

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **AUG 25 1986**

date entered

OCT 1 1986

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

1. Name

historic Edificio Oliver

and or common Edificio Oliver

2. Location

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave.

N/A not for publication

city, town Arecibo

vicinity of N/A

state Puerto Rico

code 072

county Arecibo

code 0090

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

4. Owner of Property

name Central Federal Savings Bank

street & number 64 José de Diego Ave.

city, town Arecibo

vicinity of Arecibo

state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Arecibo Registry of Deeds

street & number Arecibo Government Center

city, town Arecibo

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hist. Arch. Survey of Arecibo

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records P.R.S.H.P.O.

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Oliver Building is located at the northeast corner of the Callejón del Correjimientto and Avenida De Diego in the town center of Arecibo. The structure was built for residential and commercial purposes but today houses purely commercial activities. The three-storey structure presents facades on the north, west and south, with a chamfered southwest corner which serves as a main entrance. The north and west facades are divided into seven bays and the south facade into six. Horizontally, the building is composed of two parts: a one-storey base and a two-storey body.

At the base section, a sidewalk gallery is formed by an arcade of circular arches consisting of all bays on the south facade and the sixth and seventh bays of the west facade. All remaining bays are articulated as horseshoe arches and are closed by louvred wooden double-doors and fanlights. A continuous molding enframes each arc, crossing the piers at the impost level. A series of lions' heads butt up against a continuous stringcourse which separates the body of the building from its base.

The main section of the building comprises the second and third storeys. All bays are articulated as rectangular openings with planar surrounds. Each opening leads to a balustered balcony, supported by decorative brackets. Balconies are treated in size and shape as either individual, with rounded corners; or two-bay, rectangular. The body of the building is characterized by a two-storey monumental composite order, with each pilaster base resting on the string-course, directly above each lion head. The order supports an entablature which terminates this section.

Capping the composition is a balustered parapet with roman amphoræ placed at intervals coinciding with the pilasters of the monumental order. The balauster is interrupted at the chamfered corner by a curvilinear frontispiece which emphasizes the corner entrance and now displays a modern digital clock.

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/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" 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 1914 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oliver Building is located where, in 1765, the Spanish Government built the "King's House", a two-storey building used as a military garrison until 1868. Afterward, the structure became a courthouse, police headquarters and a public school. In 1913 the King's House was demolished to make way for Oliver's commercial venture.

The Oliver Building was innovative for its day and age in Arecibo in various ways. It was a venture in that it was the first building in Arecibo to utilize the urban concept of apartment living together with commercial viability; up to then, Arecibo's small town character was emphasized by the presence of single-family dwellings and small shops in and about the center. In this building came to live some of the "best" families of Arecibo. For a time it was also an "international house" of sorts, home to various foreign consulates. Shops occupied all first floor spaces.

Another breakthrough for Oliver, the building was the first to incorporate reinforced concrete construction methods in the Arecibo region. It was also the first structure in Arecibo to address the street and plaza on a diagonal by the use of a chamfered corner entrance. In brief, the building represents the arrival of modernization and then current urban concepts to the northwestern region of Puerto Rico.

Architecturally, the ornamentation reflects the Beaux Arts School of thought spreading throughout Europe and America, arriving in Puerto Rico with Spanish influence, incorporating elements of traditional Spanish design, such as arcades and massive wall articulation.

Recently, the Oliver Building underwent a restoration/rehabilitation in which the apartment spaces were converted to professional offices. A breakthrough in itself, the Central Federal Savings Bank was the first agency in Arecibo to commission a sensitive restoration, allowing original partitions and details to remain, arranging commercial functions around existing spaces.

Today the Oliver Building continues to address the plaza with the exuberance originally intended for such social spaces during their splendor in the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

del Campo Blanco, Félix Julián, Un Paseo por el Arecibo de Ayer; ed. ALMACA, Arecibo, Puerto Rico 1985

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .206 Acres (832.62 M²)

Quadrangle name Arecibo

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

B

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

C

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

D

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

G

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

North - González Ginorio St.

East - Arecibo Drugstore

See enclosed

South - José de Diego Ave.

West - Callejón del Corregimiento

location map

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo / Héctor Santiago, Assistant Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date July, 1986

street & number Box 82, La Fortaleza

telephone 721-3737 / 721-2676

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 Mariano Gerardo Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July, 1986

For NPS use only

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

date 10/1/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Edificio Oliver

SCALE: 1:2,000

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Edificio Oliver
Arecibo County
PUERTO RICO

Working No. AUG 25 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 9/25/86 - 10/9/86
Action: ACCEPT 10-1-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Property very signif
within context of Arecibo
Archit form -> modernism and
design*

Recom./Criteria Accept A, C
Reviewer A Schlegel
Discipline Arch Hist
Date 10/1/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below *very signif w/in context*
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed unaltered altered original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Edificio Oliver
Juana Cordero
PUERTO RICO

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



755

FEDERAL SAVINGS









