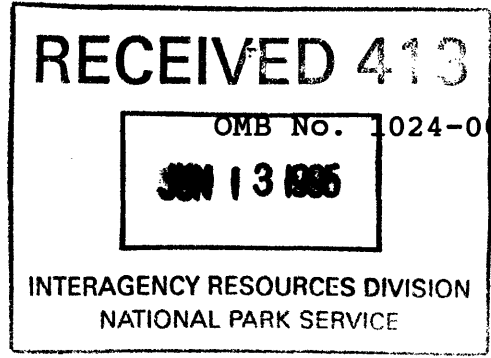


838

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Las Cabañas Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #279

2. Location

street & number SR 135, km. 82.4, Barrios Capáez/Garza not for publication  
city or town Adjuntas vicinity X  
state Puerto Rico code PR county Adjuntas code 001 zip code 00601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Afleen 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

4. National Park Service Certification

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 F. Beall 7/19/95

Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Puerto Rico"

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

Current Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification Other/ steel beams; concrete frame trestles

Materials

foundation N/A  
roof N/A  
walls N/A  
other superstructure - steel and concrete  
substructure - concrete

Narrative Description

Las Cabañas Bridge consists of two spans of steel girders encased in concrete, supported on trestles in the form of vaulted concrete frames (Photo 1). The central pier, some 40 feet in height, rests on a massive rock outcrop near the center of the Vacas River. The abutments and the piers are trestles formed by two thick parallel walls, joined together by a barrel vault. The girders rest over these walls, held by rounded corbels (Photo 2). A spring course that encircles the walls serves both the vault and the corbels. The faces of the concrete walls are decorated with reliefs imitating ring stones. The faces of the bridge and the girders have medallions shaped as rectangles and rhombuses.

The railing is made of diagonal and vertical elements; underneath is a belt course. This structure and its setting have not suffered significant alterations since the period of significance. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, and setting.

A description of the structure follows:

span number:	2	construction date:	1919
span length:	13.9 meters	superstructure:	steel and concrete
total length:	48 meters	substructure:	concrete
roadway wdt.:	4.90 meters	current condition:	very good

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

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 1919-1944

Significant Dates 1919

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Rafael Nones, designer/ Felix Benitez-Rexach, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

The combination embodied in this bridge of steel and concrete technologies is unique at least in Puerto Rico. Designed by Rafael Nones and built by Felix Benítez-Rexach it represents the work of masters, because both were among the most prominent contractors and designers of Puerto Rican early 20th century bridges. The bridge, which was constructed with funds provided by local coffee plantation owners, was essential in providing access to a key coffee producing region.

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".

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

**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  
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References      Adjuntas, PR 7.5 minute series:  
                         18°10'54"N    66°44'25"E

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 48 X 4.90 meters, which is centered on the point whose coordinates are 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.

=====  
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

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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