

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1976

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC **\*\*** CARCEL DE PUERTA DE TIERRA *aka*

AND/OR COMMON HOSPITAL CIVIL; CARCEL PROVINCIAL: EDIFICIO BACARDI  
ARCHIVO Y BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL.

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
AVENIDA PONCE DE LEON, PARADA 8, PUERTA DE TIERRA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN SAN JUAN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE PUERTO RICO VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

STREET & NUMBER APARTADO 4184

CITY, TOWN SAN JUAN VICINITY OF STATE PUERTO RICO

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. REGISTRO DE LA PROPIEDAD

STREET & NUMBER MUNICIPIO DE SAN JUAN

CITY, TOWN SAN JUAN STATE PUERTO RICO

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE PRELIMINARY PUERTO RICO SURVEY

DATE 1974  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS INSTITUTO DE CULTURA PUERTORRIQUEÑA

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 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 building is composed of three wings which are connected among themselves at one end by a wing which runs perpendicular to the three and which forms the main facade. It is uniformly composed of three stories including the basement. Between the wings there are open courtyards around which the interior layout is arranged by running arcaded corridors along these, with all rooms facing the outside. The center wing, somewhat shorter and wider than the two end ones harbors a grand staircase and the two-story high chapel. Along the rear a disturbing one-storied structure has been added and runs parallel to the building along its full length. However, this addition is not visible from the outside. The original floor plans have been maintained by the different occupants and deviations from it are very few.

The front facade shows three projecting porticoes corresponding to each of the wings. Both floors show arcaded windows and rectangular pilasters which are original. This rhythm, with variations is maintained throughout the exterior surface of the entire building.

Since its public acquisition, the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña has undertaken a phased program for its restoration. Until now the three exterior facades have been restored, but the rear and courtyard facades still remain to be done.

Following the original lay-out the front wing and the East wing have been restored and are presently in use as the National Library and the Archives of Puerto Rico. Other wings are yet to be restored. Finally, the two courtyards retain their original walks but have yet to be restored and landscaped.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877-1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ing. Arq. Domingo Sermero

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Due to the shortage of health facilities in the municipality of San Juan, the Spanish Government of the Island chose this site outside of the city walls to erect a new hospital facility. The area had begun to develop as a suburb as a result of the people who left the walled city in search of a safer place after the 1867 Earthquake. On May 6th, 1877, under the Government of Laureano Sanz, the cornerstone was laid. One year after construction was begun, the Municipality agreed on utilizing the structure as a municipal Prison, and from the time it was finished in 1887 until the end of the Spanish American war it served as such. It was then utilized temporarily as the hospital it was meant to be, but in 1905, Governor Todd offered the building for sale in a public auction that was won by the Portorican American Tobacco Co., which turned the building into an important Cigar factory. Several years after, the company went out of business and sold the building to Bacardi and Co., which used the building as its Puerto Rican headquarters until 1960 when it was sold to the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña for conversion into the National Library and Archives of Puerto Rico. The initial stage of these facilities was inaugurated in 1972.

Hemispherically, the building is very significant since it was the last structure built by the Spanish crown in its American colonies.

Aside from the obvious importance of its size, the building is architecturally significant in that it is the best example of Spanish neo-classical style in the island. Its style is sober and dignified in the Iberian Tradition, showing adaptations to the climatic conditions of the tropical colonies.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Academia Puertorriqueña de la Historia. DICCIONARIO BIBLIOGRAFICO COMENTADO DE PUERTO RICO. San Juan, 1976  
 De Hostos, Adolfo- HISTORIA DE SAN JUAN; CIUDAD AMURALLADA San Juan: Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña 1966  
 Zeno, F.M. - HISTORIA DE LA CAPITAL DE PTO. RICO San Juan: Departamento de Hacienda, 1959

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

C 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

D 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gustavo F. Araoz, Jr., A.I.A. Preservation Architect

ORGANIZATION

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Convento de Dominicos, Plaza de San Jose

TELEPHONE

(809) 724-2905

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

Director of the Instituto de Cultura

DATE

12 July 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting



DATE

8/11/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WITNESSES



DATE

8-6-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER