

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **DEC 6 1983**
date entered **JAN 5 1984**

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

1. Name

historic Hacienda Santa Rita

and/or common Casa Madre y Noviciado de las Hermanas Dominicanas de Fátima

2. Location

street & number State Road No. 116R Km. 32.7 PR 116 not for publication

city, town Guánica vic. vicinity of Yauco

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Mayaguez code 0420

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima

street & number Box 62

city, town Yauco vicinity of _____ state Puerto Rico 00768

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number San Germán City Hall

city, town San Germán state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977 federal 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located about 45 meters north of Highway 116, the known buildings of this former sugar plantation are oriented with their front facade line perpendicular to the highway, facing west (see enclosed map). Closest to the highway is the main house, a two storied structure with approximately 660 square meters in area, with its domestic slave quarters, a one story structure with approximately 902 square feet in area, following the same facade line away from the highway, and separated from the main house by a small garden.

The main house, L - shaped in form, has been somewhat disfigured through insensitive repairs and inconsistent additions. Fortunately, none of these seem to affect the building fabric and restoration is feasible. The house originally consisted of an ample one-storied rectangular masonry structure (see item number 8) built in 1800. In 1850 it was expanded by the addition of a second floor. A verandah of wrought iron with ornate lacework was also added during that year. The flat brick and masonry roof is supported by wooden beams. In some areas (the waiting and living rooms) steel beams were used in order to replace old rotten wood beams. The original window panes have been replaced by "Miami-type" louvers, and the verandah flooring has been replaced by plywood. Most of the repairs were done in 1975-1976.

The house, originally used as master quarters for the "Hacienda Desideria" sugar plantation in 1800, was turned over to the "Central Guánica" in 1901 and used as administrative offices by its owners. In 1953 the property was temporarily ceded to the Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima and later on, in 1962, was sold to them. Since that time the main house is used as a convent and novice house of the Order. The first floor consists of a waiting room, living and dining rooms, a kitchen and administrative areas. The second floor consists of a chapel and living quarters or "cells" for the Order.

The slave quarters or "Corralón al Sur del Batey" as it was originally called, have suffered more serious alterations, but restoration is feasible. The rectangular building dates from the 1840's. Its structural system consists of masonry walls supporting wooden beams and a flat roof. Its front facade, originally consisted of an elegant arcade that gives the building the look of a gallery rather than that which it was. Presently the building is used as a garage, as coincidentally it has the appropriate depth for an automobile. Unfortunately, the individual entrance arches were narrow, and every other supporting pillar has been removed from the ground to spring line of the arch it once supported. The load is now held up by a steel beam that spans from the two left-over pillars. Obviously the beams have been embedded into the existing piers, and now the new width achieved permits the entrance of an automobile. The Order of Our Lady of Fátima plans to convert this building into quarters or "cells" for the Order.

To the rear of both buildings are gardens which are considerably well maintained by the Order, but, the loss of an access perspective from the front of the building is truly an irreparable damage.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1800-1840 **Builder/Architect** Mariano Quiñones

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This is an excellent example of the type of master quarters that characterized prosperous sugar plantations in the south of Puerto Rico during the XIXth. century. Built in 1800 by Don Mariano Quiñones, it formed part of "Hacienda Desideria", the center of a large extension of land and sugar plantations, fully enclosed by walls. The sugar produced in this hacienda was shipped from the nearby Guánica port.

At the time of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the property was owned by the Marianis, a prosperous family from the nearby town of Yauco, who were of Corsican extraction. It was occupied by the Spanish Forces commanded by Colonel Puig, in order to detain the advance of the American troops that landed in Guánica on July 25, 1898 under the command of General Nelson A. Miles. When the Spanish troops could not detain the advance of the American Forces, they retired to Yauco, thus the property was then occupied by the American troops establishing this structure as their initial base of operations. From this point the troops parted in two columns, one for Yauco and the other for Sabana Grande. Generals Guy B. Henry and A. Garreston stayed at this house. For three days the flags of three nations were raised: the Spanish, the French and the American. In 1901 the property was turned over to the "Central Guánica" and was used by its owners for administrative offices. In 1953 the property was ceded temporarily to the Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima, and later on, in 1962 was sold to them. Since that year the house has been used as a convent and novice house by the Order.

The house originally consisted of an ample one-storied rectangular masonry structure, with louvered doors opening from all its perimeter wall. The exterior was finely detailed with applied plaster ornamentations around each doorway and a heavy cornice crowning the building. Following the French influence that was so evident in the area during the XIXth. century, the house was expanded through the addition of a second floor in 1850, and roofed with a pitched roof that extended beyond the building's walls to cover a perimetrical verandah at the second floor. The verandah is of wrought iron and because of its ornate lacework, became the most dominant visual feature of the house. It is a partially cantilvered structure, supported periodically by wrought iron brackets, which, when installed, insentively broke through the original cornice.

The domestic slave quarters or "Corralón al Sur del Batey", as it was called, are located north of the house, and completes the facade. After the Spanish-American War, the quarters were used for the sugar cane field workers and later on, in 1901, used as a garage for the "Central Guánica" administrators. When the property was purchased in 1962 by the Order of Our Lady of Fátima, they used the building for storage and as a garage also. Future plans are to convert this structure as quarters or "cells" for the Order.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. El Nuevo Día Newspaper - December 1981-Article "La Hacienda Santa Rita: Huellas de Guerra y Campanas de Amor
2. Vargas Mercado, Pedro Juan: El Puerto de Guánica e Información sobre el Pueblo de la Amistad, 1982
3. El Mundo Newspaper - May 1982-Article "Tiene más de 200 años la casa de las Hnas Fátima."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.953 cds.

Quadrangle name Sabana Grande

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Latitude 18°-00'-33" North; Longitude 66°-53'-03" West

A

Zone	Easting	Northing					

B

Zone	Easting	Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the North-West and North-East by property owned by the Puerto Rico Land Authority; to the South-West by a secondary private road and to the South-East by property owned by the Order of Our Lady of Fatima. See enclosed Site Plan.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Parés - Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date November 28, 1983

street & number La Fortaleza

telephone (809) 721-7000 ext.2232,2241

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 28, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date

1/5/1984

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Puerto Rico Land Authority

← Slave Quarters or
"Corralón al Sur del Batey"

NOMINATED PROPERTY
ORDER OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA CONVENT
2,953 CDAS.

← Main House

Secondary Private Road

Puerto Rico Land Authority

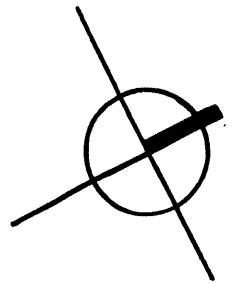
Land acquired by the
Order of Our Lady of
Fatima from the Puerto
Rico Land Authority

Puerto Rico Land Authority

To Guánica

State Road #116R

To Yauco



SITE PLAN

Graphic Scale

