

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



396

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 Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono
other names/site number Telegraph and Telephone Station

2. Location

street & number 1729 José E. Carazo not for publication
city or town Guaynabo vicinity
state Puerto Rico code PR county Guaynabo code 061 zip code 00970

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Signature of certifying official/Title

May 9, 2012
Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Mr. Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7-3-12
Date of action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/ communications facility

VACANT/ not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Deco

foundation: concrete
 walls: concrete
 glass
 roof: concrete
 other: iron

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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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Telephone and Telegraph Station of Guaynabo (known in Spanish as *Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono de Guaynabo*) is a one-story flat roof building located in the town of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. It was designed in the Art Deco style and constructed entirely of reinforced concrete with glass blocks and ornamental ironwork. It is one of the few (private or public) buildings in the Island totally built in this architectural style. Also, it is the only surviving example of three similar buildings constructed in Puerto Rico: a prototype designed and built by the *Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico* (Puerto Rico Communications Authority) to provide combined telephone and telegraph services under one roof.

The property has historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Though, it is eligible to be included in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

Narrative Description

The Telegraph and Telephone Station of the town of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico was built in 1948 in a prominent location in a site to northwest of the traditional urban area. It is located just a two blocks away from the main urban plaza of Guaynabo—the religious, social and governmental center of the town (Figure 1). The main façade of the building faces the José E. Carazo St., which is the main road leading into Guaynabo, as well as the road that connected this town to the capital city of San Juan, to the north.

The perimeter of the whole site is defined by a low wall divided into sections by posts with iron fence designed in the same style and constructed of the same materials and finishes (painted reinforced concrete with cement-plaster and ornamental ironwork) as the building (Photo #1). The design of the portion that faces the street, as well as the frontal sections of its sides, consists of a low wall divided into sections by columns, both adorned with several bands of simple horizontal moldings (Photo #2). The same ornamentation appears both at the exterior as well as the interior surface of the fence. Each section of wall supports ornamental iron panes worked in a minimalist vegetative Art Deco motif that, in combination with the columns, emphasizes verticality. As it surrounds the site, towards the back of the building, the fence lacks ornamentation (the moldings and ironwork), thus becoming a more simple and solid version of the same design. The terrain of the site slopes slightly towards the back. In tune with the architectural design of the building, two low curved retaining walls project from the corners of the façade towards each side, containing the frontal garden and creating a simple yet dramatic landscape feature.

The only opening in the fence, which is located in axis with the main façade, is protected by a two-door ironwork gate worked in an Art Deco motif that matches the rest of the ironwork design of the building. After crossing this gate and a small frontal garden, we encounter the building, whose façade and overall volumetric design reflect the internal distribution of a very simple and functional interior consisting of five rooms. These rooms are symmetrically distributed along a main axis that clearly divides the functions of the building between the areas devoted to the telephone service and those of the telegraph service (Photo #3).

A lot of thought was given to the design of this relatively small and simple building of 328.09 square meters. From the exterior, the main entrance gives access to a vestibule shared by two large rooms at each side. Even if identical in exterior size, each side has a different internal distribution and still contains particular elements and remaining infrastructure that reflect the services each provided. The south room (the telegraph area) has a bathroom on its southeastern corner while the north room (the telephone area) is an open space that connects to another room, similar in size, which forms the northeastern corner of the building (Photo #4). All the interior areas of the building share the same hydraulic-cement tile floor finish in a plain hunter-green and cream colored checkerboard pattern. They also share a cement-plastered finish in all of its concrete walls and roof ceiling. Evidence of a continuous wall molding (probably of wood) that existed along the top of the majority of the interior walls can still be seen.

Both sides of the building would have been identical if it hadn't been by the northeast end which, by the look of its

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construction details and finishes, was an extension made in 1958. Details, such as a higher roof ceiling and the use of a hydraulic-cement tile floor finish that, even if continuous with the same checkerboard pattern of the other room, has a slightly different shade of hunter-green and show a higher degree of deterioration in its surface, confirm the construction of this area at a later date. On the exterior, the difference in construction periods is evident in the height of its flat roof and its protruding overhangs -which differ from the rest by its simpler and narrower design (Photo #6). The symmetry of the original design of the building (and the prototype) was altered by this latter addition, changing its overall plan configuration from an "I" to an "L".

Reflecting the interior plan distribution of the building, the main façade is a composition of horizontal and vertical elements organized into three distinctive areas, emphasizing the main entrance at the center (Photo #5). The combination of all these horizontal and vertical elements not only provides plasticity, it has the visual effect of making believe that the building is bigger than it actually is. The main entrance is located over a three-step podium, projecting from the central volume. This podium reflects as a continuous base on each of the four facades of the building. The existing single aluminum and glass door substituted the one that was originally in place, which by the width of the opening and the design of the building was probably a double-pane door constructed of wood. However, at this time, no evidence has been found to show the original design of this door. Existing photographs of this prototype building constructed in other towns of the Island lack the definition to help clarify its design details (Figure 2). A double-pane iron gate, placed in front of it, provides additional security and offers closing flexibility. As evidenced by its overall design and the thickness of its constructive elements, this gate is a recent addition as well, but it is placed in what seems to be original in-place hinges. The original design of the prototype didn't have this element. However, as corroborated by the early hinges, an ironwork gate seems to have been added early-on in this building's history and can be considered a contributing element that has acquired significance through time. The simple design of this gate does not copy the original Art Deco ironwork motif existing in the rest of the building. If evidence of the original design of the double pane door and/ or gate is ever found, both could be easily substituted without affecting the integrity of the façade or the property.

Flanking the door at each side, four ascending vertical reliefs -that resemble modern pilasters- support an ornamental medallion. These form solid panes arranged in escalating height until they reach the center of the composition, enhancing the verticality of this volume. Each ornamental medallion has a relief depicting two metal-truss communication towers sharing a light bolt between them and two wooden light posts, all bordering what seem to be a tire with wings. Both, the communication towers and the light posts were, literally, the equipment used at the time to provide both the telephone and the telegraph service. They mean to be an ornament that graphically represent and dignify the purely utilitarian use of the building. The winged tire is an international symbol of communication inspired by Greek mythology. Alluding to the winged feet of the figure of the messenger-god Hermes (Mercury for the Romans), god of trade and commerce, it symbolizes fast communication through distance and transmission of information -the actual definition of telecommunication.

Further emphasizing the entrance and adding volumetric interest to the whole facade, a protruding curved eaves articulated with horizontal moldings covers the door and gate. Over it, another relief showing an intertwined combination of the letters A and C (which stands for *Autoridad de Comunicaciones* in Spanish), adorns the parapet of the volume. This element, in combination with the other two matching protruding curved eaves existing in the lower recessed volumes located at each side, add horizontality to the composition. They also cover the glass block-filled rectangular openings on each wall and provide visual continuity with the other elevations of the building, as it's a repeated element existing over each of the other fenestrations (Photo #6). The horizontality of these lateral volumes, contrasting with the verticality of the central one, is further emphasized by the placement of the words *teléfono* and *telégrafo* (telephone and telegraph in Spanish) as an ornamental and practical relief of large bold letters over each corresponding area. These, literally, inform about the use of the property, as well as serving as additional decoration for its façade.

Another significant feature that can still be seen in the northwestern corner is a narrow rectangular opening through which the telephone and telegraph wire entered the building. It is covered and protected by another protruding overhang and brackets.

All but one of the original openings that served as windows were closed with cement blocks when used for the installation of individual A/C wall units. The only exception to this condition is the opening in the bathroom, which has a wooden-louver window that appears to be original to the property. The concrete blocks and A/C units could be easily removed and the window openings could be easily restored to their original size and shape without diminishing the physical integrity of the building.

The Municipality of Guaynabo is in charge of the maintenance of the building and its site, which are in good condition. The

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few interventions it has suffered consist of the 1958 addition of the reinforced concrete area on its northeastern corner, the reinforcement of glass-block panes, windows and doors with ironwork (for security purposes) and the closing of windows with concrete blocks (for the installation of individual A/C units). These interventions are of minimal visual and physical impact. These interventions are reversible in nature. They do not diminish the historic integrity or significance of the property and do not affect its eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

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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.

C 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.)

Architecture

Communications

Period of Significance

1948-1964

Significant Dates

1948, 1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significances starts when the telegraph and telephone station in Guaynabo opened in 1948 and ends in 1964 when it was closed down.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Telegraph and Telephone Station of Guaynabo was constructed in 1948, and since then it has become a significant piece in the history of telecommunications in Guaynabo. It was one of three identical Art Deco buildings of a prototype that combine both the telegraph and telephone services under one roof. This solid, modern and permanent building prototype was designed by the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico for the installation of the automatic telephone and constructed in the towns of Juncos, Aibonito and Guaynabo. It defined a new architectural typology. These buildings gave a new recognizable physical form to both the telephone company and the telegraph station in the Island. Constructed between 1943-1949, they were also the entities that connected the people of Puerto Rico with the rest of the world.

As a constructed object, the Telegraph and Telephone Station in Guaynabo is a unique piece of institutional architecture, as it is one of the two that still remain of those ten original Communications Authority of Puerto Rico's office facilities, and the only one still existing of the three that we know were constructed of the Art Deco prototype. It is also one of the few public constructions that exist in the Island of buildings envisioned and developed entirely in this architectural style.

For all of the above reasons, the Telegraph and Telephone Station of Guaynabo is eligible to be included in the National Register of Historic Places and significant at a State level associated to the history of communications (Criterion A) and institutional architecture of the Communications Authority of Puerto Rico (Criterion C).

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

The telephone service arrived from Río Piedras to the municipality of Guaynaboⁱ during the 1918 fiscal year (June 30, 1917-July 30, 1918). The Insular Telegraph Bureau of the Department of the Interior extended a telephone line through a \$2,000 grant, approved on April 12, 1917, from the insular legislature. A telephone office was installed with a switchboard with a capacity of five subscribers each in Guaynaboⁱⁱ. By 1926, the Insular Telegraph Bureau built a new line from Guaynabo station to the Porto Rico Telephone Company station at Pueblo Viejo Ward to the north to deal with the increase demand of service that was overtaxing the Guaynabo-Río Piedras line. Also, local circuits were extended to the rural areas of Guaynabo. In that year the offices at Guaynabo were moved to another buildingⁱⁱⁱ. However, this was insufficient to deal with the traffic because one year later a new line was extended from Guaynabo to San Juan.

One metallic telephone circuit of No. 10 copper wire was strung from Guaynabo to San Juan on the San Juan-Guaynabo road. This circuit was built in order to provide additional facilities to the increase number of subscribers at Guaynabo, and to relieve the old circuit between Guaynabo and Río Piedras which could no longer be useful in the transmission of all messages between those towns. . . Several metallic telephone circuits of No. 12 iron wire were strung from Guaynabo to the suburbs of the town in order to connect several residences^{iv}.

On September 13, 1928 Hurricane San Felipe struck the Island destroying completely the telegraph and telephone system. The Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico dedicated its efforts to reestablish the system. By June 30, 1929 the San Juan-Guaynabo line had been completed and the telephone station at Guaynabo rebuilt^v. By 1936 the

ⁱ Although the town had been founded in 1768, the municipal government was suppressed in 1875 by the Diputación Provincial and its wards were distributed among the municipalities of Río Piedras and Bayamón. It is not until 1912 when Guaynabo is reconstituted as an independent municipality. Carlos A. Rodríguez Villanueva y Gregorio Villegas Cobian, *Guaynabo: Notas para su Historia*. (San Juan: Offset Printing, 1984), 62, 64-65.

ⁱⁱ Government of Porto Rico, *Report of the Governor of Porto Rico to the Secretary of War 1918* (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1918), 470. The report also mentioned that in Guaynabo more than five subscribers could be obtained. However, no action was taken to seek additional subscribers because there was a lack of funds to buy new and larger switchboards.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gobierno de Puerto Rico, *Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico, 1926*, (San Juan: Negociado de Materiales, Imprenta y Transporte, 1926), 162-163.

^{iv} Government of Porto Rico, *Report of the Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927 for the Governor of Porto Rico*, (San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing and Transportation, 1928), 78.

^v Gobierno de Puerto Rico, *Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico Año Fiscal 1928-29*, (San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing and Transportation, 1929), 137-138. The Department of the Interior was only able to reestablish

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Commissioner of the Interior of Puerto Rico reports that the demands of Caguas and Guaynabo caused serious difficulties to the Insular Telegraph Bureau. According to the report these systems [in Caguas and Guaynabo] had been installed when the population had been considerable smaller, but by 1936 telephone service was insufficient to cover the needs of the area^{vi}. Two years later, the telephone lines for San Juan-Río Piedras -by way of Guaynabo- were equipped to operate with the telegraph simultaneously^{vii}.

In fiscal year 1945-46 the Puerto Rico Communication Authority (PRCA) reported to the Governor of Puerto Rico beginning the construction of telegraph and telephone stations in the towns of Juncos, Las Piedras, Cidra, Aibonito and Guaynabo.

During fiscal year 1945-1946 the Authority constructed buildings for the installation of the new telegraph and automatic telephone offices in Juncos, Las Piedras, Cidra, Aibonito and Guaynabo. The bids required by law were invited, the contracts being awarded to the best bidders in each case^{viii}.

In the PRCA report for fiscal year 1947-48 indicated that the stations of Aibonito, Cidra and Guaynabo had been transferred to buildings "specially constructed by the Authority for new automatic telephone plants..". In particular to the stations installed in Cidra and Guaynabo it mentioned,

When the automatic telephone plants were installed at Cidra and Guaynabo, it was necessary to install also telegraph stations there. Up to that time, the telegraph service in these towns had been handled thru the telephone lines^{ix}.

The Telegraph and Telephone station in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico was inaugurated of March 1, 1948^x. The station was built by the Department of the Interior of Puerto Rico for the Puerto Rico Communications Authority (PRCA). Two other identical buildings, that were copies of this Art Deco design, had been previously constructed for the same purpose in the towns of Juncos (1946) and Aibonito (1947) (Figure 3). With the implementation of this functional and attractive prototype, the PRCA introduced a new typology in the Island: the telephone and telegraph building.

There were other reasons for the PRCA to have an interest in having an impact through the architecture of its new buildings. As a new public agency, it had a need of creating an image that would make it stand out and differentiate from the other existing private provider of the same service. Though, any building of the PRCA had to express solidity and modernity while being attractive to the public.

If compared with other places, purely Art Deco buildings are scarce in Puerto Rico, tend to be simple in their expression and are mainly focused in their facade. The style is mostly seen in existing buildings whose facades were transformed to acquire a new, modern, renovated look. This was repeatedly done in the Island, for example, when traditional theaters were transformed into movie-projecting theaters. However, Art Deco was the preferred style used in the design of the new typologies that were introduced in the Island at the beginning of the 20th century. The first examples in Puerto Rico of typologies such as the apartment building, the movie theater, the skyscraper, the military base, the public housing complex, the radio station, among others, were constructed in the Art Deco style. It was also the style chosen to introduce the telephone and telegraph office building prototype. This was particularly true for military and government buildings and all sorts of structures related to the implementation of new technologies, machines and infrastructure, constructed before and during the Second World War. For example, the main offices of the Puerto Rico Electric Power

service in six lines and invested on the reconstruction of only four stations. The other stations built that year were located in Caguas, Gurabo and San Lorenzo.

^{vi} Gobierno de Puerto Rico, Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico Año Fiscal 1936-37, (San Juan: Negociado de Materiales, Imprenta y Transporte, 1937), 62-63.

^{vii} Gobierno de Puerto Rico, Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico Año Fiscal 1937-38, (San Juan: Negociado de Materiales, Imprenta y Transporte, 1938), 65.

^{viii} Government of Puerto Rico, Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico Fiscal Year 1945-46. Typewritten document, pages not enumerated, Oficina del Gobernador, Tarea 96-20, Box 739, General Archives of Puerto Rico.

^{ix} Government of Puerto Rico, Annual Report of Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1947-48, (San Juan: Insular Procurement Office Printing Division, 1948), 12-13.

^x "Teléfono automático instalado en Guaynabo." El Mundo, 3 de marzo de 1948, 12.

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Authority, minor buildings of the Puerto Rico Water Authority, as well as all sorts of facilities used to contain the infrastructure or provide those essential services, were also constructed, during the same period, in the Art Deco style.

For all of the above mentioned reasons, the government chose the Art Deco style for its buildings instead of other more traditional styles. The main PRCA headquarters building, known as *El Telégrafo* (The Telegraph), was inaugurated in March of 1949 in the Ave. Juan Ponce de Leon in Santurce -an emerging (at the time) area of San Juan. The design of this high rise building is attributed to Arch. José Hernández Márquez and its construction to the Puerto Rico Building Corporation. Not only the architectural style of this building is the same as the one used in the telegraph and telephone prototype, they share in their design features and ornamental elements that are identical. Specifically, the use of the same vertical relieves in its facade (that resemble classic architecture pilasters) (Figure 4) and the use of the ornamental medallions with the same relief design in its interior (Figures 5 and 6). Because of these similar design features, there is a high possibility that José Hernández is also the architect of the prototype. However, no solid evidence linking José Hernández to the telegraph and telephone station has been found.

The design of the telegraph and telephone prototype is relatively small and simple in terms of the distribution of interior spaces. It also lacks the interior ornamentation and architectural details of *El Telégrafo* or other Art Deco buildings. However, it is in the design and ornamentation of its facades, its frontal fence and in the spatial sequence it creates between the sidewalk, the frontal garden and the actual building entrance what makes it stand out from other buildings in its vicinity and in its local urban contexts. Also, no matter if constructed in Juncos, Aibonito or in Guaynabo, that spatial gesture in a local urban context where buildings were traditionally placed in the front of the site, just against the sidewalk, relates the building to the pedestrian and invites it to come in. This is precisely what happens in the town of Guaynabo, where the *Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono* is considered an urban icon. Looking at this building, one can see a clear intention of making a constructed object not only utilitarian in its use and in its spatial distribution but attractive to the public (pedestrian and motorized) and to its urban setting as well. The construction of such an attractive and solid building (like the one in Guaynabo) not only had an immediate practical and aesthetic impact wherever it was placed -both among the population and within the urban setting.

The rapid growth of the telephone system in the municipality of Guaynabo from 1949-1957 made it necessary for the installation of additional equipment by the PRTC. Although thirty additional lines had been added to the station during the fiscal year 1949-50 more lines were contemplated in subsequent years as part of an overall enlargement program in the municipalities in the eastern end of the Island^x. In the 1951-52 further additions were made in Guaynabo station to extend PRCA "service to the Santa María Housing Development, whose residents were in urgent need of service. Three new telephone lines were installed from our Guaynabo exchange in order to extend this service to 30 subscribers^{xii}. Two years later (1953-54) locales were sought to extend the services to Caparra Terrace, Caparra Heights and Puerto Nuevo. Later, the telephone service was extended to Beverly Hills housing development^{xiii}.

In fiscal year 1957-58 the Guaynabo facilities were expanded to provide a total capacity for 700 lines^{xiv}. An additional one hundred lines were installed for the Guaynabo station one year later^{xv}. However, by 1961 the PRTC prepared the plans and specifications to replace the telegraph and telephone station with a new telephone center in Guaynabo that would have an initial capacity for 1,600 lines and 2,000 terminals^{xvi}. The construction of the new communication facility in Guaynabo began during the 1962-63 fiscal year and was completed by 1964. The new facility was inaugurated at 10 PM by representatives of the Municipality and the Puerto Rico Communications Authority on July 24, 1964^{xvii}.

^xGovernment of Puerto Rico, Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1949-50, (San Juan, Insular Procurement Office, Printing Division, 1950), 12-13.

^{xii}Government of Puerto Rico, Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1951-52, (San Juan, Insular Procurement Office, Printing Division, 1952), 1.

^{xiii}Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Informe Anual, Año Económico 1956-1957, (San Juan: Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, 1957), 7.

^{xiv}Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Informe Anual, Año Económico 1957-1958, (San Juan: Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, 1958), 10.

^{xv}Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Informe Anual, Año Económico 1958-1959, (San Juan: Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, 1959), 5-6.

^{xvi}Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Informe Anual, Año Económico 1961-1962, (San Juan: Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, 1962), 8.

^{xvii}Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Informe Anual, Año Económico 1964-1965, (San Juan: Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico, 1965), 8. Additional information found in newspaper article "Opera en

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After the station was closed down in 1964 the building has been used for diverse activities by the Municipality of Guaynabo. In the 1970s the building was used briefly as local museum to exhibit donated historic equipment. The museum was closed down in the 1980. In October 28, 1981 the Municipality bought the property from the PRCA for \$44,000.00. During the 1990's, the Municipality of Guaynabo used the building as temporary center for pediatric vaccination. Once permanent facilities for vaccination were constructed, the building has been used as storage area.

The Telegraph and Telephone Station in Guaynabo is one of the two that still remain of the PRCA facilities built in the 1940s and, after the demolition in recent years of the Juncos and Aibonito stations, when they were replaced by new PRTC buildings, it is the only one existing of the three that we know were constructed of this Art Deco prototype. It is also one of the few public constructions that exist in the Island of buildings envisioned and developed entirely in this architectural style.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

By July 25, 1898 when the US troops landed in Guánica, the telegraph system in Puerto Rico extended to almost all the towns connecting 41 offices with the development 1,240.5 kilometers of lines. The Island was divided into four telegraphic districts. These were:

- **San Juan District** – with offices in La Fortaleza (Governor's Mansion), Semáforo, "Lazareto" [Quarantine Station at Cabras Island], Río Piedras, Caguas, Bayamón, Vega Baja, Manatí, Ciales, Arecibo and Utuado;
- **Ponce District** – with offices in Ponce Playa, Juana Díaz, Coamo, Aibonito, Cayey, Guayama, Salinas, Santa Isabel, Adjuntas y Guayanilla;
- **Mayagüez District** – with offices in Mayagüez Playa, Añasco, Aguadilla, Camuy, Lares, San Sebastián, Cabo Rojo, San Germán and Yauco;
- **Humacao District** – with offices in Naguabo, Fajardo, Juncos, San Lorenzo, Yabucoa, Maunabo and Arroyo^{xviii}.

After the Spanish-American war, the US Military Government in Puerto Rico, from October 1898 to May 1900, left the administration of the telegraph system to the United States Signal Corps. In their 1900 the Military Governors reported that there were 33 offices that were run by 50 signal corps men. However, "Toward the end of the period of military government some of the minor offices were closed. The civil government maintained 11 offices"^{xix}. The reduction of the telegraphic stations had been a direct result of the passage of the Hurricane San Ciriaco on August 8, 1899 which caused extensive damages island wide.

Prior to American occupation nearly every town and hamlet on the island had a telegraph office. The hurricane of 1899 destroyed the lines generally, and the Signal Corps restored communication only with the larger towns, so that the system was, and is now, very much reduced from its former magnitude.

With the approval of the 1900 Foraker Act – that established a civilian government – the telegraph system was transferred on February 1st, 1901 to the Bureau of Insular Telegraph (*Negociado de Telegrafo Insular*), of the newly created Puerto Rico Department of the Interior^{xx}. In 1901 the telegraph system in Puerto Rico included: two wire line from San Juan to

Guaynabo Moderna Planta de Teléfono Automático", *El Mundo*, martes, 28 de julio de 1964, 5. The new building had 4,800 square feet and was built at the Muñoz Rivera housing development (north of the Guaynabo urban core). When inaugurated the new facility connected the equipment for 900 clients from the old station and 700 from recent installation. The new telephonic facility served the urban zone of the town and numerous housing developments, among them Torrimar extension, Muñoz Rivera, Ponce de León, Parksville, Mallorca, Villa Clementina, Apolo, García, Bucaré and Landrau subdivision.

^{xviii} Government of Puerto Rico. "Bureau of Insular Telegraph, Brief Historical Account", Appendix VI [Report of the Commissioner of the Interior] of the *Report of the Governor of Porto Rico to the Secretary of War 1919*, (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1919), 489.

^{xix} War Department. *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1900. Part 12. Report of the Military Governor of Porto Rico on Civil Affairs*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1902), 210. In "Bureau of Insular Telegraph, Brief Historical Account", *Report of the Governor of Porto Rico 1919*, 490 indicates that there ten offices connected Aibonito, Central Aguirre, Caguas, Cayey, Fajardo, Ponce, Humacao, Mayagüez, Playa Ponce, Playa Mayagüez and San Juan.

^{xx} Government of Puerto Rico. *First Annual Report of Charles H. Allen, Governor of Porto Rico covering the period from May 1, 1900, to May 1901*, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1901), 72, 321. When the *Insular Telegraph Bureau* was created in 1901, there was no public telephone service in Puerto Rico.

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Ponce through the *Carretera Central* (the main central road which crosses the Island from north to south); one line from San Juan to Ponce through Mayaguez (bordering the Island to the west); and one line from San Juan to Ponce through Fajardo and Humacao (bordering the Island to the east). It also included eight abandoned lines that connected to other towns and important locations: from Ponce to Adjuntas, from Manatí to Ciales, from Aibonito to Barros, from Fajardo to the Fajardo lighthouse, from the Humacao beach to Naguabo, from Coamo to the Baños de Coamo, from Mayaguez to Las Marías and from Aguadilla to Lares. By July 1901 there were 18 telegraphic offices in the Island^{xxi}. This number almost doubled one year later (1902) with 32 offices providing service in Puerto Rico^{xxii}.

The first expansion in telegraphic lines started with a \$15,000 appropriation made by the Insular Legislature in its 1905-06 session^{xxiii}. The funds were quickly expended in the expansion of the system. The legislature made a second appropriation the following year.

By an act of the legislature passed during the session of 1907 the sum of \$25,000 was appropriated to "extend the insular telegraph system by means of telephone lines" the act provided: (1) For a long-distance line between the towns of San Juan and Ponce; (2) The establishment of local telephone exchanges in towns of the Island not covered by existing telephone franchises, and; to connect towns, haciendas, factories, dwellings and other places with the lines of the Insular telegraph system^{xxiv}.

In the Commissioner of the Interior's 1907 report indicated that the construction of a combined telephone and telegraph system between San Juan and Ponce was underway.

We have already under construction a long distance copper telephone line between San Juan and Ponce and propose to connect this line with local exchanges to be established in the intervening towns of Caguas, Cayey and Aibonito. We also propose to connect the various tobacco factories and sugar centrals with the line, thus enabling the large industrial corporations along the "Carretera Central" or military road, to have both telegraphic and telephonic communications with the city of San Juan^{xxv}.

By 1910, the Bureau of Insular Telegraph operated a system that connected 60 municipalities and the telephone system in the south side of the Island. Of these 60 stations ten were operated by the South Porto Rico Telephone Company and the Porto Rico General Telephone Company^{xxvi}. However, during the first ten years of the new century, the first telephones began to appear among civilians due to the establishment of new private telephonic companies—continuing with the monopoly that began in 1890. One of those private companies—the Porto Rico General Telephone Company—was established by Hernan and Sosthenes Behn, two local entrepreneur brothers of Danish descent that had inherited a large portion of land just outside the islet of San Juan, developing in it what, thanks to the installation of telephonic lines, became since the upscale area in San Juan known as El Condado.

The insular telegraph system has no business connections whatever with the Porto Rico General Telephone Company, which operates a telephone system on the north side of the island, from Hormigueros to the west to Carolina to the east, giving local and long-distance telephone service to all of the towns of any importance between these two points, and paralleling the lines of the insular system...^{xxvii}

One year later a special appropriation of \$25,000 permitted "continuing the improvements and the extension of the telegraph and telephone system. With this money the line between Guayama and Salinas were reconstructed, and 437 poles were replaced by new ones in various lines of system".

^{xxi} "Bureau of Insular Telegraph, Brief Historical Account", Report of the Governor of Porto Rico 1919, 490. By July 1, 1901 offices were opened in Manatí, Aguadilla, Arroyo, Coamo, Guayama, San Germán, Arecibo and Yauco.

^{xxii} *Ibid*, 490.

^{xxiii} *Ibid*, 491.

^{xxiv} Government of Puerto Rico, Commissioner of the Interior of Porto Rico to the Governor of Porto Rico for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907), 330.

^{xxv} *Ibid*, 330

^{xxvi} Government of Porto Rico, Report of the Governor of Porto Rico to the Secretary of War 1910, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1910), 121.

^{xxvii} *Ibid*.

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By 1916 there were 14 telegraph lines with 51 offices located island wide. Of these offices "14 were equipped with telegraphic instruments; 14 equipped with telephone instruments, but handling telephone and telegraph service; and 23 equipped with both telegraph and telephone instruments, telegraph service was also handled in 20 stations of the Telephone Co. on a 25 per cent commission basis. The Ceiba and Vieques offices were equipped with heliograph instruments"^{xxviii}.

After experiencing the economic effects of a First World War, the 1918 earthquake that hit the northwestern part of Puerto Rico and two hurricanes - San Felipe (1928) and San Ciprián (1932) - the fragile infrastructure had to be reconstructed and modernized. The funds invested at the time were minimal, the great majority of which were used to implement maintenance and repair of the telegraphic lines and equipment. When new construction is mentioned it was primarily wood and also of miscellaneous features such as retaining walls and fences.

By 1940 there was extensive communications network on the Island that was made up telegraph, telephone, simplex circuits (combined telegraph and telephone) and three wireless telegraph and telephone stations (San Juan, Vieques and Culebra). The communications network was primarily focused on the telegraph system which encompassed 52 traditional urban cores and five communities. The coastal towns were linked through the telegraph, while there was principal communication link (both telegraph and telephone system) between the towns of San Juan (including one station at Santurce), Río Piedras, Caguas, Cayey, Aibonito, Coamo, Juana Díaz and Ponce"^{xxix}.

Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico (1942-1974)

Facing the mounting deficit in operating cost^{xxx} and feeling the turbulent winds of a Second World War, the Government of Puerto Rico decided to direct efforts towards improving essential services by establishing a new agency that would be in charge of the communications in Puerto Rico. In May 12th 1942, the Puerto Rico Legislature approved Law #212, creating the Puerto Rico Communications Authority (*Autoridad de Comunicaciones de Puerto Rico*) which was authorized to "acquire, construct, maintain, operate, improve and extend revenue-producing undertakings to continue the development of communication facilities in, to and from the Island....The Authority started functioning on December 1, 1942 when it took over the Insular Telegraph Bureau"^{xxxi}.

Prior to the creation of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority (PRCA), the Government of Puerto Rico from 1918 to 1935 had invested only in the construction of telegraph and telephone offices in eight towns^{xxxii}. Initially the equipment used for the telephonic and telegraphic communication possible had been relatively simple and could be installed in basically any structure (Figure 7), these facilities were installed and the service was provided from existing buildings conceived for other uses (Figure 8), or in new plain and simple structures that were constructed for these purpose but in less permanent materials (Figure 9). The chosen structure just had to be located near the population it served and near the road that had the necessary infrastructure system to connect to, which consisted of wire lines and wooden posts. For those reasons, since the 19th century all sorts of residential and commercial buildings had been used to provide, first, the telegraphic service and, later on, the telephonic service -or a combination of both, as they could share the same lines. For this reason, in 1942 the Authority was paying rent on 62 of its 84 telegraph and telephone offices. PRCA had paid \$7,185.00 that fiscal year in the rent of these offices. To reduce this cost, "...the Legislative Assembly had made appropriations of \$25,000.00 for the construction or purchase of buildings for the establishment of telegraph and telephone stations"^{xxxiii}.

^{xxviii} Bureau of Insular Telegraph, Brief Historical Account", Report of the Governor of Porto Rico 1919, 491.

^{xxx} Map of the Island of Puerto Rico Showing the Telegraph and Telephone Lines in Operation by Insular Government to accompany Annual Report 1940-41. Archivo General de Puerto Rico, Oficina del Gobernador, Tarea 96-20, Box 423. There were additional lines extended to military facilities that did not appear in this map.

^{xxx} Insular Telegraph Bureau had an annual deficit of close to \$80,000 due to the fact that 50% of its business was free services to the Insular Legislature and half rate to Department and Agencies of Insular and Federal Governments. A \$50,000 appropriation was obtained to cover this deficit. Government of Puerto Rico, Forty-Third Annual Report of the Governor of Puerto Rico Honorable Rexford G. Tugwell 1943, (San Juan: Insular Procurement Office, Printing Division, 1944), 43-44

^{xxxii} Government of Puerto Rico, Forty-Third Annual Report of the Governor of Puerto Rico, 1943, 43.

^{xxxiii} Telegraph stations were built in the towns of Aguadilla (1919;1930), Caguas (1922), Ceiba (1935), Juncos (1933), Mayagüez (1918;1925), Ponce (1926), San Juan (1922) and San Lorenzo (1926). Data obtained from the section of Public Building Division in the Annual Reports of the Commissioner of the Interior.

^{xxxiii} Government of Puerto Rico, Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable The Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1942-43, (San Juan: Insular Procurement Office, Printing Division, 1944), 12. In

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Both, the Puerto Rico Telephone Company and the PRCA would work as independent but parallel systems (one private and the other governmental) providing the same services in different jurisdictions. In 1942 offices operating at great losses were eliminated and an arrangement made with the Puerto Rico Telephone Company to have their telephone stations carry out the telegraph service in those areas.

The creation of the PRCA in 1942 was part of a wider effort promoted by the local government aimed to develop Puerto Rico through the nationalization of the essential public services and the creation of public corporations such as the *Autoridad de Tierras* (the Land Authority)(1941), the *Autoridad de Fuentes Fluviales* (the Electric Power Authority) (1941), the *Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados* (the Aqueducts and Sewers Authority) (1945), the *Autoridad de Transporte de Puerto Rico* (the Puerto Rico Transportation Authority) (1942), the *Compañía de Fomento Industrial* (the Industrial Development Company) (1942), among others. These public corporations were separate legal entities owned, either entirely or in a large majority, by the local government (central or municipal) and created to provide a public service, such as electricity, water, public financing, transportation, use and development of public lands and communications, among others. These were the first steps taken towards the industrialization of the Island through the implementation of a wide social and economic government program, latter known as *Operación Manos a la Obra* (Operation Bootstrap), and towards the definition of a new political status called *Estado Libre Asociado*, which was officially attained in 1952.

The PRCA received by the Law #212 all the facilities of the Bureau of Insular Telegraph, and public funds to improve existing facilities and to establish new needed infrastructure –including the construction of a new, permanent buildings, specially designed and built for those particular uses. Part of that new infrastructure needed were headquarters offices for the PRCA, which were installed in Santurce, a ward of San Juan. The construction of a high-rise (at the time) building began in the same site where the local telegraphic offices once existed in the area. The new building, that still exists, was finished in 1949 and named *Edificio El Telégrafo* (The Telegraph Building) (Figure #4). Also as part of the new construction related to the development of the new communications agency, plans were made to construct telephone and telegraph buildings in those towns under the jurisdiction of the Authority that lacked solid, permanent, physical facilities. A prototype was designed and developed combining both telephone and telegraph facilities and sharing the same architectural style and ornaments as the main PRCA building being constructed in Santurce.

Meanwhile, on June 3, 1945, the PRTC inaugurated the first automatic telephone system in the Island. One year later, on July 7, 1946, four years after its creation, the PRCA inaugurated the second automatic telephone system in the Island in the town of Juncos. Also inaugurated with the service was the actual facilities where they were located, as the Juncos building was the first of the prototype design that was actually constructed. Other towns, such as Caguas (Figure 10), San Lorenzo and Gurabo (Figure 11), rapidly followed and also provided the automatic telephone and telegraph service, but from previously existing buildings. Following the construction of the prototype building in Juncos, identical facilities were also built in Aibonito (1947) and Guaynabo (1948). The second prototype building – smaller than the Juncos building – was built for the towns of Las Piedras and Cidra (Figure 12).

In the 1950s, telecommunications evolved vertiginously towards automation and transmission through microwaves, making the telegraph (and the need for a telephonic and telegraphic office) a thing of the past. In 1952, Puerto Rico had 50,965 telephones that depended on the telephone and telegraph building installations. However, variations of the telegraph were used until the decade of the 1980's.

In 1974, after decades of problems related to services and salaries offered, the Government of Puerto Rico, facing mounting public pressure from the press, responded on May 6th, 1974 with Law #25 creating the Puerto Rico Telephone Authority, which purchased PRTC from ITT for \$168 million. The PRCA was also put under the new Telephone Authority, but was not merged with PRTC.

that year \$5,000.00 were used from this appropriation to purchase the building used as a telegraph and telephone station in Cayey. In addition to those of the offices that built by the Bureau of Insular Telegraph, there were other offices whose locale was provided, free of cost, by municipal governments.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: General Archives of Puerto Rico

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 114-043-004-04

10. Geographical Data

PRCAreage of

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

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 805369 2032310
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property are: lands of the Román Baldorioty de Castro Public School along the north property line; private lands owned by José Baquero Lafayet along the east and south property lines; and José E.

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Carazo St. along the west property line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries corresponds to the current concrete fence that encloses on the historic property. The property is located in two municipality-owned urban lots that are historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title José E. Marull, Senior Historic Property Specialist, PRSHPO/ Karen González Jensen, Architectural
Historian, ARK Consultants in Historic Preservation

organization PRSHPO/ARK Consultants in Historic Preservation date February 29, 2012

street & number PO Box 9023935 telephone (787) 721-3737, ext. 2011

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00902-3935

e-mail jmarull@prshpo.gobierno.pr; kgonzalez@arkventuresonline.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.

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Steven Colón

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the Telegraph and Telephone Station's main façade (west) taken from the Jose Caranzo Street looking approximately northeast.

1 of 6.

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Karen González Jensen

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Close up of the main façade's concrete fence and iron railing, looking approximately south.

2 of 6.

Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono
Name of Property

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
County and State

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Steven Colón

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Another view of the Telegraph and Telephone Station's main façade (west) taken from the Jose Caranzo Street looking approximately east.
3 of 6.

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Steven Colón

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Partial view of the door openings of the two rooms on the northern façade. Looking approximately southeast.
4 of 6.

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Karen González Jensen

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Close up of the entrance of the station that illustrates the horizontal and vertical elements that are organized in three distinctive areas. Looking approximately northeast.
5 of 6.

Name of Property: Oficina de telégrafo y teléfono

City or Vicinity: Guaynabo

County: Guaynabo

State: Puerto Rico

Photographer: Karen González Jensen

Date Photographed: July 11, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Partial view of the eastern façade that shows the air condition units on the window openings (closed up today) of the southern room, lobby and northeastern room. Looking approximately northwest.
6 of 6.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Municipality of Guaynabo

street & number PO Box 7885 telephone (787) 720-4040

city or town Guaynabo state PR zip code 00970

Paperwork Reduction PRCAt Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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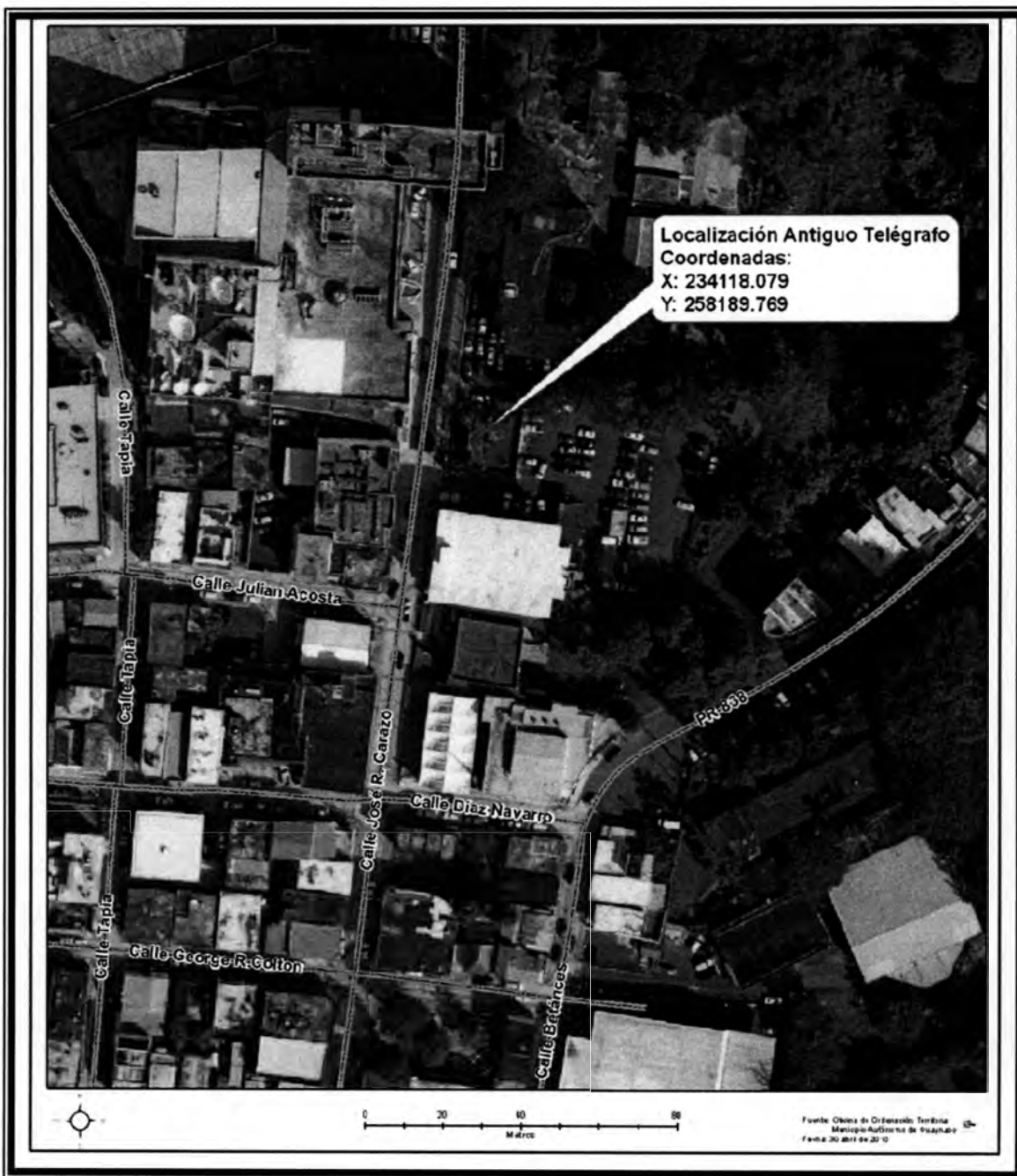
Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Location Map of the Telegraph and Telephone Station. Map prepared by the *Oficina de Ordenación Territorial*, Municipality of Guaynabo, April 20, 2010.



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Figure 2. Photo with heading "Inauguran en Juncos el teléfono automático" from the newspaper *El Mundo*, July 9, 1946, page 5. The photo's caption mentions that the new building was built in Juncos by the Communication Authority to install telephone and telegraph services.



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Figure 3. Two pictures of the same Art Deco automatic telephone stations. The first one (top right) was for the towns of Juncos and Guaynabo. The second picture (bottom left) was for the town of Aibonito Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1947-48, page 42.



Edificio del Teléfono Automático en Juncos y Guaynabo.



Edificio del Teléfono Automático en Aibonito.

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Figure 4. Photo of *El Telégrafo* Building (AC Headquarters) Santurce, Puerto Rico (1949) taken by David R. Soto Padín.



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Figure 5. *El Telégrafo Building* (4th floor door), Santurce, Puerto Rico (1949) by David R. Soto Padín.



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Figure 6. El Telégrafo Building (4th floor door detail), Santurce, Puerto Rico (1949) by David R. Soto Padín.



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Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

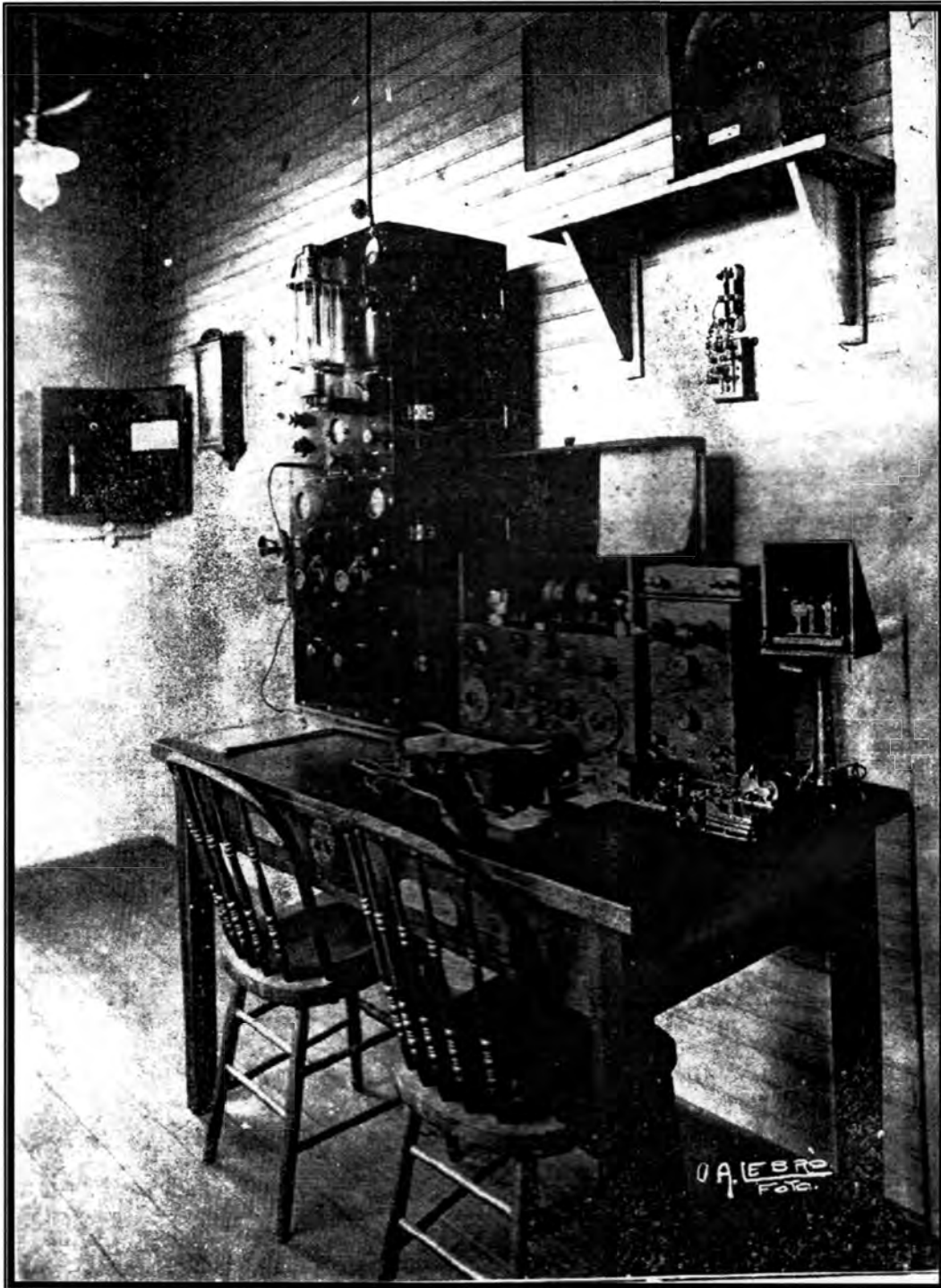
Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 7. Telephone and Telegraph Equipment in Ceiba and Vieques. Revista de Obras Públicas, 1:4 (Abril 1931), 150.



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Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

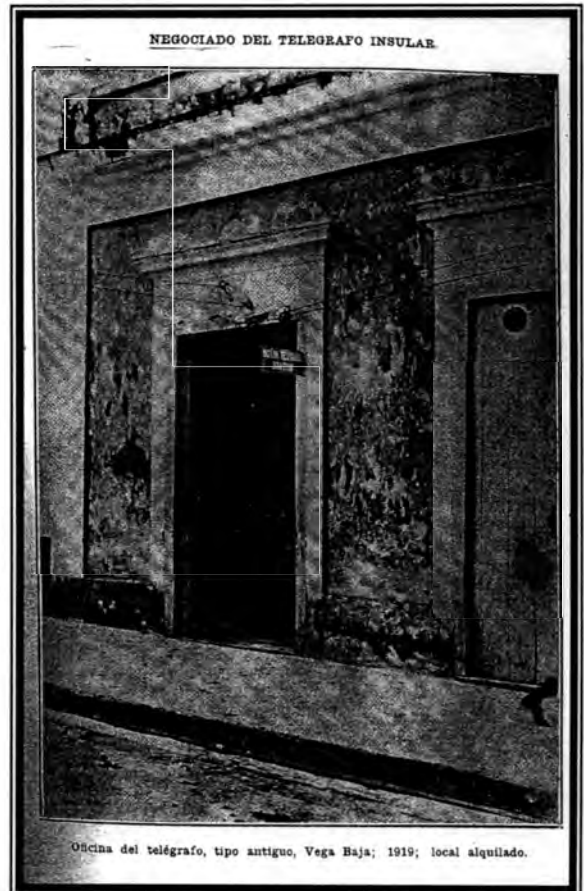
Name of Property

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 8. Porto Rico Telephone Company, Hato Rey Exchange, Puerto Rico (1936) and office in rented locale in Vega Baja in 1919.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional Information Page 9

Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

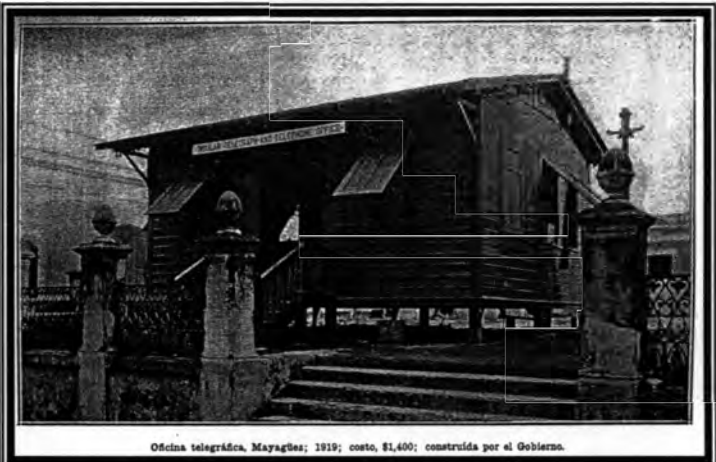
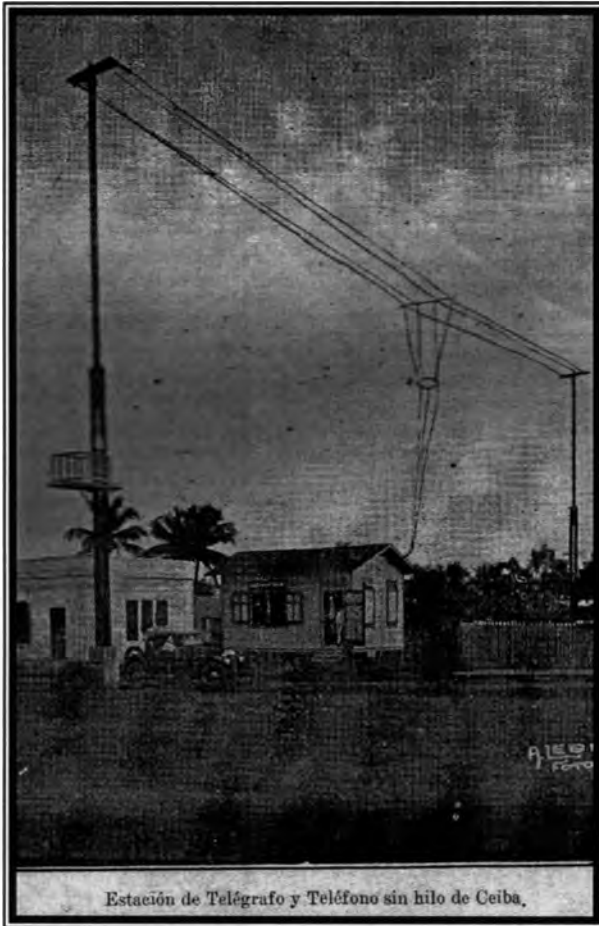
Name of Property

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 9. Telephone and Telegraph Office, Ceiba, Puerto Rico (to the right), Revista de Obras Públicas, Octubre de 1925; Mayagüez (top right) and Aguadilla (bottom right) telegraph stations, photos taken from the Informe del Comisionado del Interior al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico, 1919.



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Continuation Sheet

Additional Information Page 10

Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

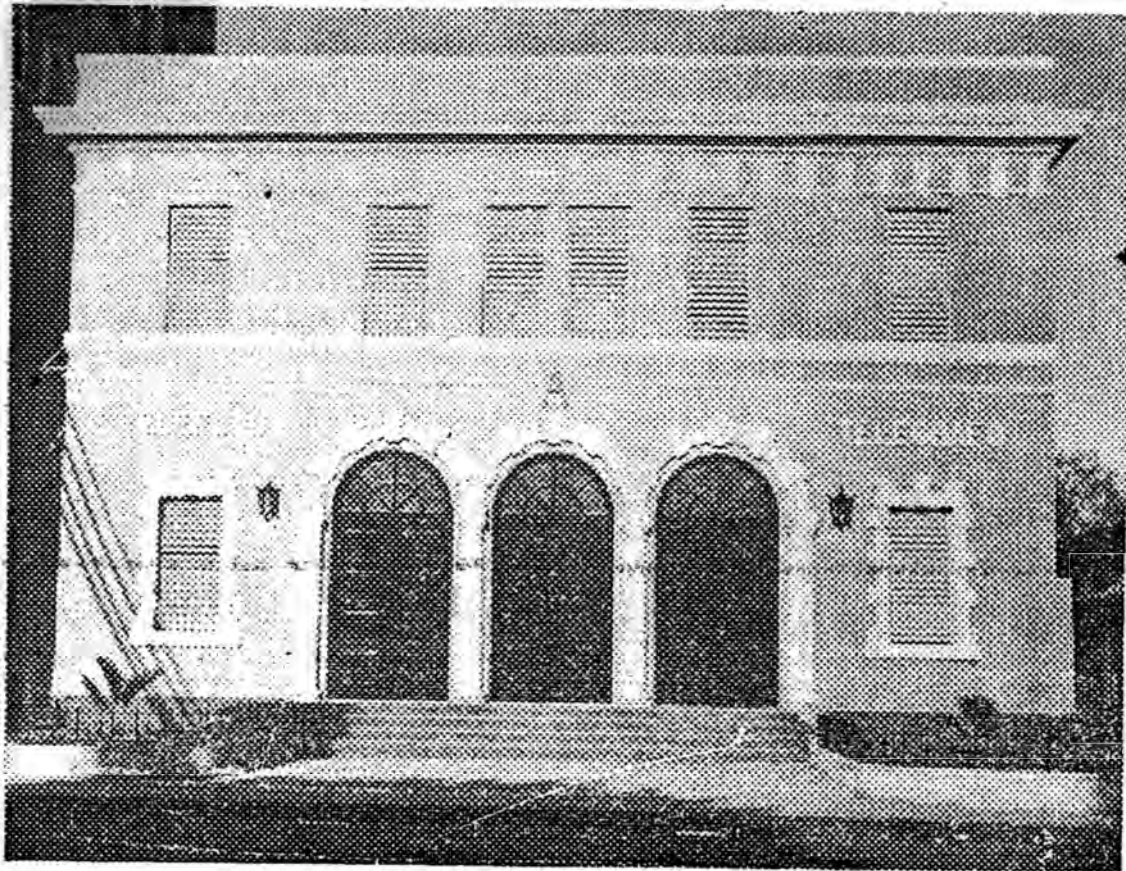
Name of Property

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 10. Telephone and Telegraph Office, Caguas, Puerto Rico (C. 1922). Building with insular funds and used as Police and Telephone building during 1922-23 fiscal year. In fiscal year 1944-45 repairs were made to the building to convert it into the toll center of the area. Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1947-48, page 44.



Edificio del Teléfono en Caguas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

Name of Property

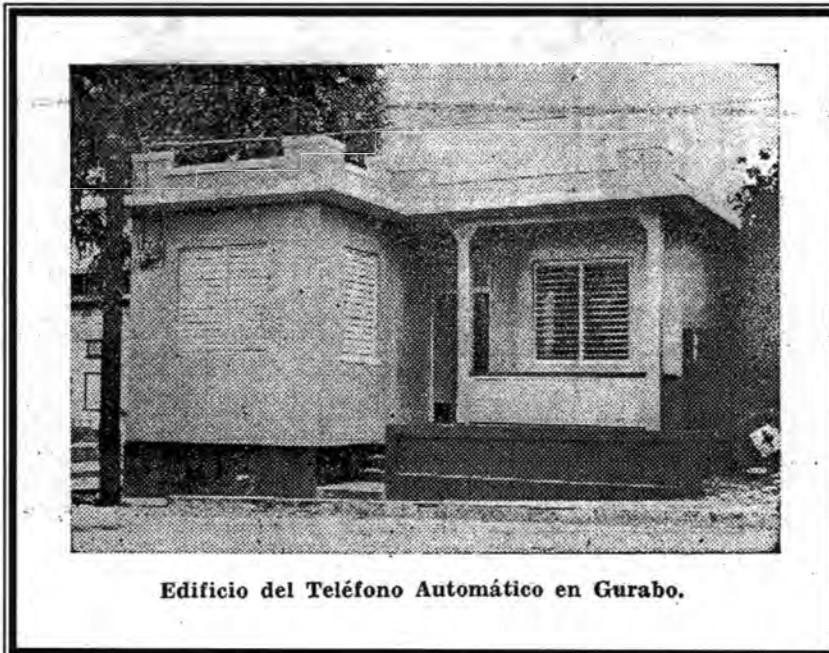
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information Page 11

Figure 11. Telephone and Telegraph Office of San Lorenzo and Gurabo. Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1947-48, page 43.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono

Name of Property

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 12. Model Automatic Telephone Station for the towns of Las Piedras and Cidra. Annual Report of the Puerto Rico Communications Authority to the Honorable the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Legislature of Puerto Rico, Fiscal Year 1947-48, page 44.



Eðificio del Teléfono Automático en Las Piedras y Cidra.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Oficina de Telegrafo y Telefono
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PUERTO RICO, Guaynabo

DATE RECEIVED: 5/18/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/13/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/28/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/04/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000396

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.3.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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











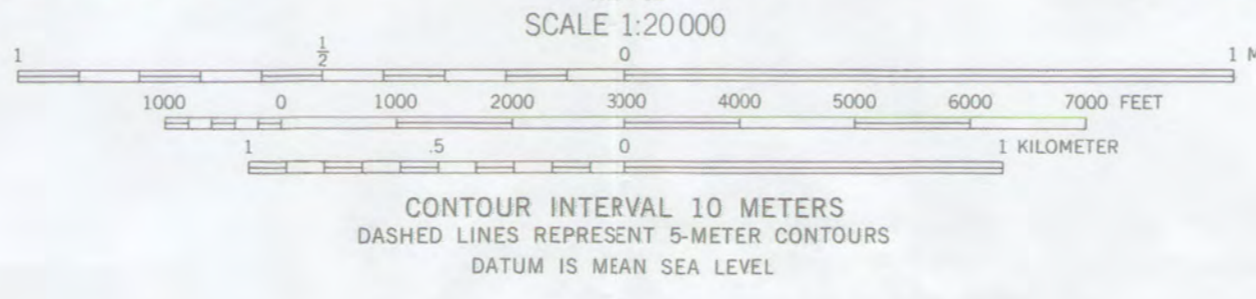
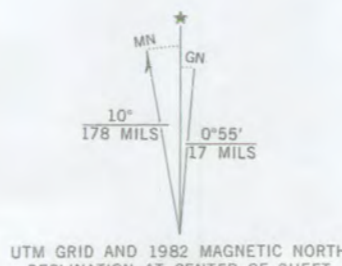




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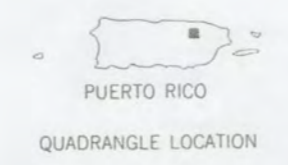
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1941. Field checked 1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rico Datum, 1940 adjustment
2000-meter grid ticks based on Puerto Rico coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Barrio and municipality boundaries by the Puerto Rico Planning Board
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Kilometric reference distances shown in red
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-METER CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

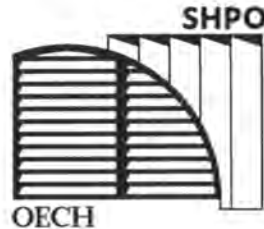
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00910
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather ——— Light-duty road, all weather, hard surface ———
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface ——— Unimproved road, fair or dry weather ———
Insular Route ———
EDIFICIO TELEFONO Y TELEGRAFICO
GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO
UTM: 19J805369/2032310
000804 AGUAS BUENAS, P. R.
N1815-W6600/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 1322 I-N-E-SERIES E835

OFICINA ESTATAL DE
CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA
OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



May 9, 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 – OFICINA DE TELÉGRAFO Y TELÉFONO, GUAYNABO

Dear Ms. Schull:

We are pleased to submit for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places the nomination of the **Oficina de Telégrafo y Teléfono** located in the Municipality of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

Should you have any questions on the nomination, please contact José E. Marull, at 787-721-3737, ext. 2011 or jmarull@prshpo.gobierno.pr.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela, Architect
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/BRS/jvr

Enclosures

WWW.OECH.GOBIERNO.PR