FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 School of Tropical Medicine

and/or common Medicina Tropical

2. Location

street & number Ponce de León Avenue, Stop #2 ___ not for publication

city, town Puerta de Tierra ___ vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Puerto Rico code 72 county San Juan code 0930

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**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Government of Puerto Rico (Department of Natural Resources)

street & number La Fortaleza

city, town San Juan ___ vicinity of state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, san Juan Section I

street & number San Juan Judicial Center, Second floor

city, town Hato Rey state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventario de Monumentos Históricos has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1977 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The School of Tropical Medicine is composed of three buildings, all three stories in height. Moving from West to East, the first building is square in shape with a central courtyard. The second building is "U"-shaped, and is attached to the first building at the base of the "U". Finally, there is a long rectangular building at the tip of the southern leg of the "U", perpendicular to it. Thus, the layout gives an enclosed courtyard, used for parking today, and an open ended courtyard which is well conserved. Structuralwise, the three buildings are of concrete with concrete columns, walls and beams. The walls are smoothly cement plastered. The roofs are eaved and are covered with glazed clay roof tiles. Most of the windows are wooden with glass inlets with some aluminum jalousies windows at different areas.

Along the courtyards, on all three floors, there are open galleries, sometimes arcaded, others linteled. Opening to them are rooms which have been throughly partitioned to allow for new office spaces.

The buildings are individually fragmented by dealing with them as wings which are eaved, with glazed clay roof tiles coverings. At the corners, a tower like structure articulates the changes between facades, and it is at this point, as well as the entrances points that decorations are used in profusion. There are filigree parapets at the attic levels, and retablo-type facades or portals are used to frame windows and doorways. As the building faces three streets, the facade treatment extends throughout. The three buildings are connected together by arcades and they are visibly separated structures.

The building is presently used by the Department of Natural Resources of Puerto Rico and is in fair condition.

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	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1920's **Builder/Architect** Rafael Carmoega

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This building was constructed to house the School of Tropical Medicine which was established under the auspice of the University of Puerto Rico and Columbia University of New York. It was the first school on the hemisphere dedicated exclusively to the study and prevention of tropical diseases.

The building was designed by Rafael Carmoega, a Cornell-educated Puerto Rican architect, who, as director of the architectural division of the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico, is also responsible for the Puerto Rico Capitol Building, The Tower and Quadrangle Complex of the University of Puerto Rico, as well as several other important projects of the time.

Like other architects of his time in Puerto Rico, Carmoega was particularly interested in reinforcing Hispanic traditions; therefore, he borrows widely from the Spanish Baroque and the Mudejar style, sometimes by the way of California. Still, his polychromy in Baroque retable facades presents an interesting handling of this traditional concept.

Eclectic in nature, the building is representative of his eclecticism, which favored the use of arches, and an active facade ornamentation. He was especially interested in integrating the crafts into architecture, as evidenced by his relief appliques and toppings, and the use of mosaic murals.

Stilistically, the building is an adapted, modified Plateresque, better yet, Neo-Plateresque, which depends heavily upon sometimes dramatic contrasts between simple stark surfaces and elaborated concentrations of ornaments at fenestration elements. Thus in the building arcades there are columns with corinthian capitals, and concentration of ornaments reminiscent of Spanish Baroque style. Heraldic shields, figures, pilasters, volutes, pinnacles, cornices, reliefs and motifs are all brought together to accent the elaboration of ornamentation of the building.

Due to the increase in enrollment and the lack of adequate facilities, the school was moved to the Medical Center of Puerto Rico and the building is presntly used by the Department of Natural Resources.

9. Major Bibliographical References

La Gran Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico- Tomo 9- Arquitectura y Leyes
Ediciones R., Madrid, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.9 acres

Quadrangle name San Juan

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UMT References 18°-28'-12" Lat. North, 66°-06'-25" Long. West

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The lot is bounded to the North 600 feet by Muñoz Rivera Avenue, to the South 750 feet by Ponce de León Avenue, to the West 330 feet by a Capitol Street and to the East 450 feet by the Puerto Rico National Guard.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Parés- Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date June 3, 1983

street & number La Fortaleza telephone (809) 721-7000 exts.2241, 2232

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 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 3, 1983

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[signature] Entered in the National Register date 9/29/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date
Chief of Registration