

PH0670120

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Faro de Arecibo
**

AND/OR COMMON same or Arecibo Light

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER End of route 686

CITY/TOWN Arcicibo NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Puerto Rico; VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME U.S. Coast Guard

STREET & NUMBER La Puntilla

CITY/TOWN San Juan VICINITY OF STATE Puerto Rico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Archives

STREET & NUMBER Pennsylvania Avenue NW

CITY/TOWN Washington STATE DC

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventario de Monumentos de Puerto Rico

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

CITY/TOWN San Juan STATE Puerto Rico

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lighthouse at Arecibo is one of series built at the end of the 19th century by the Spanish colonial authorities. Each site, according to its strategic importance or the amount of trade passing through, was assigned a specific size and model. These ran from simple and compact to larger scale. The Arecibo model is rather large since the town was active as a trading center as well as military outpost,

The lighthouse is situated on a promontory east of the town, dominating the northern coastline of PUerto Rico. The tower is about 3 meters in diameter.

In plan and design it is simple and functional yet has the neo-classical proportions and ornament popular at the end of the 19th century. The plan is rectangular, with an hexagonal tower at the center of the back (facing the sea) elevation. The main entrance is pronounced by being slightly forward of the wall plane. The strong vertical and horizontal proportions make this otherwise utilitarian structure very imposing, and in this case the effect is accentuated by the dramatic environment: rough coral formations reaching to the sea below.

Interior walls are of brick and exterior walls are masonry rubble. The exterior is painted white with pastel trim of light grey. The roof is of flat tile supported by wood beams. The windows and doors which originally were wooden and louvered, were then replaced by glass panes. However, at present all openings are gone except where they have been bricked up. The interior has been severally vandalized with scratchings and painted commentary.

The current light consists of modern equipment secure because of a solid steel door at the top of the tower. The lighthouse has been continuously vandalized and the lantern has been a target of sharpshooters for the last years. The original light was a '3rd order' Fresnel type fixed lens with 5 panels. Two panels on the land side of the light were prismatic reflectors. The light is 120 feet above the sea.

The interior spaces were designed to accommodate the keeper and his family. There was a kitchen, storage, sleeping quarters and sitting room.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The port of Arecibo may be considered the second most important after San Juan along the northern (Atlantic) coast of Puerto Rico. For this reason when the Spanish authorities determined to build light houses around the island at the end of the 19th century, Arecibo was assigned one of the 'larger order' designs.

Several models were designed from small to rather elaborate in scale according to the importance of the location. In general the lighthouses are rectangular in plan with hexagonal towers housing the lantern. The Spanish colonial military designers produced an unpretentious plan, however, the strong openings and the delicate neoclassical ornamentation has contributed to rather unique series of special architecture. The lanterns were the achievement of the French prism lens makers (in Puerto Rico usually 3rd or 4th order classic Fresnel type. Lens are classified in six orders). Originally the lens was rotated around oil lamps by a wight mechanism. In Arecibo the light was electrified in 1930, and placed in automatic operation in 1964.

These few remaining light houses, such as in Arecibo, are quite handsome in appearance, yet once out of order or unattended, they have been subject to continuous vandalism. The community of Arecibo plans to restore their light house as a center for educational/recreational activities. Although the 'light' belongs to the US Coast Guard, the main structure can be used for such purposes.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Archives of Puerto Rico, Folio 231, Serie Puentes y Muelles;
Light List, vol. 2 (CG -160) 1976 ed. US Coast Guard Base, Aids to Navigation
 Section, San Juan

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre *see 1980 theme nomination for more specific boundary definition*
 UTM REFERENCES N. lat. 18°28'35" W. long. 66°41'45"

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The lighthouse is located at the top of a cliff at the end of Rte. 655. The terrain to both sides is coral rock. It is bounded further back by semi circular beach formations, also on both sides.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

A. Tarr Preservation consultant

ORGANIZATION

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Plaza S. Jose

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

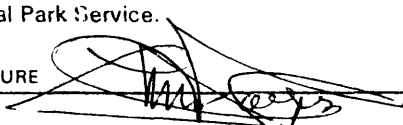
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



20-III-77

TITLE Executive Director Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

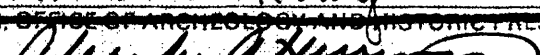
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 11/23/77

ATTEST: 

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.21.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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JUN 17 1980
OCT 22 1981

DATE ENTERED

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NAME: Historic: Faro de los Morrillos de Arecibo
Common: Arecibo Light

LOCATION: On Punta Morrillos, on the easterly side of the entrance of the Port of Arecibo, on the northerly shore of the western part of Puerto Rico, about 34 miles west of Puerto San Juan. On position 18° 29' N - 66° 41.9' W.

CLASSIFICATION: Unoccupied. Unrestricted access.

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: N.R.H.P. and H.A.B.S.

DESCRIPTION: Very deteriorated. Altered. Original site. From seaward, the lighthouse is projected against the Central Mountain Range, and seats on a black sandstone hill. It was built between 1897 and 1898 as a 3rd order lighthouse with an 18 mile range fixed white light.

The basic original structure stands today as erected at the end of the century. It consists of a rectangular building (25.64 mts x 12.30 mts) with an hexagonal tower attached to its north facade (approx. 15 mts high including lantern and cupola). The dwelling has its main entrance on the south facade and once gave way to a 5.6 x 4.9 x 4.5 mts. hall which led to the tower entrance through a 6 x 2 mts. corridor. At both sides of the corridor there were two doors which connected, on the west, to the old engineer's room, and on the east, to the old store room. The door connecting to the tower was located four steps above the corridor's ground level. The tower's interior is cylindrical with a 2.5 mts. diameter. The rest of the structure was divided into two separated units which served as living quarters for a 1st and 3rd class light keepers. The common vestibule or hall led, on both east and west, to a spacious 5 x 4.7 mts. livingroom. Each livingroom opened to two bedrooms approximately 3.28 x 4 x 4.5 mts. Two identical rooms were located on the NE and NW corners of the building that served as kitchen-dining areas. The bathrooms were located at the end of the two corridors.

Each room had wood double-pane leaf-window approximately 1.2 x 2.5 mts., with the exception of the rooms at each corner which had two. Underneath the tower there was a flat-ceiling basement that served as the oil room. Halfway up the tower --by way of a cast-iron winding stairway-- a window opened to the north, and a door to the south opened to the building's roof. The roof was formed by superimposed and alternatively layed layers of brick and mortar sustained by large iron-

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wood beams and lattice. It was divided into four large sections, each one with a different inclination for water collection into a nearby cistern.

The tower ended in a cast-iron, copper, and glass lantern that had a cemented gallery surrounded by a cast-iron balustrade.

The original illuminating apparatus was a 3rd order, lenticular, 1897 Paris' Barbier & Bernard lens, 1 mt. in diameter, with 5 panels. There were 7 panels in the central drum; 11 prisms on each panel above the central drum, and 9 below. It was sustained by an iron pedestal.

The tower and dwelling were originally painted white with lead-gray trimmings. The materials used were rubble masonry, brick, stone, and lime mortar. The floor was covered with white and gray Genoa marble slabs, except the the keepers quarters which were floored with wood planks.

In 1930 the light characteristic was changed to Fl. 20s. One year later the IOV system was replaced by an electric lamp which was curiously hooked to a windmill. In 1964 the light was automated and in 1977 the light characteristic was again changed.

In 1959, some major structural changes were made: the walls separating the original bedrooms and kitchens, the engineer's and storeroom's were remodeled to give way to modern bathroom facilities. Also, the old brick roof was replaced by a reinforced-concrete one.

After the lighthouse was automated the structure was abandoned: decay, ruin, and vandalism began to make their way into the structure. Between 29 October 1969 and 28 October 1977 the lighthouse was seriously vandalized 16 times. In 1975 damage was done to the classic lens, and in 1977 almost all of the lantern and the entire French lenticular lens were destroyed.

The building is partially in ruins; nevertheless, some marble slabs remain in the floor and part of the old wooden door hangs on its original hinges. Some decorative elements remain in place: the simple cornice of the main building, the tower cornice "sustained" by rectangular brackets, and the curved main entrance cornice. But windows and doors have been removed, and even chunks of brick and mortar have been torn from walls.

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the last lighthouses built in order to complete the original lighthouse plan as designed. Compared with other lighthouses, it is simple, elegant in its less decorated very proportionate way and reflects very well Spanish colonial neo-classicism. Its craftsmanship is obvious, as particularly shown by its brick work. Arecibo light finally completed the Cabo San Juan-Puerto San Juan

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trilogy which lighted the Island's northern shore.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Area nominated: 5.05 acres. Boundary description: beginning at a point S 18° 30' E 265 ft from SW corner of dwelling; thence S 70° 45' W 199.7 ft to a point; thence N 79° 51' W 152 ft to a point; thence N 41° 00' 23" W 394.65 ft to a point; thence N 57° 43' 37" E 246 ft to a point; thence easterly along high water mark to a point N 19° 15' E 195 ft from NE corner of dwelling; thence 1° 30' W 500 ft to point of beginning.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: v. attached pocket #2 "Arecibo Light". Enclosures are: Quadrangle; plan area nominated; c. 1898 photo; 1978 photos; and, original site drawings photos.