NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

APR 1 1 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Residencia Machín-Ramos

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Calle Eugenio Sánchez López ☐ not for publication n/a

city, town San Lorenzo ☐ vicinity n/a

state Puerto Rico code PR county San Lorenzo code 129 zip code n/a

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[x] private	[x] building(s)	1	0	buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	0	0	sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	0	0	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0	objects
	[ ] object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Mariano G. Coronas Castro — April 22, 1988

Signature of certifying official — Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[a] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:)

Amy Sandagel — 5/5/89

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling	Domestic/single dwelling
Commerce/warehouse	Commerce/specialty store
	Commerce/tavern

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Spanish Creole

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls other: rubble
weatherboard
roof ceramic tile
other wrought iron
pressed metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Machín Residence is a two-storey masonry and wood mixed-use structure located on Calle Eugenio Sánchez López, at the town plaza of San Lorenzo. The ground level consists of six evenly-spaced, flat-arched door openings, articulated only with simple, planar surrounds and fitted with framed, vertical-board doors made of the native hardwood "ausubo". The extreme north bay provides access to the entrance "zaguán" or entrance hall and the first five bays lead to commercial and storage spaces. The wooden upper level echoes the solid-void rhythm of six flat-arched openings, fitted with wood plank doors covered with metal sheets and simply articulated with thin, planar wooden surrounds. The second storey is of Spanish Cedar wood frame with horizontal pine, shiplapped siding and interior partition wall sheathing. Ornamental articulation of the upper level is limited to the imitation-brick, pressed-tin siding placed over the original hardwood weatherboards. The resultant motor-rythm composition of twelve doors at the facade is sheltered with a hipped ceramic "mission" tile roof which, due to sagging and weathering, gracefully portrays its advanced age. A continuous projected balcony spans the entire width of the facade, supported by a series of brick-corbeled brackets and sheltered by a slightly-pitched wood and tin roof. Balcony rails gracefully supply the only lightweight ornamentation to the heavy character of the volume.

[x] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1811-1824 (ca.)	Unknown
	1883	1883

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Machín Residence is the best example of XIX century Creole* vernacular architecture in the town center of San Lorenzo, and one of very few similar structures remaining throughout the island of Puerto Rico. The structure exhibits various elements which have generally been replaced in similar houses of the XVIII and XIX centuries: door openings with half-dome tympanum arches; upper-storey wooden construction; mortise and tenon connections; entrance "zaguán" or "ostium" leading to a courtyard, off of which leads a perpendicular stairway to the upper level. Especially valuable is the hipped, ceramic, "mission" tile roof which has fortunately remained as a rare example of what was common up to the mid-XIX century throughout Puerto Rico.

The only archival material available pertinent to the house is a taxation document dated in 1883, estimating the value of the house at 5,000 pesos, making it the second most valuable property in the town at the time. The documents states that the house was under construction and that the "solar" (which can mean either lot or developed property) has historically belonged to the Machín family.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

-Coronas Castro, Mariano G., Periódico del Pueblo, No.2, "Estructura Centenaria: La Residencia Machín Ramos".

-Martínez Rodríguez, Fernando Gabriel, Arquitectura Doméstica Canaria, Aula de Cultura de Tenerife, 1978.

-Archivo General de Puerto Rico, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, San Juan.

-Archivo Histórico Nacional de Madrid, Madrid, España.

☐ See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:
Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid
Archivo General de Puerto Rico

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	20	187615	2013870
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See enclosed location plan

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the building and lot historically associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roberto Sackett-Hist. Preser./Héctor Santiago-Arch. Historian
organization PR State Historic Preservation Office date February 29, 1988
street & number Calle San José 109 telephone (809)721-3737
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00901

The overall volume of the house consists of an L-shaped building within a square lot. At the ground floor, the "zaguán" leads from the extreme north bay to the perpendicular stairway just before ending at the courtyard at rear. The remaining area of the ground floor is dedicated to commercial and storage space: a beauty parlour at bays 1 and 2, and a tavern at bays 3 through 5. Floors at this level have been altered from the original exposed brick to poured concrete.

The stair at the end of the stairhall leads to a small vestibule off of which lies the large living room to the left. The living spaces consist of a large central living room with smaller bedrooms to either side, occupying the entire main rectangular core of the house. To the opposite side of the vestibule, a covered, wooden, exterior balcony/gallery, perpendicular to the main body of the house, looks out onto the courtyard at right and accessess the kitchen and dining spaces, respectively, through a series of three doors at the left. Transversing the kitchen/dining wing from the gallery, an open terrace is accessed at the opposite side, above the southwest of the masonry ground floor. The floors of this residential level are laid with pine boards which are in a deteriorated condition.

By comparison with graphic documentation of similar houses throughout the island it is clear that the Machín house has changed only minimally from its original appearance. The front balcony provides evidence for at least two alterations. It is clear that a relatively recent time, an earlier, cast-iron railing was replaced with simpler, contemporary, wrought-iron. In turn, the cast-iron railings and colonnettes present an uncommon element for this typology. This earlier balcony probably replaced an even earlier lathed, wooden, balustered balcony, more typical of the wooden, Creole house prototype. Additional minor alterations include the replacement, in-kind, of deteriorated wooden members. The pressed-tin sheathing at the upper floor facade is a historical

alteration.

Although the house is currently slightly altered and in deteriorated condition, it presents one of the most intact examples of the typical XVIII and XIX centuries Creole town dwelling.

The precise date of construction of the house is unknown. Historic paintings and engravings clearly depict the existence of similar structures with hipped, tile roofs since the XVIII century. Mid-XIX century photographs of various towns and countrysides of the island confirm the abundance of similar structures in the town centers. During the late XIX century, most of these were being altered to incorporate similar roofs with corrugated iron sheathing or flat roof-terraces, leading us to believe that the house already existed, as-is, by 1850, prior to commercial availability of sheet-metal roofing.

Property titles of the house indicate that in 1883 the house belonged to Don Pedro Machín y Flores and his wife Cándida Rosa Machín y Parrilla, daughter of Don José Machín y Alonso, alderman, councilman and interim mayor of San Lorenzo during the mid-XIX century. The Machín Family's origin in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Spain presents a valuable explanation for the typology of the house and its date of construction, since the architectural expression of the structure is derivative of the vernacular architecture of rural regions of the Canary Islands.

Considering that Don Pedro was son of one of the many Canarian immigrants established in Puerto Rico since the late XVIII and early XIX centuries, it is probable that the original structure was built upon this lot during the first two decades of the 1800's.

The arched door openings and the perpendicular juxtaposition of the "zaguán" and stairway at the ground level are elements characteristic of XVII and XVIII century domestic Spanish architecture, which have survived in Puerto Rico until the early XIX century. Due to the progressive acumulation of street pavement over time, the floor level of the structures is currently approximately 1 foot below street grade. This fact evidences the advanced age of the ground-floor construction since the floor level of the houses in Puerto Rico are generally above-grade to protect from high humidity and flooding rains. These physical elements allow us to estimate the original construction date of the ground floor towards the beginning of the XIX century. The wooden upper floor was probably constructed at a later date, and reconstructed or repaired in 1883, thus explaining the archival account that the house was under construction in that year.

The legal founding of the town of San Lorenzo in the year 1811, coupled with the 1824 description of the town which numbers the structures of solid construction within the town at 50, leads us to believe that the ground floor of the Machín Residence was built within this time span, since the oldest, most solid structues in Puerto Rican urban centers are consistently located immediately adjacent to, or across from the main Plaza and Church.

Aside from the house's actual date of construction, the Machín Residence is the oldest-standing, generally unaltered and continuously inhabited structure within the town center of San Lorenzo. Although the wood has been somewhat altered and continously repaired, the Machín Residence is one of the few to maintain an original, hipped, ceramic roof, and the only such structure in San Lorenzo and the whole eastern region of Puerto

Rico to present as intact a vernacular expression of local Creole domestic architecture.

*"Creole" translated from the Spanish "Criollo", refers to the sons of direct descendants of Spaniards, born and raised on the Island.

CALLE JOSE CELSO BARBOSA
EUGENIO SANCHEZ LOPEZ
PLAZA
IGLESIA
CALLE
CALLE
JOSE DE DIEGO
N