United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only received JUN 2 9 1987 date entered

Type all entries—comp	plete applicable se	ections		
1. Name				
historic Central Hig	gh School			
and or common La Cei	ntral, also La	Central High		
2. Location				
Zi Zocatio				
street & number Pone	ce de León Aven	ue		not for publication
city, town San	turce	vicinity of Sa	n Juan	
state Puerto R	ico code	PR county	San Juan	code 127
3. Classific	cation			a de la companya de
object in	ublic rivate	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted x yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner o	of Proper	ty		
name Department	of Education -	<u>Departamento de In</u>	strucción Pública	
street & number Urban	nización Indust	rial Tres Monjitas		
city, town Hato Rey		vicinity of Sa.	n Juan state	Puerto Rico
5. Location	n of Lega	I Description	on	
courthouse, registry of de	eeds. etc. San	Juan Registry of I)eeds	
			- Court	
street a number Mun	oz Rivera Avenu	le		
city, town Hato Rey				Puerto Rico
6. Represe	ntation i	n Existing S	Surveys	
Early XXth C. Puerto Rico	High Schools i	has this prop	perty been determined el	igible? yes X no
date October, 198	6		federal X stat	e county local
depository for survey rec	ords Puerto R	ico State Historic	Preservation Offic	ce
city, town San Juan	1	7	state	Puerto Rico

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Central High School's 1925 U-shaped three story concrete building sits at the heart of Santurce, opening up towards Ponce de León Avenue, the area's (or for that matter, the capital's)main thoughrough fare. The structure in one of several institutional buildings dating from the 20's and the 30's, (many of them schools), that line up against the avenue, granting a formal, ceremonial character to the latter, unequalled in the rest of the Island.

Elevated and considerably set back from the street, the prominence of the school on its site is further underlined by the stepped promenade that leads the spectator from the sidewalk to the building. Symmetrically located flagpoles and 2 secondary entrances are main features at the open ended side of the U-shaped trapezoidal plan, through which one reaches the main entrance portico. A green area with trees makes an effective transition between the busy city life and the more peaceful academic environment. The length, height and controlled proportions of the structure grant their open ended open space, the space dedefining qualities of a courtyard... and yet it isn't one.

The profusely decorated portico, with six monumental columns, topped by a continously receding/projecting entablature leads the visitor to a rectangular lobby who selongitudinal axis runs parallel to the facade and ultimately leads, at both ends, to the main stairs. Secondary stairs are located at the end of the double loaded corridors on each lateral wing of the building. Behind the lobby space, gymnasium and auditorium (both 2 stories) are located. They are reached via the main stairs, at different landing levels. The gymnasium's austere lines exult funcionality. The space accomodates a regular size basketball court, with raised bleachers at both sides. At the auditorium, however, ornament is pursued as a device for expressing the academic and cultural aspirations of such a hall. The wide proscenium arch, in spite of framing a shallow stage, is generous in providing corinthian pilasters, cornices and moulding, festoons, pinnacles and an escutheon. The ceiling is articulated in accordance with the lay out of supporting structural beams, its flat surfaces shaping into "Catalonian" vaults as the side walls are approached. The original lamps, in cast iron and translucent glass are still hanging; all in all most evocative and highly similar to school facilities of this type being built in the states of the same time. The shallow U-shaped mezzanine incorporated a projection booth still standing. As the rest of the hall, the mezzanine is today devoid of its original theatre type seating.

Here, the use of classical vocabulary, both inside and outside, is more eclectic than academic in nature. Central High is inspired on the Spanish Mediterranean revival so much in vogue in California and Florida at the time, so the use of the neoclassical elements was indulged upon free handedly.

Decoration thus seems much more applied than integrated to the wall: bizzare, mannerist effects were pursued. The crowning of the entrance portico best examplifies this. The two identical second story front ispieces with balconies overlooking Ponce de León Avenue, stand out as features independent of the surface wall behind them. Inside, detailing is handled similarly. Among the most prominent Spanish Revival details one could list: the red clay tile on the roof, arches and their use in pairs and of 3, french windows, columns of moorish derivation, iron railings, and many others. Horizontal mouldings modulate height & unify the total volume.

8. Significance

1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian
Specific dates	1925	Builder/Architect Adri	an C. Finlayson	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Central High School is, for many reasons, the most important school structure built in Puerto Rico in the first decades of the XXth century. Of the over 3000 schools built in Puerto Rico during that period, only a few boast an auditorium like that of Central High, but certainly none has a better or large one. Central's seats 1300. Being the largest school serving the capital's population, it was the only three-stories public educational structure ever made. And the architectural detailing, both exterior and interior, was much taken care of. In that sense, this building is the one on the Island that best represents the United States early XXth century ideas on education and educational facilities.

Central High closely resembles the schools proposed and erected by the so-called "school specialists" of the time, primarily architects such as Haussander and Perkins of Chicago, Snyder of New York, Cooper of Boston and, especially, William B. Itnner, of St. Louis. Their work and ideas was widely publicized in trade magazines that were locally accessible, like "American Architect", "Architectural Record", and others.

The architect for Central High was Adrian C. Finlayson, at the time working for the Insular Government's interior department. He designed some of the most important school structures in the Island: Labra High School, Baldorioty de Castro School, Rafael Cordero School in Santurce, and many others of equivalent relevance. As such, Mr. Finlayson is a key figure on our Island's architectural development.

Central High's use of the Spanish Rennaissance Style makes of it an important landmark, given the style's subsequent proliferation on the Island, its impact on architectural vocabulary on all areas of building, and the contemporary interest on the style's manifestations, origins and possibilities. The school's impressive siting in Santurce is unique, and acknowledged as such by everybody. So has been the school's academic profile within the community, and not just in urban terms. Many well-known public figures have graduated from Central; today it houses a visual arts-oriented secondary school program. The public recognition of its academic achievements has been as distinguished as its hierarchical role within the urban texture of Santurce. During the past years a victim of gentrification, Santurce is again showing signs (and getting help) for its economic revitalization, thus reaffirming its role as a public and civic stronghold.

Central High School has always been, and continues to be, a key element of significant historical, urban, architectural and academic value in Puerto Rico's history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

GPO 911-399

Archivo General de Puerto Rico Fondo de Obras Públicas, Exp. 1, 2 Leg. 62 caja 1053 Leg. 62-A Caja 1054

10. Geograph	ical Data			
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name USGS San C			Quadrangle	scale 1: 20,000
	210 412 31810 orthing	B Zone	Easting	Northing
C		D F H		
Verbal boundary description see enclosed location				
List all states and counties	for properties overla	pping state or o	county boundaries	
state N/A	code	county		code
state N/A	code	county		code
11. Form Prep	ared By			
name/title Jorge Rigau, organization Colación, Inc		(date March 16, 198	37
street & number Ponce de l	León 653, Miramar	t	elephone (809) 725	5–3948
city or town San Juan			state Puerto Rico)
12. State Hist	oric Prese	rvation	Officer Ce	rtification
The evaluated significance of the	s property within the st	ate is:	\	
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this propaccording to the criteria and pro	perty for inclusion in the cedures set forth by the	National Registe	r and certify that it has ervice.	of 1966 (Public Law 89- been evaluated
title Ctata Higtoria Progr			data T	17 1007
State Historic Prese	ervation Officer		Jace · Jul	ne 17, 1987
I hereby certify that this pr	operty is included in the	e National Registe	r date	Rug 4, 1987
Keeper of the National Regis	ter/	Ö		0
Attest:			date	
Chief of Registration				

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered AUG 4 1987

Continuation sheet Central High School

Item number

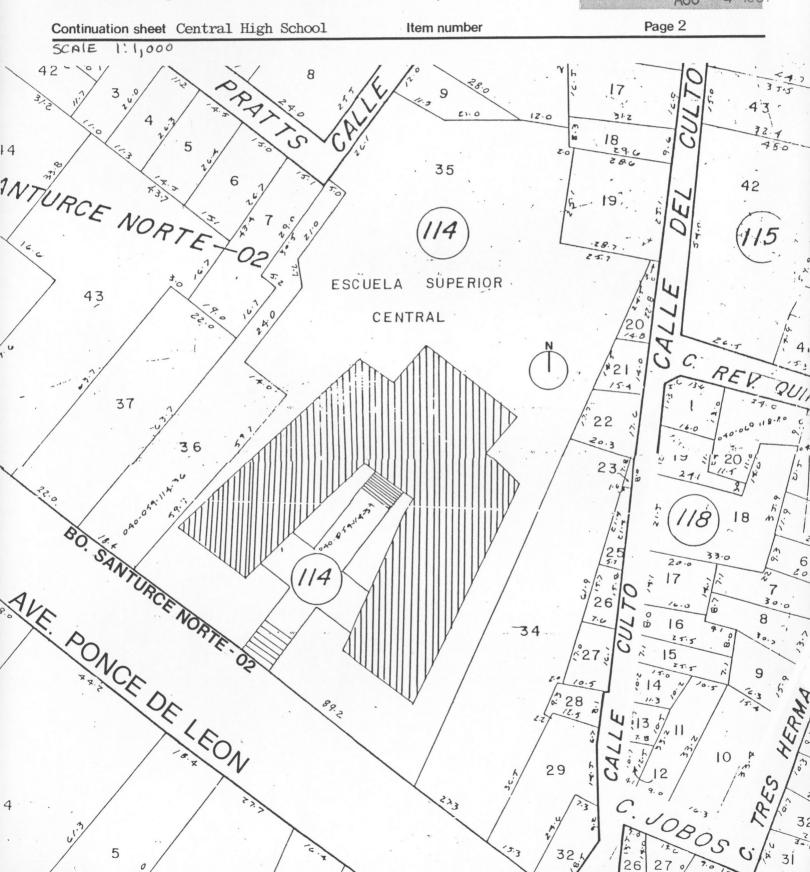
Page 1

Classrooms are well-lit and ventilated openings are many. Wall are plain; floors in hardwood, terrazo and quarry tile, concrete, but not the original ones. Central High School was in 1983 the subject of a yet unfinished restoration which improved on many changes and alterations undertaken throughout the years. Too many aluminium louvered windows still remain. However, in spite of it all, and probably because of the school's imposing scale and profuse architectural detail, the integrity has not yet been lost. The recent restoration helped, but should be both corrected and completed.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered AUG 4 1987



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JUN 29 1987

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	n number Page	
		Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group
Name State	Early Twentieth Century Schools in Puer Caguas Co. (and others), PR	rto Rico TR
	ation/Type of Review	Date/Signature
Cov		Keeper Any Salas 18/9
7	Aguayo Aldea Vocational	F 1 1 - 0 0 0 1
1.	High School	Keeper A for Kaepar
0		Attest
2.	Central High School	Keeper awyshlagel 8/1/
	Sheat Market Davis Control of the Co	Attest
3.	Ponce High School	Keeper amy Schlogel 8/4
		Attest
4.	Rafael M. Labra High School	Keeper Any Schlagel 8/4/87
	Selection Review	Attest
5.	Eleuterio Derkes Grammar School	Keeper Auy Thlagel 84/8
	Strate works designed	Attest
0/89.	Escuela Brambaugh	Keeper Uny Schlagel 5/4/89
	*4.9	Attest
892.	Excuela Graduado Jose Celso Barbosa	Keeper any Schloff
189		Attest
8.		Keeper
		Attest
9.		Keeper
		Attest
10.		Keeper
		Attest

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Central High School Schools in Puerto Ri San Juan County	(Early Twentieth Cent	tury	Working No. JUN 29 1987
PUERTO RICO			Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
_		Sebatantiva Revish	Date Due: 1/34/87 -8/13/87 Action: ACCEPT 8-4-87
resubmission			RETURN
nomination by person	or local government		REJECT
☐ owner objection☐ appeal			Federal Agency:
	4		
Substantive Review:	sample requ	estappeal	☐ NR decision
Reviewer's comments: In credible	context of cutures 7 mg orta	ell documented	Recom./Criteria Accept A.C
Within	context of co	over form	Reviewer Aschlagel Discipline Auch Hist
In san	urce 7 mgoda	similar	Date 6/4/87
and las	gest & most for	mal school	see continuation sheet
Nomination returned for:	technical corrections ci	/ / / /	ve windowsallered
1. Name	100	Merios	Sleins relatively intact
2. Location		Clarke) Land design stry
3. Classification		/	
Category	Ownership / Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
4. Owner of Property			The second second Medical Temperature and second will
5. Location of Legal Descr	iption	40	
6. Representation in Existi	ng Surveys		But the and the State of the st
Has this property been dete	ermined eligible?	s 🗆 no	
7. Description			
Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	original site
good	ruins	altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		
Describe the present and or	riginal (if known) physical app	pearance	
summary paragraph			
completeness			
clarity			
alterations/integrity			
dates boundary selection			

8. Signif	cance		
Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
Specific	dates Builder/Architect		
Statemer	t of Significance (in one paragraph)		
sumn	nary paragraph		Contral High School (Barly Twentieth
comp			Schools in Fuerto-Rico Till
☐ clarit	y cable criteria		San Juan County PUERTO RICO
	ication of areas checked	and the second second	
	ng significance to the resource		
conte			
	onship of integrity to significance		
other	ication of exception		
9. Major	Bibliographical References		
10. Geo	graphical Data		
Acreage	of nominated property		
	gle name		
UTM Re	ferences		
Verbal b	oundary description and justification		
11. For	m Prepared By		12 Page 25 Per 13
	e Historic Preservation Officer Certification		
The eval	uated significance of this property within the state is	:	
	nationalstatelocal		
State His	storic Preservation Officer signature		
title	date		
13. Oth	er		
☐ Maps			
	ographs		
Othe			
Question	ns concerning this nomination may be directed to		
Question	is concerning this normation may be directed to		
Signed	D	ate	Phone:

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name
County, State
Central High School

Multiple Property Name

Reference Number

Central High School

Early Twentieth Century Schools in Puerto Rico TR 87001309

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

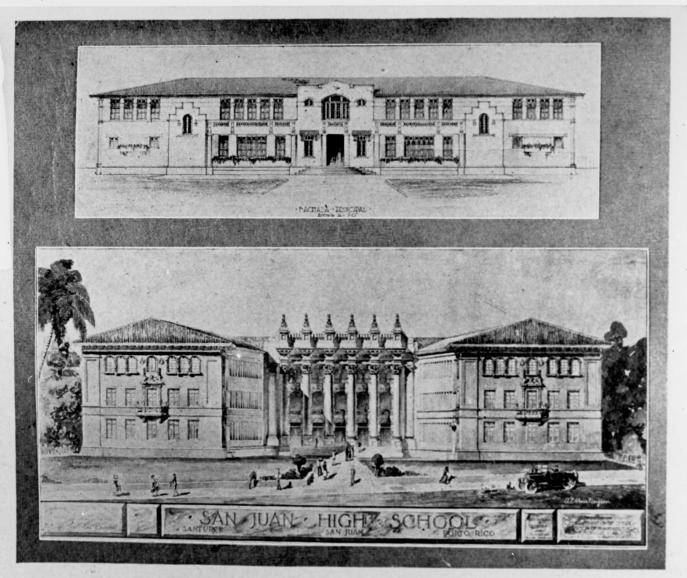
X Photographs 1-3

___ USGS Map









LAS ALTAS ESCUELAS DE GUAYAMA Y SAN JUAN ACTUALMENTE EN CONSTRUCCIÓN.

TWO TYPES OF MODERN SCHOOL BUILDINGS.





