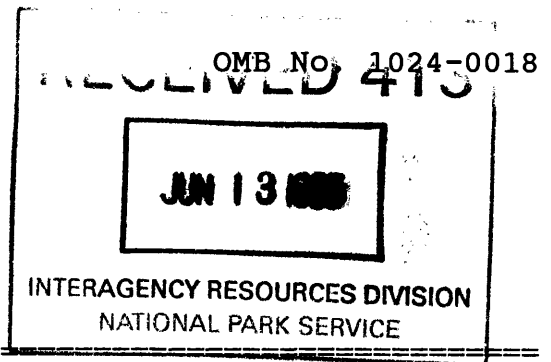


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



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1. Name of Property

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historic name Villarán Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #99, Puente de Canóvanas

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number SR 9959, km 3, Barrios Pueblo/Canóvanas

not for publication

city or town Canóvanas vicinity X

state Puerto Rico code PR county Canóvanas code 029 zip code 00729

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arleen Pabón PhD
Signature of certifying official

May 25, 1995
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

Current Functions

Cat: vacant Sub: not in use

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification Other/ Warren Pony Truss in iron

Materials

foundation	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>superstructure - iron</u> <u>substructure - masonry and brick</u>

Narrative Description

Villarán Bridge is in pedestrian use near kilometer 3, route 9959, on the edge of the traditional Canóvanas urban area. It is very well conserved (Photo 1). It crosses 15 feet above the Canóvanas River. Built in 1892, it consists of an Eiffel Truss in iron of a single span for a total length of 32.4 meters.

The truss ends are protected by rubble masonry pillars with edges, belts and buttress caps in brick; parapets of the same material project from the latter, forming balustrades for the access ramp. The hardly visible abutments are also of rubble masonry with vertical ashlar courses. The hand etched identification numbers for facilitating truss assembly are still visible. Its deck consists of joists and domed plates. This bridge has suffered no significant alterations since the period of significance. The setting has become more urban and traffic now crosses a new parallel bridge, but essentially it maintains its character. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association and materials. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	single	construction date:	1892
span length:	32.4 meters	superstructure:	iron
total length:	32.4 meters	substructure:	masonry and brick
roadway wdt.:	4.60 meters	current condition:	excellent

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- 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 engineering, transportation

Period of Significance 1892-1944

Significant Dates 1892

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

Villarán Bridge is the best preserved example of an Eiffel Pony Truss in Puerto Rico and in the jurisdiction of the United States. It was imported from Europe. Built in 1892 it embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and method of construction. At the time of its construction it played an important role in transportation development, since it was part of the 19th century highway between Río Piedras and Río Grande.

For further contextual information regarding bridge building in Puerto Rico, registration requirements, and property types, see related multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Puerto Rico".

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Pumarada O'Neill, Luis. Los Puentes Históricos de Puerto Rico. Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo, RUM, Mayagüez 1991.

- 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 # N/A

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency: **Puerto Rico Highway Authority**
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus**
 - Other

Name of repository:

=====
10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>20</u>	<u>194340</u>	<u>2034680</u>	3	___	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 32.4 X 4.60 meters, which is centered on the coordinates listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure and floor system.

Boundary Justification

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with this bridge.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Luis Pumarada O'Neill, Ph.D. (Revised and edited by PRSHPO)

organization Arqueología Industrial Caribeña date July 31, 1994

street & number 3-D-37 Villa Interamericana telephone (809) 264-4024

city or town San Germán state PR zip code 00683

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Property Owner
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name Public Works Department, Puerto Rico

street & number Minillas Government Center telephone (809) 729-1529

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00907