

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUL 12 1984
date entered AUG 24 1984

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

1. Name

historic Villaronga Residence
and/or common Villaronga Residence

2. Location

street & number #106 Reina Street not for publication
city, town Ponce vicinity of
state Puerto Rico code 72 county Ponce code 0760

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr Gabriel Villaronga y Charriez
street & number #106 Reina Street
city, town Ponce vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds
street & number Ponce Government Center
city, town Ponce state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventario de Monumentos de la Zona
Histórica de Ponce has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1977 federal state county local
depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00905

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Villaronga Residence is a "U" shaped, one-storied structure, measuring 68'-10" in width by 95'-2" in length, located at the corner of Reina and Méndez Vigo Streets. Behind all its highly elaborated decoration, with European Baroque influence, essentially the structure is Neo-Classic in style, making a unique but yet elegant combination of both styles. The building rests on a rusticated stone podium; its facades and main walls are of brick masonry with some interior partitions and walls of the gallery and kitchen in wood. Wooden beams supports a galvanized zinc roof. The windows and doors of the building are wooden with movable louvers and fixed colored glass inlets. Flooring material used throughout the residence are varied; from native cement colored tiles at the dining area and vestibule; 1" by 6" tongue and groove wood slats at the living area and bedrooms; ceramic tiles at the bathroom; to marble tiles at the entry-way.

The Baroque's influence is manifested immediately on the building rounded corner, typical of these residence types in Ponce. The corner is framed by two rusticated pilasters and divided into three bays, by two pilaster strip or lesene. Each bay contains a wooden movable louvered window with glass inlets at its top and a floral relief motif over the fenestration. The rest of the wall is decorated with floral garlands. The corner is accentuated with a round sitting nook or "glorietta", that is detailed with Ionic columns. Another interesting feature of the house are the balconies which are divided into into three sections with Ionic columns and framed with Baroque moldings and sculptured faces on the central top part of the openings. The forged iron railings of the balconies are elaborated and Art Nouveau in style. The facades are crowned with a continuous masonry cornice. On top of this cornice, a battlement type parapet with sculptured lion faces and "candelabra" decorates the roof line of the stucture.

The main entrance is off-centered and located on Reina Street. The entry hall is decorated with sculptured tiles and the door is located at the end of a marbled stairway. The interior is well kept and unaltered. The interior areas are painted in different colors and the walls have a decorative plastered "Art-Nouveau" frieze. The ceiling at most of the areas are decorated embossed tin with a continuous decorative molding at its corners. The gallery and part of the kitchen walls are wooden with fixed wood louvered windows used for better ventilation and light. Other interesting details on the house are: the bathroom fixtures, such as the shower stall and the ceramic wall tiles which were imported from Barcelona, Spain; the light fixtures such as the one at the dining-room, the master bedroom and living room which were also imported from Spain; and a "medio punto" at the dining area, typical of the architecture of this Southern area of Puerto Rico.

The building has been kept in good condition and unaltered throughout the years.

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 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 1921 Builder/Architect Arch. Alfredo B. Wiechers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Villaronga Residence was built in 1912 by Alfredo B. Wiechers, architect, for his own residence and studio, which he sold later to Mr. Gabriel Villaronga. Wiechers was born in Ponce and studied at the School of Architecture in Paris, France, in 1901, where he obtained a gold medal for outstanding achievement and excellence during his professional studies. He graduated in 1905 and worked at the office of Enric Sagnier, a famous Spanish architect, in Barcelona, Spain. In 1911, he decided to work and live in Ponce; thus he designed and built his house and studio which he opened in 1912. In a short period of time, from 1911 to 1918, Wiechers was commissioned various important buildings such as: the Loggia Aurora, Club Deportivo de Damas, the Havana Theatre, Bank of Ponce Building, Santo Asilo de Damas Hospital among others, where he fully expressed the European Neo-Classical style which he learned and was influenced by Enric Sagnier.

The Neo-Classical influence is manifested in most of his buildings and particularly in the Villaronga residence for its richness and highly decorative details (pilasters, rusticated podium, cornices, "candelabra", relief and motifs, Ionic capitels, etc. are some of the decorative details of the Neo-Classical trend). The Villaronga Residence is an outstanding example of this style and is one of two residences still standing of a series of houses designed and built by Wiechers, so important to the architectural and cultural heritage of the city of Ponce.

Of special importance is the fact that all the furniture is original, including the bathroom appliances. Most of the furniture belongs to the Modernisme style (Catalonian Art Nouveau) and were imported from Barcelona, Spain.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Ponce

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

Latitude 18°-00'-52" North; Longitude 66°-37'-01" West

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North 27.7 mts. by a lot owned by Frank Vilariño; to the South 29.47 mts. by Reina (Ceus Aguilera) Street; to the East 21 mts. by Méndez Vigo Street and to the West 18.3 mts. by a lot owned by Luis Salas.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Parés- State Architect, S.H.P.O.
Abelardo González Avilés- Architect

organization Centro de Investigaciones Folklóricas
de Puerto Rico date May 18, 1984

street & number Box 122 Post Office Station #6
Ponce telephone (809)-840-4115

city or town Ponce state Puerto Rico 00732

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 *Armando Morales Parés*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 18, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Carol O. Shull

date 8-24-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration