concrete structure on the southeast corner of Calle Marina and Calle Luna in the historic urban center of Ponce. It occupies a plot of land approximately 38 X 36 meters, or 1427.6 meters square, with a chamfered corner at the intersection of the two facade planes. The building demonstrates the tendencies of high ornamentation in the architecture of the late XIX and early XX centuries in Puerto Rico through its Rococo-like relief and mansard roof.

The overall articulation of the building can be divided into three sections: a five-bay north facade, a seven-bay west facade, and a single-bay chamfer at the intersection. At the ground level, the main entry at the north facade is emphasized by an intricately ornamented "Spanish-baroque" frontispiece consisting of Tuscan columns and pilasters which support an architrave and blind-arch tympanum above. The spandrel and tympanum areas are ornamented with intricate plaster relief. Bays 1, 2, 4, and 5 consist of simpler, narrow, segmental-arch openings capped by hood-moulds with keystones.

At the upper level of the same facade, the three, central bays are articulated as wide, square openings with Tuscan half-columns within, supporting the lintel at either extreme. Bays 1 and 5 are each articulated by a quoined surround and an angular pediment, supported by brackets and decorated with an ornamental relief tympanum.

The seven-bay Calle Marina facade consists of an ABABA rhythm in which unit A is identical to bays 1 and 5 of the north facade. Unit B consists of ground-storey bays with wider, circular-arch openings and rectangular upper-level openings with quoined surrounds and voussoired lintels.

The chamfered bay is particularly ornate, as it recesses slightly and then curves outward in a baroque fashion. At the ground floor a wide, segmental-arch opening with a hood-mould accesses secondary office space. At the upper level, a rectangular doorway is crowned by an intricate cameo with angel figures on either side of it. The upper level bay is framed by Tuscan columns which spring from a string-course at the baluster level and support a projection of the building cornice.

All upper level bays open out onto individual balustered balconies, except for bays 2 and 3 and bays 5 and 6 of the west facade, which share wider, two-bay balconies. The chamfered bay contains a semi-elliptical balcony which smoothly turns the corner of the two facades.

The entire composition is crowned by a cornice which follows the modulation of the facade. A balustered parapet above the cornice completes the composition. In addition, broken-scroll pediments above the parapet accentuate the composition's rhythm at the central bay of the west facade, the extreme bays of both facades, and the corner chamfer. A "mission-tile" mansard roof completes the composition and accentuates the French influences of the design.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1922

Builder/Architect Agustín Camilo González

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Casino de Ponce faithfully represents its purpose as a meeting place for the landed aristocracy of the southern coast of Puerto Rico.

Architecturally, the old Casino is significant in that it combines stylistic influences of the XIX century (Second-Empire, neo-Rococo aplique, etc..) in concrete construction. Thus, it represents a transitional point from the brick and stucco classical Spanish traditional construction to the modern, reinforced-concrete technology of the United States. In addition, skillfully executed stucco relief on the facade, in the ballroom, and in the foyer remain in excellent condition.

The magnificent structure which once housed the Casino de Ponce truly exemplifies the lifestyle and aspirations of the area's landed aristocracy during the first decades of the XX century. It represents this social class' ideals and a way of life that changed dramatically after the Second World War. The second floor ballroom of the Casino served as the meeting place for the most wealthy and most influential families in Ponce and Puerto Rico as a whole. The social club has since ceased functions, and the lifestyle of the old aristocracy has been lost to the priorities of a modern way of life.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archivo Histórico de Ponce, Teatro La Perla, Ponce.
Telephone interview with Mr. Romualdo Olabarrieta, August 26, 1987.
Plástica, Revista de la Liga de Arte, No. 15, vol. 2, Sept. 1986.
Puerto Rico Ilustrado, various volumes, 1920 - 1950.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ponce, PR

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>7526810</u>	<u>19930110</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the north by Calle Luna; to the south by a lot owned by the Buono Perilli Society; to the east by Puerto Rico Water and Sewer Authority; and to the west by Calle Marina.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Héctor F. Santiago / State Architectural Historian
Félix Julián del Campo / State Historian

organization P.R. S.H.P.O. date August, 1987

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza telephone 809-721-3737

city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 August, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Amy Schlazel

date 10/28/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Casino de Ponce

Item number 7

Page 1

Although various doors at the ground level have been altered at the facades, the upper level windows remain intact and in original condition, and the overall character of the building is maintained. Minor altered elements are of reversible character.

In plan, the main entrance at the north facade accesses directly an ample stairway which leads to the upper level. At this level two large rooms serve as ballrooms: a major open space along the west wall and a smaller reception area on the north. The ground level is currently utilized as office space by a government agency. Access to these areas is through various doorways along the street wall.

OCT 26 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Casino de Ponce, Calles Marina and Luna,
Ponce, Puerto Rico

