

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 17 1980
DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1981

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Superintendent of Lighthouses' Dwelling

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

United States Coast Guard San Juan Base

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

San Juan (at La Puntilla Point) ^{VICINITY OF}

STATE
Puerto Rico

CODE
72

COUNTY
San Juan

CODE
00930

2 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

United States Department of ^{TRANSPORTATION} ~~Commerce~~, U.S. Coast Guard

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. United States Seventh Coast Guard District

STREET & NUMBER

51 SW 1st Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Miami

STATE
Florida

33130

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

No conclusive evidence has been found about the construction date of the Lighthouse Superintendent's Dwelling also known as QS 1 (at the U.S. Coast Guard San Juan Base). The Real Estate Records of the U.S.C.G. Commander Office, 7th U.S.C.G. District (copies of which are filed at the U.S.C.G. San Juan Base) do not contain explicitly information either about (1) a final and legal description of the property as such or (2) of the man-built environment QS 1.

The Dwelling is located on the eastern bank of La Puntilla Point, contained within the San Juan Historic District a property included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The entire area was part of the old. U.S. Naval Reservation of San Juan. A section of this area became the Puerto Rico Lighthouse Depot through the 26 January 1912 Presidential Proclamation. By 1921 the new area's name had been changed to "Lighthouse Reservation at La Puntilla" at La Puntilla Point (v. attached drawing #3102). One should notice that the 1921 drawing is based on a 1912 Depot drawing. The Depot drawing was signed by Lighthouse Superintendent J. P. Dillon and surveyed by the Corps of Engineers. One should also keep in mind that through a 1903 Presidential Proclamation, all Spanish lighthouses in Puerto Rico, with a certain acreage of surrounding land, had become U.S. property.

By 1903 the U.S. Naval Reservation already existed as U.S. property. A deteriorated plan drawing of the Naval Reservation dated 1903 or 1908 at the General Archives of Puerto Rico (San Juan; Obras Públicas: Mapas y Planos) poorly reveals the existence of a structure, more or less, at the same site where the 1912 Lighthouse Depot drawing locates the Superintendent's Dwelling. The existence of the structure is further confirmed --already altered-- by a 1921 photo. The photo shows a building on the same location as in 1912 drawing. Considering all these questions in toto, the approximate construction date can be established between 1908 and 1912, notwithstanding that it can reservedly but safely traced to the period 1903-1908.

The 1912 drawing shows a one-single structure with a veranda --and possibly a covered porch-- on the south and east facades. This is, apparently, the earliest form of the building and most basic. By 1921 it had been altered as depicted in the 1921 photo: a two-story house surrounded by two covered porches, a hip roof, wide windows and doors, resting on a garden partially surrounded by a stone wall which is still in existence. It excellently reveals important elements of architectonic value that characterized the 1910's and 1920's U.S. Government official "hacienda style".

The style is not indigenous to Puerto Rico; rather it reflects a U.S., possibly southern, taste for sprawling structures, covered long porches and outer corridors, and projecting roofs sustained by classic columns, in this particular case, neo-doric. This style is

8 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **c. 1908-1979**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building and surrounding gardens represent one of the few extant, although altered, architectural examples developed in Puerto Rico shortly after the War of 1898. Its "hacienda style" was introduced in Puerto Rico by the U.S. Government and adapted to the Island's environmental demands. The style developed into one where buildings had unimpared air circulation, wide spaces, maximum use of daylight, and leisure movement--an interesting reminder of the Spanish lighthouse provisions for keepers living quarters. This type of structure was generally built for high-ranking public or civil servants or military personnel who held political and administrative key positions after the 1898 change of governments.

Furthermore, the dwelling and its gardens are located at the entrance of San Juan Harbor, surrounded by 50 years old ficus, palm, acacia, flame, citrus and banana trees. It is the only extant green area in the Historic District outside Morro Castle.

Finally, the dwelling became the residence and living quarters of the master lighthouse keeper after the U.S. took over Puerto Rico and the old Spanish Lighthouse System, hereby nominated to the NRHP.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: v. attached pocket #16 "QS 1". Enclosures are: plan area nominated; 1920's photos; 1978 photos; and, alteration's drawing

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. General Archives of Puerto Rico: Obras Públicas, Mapas y Planos.
2. U.S.C.G San Juan Base: Civil Engineer Section and Real Property Section Files

ITM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 of 1 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES Latitude 18° 27' 50"

Longitude 66° 07' 55"

CD 8/7/80

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

v. attached "Property Boundary Plan" (area nominated is enclosed by a double red line)

CD 8/7/80

see main P.R. USGS for location

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Benjamin Nistal Moret

21 August 1979

ORGANIZATION

for H.A.E.R. and U.S. Coast Guard

DATE

(212) 787-0621

STREET & NUMBER

38 West 75th St., 1R

TELEPHONE

New York

CITY OR TOWN

New York

STATE

10023

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DOT Historic Preservation Officer
EO 11593 Form 10/81

DATE

9/1/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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further developed in the 1925 photo (also in the 1928). These present a period of alterations which nevertheless were deeply inbeded in the 1910's structure. The only extant drawing of the building known to exist is dated 1945, which confirms the 1925-1928 design, and reflects accurately the present location. The drawing depicts the dwelling resting on a podium with main facade facing south (as in the 1912 Depot drawing). Five steps lead to a gallery (also as in the same drawing) already tiled as it stands today. The gallery is approximately 9 ft x 11 ft x 182 ft and encircles the entire first floor. The actual SW corner of the gallery is a screened porch forming a secluded section from the rest of the balcony further segregated by a reinforced concrete parapet. Eighteen doric columns sustain the second floor gallery which also serves as ceiling for the first floor balcony.

The main first floor balcony door opens to an ample rectangular hall --approximately 31 ft x 8 ft-- that divides the first floor into two equal sections. The stairway into the second floor and a small bathroom are located in the NE part of this hall. East of the hall a living room and library form a nave --approximately 31 ft x 15 ft-- with a door and window on the S facade, 3 windows on the E facade, and another door and window on the N facade. Opposite the living room, a dining room --approximately 15 ft x 15 ft-- opens to the S gallery through a door and window and to the W facade by way of 3 windows. The NW corner of the house is formed by the kitchen and pantry --approximately 15 ft x 15 ft-- with a door and window to the N gallery, and two more windows to the W gallery.

The second floor has four bedrooms. The master is located in the SW corner--approximately 15' x 15'--opening into the second floor hall--approximately 20' x 8'. The master bedroom has one door and a window that give onto the S gallery and two windows onto the W gallery. It connects with the master bathroom--approximately 15' x 7'--which itself opens into another bedroom--approximately 15' x 8'. The eastern section of the second floor is formed by two bedrooms that open into a common bathroom. Both second floor bedrooms follow the first floor window-door arrangement. The second floor opens to the S gallery by way of a door directly above the main first floor entrance. The second floor gallery is enclosed by a parapet on which 18 columnar shafts sustain the roof. These are located directly over the neo-doric columns of the first floor. The flat roof is constructed of three-ply lead and copper sheeting.

The exterior decorative elements are sparse. The slightly fluted columns on the first floor rest on a simple doric base and plinth with unadorned capital. A projecting eave on the second floor

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directs rain away from its galleries. The second floor parapet is decorated with protruding plaster rectangles enclosed by the handrail and the rectangular shapes which act as the shafts' basements. The interiors are as simply decorated as the exterior; they are fundamentally functional. All windows and doors are double ones. The windows are made up of two interior wood and glass panels and two exterior louver ones. The doors follow a similar arrangement: interior French style doors, a central screen, and exterior louver panes.

The bathrooms, though, are very attractive for they reflect the 1920's taste for patterned ceramic tiles in combined colors--purple-brown and beige.

Both floors are built of reinforced concrete walls--including the galleries and first floor deck--and interior plastered wooden frames, where metallic mesh is used even on the ceilings.

The reinforced concrete sections of the building are still sound. Some wood areas are termite infested. Plaster and metal mesh has fallen in some areas as a result of indiscriminate replastering. (Some fallen pieces have 2 1/2 to 3" thick of cement plaster attached to the metallic mesh.)