

PH0670111

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 7 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 28 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME * *

HISTORIC Faro de Guanica (Lighthouse)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rte 333

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Caña Gorda, Guanica VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Puerto Rico

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Departamento de Recursos Naturales

STREET & NUMBER

Puerto de Tierra

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

VICINITY OF

Puerto Rico

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Departamento de Recursos Naturales

STREET & NUMBER

Puerto de Tierra

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

Puerto Rico

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventario de Monumentos y Zonas Historicas de Puerto Rico

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

STATE
Puerto Rico

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lighthouse which is located on the end of a small peninsula forming the Bay of Guanica is now in ruins, although enough remains for possible reconstruction. The surrounding grounds are also in a state of abandon.

The lighthouse has a rectangular plan with a central octagonal tower. The main structure is approximately 36' x24' and 25' high!

The tower rises about 40' excluding the lantern section which is missing. A metal railing at the base of the lantern remains. Apparently the lenses and lantern were vandalized once the lighthouse was no longer used.

The construction material for the interior walls consists of brick and for the exterior walls masonry rubble. Interior walls are 12" thick, exterior walls are 16". The roof of flat tile is supported by wood beams. Some of the original window frames and panes are left.

The tower stairway which is of iron remains starting ten feet from the ground.

The interior colors were light blue with grey wainscotting. The doors were originally yellow, but the latest layer is grass green. The exterior finish is of the appearance of white hewn stone. The neo-classical decorative details are of brick, also finished in white.

Besides a well, there is no evidence around the grounds of further associated structures. The lighthouse itself appears to have also provided shelter for the keeper, as one of the rooms has the remains of a stove.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bay of Guanica has been the main landing site for the earliest settlement of Puerto Rico from the south. Ponce de Leon landed in Puerto Rico in the south via the Bay of Guanica in 1508. A small settlement was started at that time but had to be abandoned following a native Indian uprising. New settlement appeared sporadically later in the 18th century, but it was only in the 19th century that that part of the coast and specifically Guanica developed.

The Bay however, is an excellent sheltered access from the sea and the Spanish colonial authorities decided to build a lighthouse at the end of the century. The Engineer Jose M. Sanz was so commissioned in 1893. A few years later, the Bay of Guanica was to be the major landing site for the North American invasion of the island during the Spanish American war of 1898.

The lighthouse is one of five of the island, but the only structure not in use.

Its style is one of the simpler models utilized for lighthouses, utilizing a very basic plan, while the exterior reflects the mood often evident also the the architecture of plantation great houses, with doors and windows of strong vertical proportions and restrained ornamentation suitable for a 'utilitarian' building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 27/47

Faro de Guánica

Guánica, P.R.

NAME: Historic: Faro del Puerto de Guánica
Common: Guánica Light

LOCATION: On point Meseta on the easterly side of Guánica Bay on the south shore westerly section of Puerto Rico. On position 17° 57.3' N - 66° 54.3' W.

CLASSIFICATION: Unoccupied. Unrestricted access.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: N.R.M.P.

DESCRIPTION: In ruins. Original site.

The lighthouse, completely vandalized and in ruins, is projected against the hills and dry mountains which form the east entrance to Guánica Harbor, one of the most important, busiest, and best of the Island. Similar to Cabo Rojo, the rocky and desartic land is unsuitable for cultivation.

The lighthouse which stands near a cliff, was built in 1892 as a minor or local light (6th order) to guide the entrance to the harbor. In terms of design, use of materials, and decorative elements it was almost identical to Punta Higuero Light.

The 2nd class keeper's dwelling, 15.2 x 8.5 x 4.75 mts., was built for one keeper. The principal entrance is in the north facade which opened into a 4.8 x 2.65 mts. vestibule at both sides of which were two rooms 4.55 x 2.65 mts. each. The bedrooms were located on the west side of the dwelling: one 4.55 x 2.65 mts. and two 4.55 x 2.1 mts., and a bathroom. On the east section of the structure the livinroom was located, 4.55 x 2.65 mts. It was followed by the engineer's room, 4.55 x 2.1 mts., and a kitchen-dining area. A square storeroom, 2.4 x 2.4 mts. was located behind the octagonal tower built in the center of the building. Excluding the lantern, the tower was 10 mts. high and 3.5 mts in diameter. A cast-iron winding stairway, 1.6 mts. diameter, led to the lantern. A door on the north facade on the tower opened to the roof and a window to the south. The octagonal lantern was 1.1 mt. in diameter, had vertical bars and was built of cast-iron, copper, and glass. An outside cemented gallery was surrounded by a cast-iron balustrade. The original illuminating apparatus was a fixed 6th order 1892 lenticular Sautter, Lemonnier & Cie. lens, 30 cm. in diameter. It had 4 panels; 5 elements in each panel of the central drum; 5 prisms on each panel above the central drum and 2 below. It was mounted on a cast-iron pedestal.

Some examples of the best original architectural characteristics are still visible in the crumbling structure: "ausubo" (firewood) beams

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white and gray Genoa marble slabs, part of the old Spanish kitchen, some wood window frames, and the old Spanish cistern and well. Other examples of its decorative elements are also visible: the grayish lime stucco imitating granite, and the excellent exposed brick work in the main cornice. At one point, the building was finished with a parapet of exposed brick lace-type work. Also significant, ^{is the} quoined tower. Also visible are parts of the old cast-iron balustrade, part of the lantern, some of its vertical bars, and the cast-iron lens pedestal. Otherwise, the building is increasingly desintegrating: the ceiling has caved in; the cast-iron stairway has been partially torn down, doors and windows are missing from location.

Since 1940 the property has been owned by the Government of Puerto Rico, although the U.S.C.G. retained access to the tower. In 1950 the entire property and structure was released by the U.S.C.G. to the Government of Puerto Rico.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Faro del Puerto de Guánica served as a local light and also as a bridge between Cabo Rojo and Isla Caja de Muertos Lights. Architecturally, it represents the only extant structure of its kind especially in its decorative elements. Historically, it holds a particular position since from its tower the light keeper saw --and possibly signaled, according to uncorroborated verbal sources-- the United States warships that invaded Puerto Rico through Guánica Bay on 25 July 1898.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Area nominated: 1.15 acres. Boundary description: beginning at a point N 43° W 85 ft from NW corner of dwelling; thence S 32° 55' E 245.9 ft to a point; thence S 25°45' E 232 ft to a point; thence S 3° 35' E 175 ft to a point; thence S 77° 45' W 86.2 ft to a point; thence N 19° 50' W 64.5 ft to a point; thence N 12° 20' E 178.55 ft to a point; thence N 21° 55' W 172 ft to a point; thence N 33°05' W 256 ft to a point; thence W 109.4 ft to a point; thence N 18° 05' W 128.5 ft to a point; thence S 86° E 173.35 ft to a point; thence S 1° 15' E 110 ft to the point of beginning.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: v. attached pocket #7 "Guánica Light".

Enclosures are: Quadrangle; plan area nominated; c. 1898 photo; 1978 photos; original site drawings photos.