



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Luis Muñoz Rivera Park

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Stop 8 Ponce de León Avenue

not for publication

city or town San Juan

vicinity

state Puerto Rico code PR county San Juan code 127 zip code 00902

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Aida Belen Rivera Ruiz

Signature of certifying official/Title

27 September 2007  
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

*Edson H. Beall* 11.14.07

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*for* \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

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##### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

##### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
255	61	objects
256	64	Total

Table of Contributing/Noncontributing resources.

Feature	Date of Origin	Contributing/Noncontributing	Notes
Historic site (park)	1930s	Contributing	Includes all designed pedestrian paths, promenades and alamedas within the park boundaries. The path system also incorporates remnant historic paths segments and remnants historic steps. Also includes the open green area located between the Lookout and the Supreme Court Building, marked as "playfield" in the 1924 design.
Historic furnishing	1930s	Contributing	Includes all faux-wood benches (187) and the concrete classic benches (51).
Historic Objects	1930s-1940s	Contributing	Includes all water fountains (3), ponds (2), pergolas (5) and trellises (2). Also includes ornament elements such as the Guitar (1), the Pyramid (1), the Rose of the Winds (1), the Solar Clock (1) and the Snail (1).
Contemporary Furnishing	1990s-2007	Noncontributing	Includes all wooden benches (60) and light fixtures throughout the park. Also includes the 2003 black granite water fountain (1) on the central promenade.
Contemporary structures/buildings	1980s-2007	Noncontributing	Includes the Lookout (1), the Pavilion of Peace (1) and the Administration Building (1).

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

San Gerónimo Powderhouse  
Supreme Court Building

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: Park \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: Park \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Other: Picturesque  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof

other Terrazzo, gravel, cast iron, steel, slate,  
cobble stones, granite, concrete, tile mosaics,  
sandstone

**Narrative Description**

(See Continuation Sheets)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

The **Luis Muñoz Rivera (hereafter LMR) Park** is a twenty-seven-acre area located between two main roads – the Ponce de León Avenue (south) and the Luis Muñoz Rivera Avenue (north) - at the end of the Puerta de Tierra ward in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Puerta de Tierra is a narrow strip of land that connects the fortified city of San Juan to the point of access to the islet, running east of San Cristobal Castle to the northern side of the San Antonio Bridge (**Fig. 1**).

Fig. 1 Puerta de Tierra.



Since the construction of the **LMR Park** in 1932, the area has been in continuous use as a gathering place for social, recreational and political purposes. Strategically located, today it is one of the few green open spaces that remain in San Juan. Designed by Bennett Parsons and Frost, an architectural firm from Chicago, it is an extraordinary example of the City Beautiful Movement applied to a sub urban park in Puerto Rico. In 1956, the Supreme Court Building was inaugurated on the eastern end. In 1988, the Pavilion of Peace was constructed towards the western end. From 1990 to 1992, a mayor renovation project included the construction of *El Mirador* and the addition of a new café in the roof of the existing Park Administration Building. In 2003, another project included the addition of a fountain to the existing central walkway and the re-pavement of selected areas.

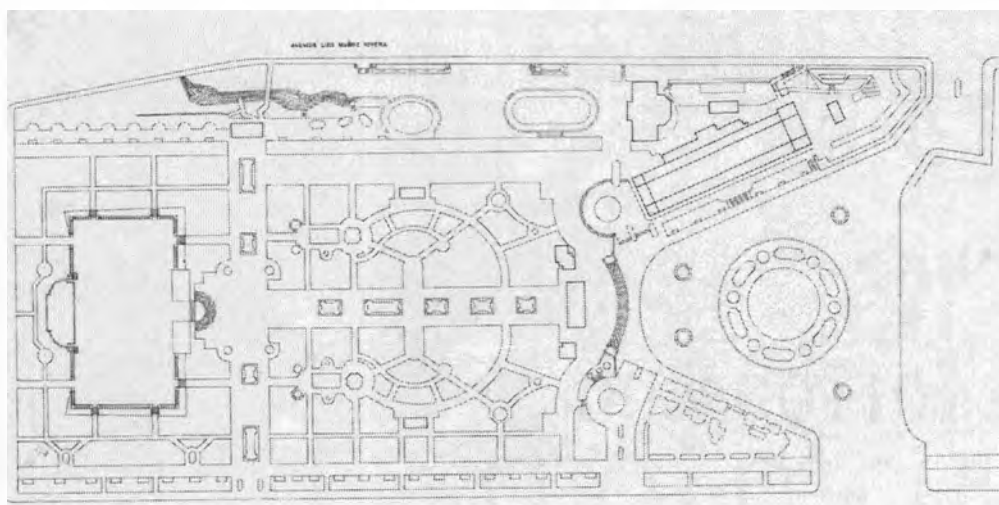
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 2 Base Plan, October 1990<sup>1</sup>.



The **LMR Park** has a rectangular symmetrical plan measuring approximately 2000 by 575 feet (**Fig. 2**). The architects planned and designed a master plan that took into consideration the preservation of the existing San Gerónimo Powderhouse (SGP) – that was located within the premises of the assigned lot- and the *Archivo General y Biblioteca de Puerto Rico* (National Archives and Library)<sup>2</sup> and its lateral street, located across the Ponce de León Avenue. The actual presence of the SGP can be attributed to the fact that the LMR Park's design integrated this historic resource<sup>3</sup>.

Bennett Parsons and Frost studied in the Parisian Ecole Beaux-Arts, so their designs were greatly influenced by their academic training. Stylistically, the park was designed in the Beaux-Arts style, following the postulates of the City Beautiful Movement, while incorporating picturesque elements.

<sup>1</sup> Base Plan – re-drawn by Otto Reyes Architects. Original Plan was prepared by Kauffman & Reyes, Santurce, Puerto Rico. July 31, 1949 for Comisión de Parques y Recreos Públicos.

<sup>2</sup> The Archivo General y Biblioteca de Puerto Rico was included in the National Register of Historic Places on August 11, 1976.

<sup>3</sup> San Gerónimo Powderhouse is part of the Linea de Avanzada (Advanced Defense Line) included in the National Register in September 25, 1997.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

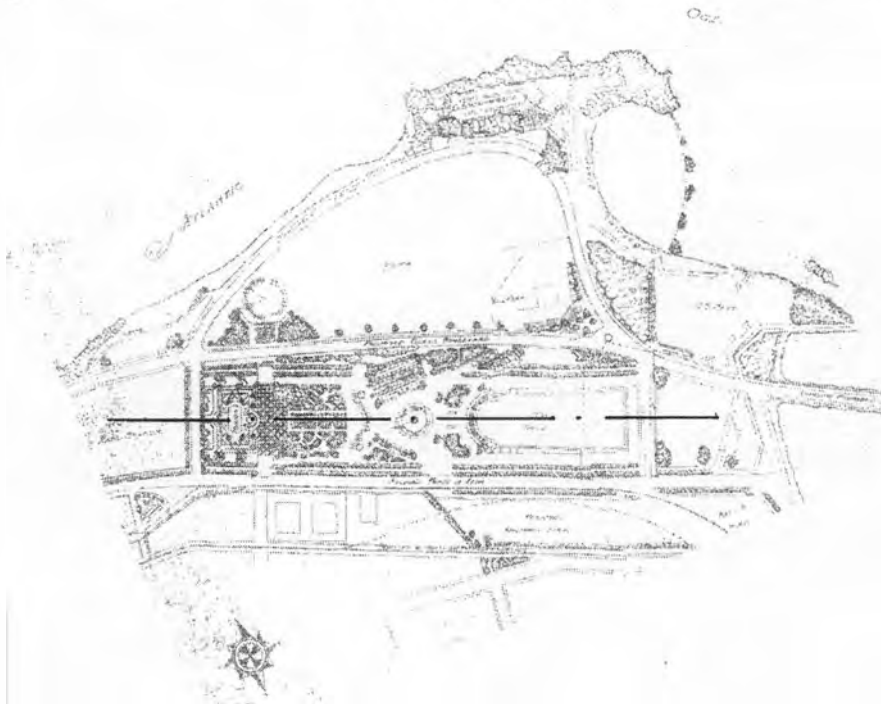
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

The mayor park features are organized along a longitudinal (west to east) axis, emphasizing the rectangular layout of the plan, which is a recurrent feature of many of the Bennett Parson and Frost designs for parks (**Fig. 3**). Several well defined secondary alignments (running north to south) divide the overall design into four areas – each with a specific use and particular design (**Fig. 4**).

Fig. 3. 1925 Bennett Parsons & Frost's plan.<sup>4</sup>  
Main axis - west to east



<sup>4</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Mapoteca. A Study of a Plan for Muñoz Rivera Park at San Juan Porto Rico. Bennett Parsons & Frost, Consulting Architects. Chicago, USA. March 1925.

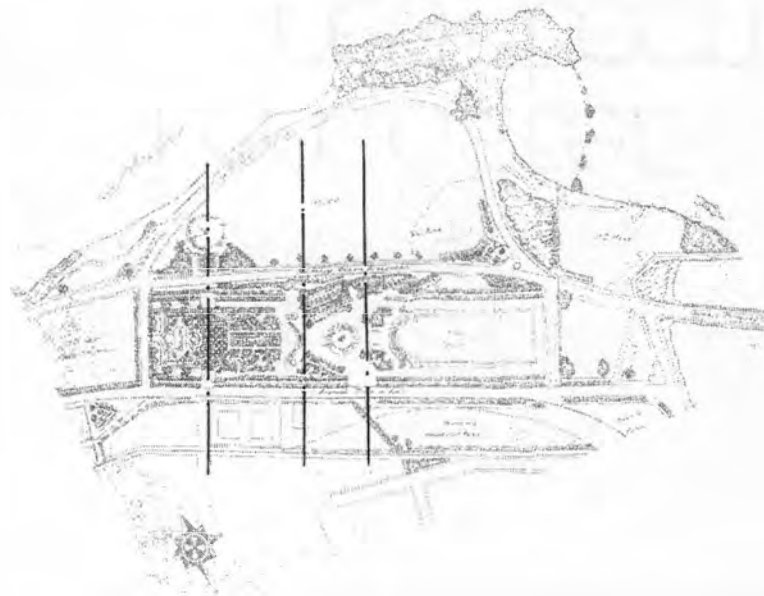
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 4. 1925 Bennett Parsons & Frost's plan  
Secondary alignments – north to south



Beginning at the west, the first area was defined by a north-south path that corresponds to the corner street of the Municipal Hospital building and extends to the other side of the Muñoz Rivera Avenue. This area was conceived has a space containing a rectangular pavilion surrounded by orthogonally arranged green areas, following a formal, French garden layout. The second area runs from the north-south path up to the entrance of the SGP and is divided by a segmented fountain that separates the area on two portions. It follows a more naturalistic, English garden approach in its design with the use of curved pathways, rustic furniture, intimate spaces and the introduction of exotic and extravagant follies that provide various views and experiences and evoke a sense of surprise on its user. These were designed by the local artisan/sculptor Victor Cott.<sup>5</sup> His trademark was the use of molded cement over a wire and mesh frame to create rustic, faux-wooden pergolas and benches.

The next area is defined by the SGP, from which the designer incorporated its position, replicating its angle with a mirror-like path- garden, both surrounding the main curved stairway and central fountain of the park. The eastern area of the park was devoted to field playgrounds; today, it is devoted to the Supreme Court building and its accessory facilities.

<sup>5</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Fondo: Obras Públicas. Revista de Obras Públicas, Agosto 1934.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 5 Central Fountain, 1939<sup>6</sup>.



Fig. 6 Central Fountain, 2007.<sup>7</sup>



The master plan's focal point is a central fountain (**Figs. 5 and 6**) with several features organized around it: north of the fountain, the San Gerónimo Powderhouse; east of the fountain, two small gardens and a large play field; south of the fountain, a small diagonal garden that stresses symmetry with the SGM; west of the fountain, a semicircular stair with two small fountains lead park visitors to the formal gardens, with a central walkway that culminates in a small plaza and pavilion (*Pabellón de la Paz*). The design also included promenades along the north and the south border of the park. Some of the features included in the master plan were constructed many years later by a succession of interventions developed by local architects. This is the case of the pavilion, which was constructed in 1988, and the small circular fountain in front of the SGP, constructed between 1991 and 1992 (**Figs. 7 and 8**) following the original design.

The SGP was transferred from military to civilian ownership on January 12, 1912. No changes occurred in the building until around 1932, when it was converted into a Museum of Natural History. The building's interior was subdivided and a new entrance was made on the center of the south side. Further changes were carried out after 1945 when a zoo was constructed within the Old Powderhouse.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Álbum de Oro de Puerto Rico: Obra de divulgación cultural en pro de la fraternidad Americana. La Habana: Artes Graficas, 1939. pp. 21.

<sup>7</sup> All pictures from 2007 taken by Juan Llanes.

<sup>8</sup> From 1974 to 1975 the building was intervene by architect Orval Sifiontes. In 1992, a project was conducted by Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova, Architects. Many of the zoo cages were demolished and other additions were eliminated.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 7 Entrance to San Geronimo Powderhouse, 1967 <sup>9</sup>.



Fig. 8 Entrance to San Gerónimo Powderhouse, 2007.



Fig.9 Park Administration Building on the right, 1939 <sup>10</sup>.



The Administrative Building was constructed by 1939. It was a long concrete structure built along the outer face of the north perimeter, adjoining the SGP building (Fig.9). The original design of the central portion of the façade consisted of three arched openings, surrounded with a rustic faux-wooden framework, inspired furniture previously designed by Victor Cott.

By this means, the designer tried to integrate the building to the existing picturesque features in the park, enhancing its "natural" feeling.

<sup>9</sup> El Mundo. 30 de diciembre de 1967

<sup>10</sup> Album de Oro...pp.21

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

During the late 1940s, a section of the park was permanently converted into a children playground. Sand from the Escambrón Beach was placed for this purpose in a designated area west of the SGM.<sup>11</sup>

In 1954, the Supreme Court Building<sup>12</sup> was planned and designed by Toro Ferrer, Architects, for the eastern end of the park. The building was inaugurated in 1956. Fortunately, showing great architectural sensibility, the building was designed in such a way that wouldn't represent an adverse effect to the park. Its design incorporated a garden and fountain, allowing for a smooth transition between both. The low level Supreme Court Building runs perpendicular to the park's main axis, just like the pavilion, creating two main focal points at both ends of the east-west line (**Fig. 10**). The low scale of the building integrates with the trees that surround both, the Supreme Court building and the park.

Fig. 10 1990-1992 Layout -+Plan of LMR Park.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>11</sup> On later renovations, the sand in the play-ground was replaced with a soft shock-absorbing look-like-grass artificial permanent matt.

<sup>12</sup> The Supreme Court Building was included in the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 2006.

<sup>13</sup> Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova, Architects. Luis Muñoz Rivera Park, Layout Plan, 1990-1992.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 8

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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From 1974 to 1975, architect Orval Sifontes designed a master plan for the **LMR Park**. The scope of the master plan included: trees and benches inventory, repair of damage benches and sidewalks, parking around the central fountain was eliminated and substituted with planting areas, a smaller parking area was constructed (in subsequent interventions it was eliminated), an electrical substation hidden under an earth mound, a lighting distribution plan was implemented, and the existing playfield area was re-design. The playfield area included a cobblestone stepped mound with concrete slide, a swing section, climbing ladder, climbing poles (stainless steel and wood), a sand box, and wood see saws area.

The 1990s intervention project proposed the construction of *El Mirador*: a stepped open terrace or balcony, which overlooks the open large play field area. Its base provided additional storage facility for the administration of the park.

This intervention also proposed repair works to the north promenade and to the remains of the former zoo crocodile's pond. The north promenade was completely open towards the Muñoz Rivera Avenue. For security reasons and to prevent possible accidents involving children, Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova Architects proposed the construction of a small stone wall. It works like a fence, but does not impact the park. The Administration Building included the demolition of walls and elements added thru the years. The facilities provided storage and bathroom on the ground floor, and an open café on the roof.

The south promenade included repairs of sidewalks and substitution of few sick *Ficus benjamina*. Otto Reyes, Architect, reports in his 1990-1992 master plan, the following:

"The sidewalk was in bad state of disrepair with the planting strip used for parking. A major problem in the promenades, and even within the park, was the total invasion of automobiles on busy occasions. This South Promenade was a magnificent place for leisure walking, creating a covered green tunnel with large trees planted on both sides. The pavement was very high quality terrazzo squares built in 1927 and in good condition even after so many years. Because of the value of this material and the budget limitations, the damage sections representing 10% of the total pavements was to be repaired. The impossibility to match new terrazzo to adjoining historic suggests the possibility of introducing new design. ... The removed damage terrazzo is recycled into the new designs in a random pattern for the backgrounds and new terrazzo added for color with highlights in Venetian glass." <sup>14</sup>

The new design incorporated flower and animal motifs. (**Fig. 11**) In order to keep cars out of the promenades, a low stepped barrier was incorporated to the border. It provides seating when parades or activities run along Ponce de Leon Avenue (**Fig. 12**).

Fig. 11 Detail of the old and new terrazzo, 2007.

Fig 12. Low step wall, along Ponce de Leon Avenue, 2007.

<sup>14</sup> Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova, Architects. Luis Muñoz Rivera Park, Rehabilitation. Master Plan, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



Through the years, statuary has been incorporated to this promenade, many honoring Latin-American statesmen and heroes (**Fig. 13**). Their placement has been sensibly located within the park.

Fig. 13 Photos of several Latin-American Statesmen and heroes along the south promenade



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Today, west of the central fountain, the original physical features and the layout of the master plan can still be found. As seen in Figures 14 and 15, the feeling of the original design and the intention of the designers has been preserved in the semicircular stair, the formal gardens, the plaza and the pavilion.

Fig. 14 Steps to Central Walkway, 1965.<sup>15</sup>



Fig. 15 Steps to Central Walkway, 2007



In 2003, architect Andrés Mignucci Giannoni intervened in the design of the park, adding a granite water fountain and re-pavement of the central walkway, the plaza and the north promenade with granite. It also, included a lighting distribution plan, which included re-placement of all light poles, new benches, trash cans, trees and a full renovation of the children's playground area.

Fig. 16. Plan, Andrés Mignucci, 2003. <sup>16</sup>

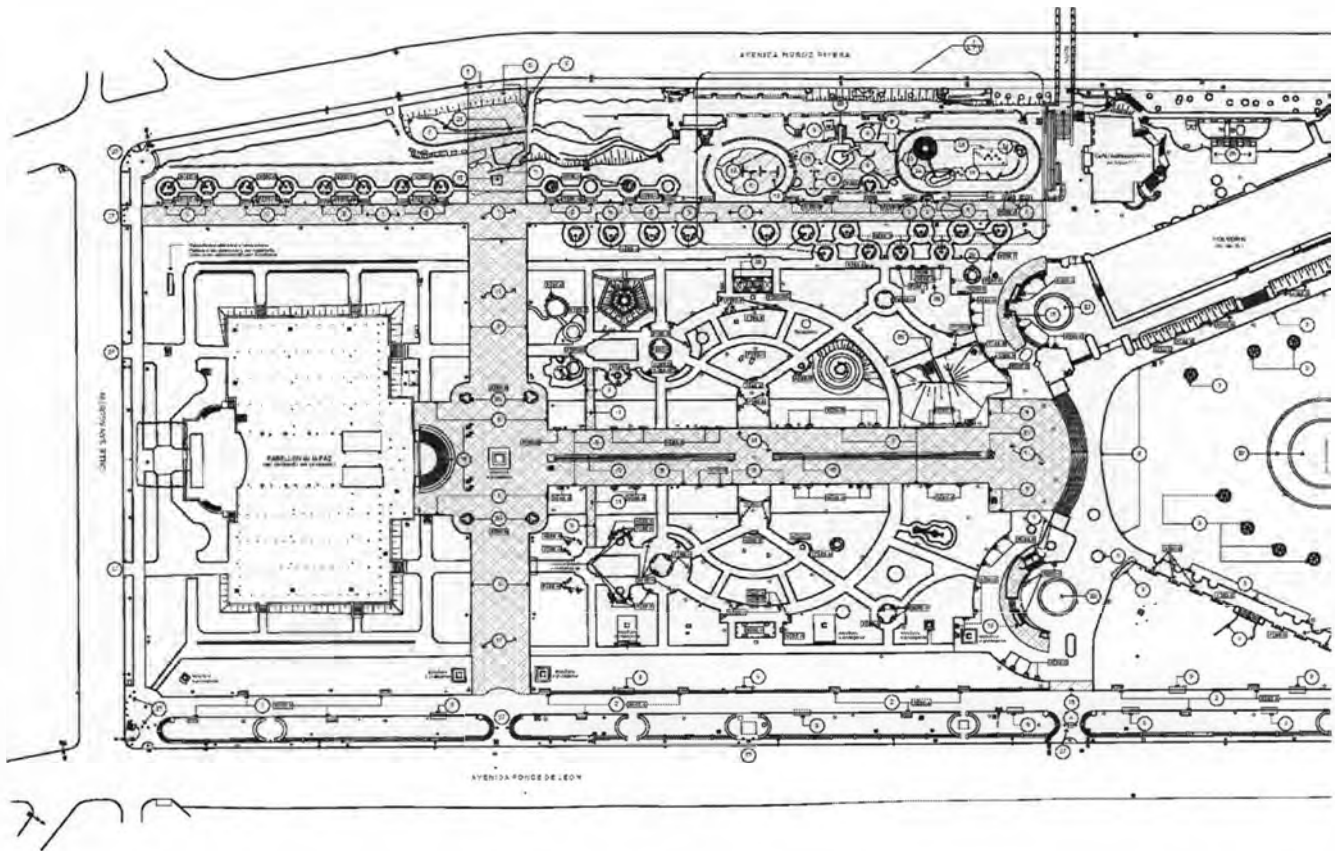
<sup>15</sup> El Mundo. 15 de enero de 1965.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



The stairs lead to the central walkway (Fig 16). It divides the north and south section of the formal gardens. The area was divided into small gardens, together forming an oval shape. Each garden was subdivided by narrow walkways made of concrete and shell side-curbs filled with gravel. Both sections incorporated water lily ponds (Fig.17). Today, they are used as planting areas (Fig. 18).

<sup>16</sup> Andrés Mignucci Giannoni, Architects. Luis Muñoz Rivera Park, Plan, 2003.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 17 Pyramid and Lotus Pool, 1965.<sup>17</sup>



Fig. 18 Pyramid and Lotus Pool, 2007.



Both garden areas also included vine covered, concrete faux-wooden pergolas and trellises, made by Victor Cott, that provided shaded areas, and quiet spaces to sit and spend a nice day at the park (Figs. 19 and 20).

Fig. 19 Gardens and covered pergolas, 1968.<sup>18</sup>



Fig. 20 Gardens and covered pergolas, 2007.



<sup>17</sup> Op. Cit. 21 de febrero de 1965.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. 12 de febrero de 1968.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 13

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

In a 1945 memorandum, Miguel Meléndez Ortiz, Director of the Park Commission, mentioned the addition of other added landscape features: the pond, the pyramid and the play area were completed by 1930; the guitar, the sundial and the compass by 1940 and the kiosks and the pavilion were finished by 1945.<sup>19</sup> Some of these original small scale objects are still visible within the park (**Figs. 21–22**).

Fig. 21 The Guitar, 2007.



Fig. 22. The Rose of the Winds (The Compass), 2007.



Fig. 23. The Pyramid, 2007.



Fig. 24 The Sundial, 2007.



<sup>19</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Fondo: Municipio de San Juan. Serie: Obras Municipales. Caja 231. 1945.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 14

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

At a given point in time, the Luis Muñoz Rivera statue, by sculptor Mr. José Buscaglia, was placed in the central fountain. Today, the central walkway culminates the west – east axis with said LMR statue, small plaza and pavilion (**Figs. 23 and 24**). The LMR statue was relocated to its present location under the artist's supervision as part of the 1990's intervention.

Fig. 25 LMR Statue, 2007.



Fig. 26 Entrance to the *Pabellón de la Paz*, 2007.



Although the pavilion was included in the original Bennett Parsons and Frost master plan, it was not constructed until 1988. Nevertheless, the pavilion area was always used. During the 1930s, an elevated podium intended to become the pavilion's base, was constructed and since used for cultural events. By the late 1940s, the area was used as a fair-ground that included a permanent carrousel and a Ferris wheel.

The existing pavilion was designed by Joaquin Ibañez, Maryan Alvarez, and Mario A. Corsino and Associates. The selection of materials integrated elegantly to the park. Constructed on top of the existing concrete podium, it is a green, cast-iron and steel frame building combined with a small steel and concrete volume that includes bathrooms and administrative facilities.

Along the **LMR Park**, approximately one thousand one hundred plant species can be found. The north promenade is enhanced by the *Casuarina pines* (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), and Sea grapes (*Coccoloba uvifera*) while the south promenade is distinguished by the Ficus Tree (*Ficus benjamina*). The central fountain area is surrounded by the Almond tree (*Prunus dulcis*). Among other species that can be found are the Maria Tree (*Calophyllum brasiliense*), the Coconut Palm (*Cocos nucifera*), the Oak Tree (*Tabebuia pentaphylla*) and the Paper Bark Tree (*Melaleuca leucadendron*).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 15

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

The **Luis Muñoz Rivera Park** is kept in excellent conditions. Although various projects have been executed through its seventy five year history, it has retained historic integrity. These projects have not altered the original Bennett, Parsons and Frost master plan. They have been performed in order to repair and maintain many of the original defining features such as: fountains, gardens, sidewalks, benches, trellises, and stairs. The non-intrusive addition of children's playgrounds has contributed to the continuous use of the park by making it attractive for the younger generation. Other projects have contributed to complete the original intentions of the designers like the 1988 pavilion construction.

The park is surrounded by some historic buildings. *The Archivo General y Biblioteca de Puerto Rico* runs parallel to the park's south promenade and was considered within the overall design of the master plan, which responds to its location. Also, the Normandie Hotel,<sup>20</sup> a historic Art-deco 1920's building, sits across the northeast corner of the park. The **LMR Park** has become a landmark around them.

The tree tunnel effect of the promenades has enhanced the travel experience on the main avenues; while allowing park visitors to enjoy activities within the park (**Figs. 27-29**).

Fig.27 Promenade, 1968.<sup>21</sup>



Fig. 28 North promenade, 2007



Fig. 29 South promenade, 2007



<sup>20</sup> The Normandie Hotel was included in the National Register of Historic Places on August 29, 1980.

<sup>21</sup> *El Mundo*. 16 de noviembre de 1968.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 16

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Architect Otto Reyes' project recognized the special qualities of the park when he reported, in his 1990-1992 master plan intervention, the following:

"The clarity of the original design became apparent, making it possible to properly weight the historic evaluation of the park. The complexity of the critical choice: what is valid, what remains, became a fascinating challenge. Never before, had we, as architects, tackled a project apparently contradictory: preserve the fragile historical features, but developed the park for large crowds; provide for access, safety, security and modern conveniences, but save the historic period quality; standardize but yet exalted the hand-crafted qualities and even reproduce despite the lack of skilled labor." <sup>22</sup>

The repetition of materials, used on the subsequent interventions has been an important factor. The use of concrete, stone and terrazzo, and their combination, on all elements of the park (pavement, curbs, bases, fountains, and ornaments: the pyramid, the guitar, the sundial and the compass) allowed its integration to the original design, while distinguishing the original features. They have also contributed to maintain the overall feeling of its design so unique to this site.

The **LMR Park** is an extraordinary example of a well developed landscape master plan that through several interventions has maintained its most essential elements: its overall layout, its fountains, its promenades, stairs, pathways and gardens. All of these elements stressed the symmetrical layout that emphasis the neoclassical design and the theories of the City Beautiful Movement. So far, interventions have allowed space for the new needs of the population, like the case of the zoo, the court building and the pavilion, without affecting the spatial sequence and quality of the design.

The site is an amazing model of balance between the historic design and new needs that arise with the passage of time. Considering security aspects, administrative and storage facilities needs while maintaining equilibrium between the old and the new, is one of the most difficult challenges an architect will encounter. The **LMR Park** has retained the character defining features and historic integrity that makes the space so unique and important to the community and the citizens of the island.

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<sup>22</sup> Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova. Luis Muñoz Rivera Plan, Rehabilitation. Master Plan, 1992.

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.
- 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.

#### Areas of Significance

Landscape Architecture  
Social History

**Period of Significance**

1926 - 1945

**Significant Dates**

1932

**Significant Person**

N / A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N / A

**Architect/Builder**

Bennett Parsons & Frost, Architects  
Valines Cofresí, Francisco  
Sifontes, Orval  
Reyes Casanova, Otto  
Mignucci Giannoni, Andrés

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See Continuation Sheets)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

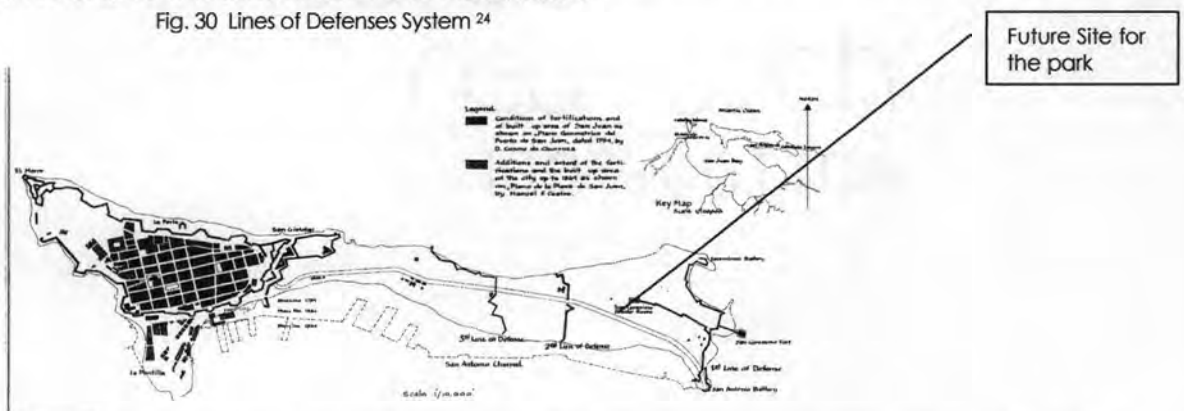
NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The **Luis Muñoz Rivera Park** has statewide significance under Criterion C in the category of Landscape Architecture as the oldest and most important suburban park in Puerto Rico. It represents the introduction and most significant application of the City Beautiful Movement and its architectural language within the local context. The plan for the park was laid out in 1924 by the Chicago landscaping firm Bennett Parsons and Frost, considered one of the most important exponents of the City Beautiful Movement. The **LMRP** is also significant under Criterion A in the category of Social History as its construction implied and embodied a new perspective, within the official managerial establishment, that gave importance to the development of open spaces because of its symbiotic relation with the population's welfare.

Historical Background and Significance

Since the official establishment of San Juan in 1521, Puerta de Tierra became an extremely important area for the city. It was the land bridge that connected the city with the main island; becoming an agricultural and cattle sector whose products were vital to the city's population. It also became extremely significant for defensive purposes. By the 19th century, the entire sector was comprised within the Lines of Defense system, a very important element of the strategic military infrastructure developed within the islet since the 1500s (Fig. 30). For these reasons, Puerta de Tierra came under total control of the military and became one of the so-called "Polemic Areas".<sup>23</sup>

Fig. 30 Lines of Defenses System<sup>24</sup>



<sup>23</sup> Sepúlveda Rivera y Silvia Álvarez Curbelo. *De "Zona Polémica" a Barrio. Puerta de Tierra y el nacimiento de un espacio urbano en San Juan.* San Juan: la ciudad que rebasó sus murallas. National Park Service, Department of the Interior Fort San Cristobal.

<sup>24</sup> Historic American Buildings Survey. Fragments of Outer Defenses. HABS-PR-53.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

As the population grew within the limited walled city space, Puerta de Tierra became an escape valve to the overcrowded town. Pressed by the growing population and the civil government, the military authorities relinquished control of part of the sector; it was segregated in lots to be sold and leased by the city's officials. An imaginary line was traced parallel to the Central Road, departing from the eastern entrance of the city wall, all the way to San Antonio Bridge.<sup>25</sup> The lands ceded were comprised to the South of that line, between the Second and Third Lines of Defense (**Fig. 31**).

Fig. 31 Detail of 1888 map that shows urban development south of Central Road within 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lines of Defenses.<sup>26</sup>



Most of the people that settled on in this sector belonged to the lower socio-economic echelon. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Puerta de Tierra was definitely a *barrio obrero* (workers ward). In 1898, Puerto Rico was transferred to the United States as part of the clauses of the Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish American War. This event had a significant impact in the area as new social, political and economic forces were set in motion. Between 1899 and 1910, Puerta de Tierra's population went from 5,453 to 10,936.<sup>27</sup> The sector became even more proletarian as the ward integrated a large amount of laborers that arrived to work in the newly established American factories nearby.

<sup>25</sup> The east entrance to the city through the wall system was called "La Puerta de Santiago" (Santiago's Gate). Popularly, this entrance was referred to as "La Puerta de Tierra" (Land's Gate) because it was the access to the narrow strip of land that eventually took the gate's name.

<sup>26</sup> Archivo General Militar de Madrid. Sección de Ultramar del Ministerio de la Guerra. Expediente 5618.03. 1888.

<sup>27</sup> Aníbal Sepúlveda y Jorge Carbonell. *San Juan Extramuros. Iconografía para su estudio*. Centro de Investigaciones CARIMAR. Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica. 1990. Pp. 52.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 19

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Meanwhile, "on the other side of the track", another world developed. In the northern sector of Puerta de Tierra, the lands that remained under the Spanish military control were transferred to the new American military authorities after 1898.<sup>28</sup> During the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some of this land was transferred to the civil government. The government used the northern sector of the Ponce de León Avenue for the construction of institutional buildings: the José Julian Acosta High School in 1907, the YMCA Building in 1912, the Casino de Puerto Rico in 1917, the Carnegie Library in 1915, the Ateneo Puertorriqueño Building in 1924, the José Celso Barbosa High School in 1924, the State Capitol in 1925-29 and the School of Tropical Medicine Building in 1926.

Government ordinances were passed in 1917 to create an "official façade" along the Ponce de Leon Avenue, regulating the use of the space along the old road. No tenement houses could be constructed except on land lying on the southern side of the avenue.<sup>29</sup> All buildings had to be of either brick, stone or concrete masonry and could not cost less than \$ 5,000 dollars. The Old Central Road became a class-dividing-line that separated two different worlds facing each other. It was precisely during 1917 that the first official proposal for the establishment of the **Luis Muñoz Rivera Park** arose as a direct result of this redefinition of the civic space.

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park

On November 20, 1917, Senator Mariano Abril presented to the Legislature a project titled "Law for Establishing, Fomenting and Maintaining a Public Park in the Municipality of San Juan, P.R., to be called Luis Muñoz Rivera Park".<sup>30</sup> On November 30, of the same year, Governor Arthur Yager signed the bill which became Law Number 43 of 1917 establishing in May 6, 1918, the Park Commission. The original Commission was composed by the Mayor of San Juan, the Commissioner of the Interior and the City Engineer.<sup>31</sup> By 1919, Law Number 40 designated a twenty-seven-acre lot located between the old First and Second Line of Defense as the site for the park. The lot was part of the federal lands at the eastern end of the islet (**Fig. 32**).

<sup>28</sup> Annual Report of the Navy Department, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. pp. 28.

<sup>29</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Municipio de San Juan. Caja 240. Informe: Committee on Public Lands and Mining. 1917.

<sup>30</sup> Luis Muñoz Rivera (July 17, 1859 – November 15, 1916) was a poet, journalist and one of the most important statesman of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>31</sup> In 1918 the City Mayor was Roberto H. Todd, Guillermo Esteves was the Commissioner of the Interior and Miguel Ferrer was the City Engineer.

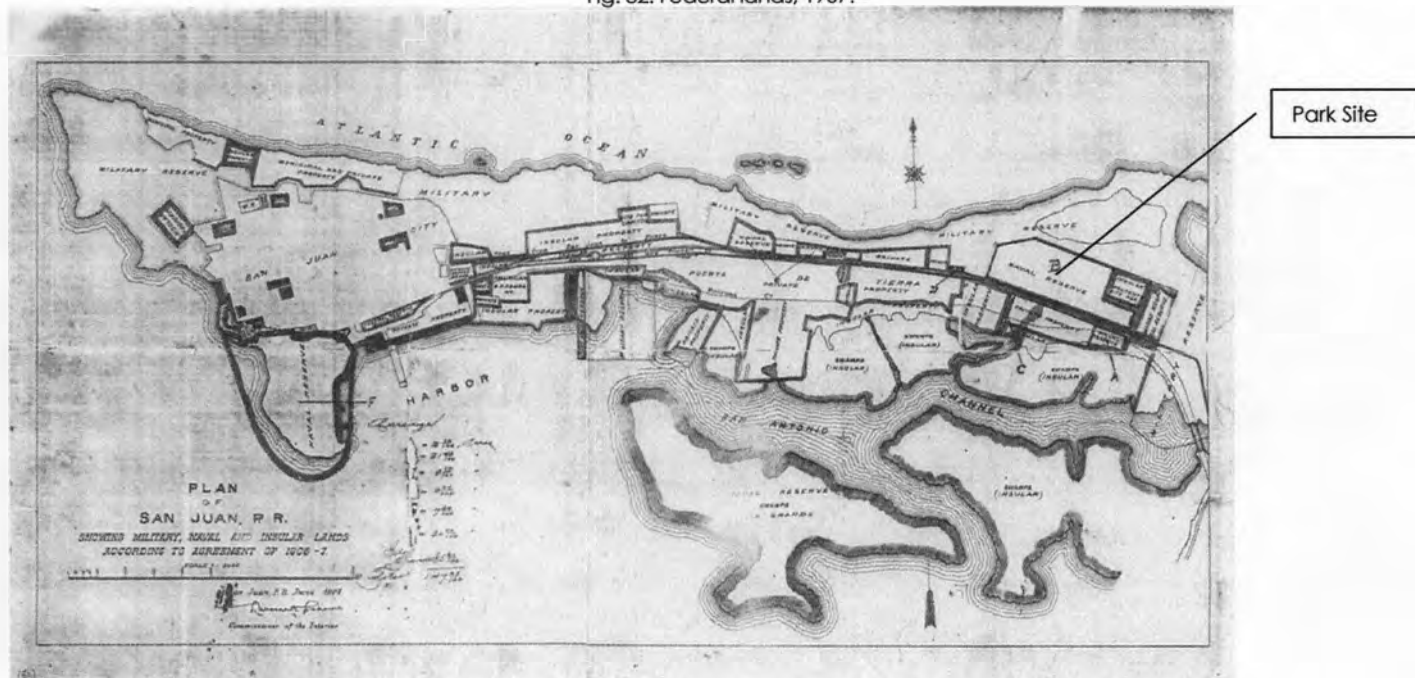
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 32. Federal lands, 1907.<sup>32</sup>



The site selection was not arbitrary. Located at the very entry access to the islet, coming from the mainland, the park would be the *entrance hall* to the *official space* envisioned by the government representatives and embodied in the 1917's ordinances. The construction of the park at that specific site began the sequence of institutional and monumental buildings running along the northern side of Ponce de León Avenue.

However, other aspects were considered. That particular area was already being used for recreational purposes, officially and unofficially. Although the land was part of the Federal Reserved Lands, the site was an open ground used by the nearby working class residents. In a way, by selecting this site, the State legislature was ratifying a popular practice already established. An improvised baseball field had

<sup>32</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Mapoteca. Plan of San Juan, P.R. Showing Military, Naval and Insular Lands According to Agreement of 1906-07. San Juan, P.R. June 1907.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

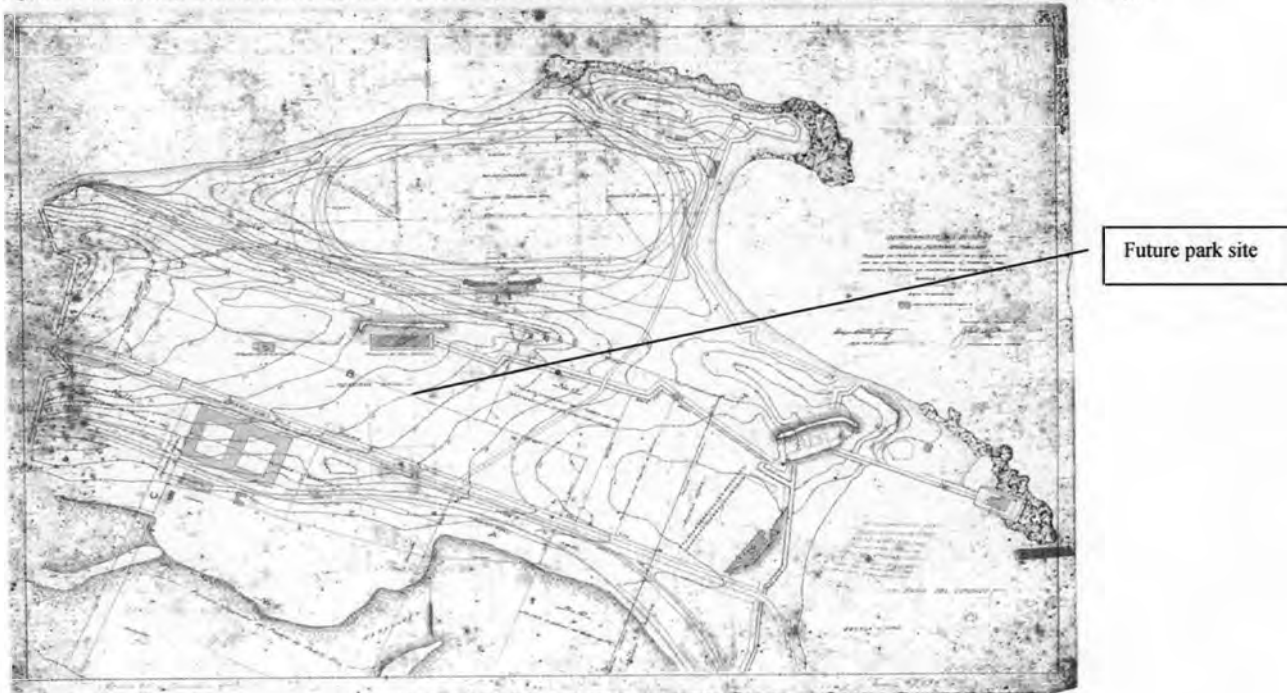
Section 8 Page 21

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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been "built" on the western side of the grounds during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since 1913, the Insular Fair Board was renting part of the lot to conduct their annual festivities and had constructed a variety of buildings around the 18<sup>th</sup> Century San Gerónimo Powderhouse. The Fair also took over the improvised baseball park where it built a small grandstand. A horse racetrack was also operating on the northern side of the selected area (**Fig. 33**).

Fig. 33 A 1912 map shows at the center the future park site with the Powderhouse Building, the racetrack at the top.<sup>33</sup>



By 1923, the Park Commission requested an emission of bonds to come up with the 200,000 dollars necessary to initiate the construction. The city of San Juan responded with a contribution of 100,000 dollars to pair-off an equal amount assigned by the Legislature. By 1924, the prestigious Chicago architectural firm Bennett, Parsons & Frost was contracted to make the initial designs for the park. The contracting of the firm was extremely relevant. It represented the insertion of the City Beautiful

<sup>33</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Mapoteca. Departamento del Interior. División de Terrenos Públicos. San Juan, P.R. Febrero 15, 1912. Interesting about this map also is the strong presence of the remnants of the First and Second Line of Defense still visible at the time.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 22

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Movement ideology within the local urban planning.<sup>34</sup> Bennett Parsons & Frost was a main protagonist in the development and implementation of the postulates of the movement.

The City Beautiful was a reform movement in architecture and urban planning that flourished in the United States during the 1890s and 1900s. Its intent was to use beautification and monumental grandeur within cities to counteract what was perceived as the moral decay of poverty-stricken urban areas. The movement did not seek beauty for its own sake, but rather as a social-control device that pretended the advancement of moral and civic virtue among urban populations. Advocates of the movement believed that such beautification could provide a harmonious social order that would improve the lives of the inner-city poor.<sup>35</sup>

Other important aspect of the City Beautiful Movement, especially within the local context, was its political discourse. The application of the movement's postulates within the recently acquired colonies (Puerto Rico in the Caribbean and the Philippines in the Pacific) implied a transfer of the American values to the new territories. In both cases (PR and the Philippines) the creation of these parks embodied the transfer of the democratic perspective of the use of the civic space in contrast with the restrictive language represented by the Spanish colonial architecture and the Spanish military control of the public space.

The ideological stand-point of the City Beautiful Movement was related to the social and political aspirations of the local state-power-brokers. The government project of creating an official façade along the northern sector of the Old Central Road was now complemented with the social postures and intentions of the City Beautiful Movement. It helped the government officials in their intentions of creating a world according to their image to counteract, mitigate and control the social presence of the suburban poor of Puerta de Tierra.

With Bennett Parsons & Frost the island received a design that reflected not only the social postures, but also the architectural language of the City Beautiful Movement. The particular architectural style of the movement borrowed heavily from the Beaux-Arts Movement, which emphasized the necessity of order, dignity and harmony. It also borrowed from classical monumental planning, but only partially. The

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<sup>34</sup> William E. Parsons became directly involved with the park project. He also was designated by Governor Horace M. Towner to develop the plans for the University of Puerto Rico, the State Penitentiary and the State Capitol's gardens. In that sense, through Parson, the City Beautiful Movement concepts became deeply rooted within the local official planning. María Luisa Moreno, *La Arquitectura de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras*. San Juan: Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2000.

<sup>35</sup> William H. Wilson. *The City Beautiful Movement. Creating the North American Landscape*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1989.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

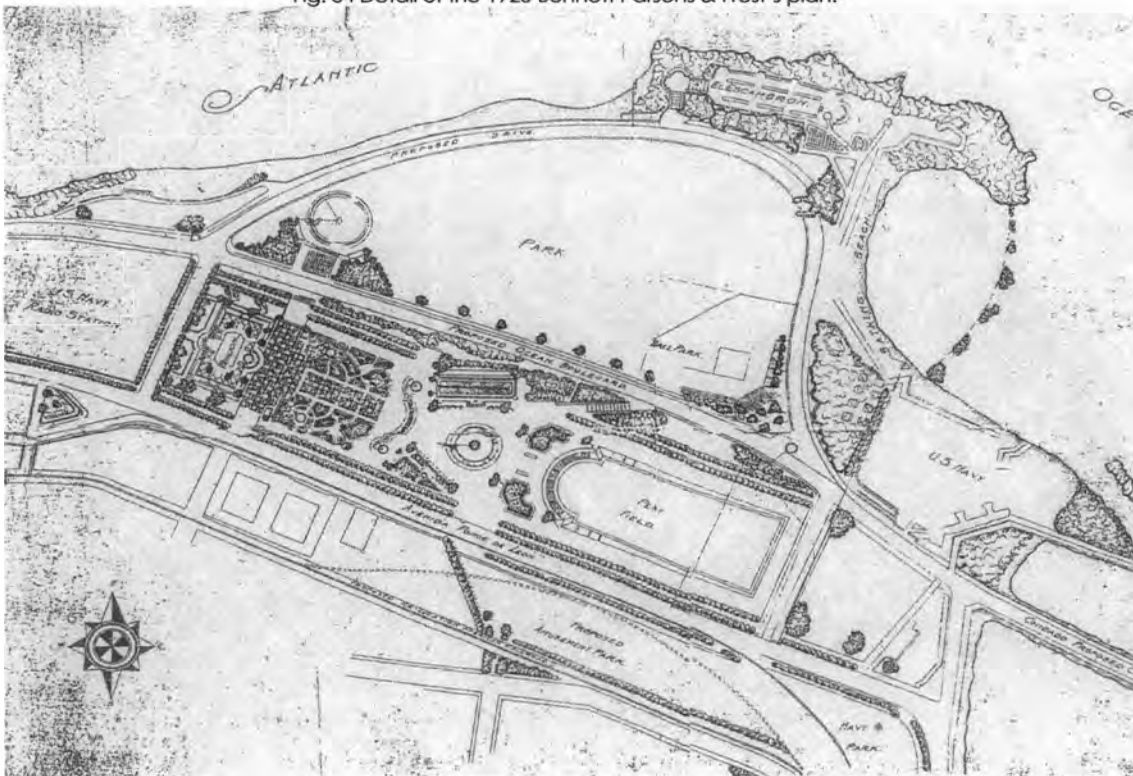
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 23

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

classical and the neoclassical idiom mixed with the Beaux-Arts elements as a mean of creating uniformity and harmony in style.<sup>36</sup>

Fig. 34 Detail of the 1925 Bennett Parsons & Frost's plan.<sup>37</sup>



The original plan requires a close appreciation. As illustrated in **Fig. 34**, it included a design for an area wider than the one originally associated with the park, an additional forty (40) acres of land that extended all the way to the shore line of the Escambrón beach.<sup>38</sup> The design also included some already existing facilities and structures: the baseball field, the military pavilion and the San Gerónimo

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>37</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Mapoteca. A Study of a Plan for Muñoz Rivera Park at San Juan Porto Rico. Bennett Parsons & Frost, Consulting Architects. Chicago, USA. March 1925.  
<sup>38</sup> In 1925, by means of Law No. 33, the Legislature authorized the Park Commission to acquire a lot of 42 acres, north of the initial parcel. This lot was acquired through an exchange of lots between the federal and local government. In exchange for the Escambrón area, the Legislature ceded to the Federal Reserve the lot of the future site of Fort Buchanan. Maria Eugenia Estades Font, *La presencia militar de Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico 1898-1918. Intereses estratégicos y dominación colonial*. Río Piedras: Ediciones Huracán, 1999. pp. 97-117.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

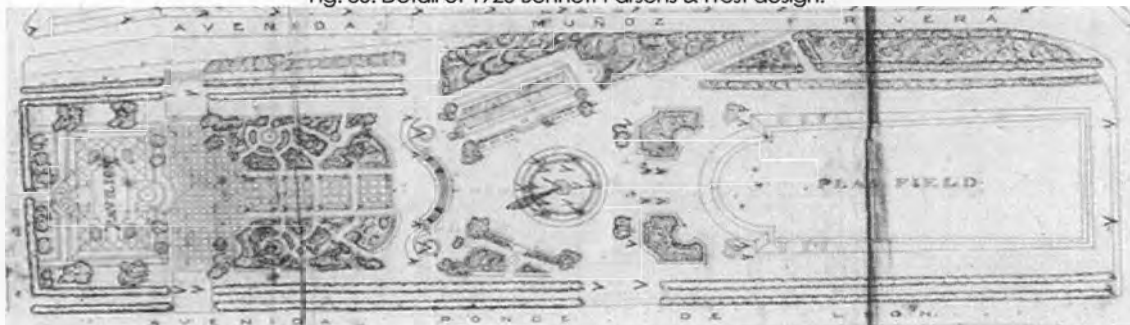
Section 8 Page 24

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Powderhouse. The inclusion of the Magazine had a significant impact on the plan. The position of the building in relation to the longitudinal axis of the area resulted in two major diagonal axes in the design of the park that converge at the east end of the Paseo Central, a geometric feature present until now. Very significant also is the proposed Ocean Boulevard (later Muñoz Rivera Avenue). The proposed road served not only as an access route to the complex, but also as a park-dividing-line based on functionality. The boulevard created two parks: an actively recreational area (the Escambrón sector) and a passive area. The proposed boulevard ran parallel to the Ponce de Leon Avenue. This formed a convenient and workable rectangular grid, reminiscent of other William Parsons' interventions in Chicago, Washington D.C. and the Philippines. The rectangular shape facilitated the possibility of constructing a symmetrical design for the passive park (**Fig. 35**).

Fig. 35. Detail of 1925 Bennett Parsons & Frost design.<sup>39</sup>



On November 1, 1926, the works at the **LMRP** were initiated.<sup>40</sup> From this date until the end of 1932, works of land leveling, drainage, road building, placing the walkways, planting the gardens and groves were undertaken. The general design of the master plan prepared by the consultant architects from Chicago was strongly followed.

<sup>39</sup> Op. Cit.

<sup>40</sup> In 1927 the park area and all structures within, except the San Geronimo Powder Magazine, were bulldozed. This included all structures owned by the Insular Fair. *El Imparcial*, February 23, 1927. pp. 6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 25

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

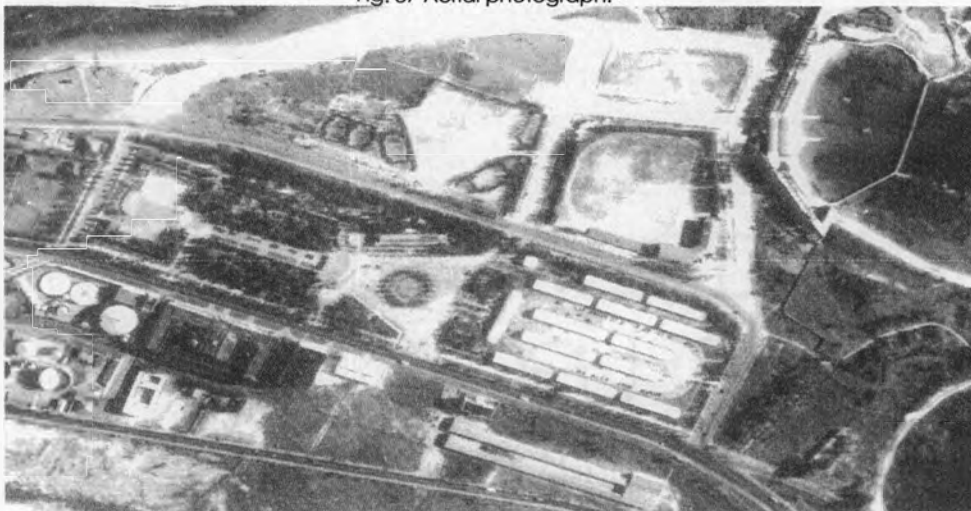
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A simultaneous look of the 1925 plan and a 1937 aerial photograph of the site, evidence the proximity between the original design and the actual work carried out (**Fig. 36- 37**).

Fig. 36. Original master plan.



Fig. 37 Aerial photograph.<sup>41</sup>



<sup>41</sup> Autoridad de Carreteras y Transportación. Oficina de Fotogrametría. Foto Aérea, 1937.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 26

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

=====

The long buildings seen in the 1937 aerial photograph belonged to the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration (PRRA). In 1935, the PRRA built these thirteen wooden sheds to be used as their headquarters and garages. The structures occupied an area of 9.2 acres across the playing-field and its banks, thus avoiding the trees and terrazzo walks to the north and south.

Besides the Bennett, Parsons & Frost proposals, other elements were added during construction and within the first years after its inauguration. Some of those elements became a trademark of the park and adds to its charm and historic value of the site. In 1940, the publication "American Guide Series: Puerto Rico: a Guide to the Island of Borinquén," described some of those added ornaments:

Muñoz Rivera Park is one of the garden spots of the West Indies. Among the many attractions are two pools filled with the exotic lotus and other water lilies; a hedge trimmed in the form of a guitar; another hedge trimmed to form the "LMR"; vine-covered paths; numerous benches; a great variety of tropical plants, flowers and trees; and an splendid view of the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>42</sup>

Fig. 38. Cott' style Benches



Mainly, these changes are to be accredited to Francisco Valines Cofresí, Park Administrator since its construction until the mid 1940s. Valines was responsible for adding significant elements such as the pools, water fountains, the pyramid, and special landscape features such as the guitar, the sundial, the snail, kiosks and others. It was Valines who contracted the services of local artisan/sculptor, Víctor Cott.<sup>43</sup> Cott made his contributions in the benches, fountains, pergolas and trellises placed within the park. The benches along the promenades were designed by Bennett Parsons & Frost following, and in accordance, with the neo-Classical design. However, Cott's pieces followed the lines of

another style: picturesque. Cott's additions had a rustic faux-wooden appearance, made out of molded cement over a wire and mesh frame (Fig. 38). Today, Cott's work throughout the entire park remains intact.

<sup>42</sup> *Puerto Rico: A guide to the Island of Borinquén*. American Guide Series. Prepared by the PRRA and the Writers Program of the Work Projects Administration, and sponsored by the Department of Education, Puerto Rico. 1940. pp. 221.

<sup>43</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Fondo: Obras Públicas. Revista de Obras Públicas, Agosto 1934.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 27

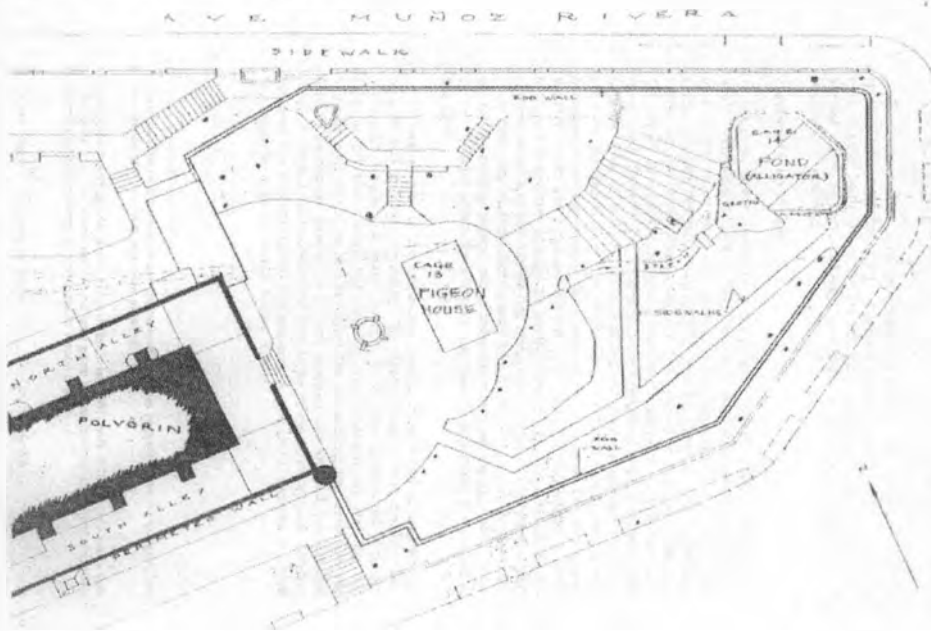
Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 39. Natural History Museum at San Gerónimo, 1939.<sup>44</sup>



Other elements added to the park during the 1930s and 1940s were a Natural History Museum inside the old San Gerónimo Powderhouse and a zoological park (within its surrounding premises). The Park Administrator at that time, Francisco Valines Cofresí, may have developed the Museum of Natural History around 1932. Certainly, by 1939 the magazine complex had seen substantial alteration (Fig. 39). As part of the conversion, the building was provided with internal partitions and one new entrance in the center of the south side.

Fig. 40 Detail of the Zoo diagram.



By the mid 1940s, the director of the Insular Park Service, Miguel A. Barasorda, initiated plans to create a zoological garden within the magazine surroundings. Again, the zoo cages were built in the Victor Cott's trademark faux-wood style. Between 1945 and 1946, Barasorda managed the importation permits necessary to acquire specimens collected in expeditions conducted at the Orinoco and Amazonas River basins. Tamandaras, marsupials, South American porcupines, monkeys, parrots, anaconda

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. Pp. 88

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 28

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

snakes, toucans, alligators, and others, were brought for the amazement of the **LMRP** visitors.<sup>45</sup> The area selected for its establishment was the north-east corner of the Powderhouse Building (**Fig. 40**).

The PPRA volume, "Puerto Rico: a guide to the Island of Borinquén", gives the following description of the museum complex by 1940:

"The Polvorín is now used as a Museum of natural History, and contains minerals found in the Island, archeological specimens, stuffed birds, animals, and fish. Outside are cages of live animals, birds, and reptiles. The building is surrounded by a profusion of trees and flowering shrubs."<sup>46</sup>

Fig. 41 Hippies at the Park, 1969.<sup>47</sup>



Through the next decades, the **Luis Muñoz Rivera Park** became an important element in the social life of the surrounding population, and to those beyond the islet. It became a green lung within an increasingly asphalted city. The park became the perfect setting for concerts, local carnivals, political rallies, official ceremonies, or just for a romantic Sunday stroll. It became the stage for activities ranging from being the meeting place for the counterculture hippies (during the 1960s) to being a place for official government ceremonies, including the swearing in of the new Governor (in 2004) (**Figs 41-42**).

Fig. 42 Official government ceremony, 2007



<sup>45</sup> Archivo General de Puerto Rico. Fondo: Obras Municipales, San Juan. Creación del Parque Zoológico en el Parque Luis Muñoz Rivera. Legajo 62t. Caja 329A. During the 1960s, the Zoo was dismantled. All the animals were sent to the Mayaguez Zoo.

<sup>46</sup> *Puerto Rico: A guide to the Island of Borinquén...* pp. 224.

<sup>47</sup> *El Mundo*. 4 de octubre de 1969. pp. 6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 29

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Fig. 43 Partial view of the pavilion, 2007.



As the park diversified in functions, and as time and the unmerciful tropical weather took their toll on its different components, renovations were required. Three major interventions have been made in the park through its history. The first one was in 1988 with the construction of the new pavilion, known as "The Pavilion of Peace" (Fig. 43). The building is located at the western end of the park, at the very same place originally suggested in the Bennett Parsons & Frost 1924 design.<sup>48</sup> Its location, at the end of the main axis, creates an image of a Mall, with the pavilion as the dominant feature. However, its low level height and the absence of

enclosed walls help to maintain a feeling of openness and lightness, that is non-intrusive to the overall park design.

Fig. 44 El Mirador (the Look Out) 2007



Fig. 45 Administration Building, 2007



Next, came the 1990-1992 intervention by Architect Otto Reyes Casanova. The intervention was a major overhaul, as the park was showing serious physical damage.<sup>49</sup> Research was conducted to determine the presence of historic elements at the park. Those properly identified

(benches, walkways grid lines, physical ornaments, and others) were kept and restored.<sup>50</sup> A tree inventory was also conducted and identified the presence of 948 trees of 53 different species. Twenty nine sick trees were removed and substituted by new ones; gravel was added within the gardens. An extensive work on the walkways resulted on the replacement of the old terrazzo portions identified as damaged. A totally new structure was added: *El Mirador* (Fig. 44) and a second level, to be used as a café, was added to the existing Park Administration Building (Fig. 45).

<sup>48</sup> The architects responsible for the pavilion's design were Joaquin Ibañez Montoya, Maryan Alvarez Builla and Mario A. Corsino.

<sup>49</sup> In 1989, the park was heavily damaged by Hurricane Hugo.

<sup>50</sup> Thomas Addyman. Parque Luis Muñoz Rivera. Stage 1ª and Stage 1B. Archeological and Investigation Report. Otto Octavio Reyes Casanova, Arquitectos. November 1991 – April 1992. June 1992.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 30

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

=====

Fig. 46. Lineal water Fountain in Center Court, 2007



The last major intervention was done in 2003, under the guidance of architect Andrés Mignucci Giannoni. All lighting fixtures were replaced with new ones brought from Italy. More than two hundred trees were planted. The largest structural change done by Mignucci was the renovation of the central walkway by means of the addition of a lineal black-granite water fountain that runs through the central axis of the park (**Fig. 46**).

The most significant addition to the park, was done earlier, in the 1950s. In 1954, the terrain used by the PRRA was ceded to be the site of the Supreme Court Building. Although not damagely intrusive, more than four acres were lost to the court's complex.

Surviving the tropical weather, encroachments and interventions, the **LMRP** has kept its historic and physical integrity. The park retains its spatial relationships, its original property boundaries, its topography/grading, its design intent and most of its site-furnishing and architectural features. Just as important, the park has kept that special feeling and atmosphere that keeps people coming back to it: the numerous daily runners that exercise around the park perimeter, the young aspirants models that come to do their first photo-shooting, the old-men that want to quietly read their Sunday newspaper, or that young couple that wants to take advantage of the intimate corners for their wedding photo-album (**Figs. 47-49**). The passive quality of the **LMRP** is a nostalgic reminiscence of a gone quality of life.

Fig. 47 Walkway, 2007



Fig. 48. Playground, 2007



Fig. 49 Main water fountain, 2007



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 31

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

=====

Presently administered by the *Compañía de Parques Nacionales*, the **LMRP** is our most historic and significant suburban park.<sup>51</sup> For Puerto Ricans, it is what Central Park is for New Yorkers.

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<sup>51</sup> *Compañía de Parques Nacionales* was created in 1988 to safeguard the island's natural heritage. Along with Muñoz Rivera Park, the agency administers Luí Muñoz Marín Park, Julio Enríquez Monagas Park, Laguna del Condado Park, Plaza La Libertad, Enrique Martí Coll Lineal Park, Plaza Las Nereidas and Río Camuy Cave Park.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 32

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

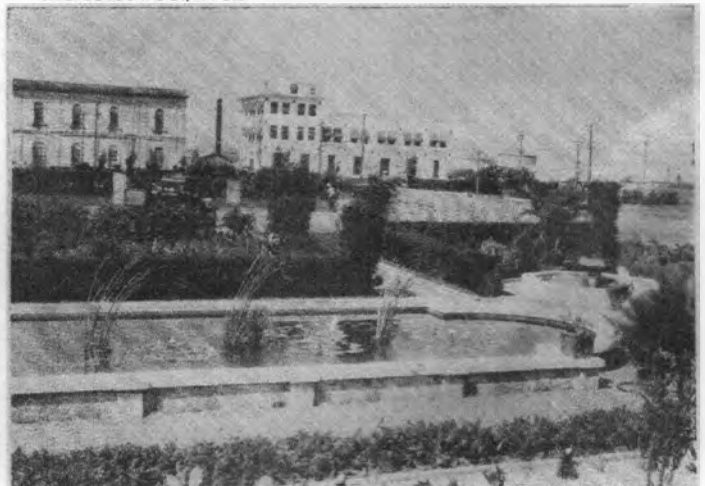
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Historic and Present Partial Views of the Luis Muñoz Rivera Park

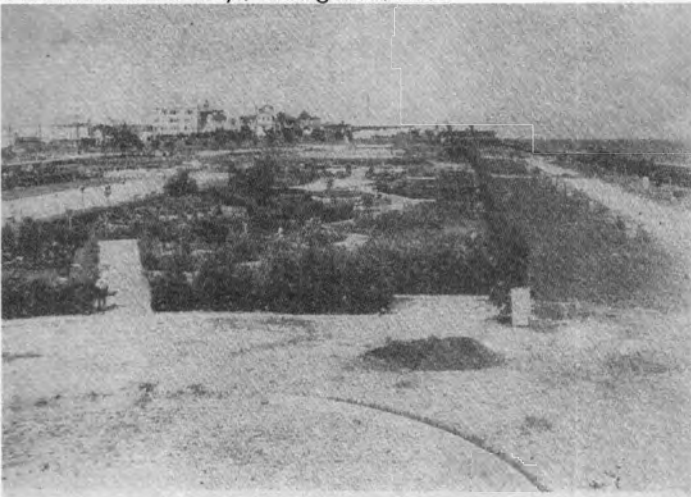
Fountain and pyramid, 1930



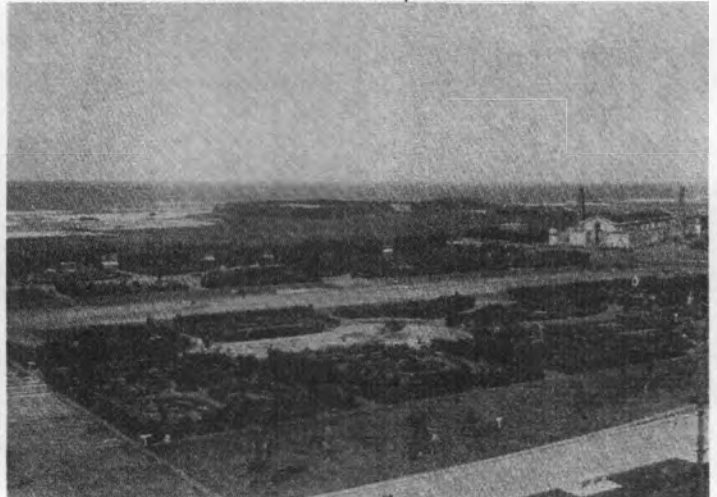
The Lotus Pool, 1932



Gardens and walkways, looking west, 1930.



Western end of the park, 1930.



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

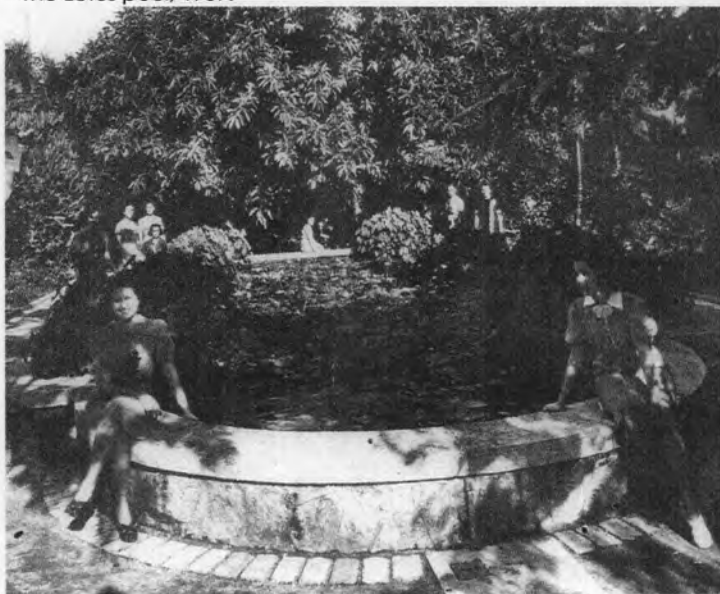
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 33

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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The Lotus pool, 1939.



Water fountain, 1939.



Gardens, 1939



Walkway, 1939.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 34

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

---

The Snail, 2007.



The pyramid, 2007.



Gardens and walkways, 2007.



Gardens and walkways, 2007.





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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 35

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Cott's arched pergola and the old Lotus Pool, 2007



Cotts' faux-wood pergola, 2007.



Gardens and walkways with Cott's faux-wood benches, 2007.



Main walkway, northern axis, 2007.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 36

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Main promenade, southern axis, 2007.



Central promenade, 2007.



Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
 San Juan, Puerto Rico

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(See continuation sheets)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency: Archivo General de Puerto Rico
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University: University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus
- Other

Name of Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 27.2 -acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
1. 19	807030.09	2044190.25
2. 19	807158.60	2044162.74
3. 19	807555.61	2044168.39
4. 19	807600.77	2043949.95
5. 19	807551.68	2043826.01
6. 19	806973.39	2044050.56

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is historically associated with two lots register at the Puerto Rico Register of Property: 040-006-134-01 and 040-006-145-03.

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheets.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 37

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

**Primary Sources**

Álbum de Oro de Puerto Rico: obra de divulgación cultural en pro de la fraternidad americana. Golden Album of Puerto Rico: a work of intellectual propaganda for American fraternity. La Habana: Artes Gráficas, 1939.

Annual Report of the Navy Department, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899.

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Fondo: Obras Públicas. Serie: Municipio de San Juan. Caja 240. Informe: Committee on Public Lands and Mining. 1917.

Mapoteca. Plan of San Juan, P.R. Showing Military, Naval and Insular Lands According to Agreement of 1906-07. San Juan, P.R. June 1907.

Departamento del Interior. División de Terrenos Públicos. San Juan, P.R. Febrero 15, 1912.

A Study of a Plan for Muñoz Rivera Park at San Juan Porto Rico. Bennett Parsons & Frost, Consulting Architects. Chicago, USA. March 1925

Fondo: Obras Públicas. Revista de Obras Publicas. Ejemplares: Agosto 1929, Julio 1930, Octubre 1930, Agosto 1934.

Fondo: Municipio de San Juan. Serie: Obras Municipales. Caja 231. 1945.

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Expediente 5618.03. 1888

Autoridad de Carreteras y Transportación. Oficina de Fotogrametría. Foto aérea de 1937.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 38

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Newspapers.

El Imparcial. 23 de febrero de 1927.

El Mundo. 6 de enero de 1965 / 5 de mayo de 1965 / 30 de diciembre de 1967 / 2 de febrero de 1968 / 4 de octubre de 1969

Puerto Rico: A guide to the Island of Borinquén. American Guide series. Prepared by PRRA and the Writers Program of the Work Projects Administration. Department of Education, Puerto Rico. 1940.

**Secondary Sources**

Addyman, Thomas. Parque Luis Muñoz Rivera. Stage 1A and 1B. Archeological and Investigation Report. Otto Octavio Reyes, Arquitectos. November 1991-April 1992. June 1992.

Estades Font, Maria Eugenia. La presencia militar de Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico 1898-1918. Intereses estratégicos y dominación colonial. Río Piedras: Ediciones Huracán, 1999.

Historic American Buildings Survey. HABS-PR-53.

Moreno, Maria Luisa. La Arquitectura de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras. San Juan: Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2000.

Reyes Casanova, Otto Octavio. Luis Muñoz Rivera Plan, Rehabilitation. Master Plan, 1992.

Sepúlveda Rivera, Aníbal y Jorge Carbonell. San Juan Extramuros. Iconografía para su estudio. Centro de Investigaciones CARIMAR. Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica. 1990.

Sepúlveda Rivera, Aníbal y Silvia Álvarez Curbelo. De "Zona Polémica" a Barrio. Puerta de Tierra y el nacimiento de un espacio urbano en San Juan. San Juan: la ciudad que rebasó sus murallas. National Park Service. Department of the Interior.

Wilson, William H. The City Beautiful Movement. Creating the North American Landscape. New York: Harper Perennial, 1989.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 39

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Geographical Data



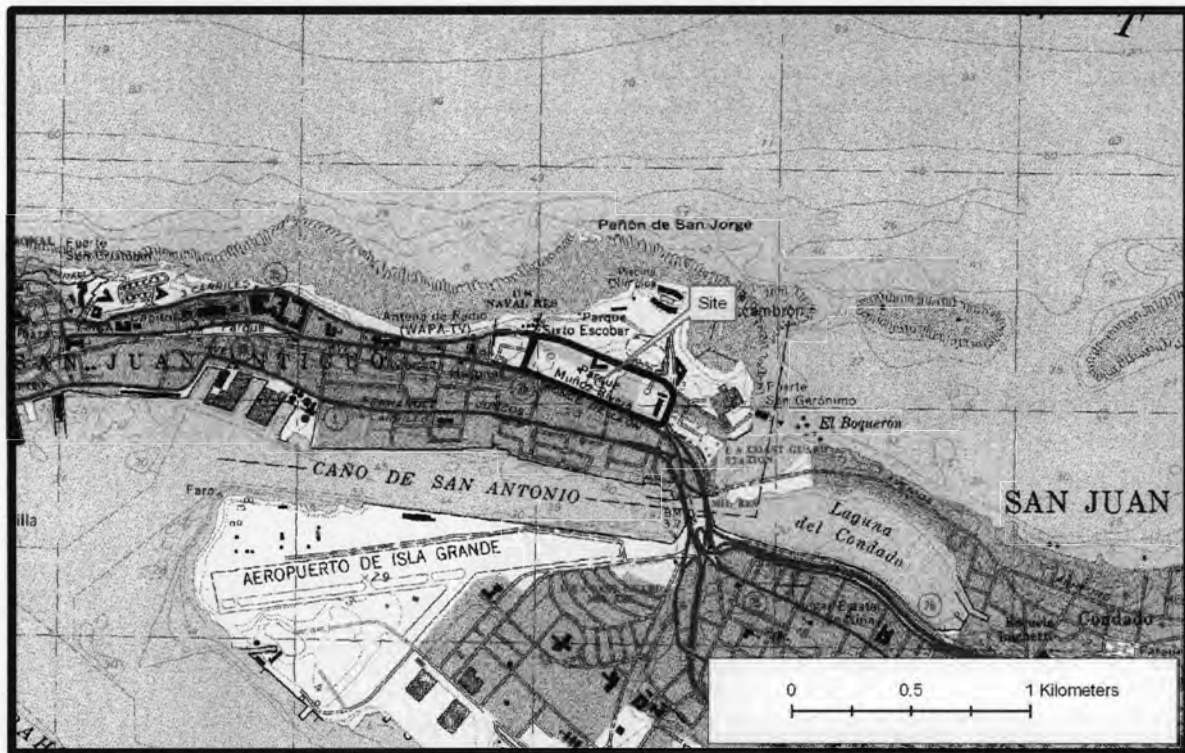
<p>Source: Government of Puerto Rico, (2002), Satellite Images.</p>	<p><b>Site Map</b> <b>Luis Muñoz Rivera Park</b> San Juan, Puerto Rico</p>	<p>oech shpo N W E S 1:5,000</p>
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 40

Luis Muñoz Rivera Park  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



	<p>Site Map <b>Luis Muñoz Rivera Park</b> San Juan, Puerto Rico</p>		  1:20,000
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Source: USGS (Photorevised 1962) Topographic Map of the San Juan Quadrangle

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### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Juan Llanes Santos/ Berenice R. Sueiro Vázquez State Historic Preservation Office

Technical assistance was provided by: Karen González, Deputy SHPO

organization Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

date September 25, 2007

street & number PO Box 9066581

telephone 787-721-3737

city or town San Juan

state PR

zip code 00906-6581

---

### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

### Property Owner

---

name Compañía de Parques Nacionales de Puerto Rico

street & number P.O. Box 9022089

telephone 787-622-5225

city or town San Juan

state PR

zip code 00902-2089

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number** 07001195

**Date Listed** 11/14/2007

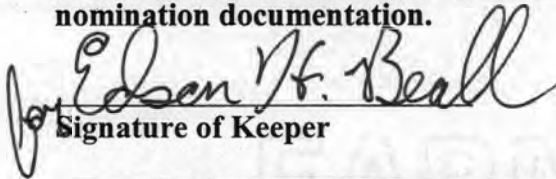
Rivera, Luis Munoz, Park  
**Property Name**

San Juan  
**County**

PR  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

  
**Signature of Keeper**

3-11-08  
**Date of Action**

The following resource count is hereby added, as it was omitted in the original nomination.

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Section 5. Classification; Number of Resources within Property**

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	0	2
sites	1	0
structures	0	1
objects	255	61

This information was confirmed by Jose Marull of PR SHPO by e-mail.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rivera, Luis Munoz, Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PUERTO RICO, San Juan

DATE RECEIVED: 10/01/07      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/22/07  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/06/07      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/14/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001195

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    11.14.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

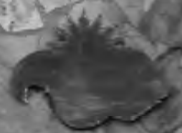
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

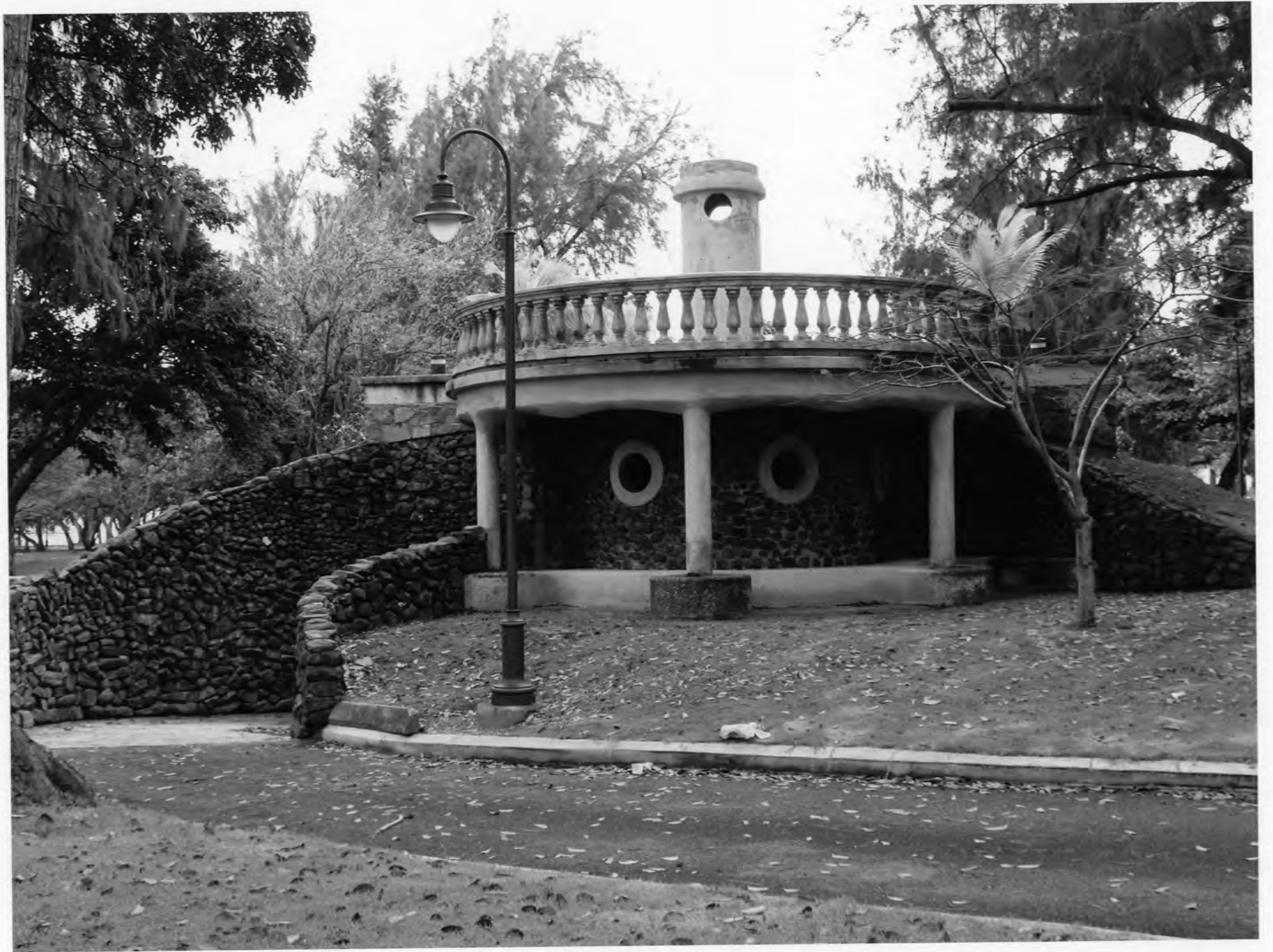


PARQUE LUIS MUÑOZ RIVERA



COMPANIA DE PARQUES NACIONALES







































































Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1963. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969

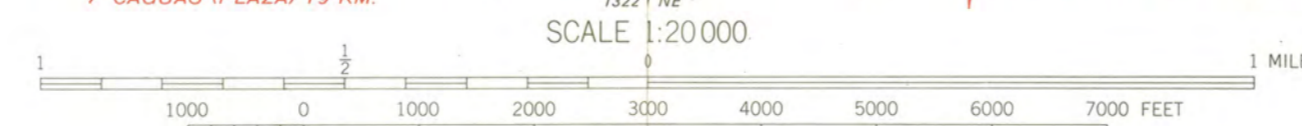
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 903 (1964) and  
908 (1965). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. Puerto Rico Datum, 1940 adjustment  
2000-meter grid ticks based on Puerto Rico coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19

Barrio and municipality boundaries by the Puerto Rico Planning Board  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial  
photographs taken 1977 and other sources. This information not  
field checked. Map edited 1982

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA, 22092  
AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, SAN JUAN, P. R. 00910  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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	

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Zone	E	N	
Point #1	19	807520.66	2411190.25
Point #2	15	807156.61	2404162.74
Point #3	19	807555.61	2404162.37
Point #4	19	807660.72	2411549.55
Point #5	19	807551.68	2413472.61
Point #6	19	807572.39	2411020.52

00714

SAN JUAN, P. R.  
N1822.5-W6600/7.5  
1969  
PHOTOREVISED 1982  
DMA 1323 II SE-SERIES E835



September 27, 2007

Ms. Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, D. C. 20005

**SUBMISSION – LUIS MUÑOZ RIVERA PARK**

Dear Ms. Snyder: *JAN*

We are pleased to submit for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places the nomination of the LUIS MUÑOZ RIVERA PARK, located in the Municipality of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

If you should have any questions on the nomination, please contact Mr. José E. Marull, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist.

Sincerely,

*Warm regards!*

Aida Belén Rivera Ruiz, Archaeologist  
State Historic Preservation Officer

ABRR/BRS/JLS/jvr

Enclosure

Dear Mr. Beall

Greetings...I have the count of resources for the LMR Park. I included the resources count in the corresponding page (page 3) without altering anything else...so I can send you the info through e-mail; fax or regular mail. Let me know...Good morning.....

-----Original Message-----

From: Edson\_Beall@nps.gov [mailto:Edson\_Beall@nps.gov]  
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:01 PM  
To: Juan Llanes  
Subject: Re: Resource Counts

Dear Juan Llanes,

Thank you for your e-mail. I'm sorry to say that I did not receive your 11/06/07 e-mail. However, it is not too late to add a resource count to the nomination. Below, I have copied the section of Bulletin 16A that deals with resource counts. You do not need to count every water fountain or park bench, but need to include contributing and non-contributing resources of "substantial size and scale".

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Edson Beall

"Juan Llanes"

<Edson\_Beall@nps.gov> <jllanes@prshpo.gobierno.pr> To:  
cc:  
Subject:

03/07/2008 02:36

PM AST

Dear Mr. Beall

Jose Marull forwarded your message to me concerning the resources count for LMR Park.

Sorry for the delay, but I didn't know that you was still waiting for an answer. I sent you a message on November 6, 2007 pertaining this subject.

In that message I informed you that, because the LMR Park was our first landscaping architecture property, I had doubts on how to detail the

contributing / non-contributing features. I contacted New York SHPO and they sent me the nomination for the Seneca Park. I followed their example in making a table on how to list the resources. There was no count in the Seneca's nomination.

On November 16, 2007 I contacted Mr. James Gabbert to find-out if you still needed the info about the park. He responded that you were absent that day and that the park was included on the 14th. So I concluded that the count was not longer necessary . My fault...

So..once again (as I asked on November 6)...Do you want the exact number of trellises, pergolas, benches, water fountains, etc...???...Is this count only for contributing elements or non-contributing as well???

With kind regards,

J. Llanes



LMR Park Page 3 Resource Count.doc



Edson Beall  
03/13/2008 11:24 AM  
EDT

To:  
cc:  
Subject: Fw: Resource Counts



"Juan Llanes"  
<jllanes@prshpo.gobier  
no.pr>  
03/11/2008 12:16 PM  
AST

To: <Edson\_Beall@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: RE: Resource Counts

Dear Mr. Beall

It was no problem...yesterday was a beautiful day to walk in the park...I didn't come back to the office.....

-----Original Message-----

From: Edson\_Beall@nps.gov [mailto:Edson\_Beall@nps.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:46 AM  
To: Juan Llanes  
Subject: RE: Resource Counts

Dear Juan Llanes,

Thank you for your quick response. E-mail is fine. I will add the information to the file and the NRIS.

Thanks again, Edson

Thank you for your interest in the preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Edson H. Beall  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
Washington, D.C.  
Phone: 202-354-2255  
Fax: 202-371-2229  
Web: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/>  
E-mail: Edson\_Beall@nps.gov

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

"Juan Llanes"

<Edson\_Beall@nps.gov>  
<jllanes@prshpo.g  
obierno.pr>  
Sueiro" <bsueiro@prshpo.gobierno.pr>

To:  
cc: "Berenice"  
Subject: RE: Resource

Counts

03/11/2008 08:57

AM AST