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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce

Other names/site number: Alcaldía Playa de Ponce/ Estación de Bomberos Playa de Ponce

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 28 Alfonso XII Street, corner Padre Noel Avenue

City or town: Ponce State: Puerto Rico County: Ponce

Not for publication [] Vicinity [X]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: [] national [] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [X] A [] B [X] C [] D

Diana López Sotomayor — July 3 / 2013

Diana López Sotomayor PRSHPO/Director

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of Commenting Official **Date**

Title **State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

for Edson K. Beall — 8.27.13

Signature of Keeper **Date of Action**

Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce
Name of Property

Ponce, Puerto Rico
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

[] Private
[X] Public-local
[] Public-state
[] Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

[X] Building(s)
[] District
[] Site
[] Structure
[] Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
GOVERNMENT / government office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
SOCIAL/ meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)
Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick and masonry; metal, wood

Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce,** located in a three hundred and seventy four (374) square meter lot, at 108 Alfonso XII Street, corner of Padre Noel Avenue, in the urban ward of Ponce Playa, is a two-story, brick and masonry, L-shaped, hipped metal roof building. Designed in 1903 by engineer Manuel V. Domenech in the Renaissance Revival Style, and constructed by 1904, the building was originally used to house administrative offices, to provide social services such as fire station, first aid-station, and a police and jailhouse facility to Playa, an urban ward of Ponce. The property still retains all aspects of integrity.

Narrative Description(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

The **Edificio Municipal Playa de Ponce** sits in a very prominent and central location, emphasizing its social significance. The main façade of the L-shaped building, which faces Calle Alfonso XII, is symmetrically organized around the building's openings. The first level has two double-sided iron doors that provide direct access to the building's interior. The openings at the extreme left and right in the main façade (a double-sided door and a metal window, respectively) are accentuated with the original 1903 decorative moldings. The lower level was treated with a faux-rusticated design consisting of parallel horizontal grooved-lines incised into the plaster as a dominating decorative element. This pattern repeats itself all around the building's first level (**Fig. 1**).

The second level received a different rusticated designed treatment by engineer Manuel V. Domenech.[1] Facing Alfonso XII Street, four wooden double doors with adjustable louvers are symmetrically located at the façade's center. Each doorway has a fifty-centimeter high iron grilled door sill with an *ausubo* (*manikara bidendata* tree) handrail. A single wooden flagpole is attached with iron brackets to the center of the main façade. The doorways are accentuated by faux-rusticated quoins, as every corner angle. The pattern repeats itself all around the building's second level.

A very subtle cornice wraps around the entire building separating the lower from the upper façade. Repeating the same faux-rusticated design in the first and second level, the southern façade, facing Padre Noel Avenue, has a row of five metal windows in the lower level, which replaced the original wooden double side windows. This section of the building has the eastern elongation of the one level, square plan annex added in 1916, which converted Domenech's layout into an L-shaped plan. In the second level, two wooden double-sided with adjustable louvers windows are blocked with iron grilled bars (**Fig. 2**).[2]

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[1] Before the original 1903 drawings were found through archives research, most observers mistakenly thought that the building responded to two different construction periods, precisely because of the different design applied to the two levels.

[2] Today's observers find unusual that those two upper level windows are the only ones with "protective" iron bars. But as showed by the original plan, the southern end of the upper floor was to be used as a retention facility. The iron bars were included in Domenech's 1903 drawings, not to protect the building from break-ins, but from break-outs.

The very distinguishable reddish hipped roof still has the original metallic tiles. The main horizontal transverse timbers protrude through the masonry wall, visible just under the eave. This architectural detail is found all around the building. The roof is topped with two metal ventilators.

The building's first level interior is accessed through Calle Alfonso XII, on the western façade. Present layout reflects the original design, although the current use has changed. The floor in the main 1904 section remains polish hydraulic cement; while in the annex added in 1916, the floor has been covered with vinyl tiles. Al interior walls are covered with stucco. The first floor ceiling is formed with acoustical ceiling panels. The entire elongation parallel to the Padre Noel Avenue is used as a provisional warehouse for equipment (tables, chairs, etc.) of the current tenant of the building, *Resp. Logia Faro de la Marina* (a freemason organization) while the rectangular area facing Alfonso XII is the lodge main room (**Fig. 3**).

The building's second level is accessed through a half-turn with landing concrete stairs, located outside and annexed to the northern façade. Today, the second floor has an open lay-out, as the original wooden walls that once made-up the retention rooms (jailhouse) and the Office of the Commissar had been long removed (**Fig. 4**). Nonetheless, the footprint of the old walls still can be identified. Just like in the first floor, the ceiling is made of acoustical ceiling panels. The entire floor is covered with vinyl tiles, placed directly over the original *pichipen* flooring-boards. A bathroom facility is located at the northwest corner of the floor plan. With the exception of the glass-metal-framed entrance door, all doors and windows at the second level are made of wood, with adjustable louvers.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

___ **A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ **B** Removed from its original location.

___ **C** A birthplace or a grave.

___ **D** A cemetery.

___ **E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ **F** A commemorative property.

___ **G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce
Name of Property

Ponce, Puerto Rico
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Politics/ Government
Architecture

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance
1904-1963

Architect/Builder
Domenech, Manuel V.
Auffant, Victor A.

Significant Dates
1904

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce** is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/government as the property is associated with the services-providing policies established by the municipal authorities for the social welfare of the local population, exemplifying the extreme significance of la Playa ward within the economic development of the city of Ponce. The property is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as it brought a new architectural language into the area (Renaissance Revival) and is associated with the production of Manuel V. Domenech, a distinguished engineer. The period of significance of the property extends from its construction date, 1904, until 1963, the fifty years cut-off date.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1692, with an estimated population of three hundred and fifty-two souls, a small and rustic chapel established years before received its official designation as church dedicated to the *Virgen de la Guadalupe,* giving official recognition to the establishment of what would it be eventually known as Ponce's traditional urban center. A century later, Ponce was described as one of the oldest settlements in the island, with an urban core more populated than many other towns, but it was still just another small community surviving by subsistence agriculture, cattle raising, and the usual maritime contraband at the harbor, conducted under the unofficial complaisance of the municipal authorities. By the late 18th century the city's urban center consisted of one hundred and fifteen (115) houses and 5,038 souls scattered around a small plaza with a little church at the center.[3] However, eight decades later, Ponce's urban center showed a dynamic city with four squares, an urban grid with thirty-four

[3] Iñigo Abbad y Lasierra, *Historia geográfica, civil y natural de la isla de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico.* Anotada en la parte histórica y continuada en la estadística y económica por José Julián Acosta y Calbo. Ediciones Doce Calles, 2002, 326.

major streets, one thousand and eighty-four houses (1084), and two thousand two hundred and four (2204) families residing in the town center.[4] Through its intensive agriculture, commercial activity and its capacity to capitalize and capture the production of its municipal neighbors, Ponce became the richest town in the island. Its economic strength translated into a thriving cultural progress and social refinement that was still much evident during the early years of the twentieth century. The comments provided by US Army Lieutenant William H. Armstrong, commissioned to prepare a topographical research in Puerto Rico between 1900-1910, portrayed Ponce's preeminence:

> *"Ponce is the largest and the best city on the island. The citizens as a whole are the best on the island. Many of them being college bred men and women. The aristocracy of Puerto Rico Is in Ponce. The best homes are about the plaza and on the street leading to the Playa".*[5]

Playa, precisely, was at the center of Ponce's economic strength. Just slightly over two miles south of the urban center, the settlement of the harbor area (eventually known as the Marina or Playa Ponce) began at the very same time that the city's urban core establishment. In the 1770s, the two-mile stretch from the town square to Playa was described by Lasierra as a difficult and battered road. However in 1828, sixteen years after the port was officially opened in 1812, the very same road was described as *"a delicious and comfortable stroll for those on foot and a first order road for those on the commercial trade"*.[6] The opening of the port at la Marina had an immediate impact not only in Ponce's finances, but also in the development of Playa itself. As described by the same 1828 observer, *"a delightful development and population is forming at la Playa, made-up of warehouses and commercial houses, which in no time at all will become a new town"*.[7]

In 1845, the successful development of the neighborhood was brought to a halt, when a three-day-long fire destroyed over eighty percent of the ward's edifications.[8] The event paralyzed Ponce's commerce, along with most of the commercial activity of the southwest area, as Playa was the main export-import facility in the region. The lesson was learned and the city and state officials took corrective actions that had a long lasting effect in Playa. Besides the call for the establishment of local firefighters and local first aid-stations, the most significant policy forced upon Playa was the application of a strict urban planning program that organized the ward functionally. By 1848, the plan was completely articulated.[9] From that time on, the urban development of Playa was orchestrated, as strictly as possible, along the 1848 plan. The urban grid reticle used in the old traditional urban centers in Puerto Rico was applied upon Playa's geography forming square blocks proportionally separated by

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[4] Manuel Ubeda y Delgado, *Isla de Puerto Rico. Estudio histórico, geográfico, y estadístico de la misma*. Puerto Rico. Establecimiento tip. del Boletín, 1878, 219-222.

[5] Cited in Aníbal Sepúlveda Rivera, *Puerto Rico Urbano. Atlas histórico de la ciudad puertorriqueña*. Volumen 3. Carimar, 2004, 311.

[6] Pedro Tomás de Córdova, *Memorias geográficas, históricas y estadísticas de la Isla de Puerto Rico*. Tomo II. Año de 1831. Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña. San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1968, 253. (translation is ours)

[7] Ibid, 253.

[8] Eduardo Newmann Gandía, *Verdadera y auténtica historia de la ciudad de Ponce desde sus primitivos tiempos hasta la época contemporánea*. Abril de 1913, 235.

[9] Archivo General de Puerto Rico (AGPR). Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Obras Municipales, Ponce. Caja 292. Legajo 54-G.

north-to-south and east-to-west streets (**Fig. 5**). The blocks near the port area where mostly rectangular in shape, allowing for the eventual construction of large rectangular warehouses.

Extremely significant in the 1848 plan was the use of the old Camino Real to functionally divide Playa into a residential area (west of the Camino Real) and a commercial/industrial section (east of the Camino Real). It was ordered that all commercial buildings and warehouses near the port facility were to be built of solid materials (brick and masonry). No specific construction materials were imposed upon the residential section of the ward as, by that time, Playa's inhabitants were mostly members of the working class, and wood was their most available material. However, even in the workers section, urban policies were strongly imposed: everyone was required to request a construction permit; the house façade had to be approved by the local authorities; the new construction had to be aligned with the existing buildings; the new occupant was responsible for building the sidewalk in front of his house and this sidewalk had to be leveled with the existing one; no front yards were allowed as the house had to be aligned with the one next to it and with the sidewalk; the house's roof had to have an inclination towards the backyard, so much of the rainwater would fall in the backyard and not in the sidewalk, etc.[10] These policies were enforced throughout most of the 19th century. The methodical division of the ward by functionality and the policies enforced in the residential area combined to make Playa Ponce, most likely, the oldest planned suburban area in Puerto Rico.

During the last half of the 19th century, Playa would develop into a complex and dynamic community. The Marina surpassed San Juan's port as the most significant in Puerto Rico's export-oriented economy. By 1890, Playa was exporting 33.2% of the national production; while San Juan was responsible for 21.2%.[11] While Ponce's traditional urban center was the preferred location for the exquisite residences of the local bourgeoisie, Playa became the recipient of massive construction projects of commercial buildings, stores, industrial and mechanical workshops and warehouses. This typology came to dominate the built-landscape of the port area, and they still do.

Playa became a mandatory port-call for many foreign ships bringing cargo, mail and passengers. Just in 1876, the port entries showed 213 passenger ships, 200 cargo ships, 145 steamships and the arrival of 1755 passengers. Playa was also an extremely significant communication center as it received mail steamships from Spain three times a month; from England, four times a month; twice a month from Germany; and once a month from the United States. Playa was the location of the telegraph office that managed the two underwater telegraphic cables connecting Ponce with the British colony of Jamaica (inaugurated in 1873) and with the Danish colony of Saint Croix (in service by 1875).[12]

Not surprisingly, in his 1876 description of Ponce, Ramón Marín called Playa, "*the most important ward or district outside the city limits*".[13] As such, Playa received a special treatment from the city's officials as the usual first recipient of every innovative mean of communication and transportation: the first telephone lines in 1880 were lay-out between the town center and Playa; the first stretch of the

[10] AGPR. Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Obras Municipales, Ponce. Caja 290.
[11] AGPR. Gobierno de Puerto Rico. Estadística general de comercio exterior o balanzas mercantiles. 1895.
[12] Ramón Marín, *La Villa de Ponce considerada en tres distintas épocas. Estudio histórico, descriptivo y estadístico hasta finales del año 1876*. Editoriales publicados en el periódico "La Crónica". Establecimiento Tipográfico "El Vapor", Ponce, 1877. See, Ramón Marín, Obras Completas. Ponce, Puerto Rico, 1989, 346-348.
[13] Ibid.

steam locomotive ran from Ponce's main square to the Marina; in 1902, the first rail system installed for the electric trolley followed the Camino Real from the city center to Playa.

Playa's economic activity promoted an equally significant social development. By 1876, the ward had a population of 2,207 inhabitants; in 1899, 4,887 souls; and 5,159 inhabitants by 1910. Playa began the 20th century as a self-sustained neighborhood with schools, a catholic church, pharmacies, cemeteries, industrial workshops, groceries, bakeries, lawyer's offices, accountant's offices, doctor's offices, commercial houses and many other signs of a dynamic community. It also had a well-developed residential area whose residents were mostly workers associated with the port related activities, as well as with the sugar cane production, the fishing trade and a strong artisan class and industrial workers.

In 1913, the *Liga Progresista de Ponce* (Ponce Progressive League) published a guide describing Ponce's most important commercial areas: the traditional urban center and the Marina.[14] Playa was exalted as having a population of 5,181 souls; fifteen well traced streets; comfortable housing; many large well-preserved warehouses built in brick and masonry from the 19th century and new ones in solid concrete; a new port facility in construction, announced as the best throughout the Antilles; an electric trolley running between the urban center and Playa effectively from 6:00 am until midnight; two cemeteries; the 1883 catholic church and two protestants churches, among other social services facilities. Many commercial houses had their offices at Playa at the time: importers of provisions; commission agents; bankers, cigar makers; stagecoach makers; contractors; concrete manufacturers agents; coffee exporter houses; and many different types of whole and retail sellers. The League also mentioned in its publication, that due to the extreme importance of the neighborhood, Playa was also provided with a well-equipped fire department; a well-stocked first aid station and a permanent detachment of the Insular Police with a sergeant, a corporal and five guards. These were in the ***Edificio del Ayuntamiento***, strategically located in the center of the ward, able to provide its services to the significant port area and the community as a whole.

Edificio Municipal Playa de Ponce

By 1902, the municipal authorities publically announced their interest in constructing a building to house the fire department, a first aid station and a central police headquarter, located in such a place that the facility would to be able to provide those services quickly and exclusively to Playa. Two locations were initially considered, a government lot adjacent to Playa's town square, nearby Fort San José, at the intersection of Calle Alfonso XII and Comercio; and another public lot at the intersection of Calle Virtud and Alfonso XII. The latest was the final choice.

[14] Liga Progresista de Ponce, *Álbum-Guía de Ponce*. Tipografía "La Defensa", Ponce, P.R., 1913.

By April 1903, the building's plans were completed by the City Engineer, Manuel V. Domenech (**Fig. 6**).[15] The Ayuntamiento announced public auctions for the building's construction during the summer of the same year. By June 1904, the **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce** was finished and turned to the city's officials. After the usual four months waiting period, and not finding any structural deficiencies with the property, city hall officially accepted the new public building.[16]

Domenech, through the Renaissance Revival style, applied a rusticated look upon the building, but using different elements in both levels, leading many current observers to inaccurately assumed that the building's responded to two different construction periods. The use of the Renaissance Revival brought a new stylish language into Playa's built landscape, on which the neoclassic was the dominating style in the warehouses by the port and the vernacular style, at the residential section of the ward. In a sector dominated by wooden, one-level houses, the two-story, brick and masonry building, imposed its social significance immediately.

Originally of a rectangular lay-out, it had a plant fourteen meters long and seven meters wide, with a surface area of ninety-eight square meters, the very same footprint of the rectangular section of today's building. The two story building was built of brick and masonry with exterior and interior walls covered with stucco made of Portland cement, with reinforce concrete for foundation. The first level floor was of hydraulic cement, ten centimeters thick, polished to shine and divided in a way to make it look like tiles, which is the same floor type found today. The second-story floor was made of *pichipen* flooring boards, place over wooden beams of the same material. This is precisely the same flooring boards presently found in the second floor (covered with vinyl tiles).[17]

In Domenech's plan, it was described that the building was to have a hipped roof. All beams and rafters for the roof were to be made of *pichipen*. The rafters forming the pitch angle were covered with planks made of spruce, over which the metallic roof-tiles were to be nailed-down. The metallic roof-tiles used, manufactured by Merchant & Company from Philadelphia, were the type that resembled the so called "Spanish tiles". Two ventilators, each twenty inches in diameter, made by Merchant & Company also, were to be place at the roof. Domenech planned for four ten-centimeter in diameter galvanized iron drainpipes placed at each corner of the building's roof. As no Puerto Rican flag was officially recognized at the time, a single wooden flagpole five meters long for the US flag was to be

[15] Manuel V. Domenech was born in the town of Isabela, Puerto Rico, in 1869. In 1888, he graduated from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania as a civil engineer. Upon his return, he established a very successful private practice as an engineer/architect in Ponce, designing some well-known private and public properties in the city. He was later designated City Engineer. In 1900, very active in politics as a Republican, Domenech was elected to the first Puerto Rico House of Representatives created after the Spanish American War, and re-elected in 1902 and 1904. During 1904, he served as Major of Ponce. In 1914, Domenech was appointed as Puerto Rico's Commissioner of the Interior, becoming one of the first Puerto Ricans to hold a presidentially-appointed position in Puerto Rico's Cabinet. He also served as Treasurer of Puerto Rico from 1930 to 1935. In 1942, Domenech die in San Juan.

[16] Archivo Histórico Municipal de Ponce (AHMP). Caja S-352-8. Proyecto de un Edificio Municipal para el barrio de la Playa de Ponce, P.R. Año de 1903.

[17] In the buildings plans, Domenech specified that all wooden flooring boards, ceiling rafters and beams had to be made of *"el mejor pichipen americano"* (the best American *pichipen*). The word *pichipen*, is an Anglicism derived from sound-conversion of the term *"pitch pine"*.

place at the very center of the façade facing Alfonso XII Street. Each door sill at the upper level would have a fifty centimeter high iron grilled ledge with an *ausubo* handrail. Domenech even sketched a specific design for the iron grills of the ledges. All these 1903 designs and 1904 construction elements and details still currently present in the building.

Certain changes were done to the building's layout before actual construction, and others, a few years after. In Domenech April 1903's plan the wooden stairs to access the second floor were located inside the building, at the northern end of the rectangular layout. However, in November 1903, Domenech sketched another plan placing the half-turn with landing concrete stairs outside, annexed to the northern façade, its current location. [18] In 1916, City Engineer Victor A. Auffant, designed a one-story annex to be used as a medical emergency room, added to the eastern end of the building, facing Calle Virtud (known as Padre Noel Avenue since 1951), changing the layout from a rectangular to an L-shaped plan.[19] The same pattern of horizontal grooved-lines incised into the plaster was extended into the annex façade, creating the appearance of a continuous-one-time-construction, which is how in fact, is recalled by the collective local memory.

Even through various uses, the **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce** has remained a social services oriented property. In 1904, it was used to house a fire station, a first-aid station, and an insular police detachment, as indicated on Domenech's plan and stated in the Ponce Progressive League's 1913 publication. A Playa's 1938 cartography drawing showed the building still designated as a "fire station" (**Fig. 7**). However, by 1957, the building was been used as a school, although no documents had been found stating that a formal school was established at the property (**Fig. 8**). More than likely, it was used as an annex to one of the two local schools at Playa at the time. By 1960s, it was used again as a dispensary, at the lower level, and a local police office at the second level. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the building housed the Playa's branch of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (known as WIC Program). Since the early 2000s, it's been used to house the first and only masonic lodge founded (1911) in Playa, *Resp. Logia Faro de la Marina No. 8680.*

The **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce** is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the property symbolizes the ward's importance within the city's economic development and the interest of the city's officials in providing social services directly to its vital population. It played a very important role within the ward's social development as a service-providing institution. For its continuous socially oriented historic uses, the property is highly regarded among the local population, who refer to **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce** as Playa's city hall. Furthermore, the property is locally significant under Criterion C in Architecture as the building brought a new style into Playa and is associated with the institutional production of Manuel V. Domenech.

[18] AHMP. Caja S-352-8. Proyecto de escalera para el Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce, November 1903.
[19] AHMP. Plano 05-1916, Sala de emergencias anexa al edificio municipal de la Playa. August 1916.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Archivo Histórico Municipal de Ponce
Caja S-352-8. Proyecto de un Edificio Municipal para el barrio de la Playa de Ponce, P.R. Año de 1903.
Caja S-352-8. Proyecto de escalera para el Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce, November 1903.
Plano 05-1916, Sala de emergencias anexa al Edificio Municipal de la Playa. August 1916.
Plano 08-1938. Edificios importantes de la Playa de Ponce.
Plano 03-1957. Solar y casa propiedad del municipio en la Playa de Ponce.

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Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce
Name of Property

Ponce, Puerto Rico
County and State

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 #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other (Name of repository)
_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre USGS Quadrangle Ponce Playa

(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates. Delete the other.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude _____ Longitude _____
2. Latitude _____ Longitude _____
3. Latitude _____ Longitude _____
4. Latitude _____ Longitude _____

OR

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): _____

___ NAD 1927 or X NAD 1983

1. Zone 19Q Easting 751913 Northing 1989809
2. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
3. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
4. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Lot of three hundred and seventy four (374) square meters, as recorded at the Centro de Recaudaciones de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM) under number 412-051-584-12.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated property includes the entire lot historically associated with the building.

Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce — Ponce, Puerto Rico
Name of Property — **County and State**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Juan Llanes Santos, Historian
organization Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office date June 19, 2013
street & number PO Box 9023935 telephone 787-721-3737
city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00902-3935
email jllanes@prshpo.gobierno.pr

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property **Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce**

City or Vicinity Ponce Playa County Ponce State Puerto Rico

Photographer Juan Llanes Santos Date Photographed February 20, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. West and south elevations; looking northeast.
2. Main façade (west elevation); looking east.
3. First level used by masonic lodge "Faro de la Marina"; looking northwest.
4. Second level; looking south.
5. Detail of wooden double door with adjustable louvers, with the iron grilled door sill designed by Manuel Domenech in 1903; looking east.
6. Detail of original 1903 decorative molding; looking west.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Fig. 1. Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce's main facade.

Fig. 2. Lateral view along Padre Noel Avenue; southern façade.

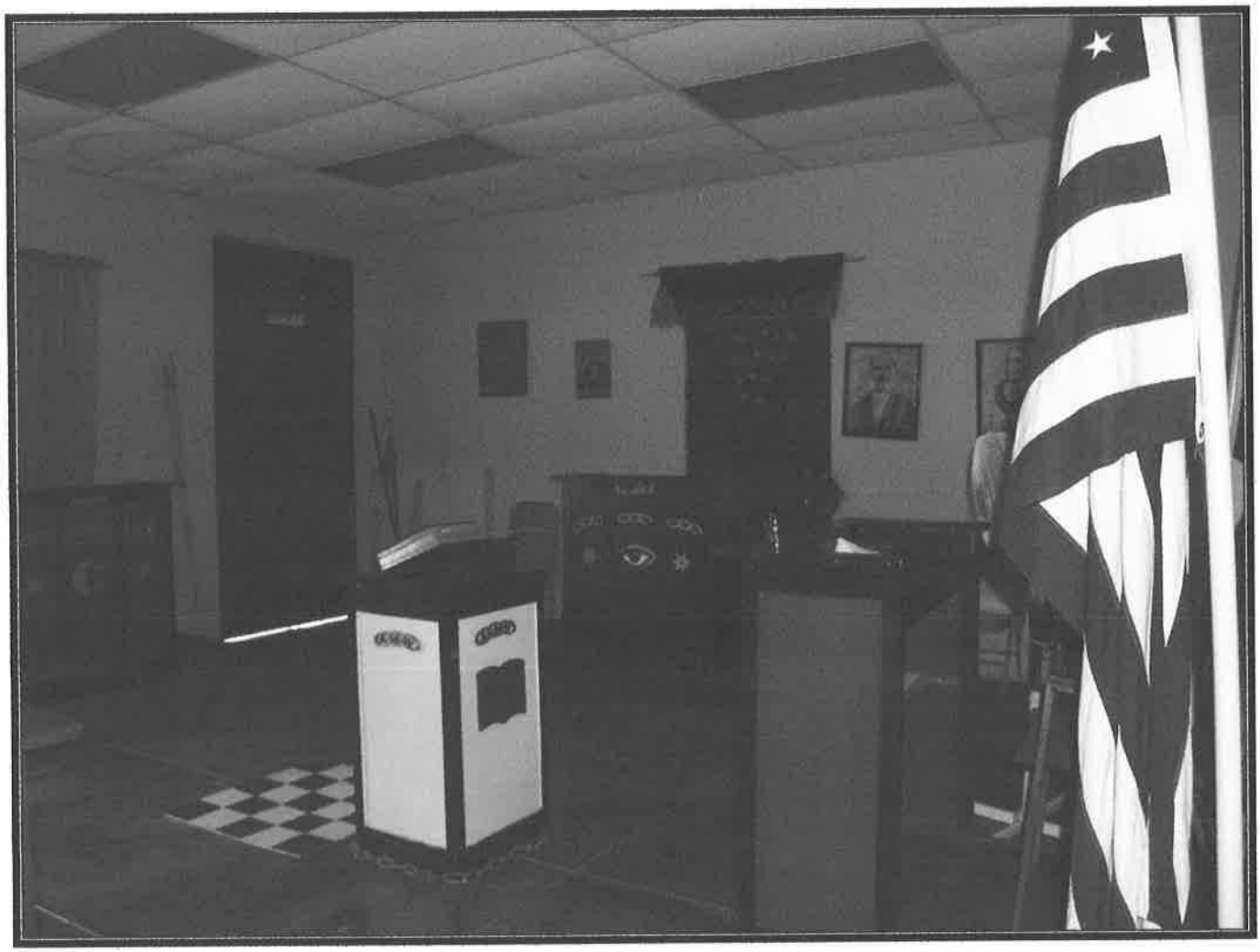


Fig. 3. Interior, first floor.

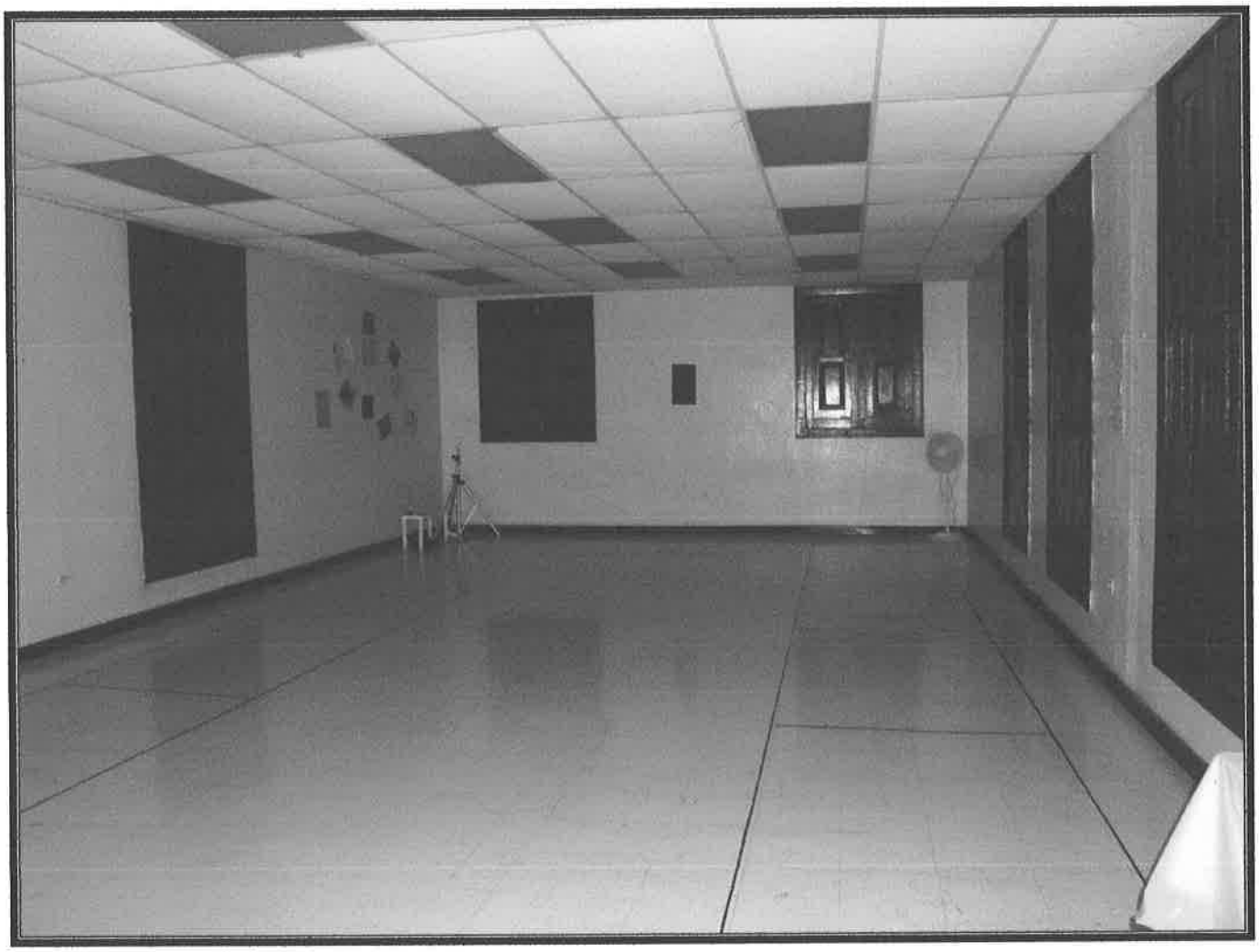


Fig. 4. Interior, second floor.

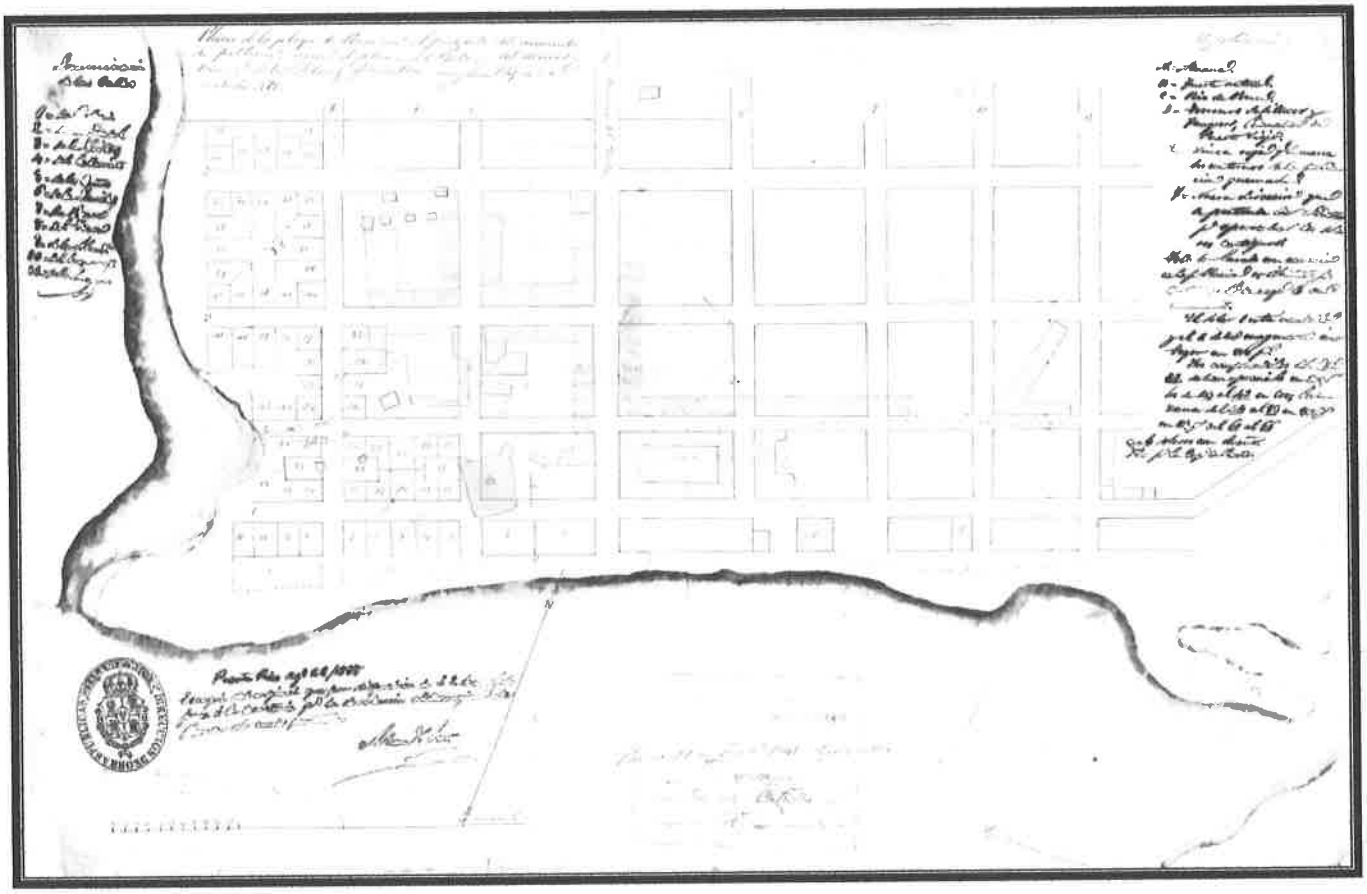


Fig. 5. Playa's 1848 plan.

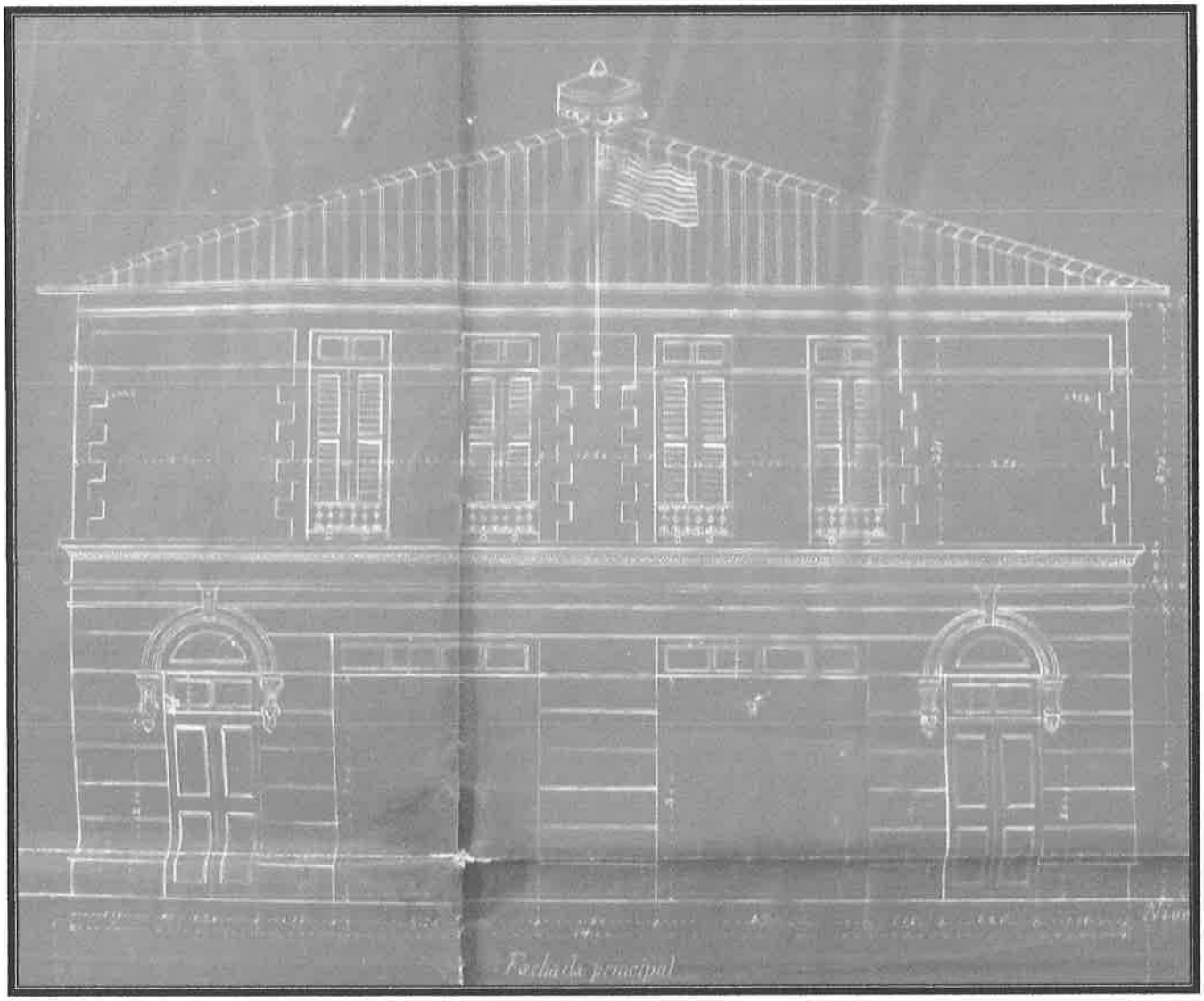


Fig. 6. Detail of Manuel Domenech 1903 plan; main façade facing Alfonso XII Street.

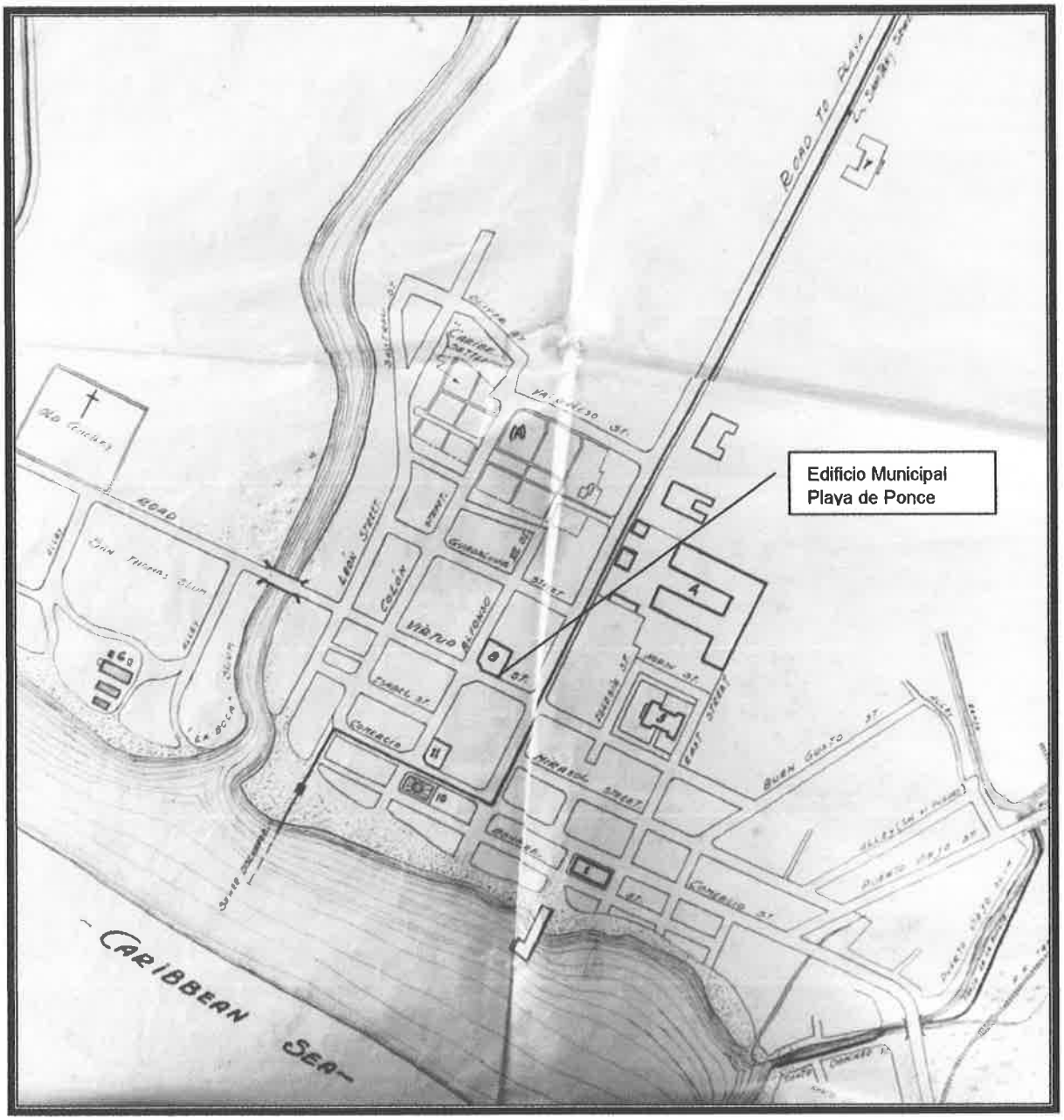


Fig.7 Detail of the 1938 drawing; legend identify building 8 as "fire station".

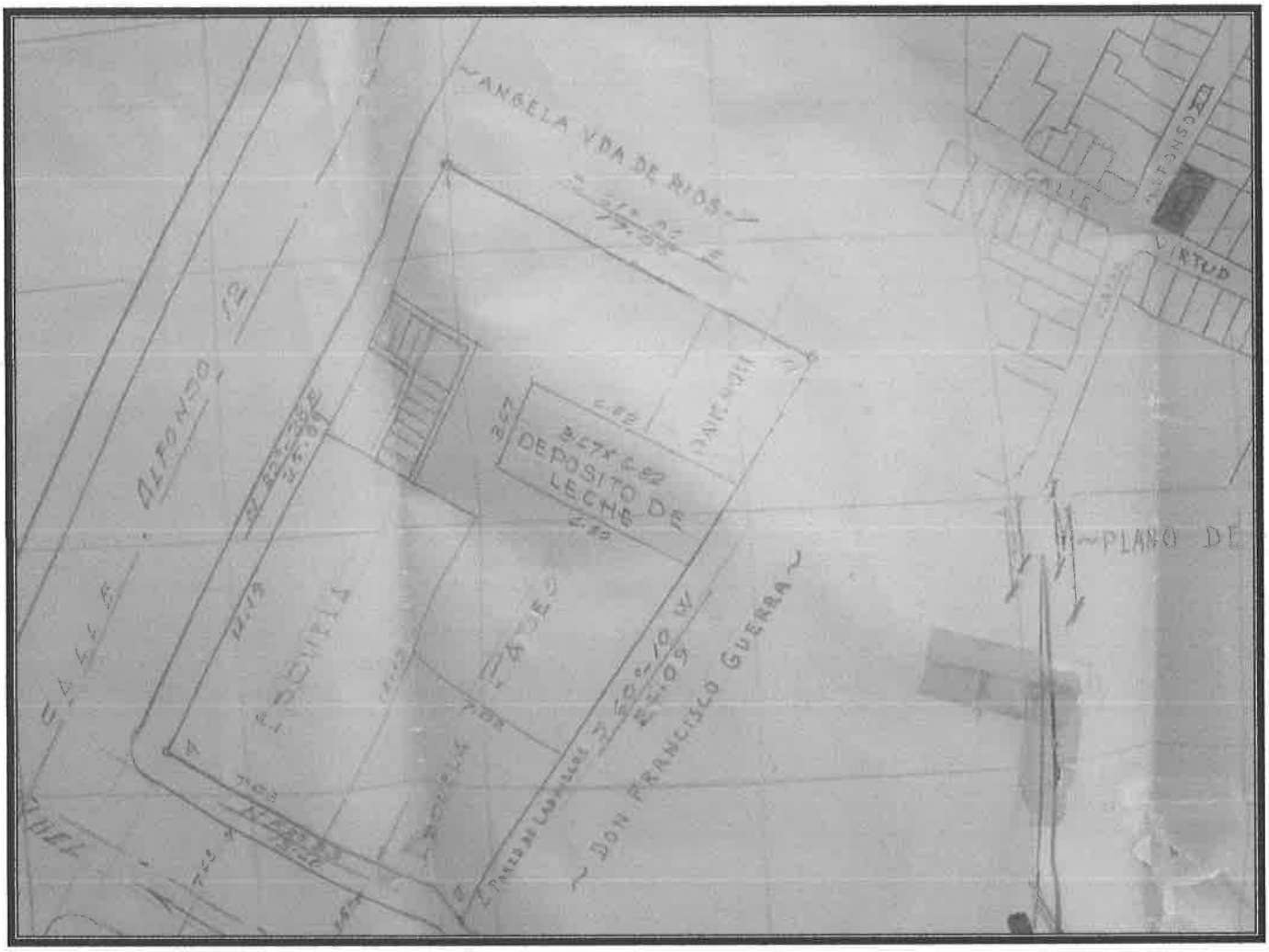
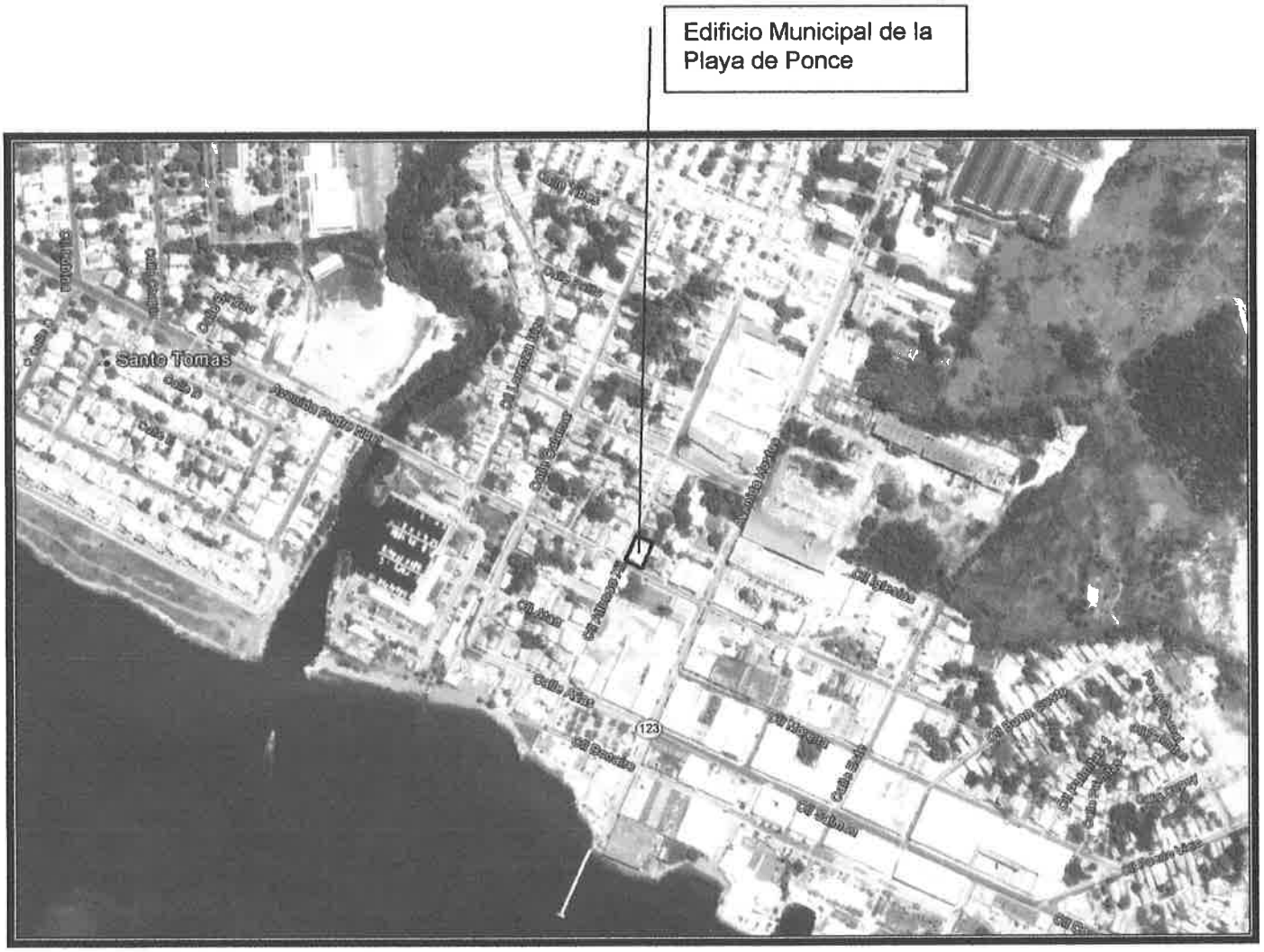


Fig.8. Detail of the 1957 sketch showing the Edificio Municipal as a "school".

10. Geographical Data

Edificio Municipal de la Playa de Ponce



The nominated property includes the entire lot outlined of 374 square meters as recorded at the Centro de Recaudaciones de Ingresos Municipales (CRIM), under number 412-051-584-12.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANTONIO SANTIAGO VAZQUEZ, SECRETARY

PLAYA DE PONCE QUADRANGLE
PUERTO RICO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1941. Field checked 1942. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1970

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 902 (1970), 926 and 927 (1968). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. Puerto Rico datum. 1940 adjustment
2000-meter grid based on Puerto Rico coordinate system

Barrio and municipality boundaries by the Puerto Rico Planning Board

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Kilometric reference distances shown in red

7° MAGNETIC NORTH — TRUE NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1970

SCALE 1:20 000
1 ½ 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-METER CONTOURS
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 1-METER CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.3 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00910
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PUERTO RICO
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Insular Route

Edificio Municipal / Ponce Pueblo
E-751913
N-1989809

PLAYA DE PONCE, P. R.
N1752.5—W6630/7.5

1970

59

SHPO

¡ABIERTO YA!
Tonifica tu cuerpo mientras baja de peso
BAILANDO ZUMBA Y CLASES DE CARDIO - KICK
Altos de La Logia Faro de La Marina
Instructora: Betty Torres / LA KBALLOTA
RESP. LOGIA.
FARO DE LA MARINA
#28680
HON. CAMARA DE RUTH
LUZ DE LAS ANTILLAS #42
Faro de la Marina 2-8680
Playa de Ponce
100 años
1911-2011

Respetable Logia Odtelica
"Faro de la Marina" 2-8680
Playa de Ponce
A A V
100 años
1911-2011
RESP LOGIA.
FARO DE LA MARINA
#28680
HON. CAMARA DE RUTH
LUZ DE LAS ANTILLAS #42
EMK 880

EXIT
Amar
Verdad