

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 13000012

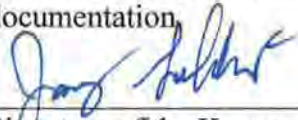
Date Listed: 2/13/2013

Property Name: Ceiba Fire Station (Fire Stations in Puerto Rico MPS)

County: Ceiba

State: PR

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 the Keeper

2/13/2013

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Area of Significance

The nomination is hereby amended to change the Area of Significance from Social History to **Politics/Government**.

The creation of the fire response system as outlined in the MPS cover was a political decision. The construction of the stations, both in their design and in their locations, was an exercise of political control by the government. The new fire stations were a local manifestation of governmental control and paternity throughout Puerto Rico.

The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file; Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Ceiba Fire Station

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 226 Lauro Piñeiro Avenue

 N/A

not for publication

city or town Ceiba

 N/A

vicinity

state Puerto Rico

code PR

county Ceiba

code 037

zip code 00735

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local



Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Signature of certifying official

December 18, 2012
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Concrete/Masonry Units
roof: Concrete
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Ceiba's Fire Station was completed in 1954, one of the last of its kind to be built in the Island as part of a plan devised much earlier to endow each town with firefighting facilities. Predating the fire station's construction by almost a decade, said plan was implemented originally in response to the threat World War II represented to Puerto Rico at that time. Provision of firehouses at each settlement was pursued and endorsed as vital to military planning and "readiness". In fulfillment of these duties, prototypical station models were developed and replicated along the ensuing decade in locations like Ceiba, as part of a plan to build "a hundred fire stations". The effort did not stop with the armistice, and completion of the construction program extended beyond the war period. Nevertheless, as built, Ceiba's Fire Station incorporates all essential traits and features pursuant to earlier emblematic firehouses in Puerto Rico. This historic firehouse at Ceiba is both product and witness of a moment in time when government and civic leaders contributed to safeguard democratic values, people and public and private property.

Narrative Description

Ceiba's historic fire station lays in a trapezoidal lot, north of *Barrio Pueblo*, the most urbanized section of the municipality of Ceiba. The property sits at 226 Lauro Piñero Avenue¹, a main access road into the town, only a 200 meters away from the settlement's main open plaza and its parish catholic church. Being a freestanding, object-like volume – and seat of an institutional venue – underlines the fire station's emblematical presence, one further underlined by its location in adjacency to an idiosyncratic intersection in Ceiba, where buildings from different periods face roads that display varying widths and do not meet at orthogonal angles.

Constructed in a lot originally embracing 0.05 acres (202.51 m²), the two-story building occupies a footprint of 680.80 ft² (63.25 m²) - sheltering 1,030.69 square feet of usable space - was built in reinforced concrete. The remaining, surrounding surface is paved, exhibiting overgrown weeds and an avocado tree (*Persea americana*). A chain link fence surrounds the property, and a double

¹ Avenida Lauro Piñero is named after the first socialist mayor of Ceiba, who held office from 1920 to 1937. Town hall and the first aqueduct in Barrio Chupacallos were constructed under his tenure.

gate (in the same material) controls access to the southern side of the lot. South of the firehouse runs a small road followed by a ravine that establishes the northern limit of Ceiba's downtown area. The applicable land zoning classification for the site nowadays pertains to C-1 (*Distrito Agrícola Mecanizable*) as defined by the Puerto Rico Planning Board.² The station's lot sits in an area unlikely to be affected by flooding³.

Following the parameters of Prototype "A", the Ceiba Fire Station occupies a footprint that measures 14'-11" wide, 35'-0" long, and is set back nearly 20'-0" from the front. **[FIG. 1]** It reaches two stories high, although the upper floor does not extend full length above the first one, in order to accommodate a small terrace facing north, towards Lauro Piñero Avenue. The terrace, with expansive views of the locality, occupies about a third (1/3) of the upper floor. Fire hoses were cleaned and hung to dry here.

No longer in operation for firefighting purposes, the property now lodges the State Medical Emergency Services (*Cuerpo de Emergencias Médicas Estatal*, CEM). At ground level, the interior space reaches 11'-2" high. The fire truck garage originally occupied most of the square footage in this first floor. Towards the back, an aluminum door shields a stair that connects to the second level; it rises parallel to the eastern end of the ground floor and then turns to continue parallel along the northern façade. Its last set of steps projects as a solid trapezoid (in concrete) above the truck's area below. A small storage space has been improvised next to this stair. The second floor houses a sleeping area and a bathroom with shower used by several firemen. Currently, new uses have been allocated for the area, including: an impromptu pharmacy, a storage for medical equipment, as well as office space. Because of the haphazard organization of furniture and equipment, the building looks disheveled and in disarray in the inside but, in fact, very few permanent changes have been introduced to the original construction. The same applies to external conditions.

The main (west) façade is symmetrical in composition. **[FIG. 2]** The garage opening at ground floor level framed what constituted the station's prime feature: the fire truck parked inside, facing towards the avenue, always geared up for dispatch in case of an emergency. The straight arch entry with fillet corners is one of the few of the elements that recall the Art Deco idiom in somewhat subdued manner. Inside, concrete beams run parallel to the entrance. Half way up the wall segments that bracket the truck's opening; diagonal inward painted stripes incorporate the CEM logo. Double iron-grille gates are used to close off the space. A concrete eave projects from the lower portion of the flat arch and wraps around onto the side facades. At center and over the awning, a flood lamp provides illumination over the entrance at night.

At the second floor, the façade recedes (as already mentioned), but also rises up towards the center in reminiscence of the Art Deco fashion of stepping succeeding surfaces at the uppermost profiles of buildings. The façade steps twice, creating a vertical articulation in the concrete surface, one that enhances symmetry and verticality as design priorities. The door to the terrace (hollow core, in aluminum) is capped by a projecting concrete eave that wraps around the side (north and south) facades. Left and right of the door, porcelain rosettes for lighting fixtures have been removed. A single flood lamp, towards the north, now substitutes these. Above the concrete overhang, at center, the official fire service escutcheon appears as an architectural appliqué. **[FIG. 3]** Used in regularly in

² Puerto Rico Planning Board, Geolocalizador: Interactive Map of the Land Registry, <http://gis.jp.pr.gov/GeoLocalizador/Internet/> for plot number - 205-047-007-03.

³ Fire station location categorized as ZONE X Floodable. Federal Emergency Management Agency Panel 1795J- Map number 72000C1795J, revised November 18, 2009.

fire station prototypes from the same period, the round, symbol in bas-relief incorporates the fireman's distinguishing hat (with a longer brim behind), a ladder (among the basic, most characteristic tools of the trade) and a pair of matching horns (sirens).

An iron railing that edges the property above the garage area surrounds the terrace. Railing posts placed left and right, and at center are highlighted by the placement of flagpoles that further underscore the overall symmetrical disposition of the property. The repetition of building openings; the twin arch fillets in the garage's entrance; the terrace's soldier-like flagpoles; the terrace access on axis; the façade's stepping to the center; and the building's "logo" location... all contribute to reiterate symmetry. Equilibrium projects stability and, as such, succeeds at projecting institutional presence and authority, as expected from an agency at the service of the community.

North and south elevations share similar architectural elements, including the two wrap around concrete eaves and all accompanying fenestration. These side facades are unornamented, sporting rectangular windows laid out vertically. The lower level is articulated into three bays defined by the post and beam structural system used. In between each rectangular column, concrete masonry unit walls recess a few inches, making evident the structural system on the outside. **[FIG. 4]** The lower level includes three (3) windows; on the south façade one of the original window openings has been enlarged to accommodate an aluminum door. Other elements in this elevation include the meter to measure electricity, overflow pipes at roof level, some loose cables, a security lighting fixture and a gas tank storage closet. **[FIG. 5]** The upper floor includes two windows on each side. Windows on the north side in both floors line up; including one on the southern side that includes a window-mounted A/C unit. The second window is smaller and pertains to the restroom on the second floor.

A one-level annex is accessed through the aforementioned storage space adjacent to the stairs, clearly a plug-in solution to provide additional space to house an office/resting/dispatch area and a small bathroom. **[FIG. 6]** Occupying the same width of the fire station and projecting 10'-0", the "lean-to" addition is built in reinforced concrete and cement masonry blocks, which are exposed on the east façade. Floors sport a vinyl finish and the roof is made of concrete slabs with a slightly projecting eave, reaching a few inches below the concrete eve of the fire station's first level. Walls are stuccoed in cement and painted over. Higher up, on the second floor, the wall displays only one opening. Sanitary and water piping installations are surface mounted, as well as another security lighting fixture.

All around the former fire station, windows are the aluminum, operable jalousie type. The ones with ribbed surfaces are original. Walls have a plastered cement finish and painted over on in and out, mostly with oil-based paint. The station retains its polished cement floor finish. A few exposed electrical conduits, telephone lines (dead or in use), and some plumbing PVC pipes come into view randomly in the station's facades. A small, shallow concrete shed houses two gas tanks, protected by an iron grill gate. All of these improvised interventions and omissions can be removed and improved without any damage to the existing structure.

The Impact of Time⁴

The station was built in 1954 using as reference one of the design prototypes officially endorsed by Puerto Rico's Fire Board as part of a plan to build a hundred firehouses in the Island, delineated much earlier, in 1942. This ambitious construction endeavor was spearheaded by the early stages of the war effort in the Caribbean Region. When Ceiba's fire station was originally built, the street that now runs south of it did not exist; it was built in the 1990's. Therefore, at that time, the building did not sit in a corner condition. Sugar cane fields integrated most of the surrounding landscape. Architectural modifications to which Ceiba's fire station has been subjected throughout the years, however, are mostly related to alterations dating from the 1980's, including the rectangular small annex constructed in the back. It facilitated the addition of a small bathroom, an office and a kitchenette, including space for a makeshift bed. The shed for two gas tanks was provided after, on several occasions, floods carried them away from the firehouse. Unlike other fire stations of the period, the building never boasted a sign to distinguish it officially as a firehouse.

One most evident alteration was the addition of a gate to control access to the truck's entrance. A wooden gate was first used in the early 80's and later substituted by unadorned iron grills. Major electrical work was undertaken 30 years after its construction. By 1984 it was the original intention to rewire the fire station thru the original electrical conduits. However, difficulties emerged and it was decided to surface mount most of the new wiring. Exit signs were placed and connected to the new electrical system over doors and the stair. The lack of effective telephone communication on the second floor allegedly discouraged use of the upper level.

Below, a side entrance door was added to provide direct access to the lateral patio along the southern elevation. **[FIG. 7]** A small gas tank storage closet was then built. Around the late 1980's, a door was added to the first step of the stairwell at first floor to discourage high-school students from going up to the second level. The stairs' solid concrete parapet, originally as high as a handrail, was walled off completely. A window was opened in the back façade to provide natural light into the newly enclosed stairwell. **[FIG. 8]** The original second floor bathroom was enlarged and provided another door to accommodate a new shower area. Most original windows remain. Lighting fixtures are the fluorescent type, although the original ones were incandescent. The electrical system has been repaired and replaced. Cables, piping, and conduits run surface mounted. Minor damage and poor paint jobs have no significant impact on the overall appearance of the property. Exterior doors are now of the aluminum type.

A one story high, non-descript addition out of concrete blocks was incorporated to the eastern end at a later date. Compositional equilibrium lends urban authority to the unpretentious station, whose few stylistic references to Art Deco are humble. Today, the property lodges the State Medical Emergency Services (*Cuerpo de Emergencias Médicas Estatal*, CEEM) and, in spite of minor deterioration and a small addition, it retains its original architectural character.

⁴ Documentation attesting to Ceiba's firehouse transformations throughout time is scarce. Most of the changes described ahead in the text were obtained from former firefighter Flor Piña, who worked at several fire stations in nearby locations (Fajardo and Luquillo) before joining Ceiba in 1985. All personnel from Ceiba were transferred to a new building in the late 1990's, where Flor Piña labored until retiring in 2003. Interview conducted November 12, 2012.

8. Statement of Significance

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 grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1954-1955

Significant Dates

1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Department Public Works of Puerto Rico

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of the property starts when the building was erected in 1954, and closes at the 50-year period cut off date (1962).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Ceiba's fire station, built in 1954 claims local significance under Criterion A (Social History). Its operation and operators are acknowledged as having played an important role in averting disaster on several occasions when large scale fires threatened to extend beyond their source of ignition. To this day, the property links the present with a complex past shaped by myriad processes and influences of great impact. The fire station's prototypical design by Engineer Raúl Buxeda harks back to Puerto Rico's war effort to prepare in case of an attack. Two high-profile personalities played an important role in defining a course of action, including the construction of fire fighting facilities: Governor Rexford G. Tugwell and Puerto Rico's Fire Chief, Raúl Gándara. Their objectives and decisions – paired with the construction (and scale) of military base *Roosevelt Roads* – had direct bearing on the unpretentious fire station built at Ceiba much later, still standing, no longer in service, but nevertheless a local icon.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Ceiba's fire station was erected in the last stages of implementation of an official plan established in Puerto Rico to provide each town with at least one firehouse. Said plan was precautionary and, as such, one of many governmental responses to the imminent threat that World War II represented at that time. Many fire stations were indeed built during the conflict, but many others came up afterwards, in the more quiet years following the war. In spite of the time lapsed, these stations built later nonetheless adhere to the prototypical design used originally. Ceiba's example proudly retains its architectural integrity, in spite of being a modest, self-effacing property. The resource continues in its original location, facing unabashedly one of the settlement's hierarchical arteries. In addition, the fire station's character remains unchallenged: unaltered proportions and fenestration patterns underscore the resource's original scale. Ornamental details are consistent with those incorporated to the other firehouses built all over the Island. Changes pertaining to the station's surrounding are without consequence.

By the time Ceiba's firehouse comes to be, concrete is already popular as a construction material in Puerto Rico, having been intensely promoted during those years as dependable in case of hurricanes and fires.⁵ Well preserved to these days, the fire station at Ceiba exemplifies the workmanship and finishes that are characteristic of mid-20th century architecture in Puerto Rico. The building's urban exposure and its design features succeed at "translating" the social and aesthetic context amidst which it came into existence. Upon the fire station's sight, townsfolk often reminisce about past fire scares and loses that are important chronological references of local history in Ceiba.

⁵ Santiago Martínez, Irving "El discurso del cemento: la construcción de una imagen" Puerto Rico: Mid-Career Research Project, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, 1998, unpublished.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Having been built in 1954, Ceiba's Fire Station was among the last 20 firehouses to be erected in Puerto Rico under a wartime plan to provide firefighting facilities in each Island town. First implemented in 1941-1942 – and spurred by World War II - the plan would take two decades to complete (in 1960-1961), long after the global conflict had come to an end. Although the Municipality of Ceiba played a pivotal role in the earlier years of the war, it had to wait over ten years to get a prototypical fire station of its own. What seems ironic might be, however, ultimately understandable. In pre war times, Ceiba had been chosen by the United States as seat to build *Roosevelt Roads*, one of the largest military bases established in the Caribbean to address the war menace. To that effect, over 2,000 *cuerdas* were expropriated.⁶ Construction and operation of the base helped to boost Ceiba's economy significantly at that time and in subsequent years.⁷ A well-equipped installation, *Roosevelt Roads* included several fire control stations within its grounds and one at Ceiba's *Pico Piñero*.⁸ Protection of the municipality was thus ensured, allowing the firehouse building plan to tend to other, more lacking locations.

By April, 1945, the *Insular Fire Board* had built prototypical firehouses in 30 municipalities of Puerto Rico; at that time, Raúl Gándara, Fire Chief, proposed to erect 47 additional ones by securing legislative funding. For said purpose, Gándara requested \$230,000 through Senate Project #411.⁹ Ceiba's fire station was among those projected. A newspaper column acknowledging the fact included an axonometric perspective depicting Prototype "A" for firehouses, as designed by Engineer Raúl Buxeda, and followed closely in the execution of Ceiba's own.¹⁰ Another public reference from October 1945, also reports that a fire station will be built in Ceiba, but it would take almost a decade to finally materialize.¹¹

For most of the time after it was built in 1954, Ceiba's fire station operation relied on five firefighters enrolled in service, although only one worked at a time, each responsible for an eight-hour shift. [FIG. 9] Two others remained on call, in case of an emergency or an unforeseen, sickness-related absence. A good number of emergencies were then related to fires in sugar cane fields and/or factories. People from Ceiba particularly remember a large fire at *Barrio Desengaño* in 1976, when many houses were destroyed. The station building itself was impacted by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, when the firehouse flooded and water reached as high as the first floor windows.¹² By the time another significant storm - Hurricane Georges - hit the Island in 1998, the local fire corps had relocated in new premises elsewhere in town.

⁶ José A. Toro Sagrañes. *Historia de los pueblos de Puerto Rico*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Editorial Edil, 1995), 109.

⁷ The processes that fueled the construction of *Roosevelt Roads* are delineated in Gerardo M. Piñero Cádiz, *Puerto Rico: El Gibraltar del Caribe*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Isla Negra, 2008); also, Jorge Rodríguez Beruff and José L. Bolívar Fresneda, Eds., *Puerto Rico en la Segunda Guerra Mundial: Baluarte del Caribe*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Ediciones Callejón, 2012).

⁸ Gerardo M. Piñero Cádiz, "La Base Aeronaval *Roosevelt Roads*: El Pearl Harbor del Caribe", en Jorge Rodríguez Beruff and José L. Bolívar Fresneda, Eds., *Puerto Rico en la Segunda Guerra Mundial: Baluarte del Caribe*, (2012), 302.

⁹ "Otra medida facilitaría compra de los materiales necesarios", *El Mundo Newspaper*, April 2, 1945.

¹⁰ *Idem*.

¹¹ "En el programa de SIB incluyen 47 municipios", *El Mundo Newspaper*, October 16, 1945.

¹² "Hugo" was a powerful storm responsible for widespread damage and loss of life in the Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States. It hit Puerto Rico as a strong, Category 3 hurricane on September 18, 1989.

In spite of having been abandoned for some time, new uses related to life safety have reanimated the property. Until 2010, the building housed the municipal ambulance services and, since then, it houses the State Medical Emergency Services (*Cuerpo de Emergencias Médicas Estatal*). In short, trials and tribulations have not contributed to the loss of character at Ceiba's firehouse, an unassuming, humble architectural icon that retains its urban presence within town, but also its original volumetric configuration, also surface and profile articulations evocative of the Art Deco style, as well as most of its key compositional elements (iron railings, flagpoles, escutcheon and eaves).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Primary Sources

Federal Emergency Management Agency Panel 1795J - Map number 72000C1795J, revised November 18, 2009

Puerto Rico Planning Board, *Geolocalizador*. Interactive Map of the Land Registry, <http://gis.jp.pr.gov/GeoLocalizador/Internet/> for plot number 205-047-007-03.

Secondary Sources

Piñero Cádiz, Gerardo M. *Puerto Rico: El Gibraltar del Caribe*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Isla Negra, 2008).

Rodríguez Beruff, Jorge and José L. Bolívar Fresneda, Eds., *Puerto Rico en la Segunda Guerra Mundial: Baluarte del Caribe*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Ediciones Callejón, 2012).

Santiago Martínez, Irving "El discurso del cemento: la construcción de una imagen" Puerto Rico: Mid-Career Research Project, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, 1998, unpublished.

Toro Sugrañes, José A. *Historia de los pueblos de Puerto Rico*, (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Editorial Edil, 1995), 109

Newspapers

Periódico El Mundo.

Figures

Guillermo Marrero

Interviews

Flor Piña, retired firefighter, November 12, 2012.

Ceiba Fire Station
Name of Property

Ceiba, Puerto Rico
County and State

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
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre (.05)
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>20</u>	<u>220048</u>	<u>2021681</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map, and are shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map. See continuation sheet, section 10.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated property includes the entire lot historically associated with the Ceiba Fire Station.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arq. Jorge Rigau, FAIA
organization Jorge Rigau Arquitectos date December 10, 2012
street & number #67 calle Los baños, 1er piso telephone (787) 982-0002
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00911
e-mail rigau@jorgerigau.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

1. **Ceiba Fire Station**
2. **Ceiba, Puerto Rico**
3. **Guillermo Marrero**
4. **February 15, 2012**
5. **Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico**
6. **West elevations, looking east. The main (west) façade is symmetrical in composition. The garage opening at ground floor level framed what constituted the station's foremost feature: the fire truck parked inside, facing towards the street. The straight arch entry with fillet corners is one of the few of the elements that recall the Art Deco idiom in somewhat subdued manner. Half way up the wall segments, diagonal inward painted stripes incorporate the CEM logos at center. A concrete eave projects from the lower portion of the flat arch and wraps around onto the side facades. At the second floor, the façade recedes, but also steps down in vaguely reminiscent Art Deco fashion on the uppermost profile. Today the property serves home for the State Medical Emergencies Services "Cuerpo de Emergencias Medicas Estatal (CEM)".**
7. **#1**

1. **Ceiba Fire Station**
2. **Ceiba, Puerto Rico**
3. **Eduardo Miranda**
4. **September 5, 2012**
5. **Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico**
6. **North and west elevations, looking southeast. Property was re-painted in blue between photo 0001 and photo 0002.**
7. **#2**

1. Ceiba Fire Station
2. Ceiba, Puerto Rico
3. Eduardo Miranda
4. Noviembre 5, 2012
5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
6. Ceiba Fire Station Ground-level floorplan. The Station was built in 1954, and follows one of the design prototypes officially endorsed by Puerto Rico's Fire Board after 1942, interested as it was in providing similar facilities at diverse Island locations. Prototype A was symmetrical in appearance, included two stories, and measured 14'-6" by 35'-0" in plan. The truck would occupy most of the first floor level, which could be reached by a one-flight stair from the second floor, where a communal bedroom with bathroom facilities (shower, toilet and sink) were housed. The sleeping area faced to the front and could be well ventilated by an ample door facing a balcony used to hang and clean the hoses. A round, tubular iron railing surrounded this open area, accommodating a flagpole. A window smaller than the others ventilated the bathroom. Openings on the second level were detailed with individual concrete eaves. A continuous one was provided around the first floor. Windows were originally in wood, sometimes louvered, others with glass panes.
7. #3

1. Ceiba Fire Station
2. Ceiba, Puerto Rico
3. Guillermo Marrero
4. February 15, 2012
5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
6. Detail view, looking east. Above the eave, the official fire service escutcheon appears as an architectural appliqué at center. Used in standard fashion in many fire stations dating from the same period, the circular, shield-shaped emblem includes the fireman's distinguishing hat (with a longer brim at the rear), a single or straight ladder (among the basic tools of the profession) and two horns (sirens) all in bas-relief.
7. #4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ceiba Fire Station

Ceiba, Puerto Rico

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Fire Stations in Puerto Rico, 1942-1952

Section number 7 Page 1

Figures

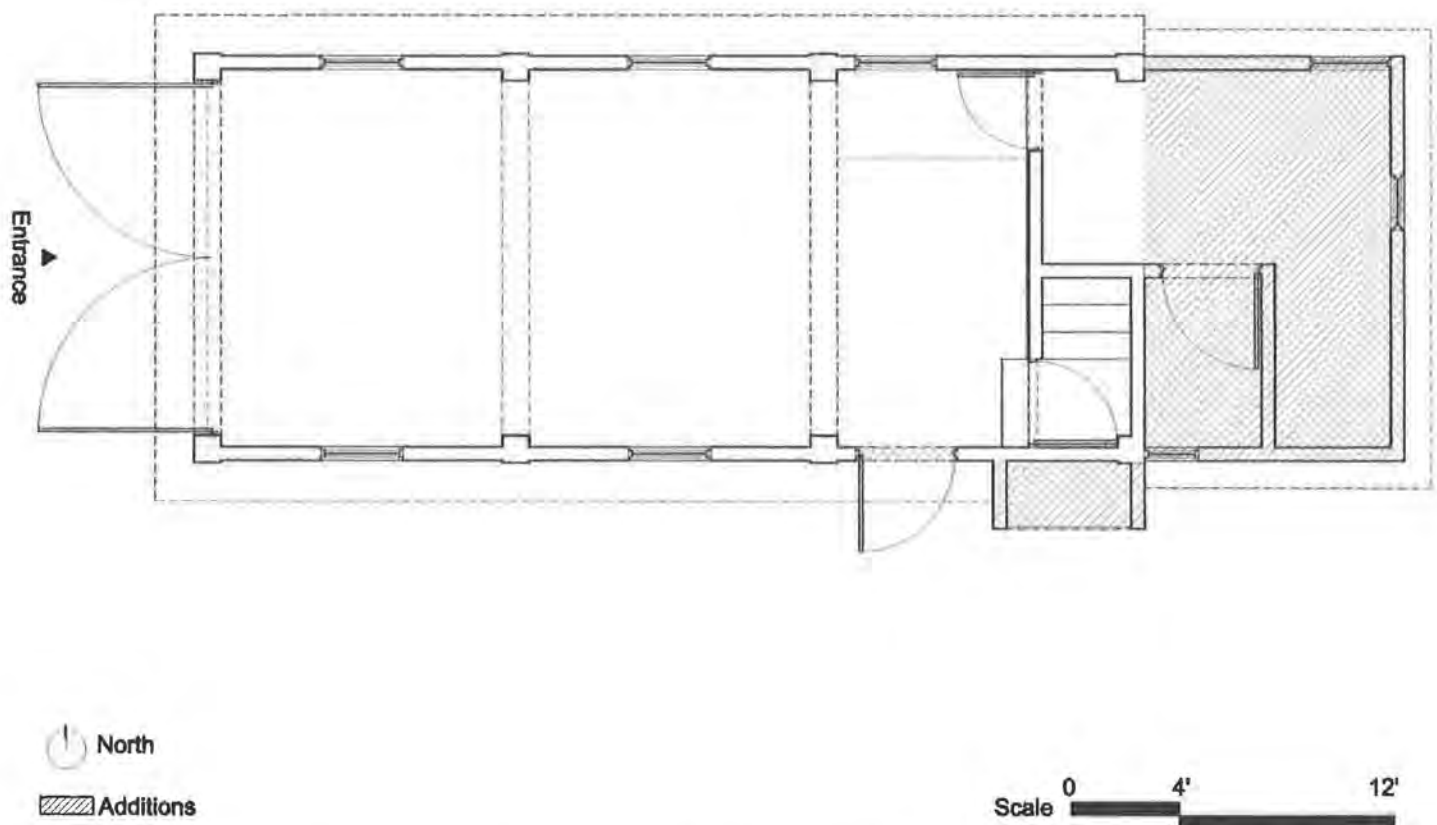


FIG. 1: Ceiba Fire Station Ground-level floorplan. The Station was built from 1954, and follows one of the design prototypes officially endorsed by Puerto Rico's Fire Board after 1942, interested as it was in providing similar facilities at diverse Island locations. Prototype A was symmetrical in appearance, included two stories, and measured 14'-6" by 35'-0" in plan. The truck would occupy most of the first floor level, which could be reached by a one-flight stair from the second floor, where a communal bedroom with bathroom facilities (shower, toilet and sink) were housed. The sleeping area faced to the front and could be well ventilated by an ample door facing a balcony used to hang and clean the hoses. A round, tubular iron railing surrounded this open area, accommodating a flagpole. A window smaller than the others ventilated the bathroom. Openings on the second level were detailed with individual concrete eaves. A continuous one was provided around the first floor. Windows were originally in wood, sometimes louvered, others with glass panes. Drawing: Eduardo Miranda, Noviembre 5, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 2: Ceiba Fire Station west elevations, looking east. The main (west) façade is symmetrical in composition. The garage opening at ground floor level framed what constituted the station's foremost feature: the fire truck parked inside, facing towards the street. The straight arch entry with fillet corners is one of the few of the elements that recall the Art Deco idiom in somewhat subdued manner. Half way up the wall segments, diagonal inward painted stripes incorporate the CEM logos at center. A concrete eave projects from the lower portion of the flat arch and wraps around onto the side facades. At the second floor, the façade recedes, but also steps down in vaguely reminiscent Art Deco fashion on the uppermost profile. Today the property serves home for the State Medical Emergencies Services "Cuerpo de Emergencias Medicas Estatal (CEM)". Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 3: Ceiba Fire Station detail view, looking east. Above the eave, the official fire service escutcheon appears as an architectural appliqué at center. Used in standard fashion in many fire stations dating from the same period, the circular, shield-shaped emblem includes the fireman's distinguishing hat (with a longer brim at the rear), a single or straight ladder (among the basic tools of the profession) and two horns (sirens) all in bas-relief. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 4: Ceiba Fire Station north and west elevations, looking southeast. The fire station's emblematic presence is further established by its object-like nature. From the northwest, the building appears clearly as a freestanding volume within the surrounding urban milieu. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 5: Ceiba Fire Station south elevation detail looking northeast. North and south elevation share similar architectural elements, including the two wrap around concrete eaves and fenestrations. On the south façade one of the original window openings has been enlarged to accommodate an aluminum door in the 1980's. Other elements in this elevation include the meter to measure electricity, overflow pipes at roof level, some loose cables, a security lighting fixture and gas tank storage closet. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 6: Ceiba Fire Station interior view, looking east. A one level annex was added that is accessed through the storage space adjacent to the the stairs. The added volumes, clearly a plug-in solution to provide additional space, provide now for a mixed use office/resting/dispatch area including a small bathroom. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, June 10, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 7: Ceiba Fire Station south elevations, looking north. A side entrance door was added to provide a direct access to the side patio where a small gas tank storage closet had been added. Also a door was added to the first step of the stairwell to impede high-school students from going up to the second level. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 8: Ceiba Fire Station interior detail view. On the second floor the hand rail height parapet of the stairs was closed off and another door was added in front of the restroom. A new window was added to the back façade to provide natural light to enter the enclosed stairwell. The original second floor bathroom was enlarged to accommodate a new shower area. Photo: Guillermo Marrero, February 15, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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CEIBA - 1954

FIG. 9: Ceiba Fire Station Historic photograph of west elevations, looking east. Photo: 15 años Servicio de Bomberos de Puerto Rico. Source: : Coleccion Puertorriqueña - Universidad de Puerto Rico. Retrieve on March 22, 2012.

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10. Geographical Data

PARQUE BOMBAS DE CEIBA,
CEIBA, PUERTO RICO

Location: #226 Lauro Piñero Avenue Ceiba, Puerto Rico 00742
UTM Reference: 20, 220048, 2021881
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre (0.05 acre)



JORGE RIGAU
ARCHITECTOS

feet 100 400
meters

- ◄ Contributing resource
- Parcel boundary

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The limits of the plot were obtained from the official boundaries map provided by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The boundaries of the nominated resource are identified by an outline. Image taken from Google Earth.

PARQUE BOMBAS DE CEIBA,
CEIBA, PUERTO RICO

Location: #226 Lauro Piñero Avenue Ceiba, Puerto Rico 00742
UTM Reference: 20, 220048, 2021881
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre (0.05 acre)

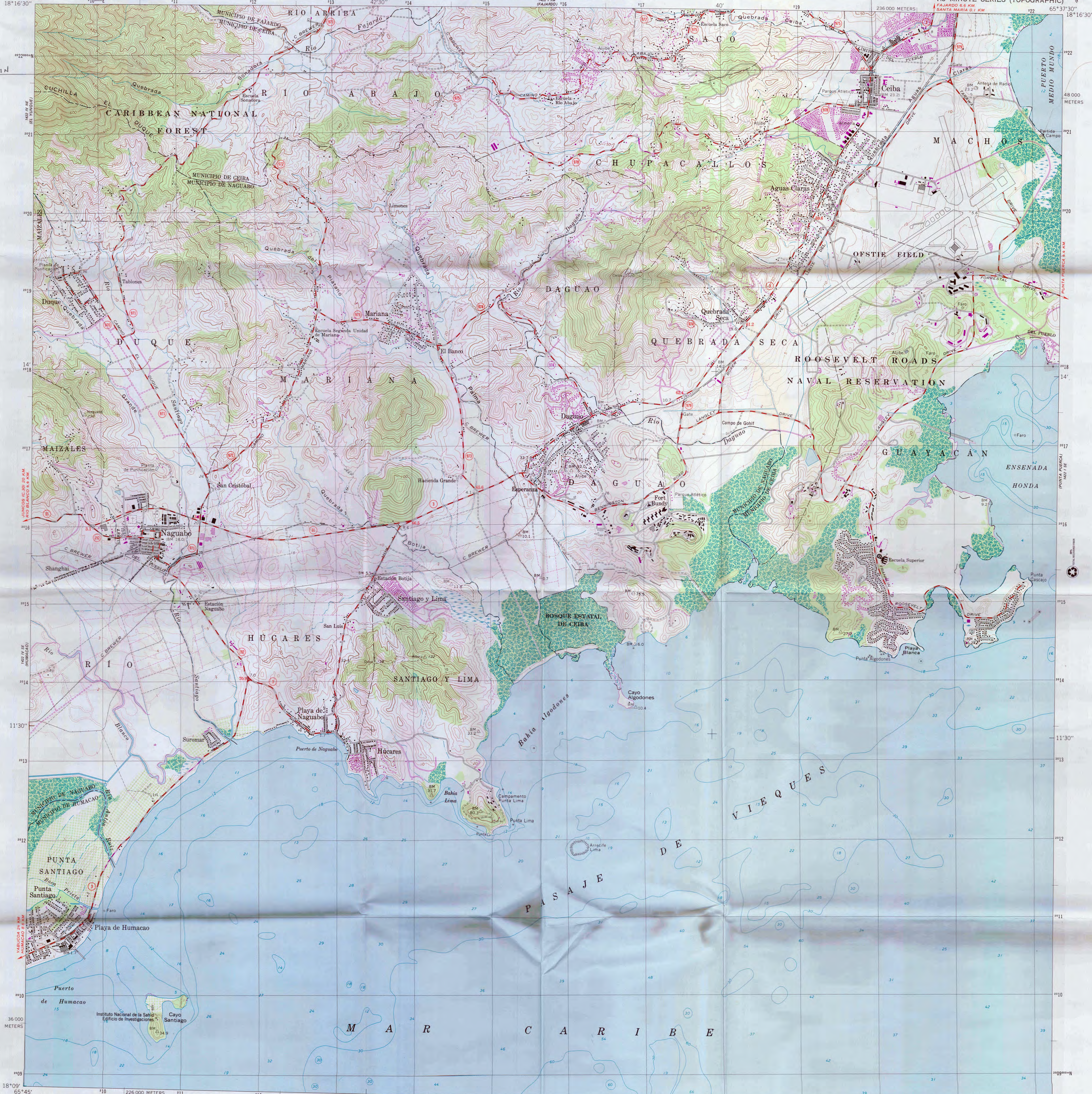


JORGE RIGAU
ARQUITECTOS

feet
meters

100 400



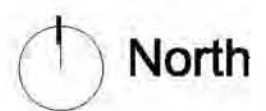
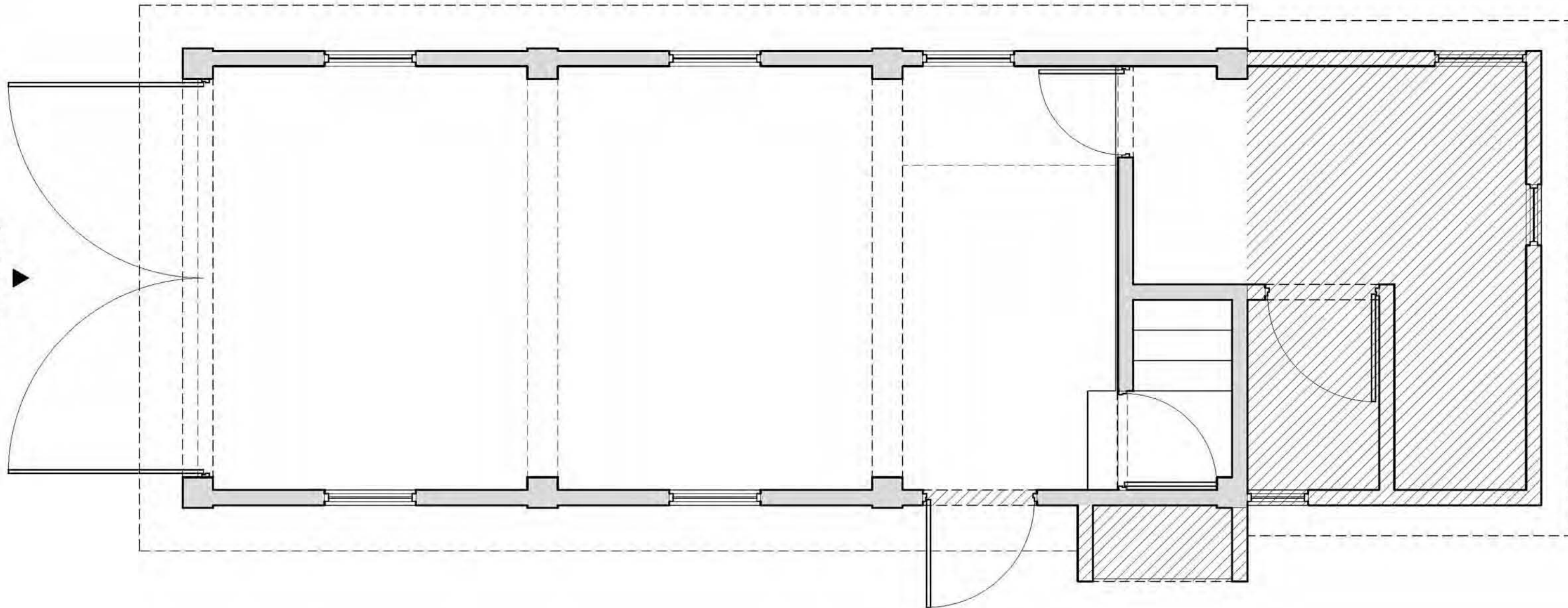




iba Warehouse
SELF-STORAGE
PROPIC ALMACEN
7-396-1616

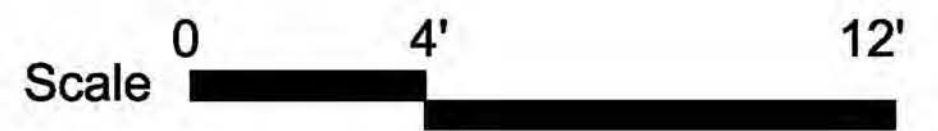


Entrance



North

 Additions





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ceiba Fire Station
NAME:

MULTIPLE Fire Stations in Puerto Rico MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PUERTO RICO, Ceiba

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/13/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000012

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/13/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Meets Registration Requirements of MPS

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Cabral DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR /N

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

OFICINA ESTATAL DE
CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA
OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



December 13, 2012

Ms. Carol D. Schull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

SUBMISSION: VARIOUS NOMINATIONS

Dear Ms. Schull:

We are pleased to submit for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places the following nominations:

1. Ceiba Fire Station, Ceiba, Puerto Rico
2. Yabucoa Fire Station, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico
3. Casa Vives, Ponce, Puerto Rico
4. Cementerio Masónico de la Respetable Logia Igualdad Número 23, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico

Should you have any questions on these nomination, please contact Juan Llanes Santos, Historic Property Specialist, at 787-721-3737 or jllanes@prshpo.gobierno.pr.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela, Architect
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/BRS/JLS/jvr

Enclosures

WWW.OECH.GOBIERNO.PR