

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Puerto Rico	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 10 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Zona Hist6rica de San Juan (San Juan Historic Zone)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Casco de San Juan

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North-Western triangle of the islet of San Juan

CITY OR TOWN:
San Juan

STATE: **Puerto Rico** CODE: ~~43-81~~ COUNTY: CODE: **0930**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Government of Puerto Rico, Institutions and private persons

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **San Juan** STATE: **Puerto Rico** CODE: **43** ~~81~~

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registro de la Propiedad (Property Registry)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Calle de la Fortaleza #50

CITY OR TOWN: **San Juan** STATE: **Puerto Rico** CODE: **43** ~~81~~

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
The Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D.C.** STATE: CODE: ~~08~~

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **OCT 10 1972**

DATE: **11**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Historic Zone of San Juan occupies the North West tip of the small island to the North of the Bay of San Juan. It has the Atlantic Ocean to the North and is raised an average of 100 feet above sea level. It is protected by a natural clift to the North and a fortification wall that originally surrounded the total area of the Old City. At the East and West ends stand the Forts of San Cristóbal and San Felipe del Morro, both monumental and of prime architectural value. Within the walls, the Old City developed as the government's seat and as a residential, military and commercial complex with wharf facilities to the South where the commodious bay gave the name of Puerto Rico to the Island.

The public, civil and religious architecture of the city has been basically preserved with a notable harmony of style characteristic of late seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although some sixteen century structure of notable interest are preserved.

Its architectural and geographical characteristics make the district one of special beauty.

Some of the principal structures in the area are:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Fort San Felipe del Morro - 1539 | City Hall-----1796-99 |
| Fort San Cristóbal-----1771 | Santa Ana Church--1848 |
| The City Walls-----17th Century | San José Church---1532 |
| San Juan Gate-----17th Century | Ballajá Barracks--1857 |
| La Fortaleza-----1533 | La Casa del Callejón--18th Century |
| Casa Blanca-----1523 | La Casa del Libro--19th Century |
| Dominican Convent-----1523 | El Hospital Militar-1778-1782 |
| San Juan Cathedral-----1540 | Antiguo Manicomio---1863 |
| Cristo Chapel-----1753 | Polvorín de Santa Elena-18th Century |
| Casa Suazo-----17th Century | Old Cemetery-----1806 |
| La Intendencia-----1851 | Convento de las Carmelitas-1651 |
| Teatro Tapia-----1832 | |
| Casa de los dos Zaguanes---18th Century | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

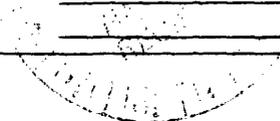
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Historic Zone of San Juan is of multiple significance to the people of Puerto Rico. It is the stage where many of our most relevant historic events took place. It shows the characteristic architecture developed in the Island based on Spanish models but incorporating autonomous materials, methods and styles. It was-and is-the seat of government and where the political direction of the community is evolved. It is the traditionally most important commercial area. It was the see of the first Bishopric, cathedral and important churches of Puerto Rico. It shows the typical urban planning of Puerto Rican towns. It is a physical manifestation of the way of life created by a Puerto Rican community.

Being the seat of civil, military and religious authorities, as well as the principal urban and commercial center, the most significant historical events in Puerto Rican History occurred here. The first municipal government of the New World-outside of Santo Domingo-was established here as well as the first military presidio in Spanish America. Other events are the Dutch attack of 1625, Sir Francis Drake's attack of 1595, George Clifford Earl of Cumberland's attack of 1597, Sir Ralph Abercromby's attack of 1797, Admiral Sampson's attack of 1898. Alonso Manso, first Bishop to come to America, established his bishopric in San Juan. The first newspaper-La Gaceta-was printed in San Juan in 1807. The first university-level educational institution was established by the Dominican Order in the 16th Century. The Ateneo Puertorriqueño was founded in 1876. The military defensive system was started in 1533 with the building of La Fortaleza, oldest Government House still in use in the New World. The first provincial parliament-Diputación Provincial-was established in 1813. The Colegio de Abogados-Bar Association-was founded in 1840.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Diego de Torres Vargas, Descripción de la Isla y Ciudad de Puerto Rico, 1647
- 2) Fray Iñigo Abbad y La Sierra, Historia Geográfica, Civil y Natural de la Isla de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico, 1765
- 3) Adolfo de Hostos, Ciudad Murada 1948
- 4) Francisco M. Zeno, La Capital de Puerto Rico, 1948

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	18° 28 ' 26"	66° 07 ' 31"	°	'	"	° ' "
NE	18° 28 ' 26"	66° 06 ' 30"	°	'	"	° ' "
SE	18° 27 ' 38"	66° 06 ' 30"	°	'	"	° ' "
SW	18° 27 ' 38"	66° 07 ' 31"	°	'	"	° ' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **115.66**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
LUIS M. RODRIGUEZ MORALES, Director, General Archives of Puerto Rico

ORGANIZATION: **Institute of Puerto Rican Culture** DATE: **June 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Boulevard del Valle, Box 4184

CITY OR TOWN: **San Juan** STATE: **Puerto Rico** CODE: **8# 43**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name **Ricardo E. Alegria**

Title **Executive Director Institute of Puerto Rican Culture**

Date **June 1971**

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

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **10/10/72**

ATTEST:
William S. Swadlow
Keeper of The National Register

Date **10.5.72**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

O C E A N O

A T L A N T I C O

NORTE

LEYENDA
--- LIMITES DE LA ZONA ANTIGUA E HISTORICA

NOTA
LOS LIMITES DE LOS DISTRITOS DE CONFIGURACION
HAN SIDO INCLUIDOS PARA INFORMACION SOLAMENTE
YA QUE SU ADOPCION ES EFECTUADA COMO PARTE
DEL MAPA DE ZONIFICACION DE SAN JUAN CUALES
SU-ERS ENMIENDAS AL R-390

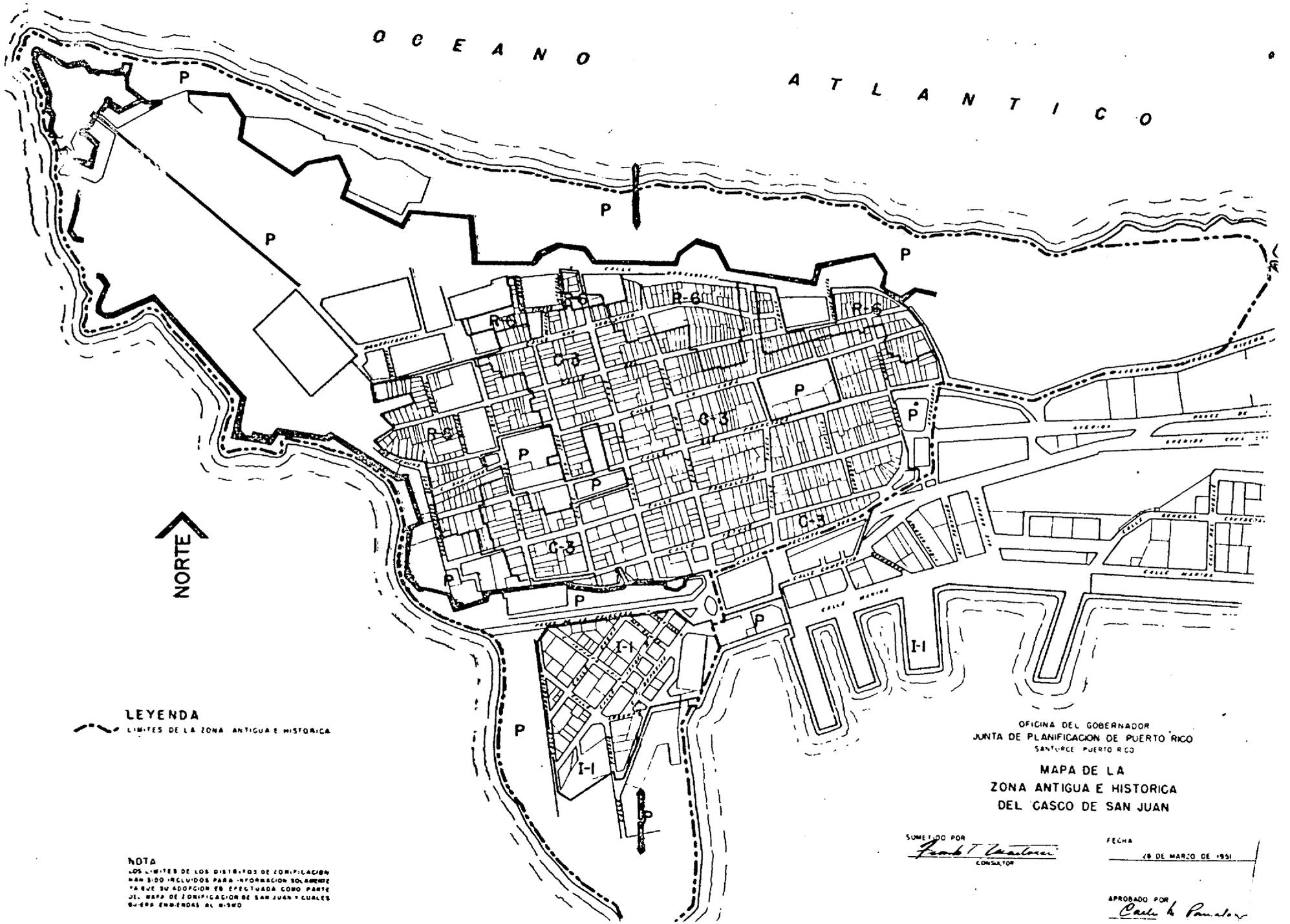
OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR
JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION DE PUERTO RICO
SANTOCE PUERTO RICO

MAPA DE LA
ZONA ANTIGUA E HISTORICA
DEL CASCO DE SAN JUAN

SOMETIDO POR
Frank T. Watson
CONSULTOR

FECHA
28 DE MARZO DE 1951

APROBADO POR
Carlos A. Panadero



APR 15 1994 15:20 OFIC. PRESERV. HIST. (809)723-0957

MIN. TO JH
4/15/94 15:20 P.23

O C E A N O
A T L A N T I C O



LEYENDA

--- CARRETERAS DE LA ZONA ANTIGUA E HISTORICA

NOTA

ESTE MAPA SE HA ELABORADO EN CONFORMIDAD CON LAS LEYES Y REGLAMENTOS QUE REGULAN LA ELABORACION DE MAPAS Y PLANOS EN EL TERRITORIO DE SAN JUAN Y SU ZONA ANTIGUA E HISTORICA.

OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR
JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION DE PUERTO RICO
SANTO DOMINGO, PUERTO RICO

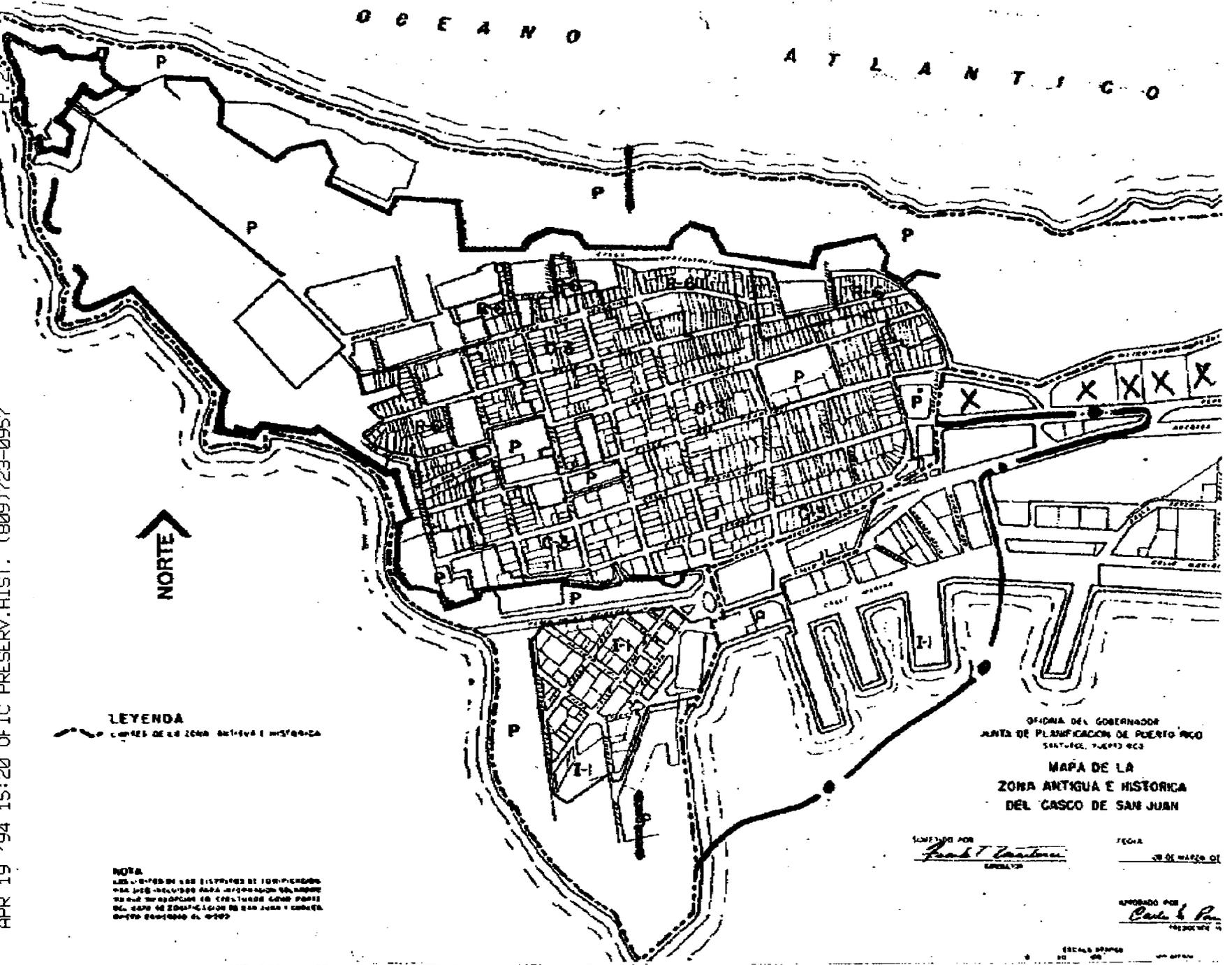
**MAPA DE LA
ZONA ANTIGUA E HISTORICA
DEL CASCO DE SAN JUAN**

ELABORADO POR
Frank T. Ventresca
INGENIERO

FECHA
20 DE MARZO DE 1994

APROBADO POR
Carlos A. Pan
INGENIERO

ESCALA GRAFICA
1:50,000



66° 07' 30"
8° 30"

San Juan Historic District

ZONA HISTORICA INCLUIDA E
PARALELO DE LATITUD = 18°-28'-26"
" " " " = 18°-27'-38"
MERIDIANO DE LONGITUD = 66°-06'-30"
" " " " = 66°-07'-31"

774

600

520

324

258

246

246

162

168

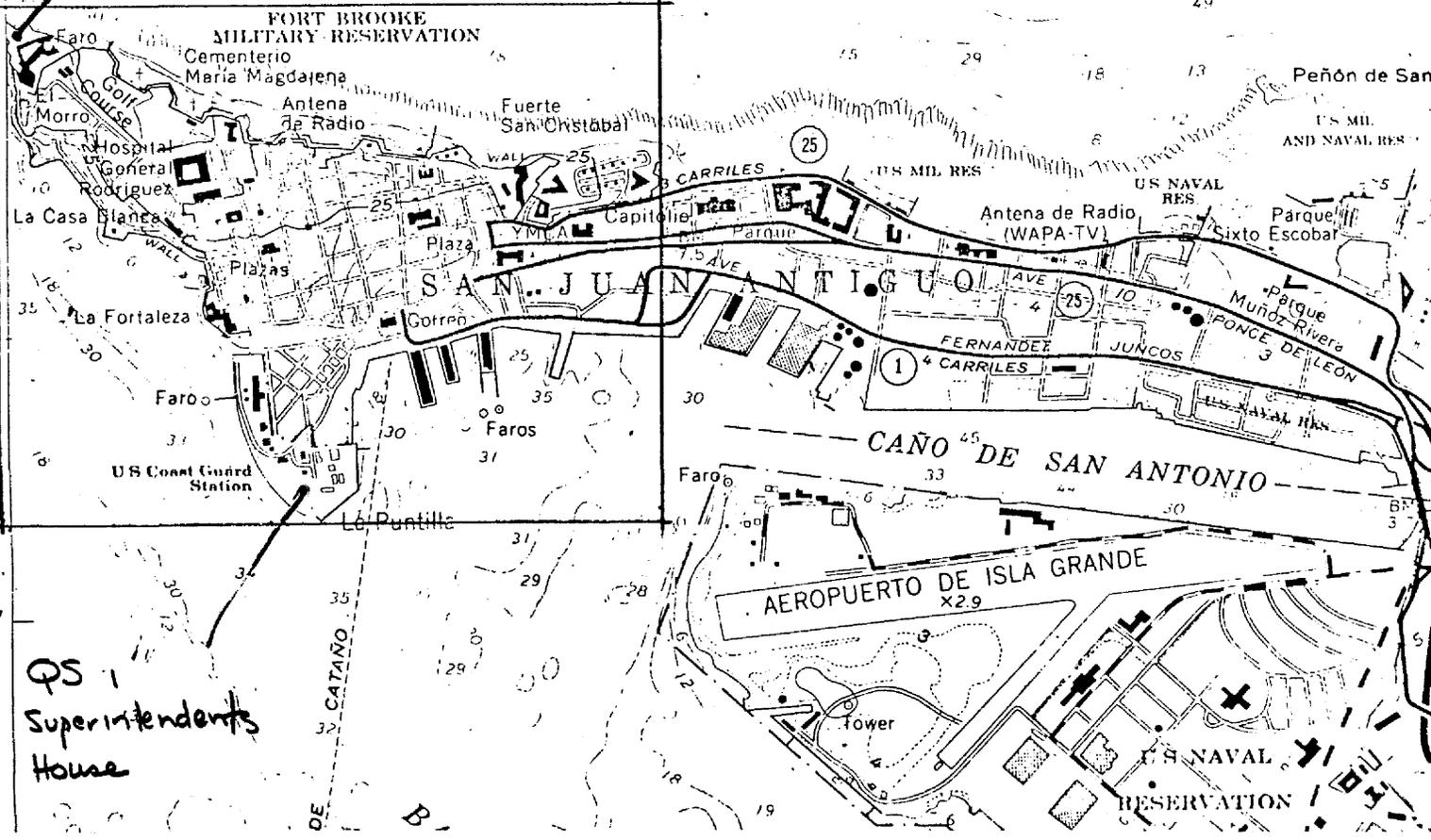
156

A

Puerto San Juan Light

OCT 22 1981

Punta del Morro



QS
Superintendents
House

DE CATANO

27'30"