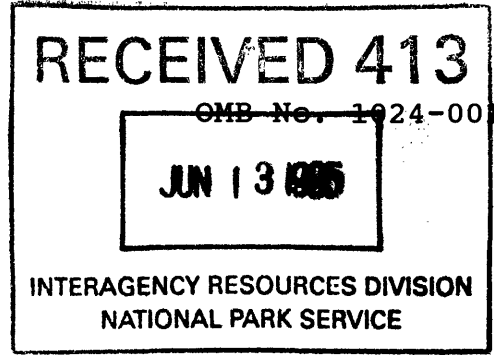


842

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 Río Hondo Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #339

2. Location

street & number SR 156, km. 26.9 Barrio Río Hondo not for publication  
city or town Comerio vicinity X  
state Puerto Rico code PR county Comerio code 045 zip code 00782

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.)

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

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

*Edson H. Beall* 7.19.95

Entered in the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Beall*

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/ Iron double warren pony truss

Materials

foundation	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>superstructure - iron</u> <u>substructure - stone</u>

Narrative Description

The Río Hondo Bridge is located on kilometer 26.9 of Route 156 between Comerío and Barranquitas (Photo 1). It stands on monumental abutments, 22 feet above the Hondo River. It has wing walls in rubble masonry with buttresses and vertical ashlar corner courses (Photo 2). Attractive open-web joists support the deck.

This truss span was set in 1881 as one of three spans of the Reyes Católicos Bridge over the Plata River. In 1899 a hurricane destroyed one of the other spans. The truss was slightly altered for installation in the present site in 1908. The bridge and its setting have suffered no significant alterations since the period of significance. With respect to its present site (since 1908) the structure possesses a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, and setting.

A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1881/1908
span length:	20.6 meters	superstructure:	iron
total length:	20.6 meters	substructure:	stone
roadway wdt:	4.50 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 1908-1944

Significant Dates 1908

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Eng. Rafael Nones (1908)

Narrative Statement of Significance

This metal span was made by "Participation Belgue" originally for the 1881 Reyes Católicos Bridge over the Plata River on the San Juan-Mayagüez road. It survived the bridge's partial destruction by San Ciriaco Hurricane in 1899.

In 1908 it was installed at its present site by orders of the Superintendent of Public Work Juan-José Jiménez after modifications designed by Eng. Rafael Nones. The bridge became part of the old Comerio-Barranquitas road that provided access to the city of Barranquitas. This is the oldest bridge truss left in Puerto Rico. Its open web transverse joists are unique.

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:

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	791570	2015580	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	_____	See continuation sheet.		_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 20.6 X 4.50 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, PhD (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