

P40670103

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 17 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1977

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Faro de Vieques

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Isabel II

___ VICINITY OF
CODE

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

PUERTO RICO

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE ___ MUSEUM
___ BUILDING(S)	___ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME DEPARTAMENTO DE RECURSOS NATURALES

STREET & NUMBER
Puerto de Tierra

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Puerto Rico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Departamento de Recursos Naturales

STREET & NUMBER
Puerto de Tierra

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

STATE
Puerto Rico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of Monuments of Puerto Rico

DATE

1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

STATE
Puerto Rico

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is one of series of lighthouses built by the Spanish colonial authorities at the end of the 19th century. There were several models designed, according to the importance of the site to be defended and the traffic, of incoming or passing vessels.

The Vieques lighthouse is one of the smaller models, designated model no. 6 in the Folio showing plans for lighthouses. It is a rectangular building with a central octagonal tower. The main structure is approximately 36' x 24' and 25' high. The tower rises 50' including the lantern section.

The roof of flat tile is supported by wood beams, and the walls are of brick and masonry rubble. The exterior finish is white. The interior has been altered to accommodate the family of the lighthouse guard. Thus, the circular stair leading from the interior to the top of the tower is currently sealed off. The guard goes to the lantern section from the outside with a ladder.

The windows are no longer the original louvers or persiennes, but the miami style shutters of aluminium. The neoclassical exterior frame remains. The general design is neo-classical, including the cornice around the roof of the building.

Many alterations besides the interior (although those are minor) have occurred, included are the installation of a new lantern, as well as the necessary electrical wires and plumbing which are unfortunately exposed. There seem to be no other structures on the grounds.

(not permitted to photograph interior)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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 1896-03

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eng. Jose M. Sanz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The lighthouse is one of a series built in Puerto Rico and its dependent islands by the Spanish Colonial authorities. The lighthouses of that period are disappearing unless protected, since they are currently rapidly being replaced by more sophisticated equipment. It rises almost 70' from the headland of the harbor with St Thomas on the east and Puerto Rico on West.

The lighthouse was designed by one of the military engineers of the time, Jose Sanz, following the system of a series of models from most simple and modest to rather imposing in scale and design. This particular model is simple with an interior quite utilitarian and the exterior reflecting the utilitarian purposes of the structure while still providing it with the neoclassical proportions and ornament of the period.

The island of Vieques was originally occupied by the French but they were quickly replaced by the Spanish colonial powers in 1647. The occupation was not more than symbolic however, since there is evidence that French and English settlers remained on the island without trouble. The British managed to increase their influence and occupied the island, even building a small fort. This was challenged by a small expedition from Puerto Rico in 1718 which destroyed the fort, and transporting the cannon to Puerto Rico along with slaves and prisoners. Another expedition, in 1752, completed the destruction initiated by the previous attack. It was not until 1843 that a municipality was officially created on the island with the authority of the Governor of Puerto Rico, Don Santiago Mendez Vigo.

The island began to thrive again, with sugar plantations and contraband in full swing. Since the 1940's the sugar produced by the mills is sent to Puerto Rico for grinding.

The lighthouse now is utilized by the US Coast Guard authorities, and the island of Vieques has been a target area for US military exercises: 26,000 of the island's 33,000 acres are a military reservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Archives of Puerto Rico
Folio 231, Serie Puentes y Muelles

Diccionario Historico Comentado Bibliografico de Puerto Rico, A. Hostos
Accademia Puertorriqueña de la Historica, 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres approx. *See 1980 theme name area material for specific boundary*

UTM REFERENCES 18 9'25" N lat; 65 26'40" W long.

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

A. Tarr consulting architect

ORGANIZATION

Institute of Puerto Rican Culture

DATE

Nov. 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Juan

STATE

Puerto Rico

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

8-1-77

TITLE Executive Director, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 11/17/77

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]*

DATE 11-16-77

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 39/47

NAME: Historic: Faro de Punta Mulas
Common: Punta Mulas Light

LOCATION: On Point Mulas, easterly side of Isabel II Harbor, westerly shore of Vieques Island, about 10 miles east of Puerto Rico. On position 18° 09.4' N - 65° 30.9' W.

CLASSIFICATION: Occupied (non-U.S.C.G. personel). Restricted access.

DESCRIPTION: Good condition. Altered. Original site.

The structure was built in 1895. Its background is the city-capital of Vieques, Isabel II, and the central hills of the island. The brick and stone lighthouse, originally painted light blue with white trimmings, followed official design. It is a rectangular dwelling built around the tower. Its base, 3 x 2.8 mts. opens to the vestibule, 5 x 3.2 mts. A cast iron winding stairway, 1.6 mt. in diameter, leads to the lantern. A door in the tower opens to the roof. The lantern is cylindrical, 1.6 mt. in diameter, made of cast-iron, copper, and glass. Originally it was lined with teak wood. The outside brick gallery is enclosed by a cast-iron balustrade.

The original illuminating apparatus was a 6th order, lenticular, 1895 fixed red Barbier & Bernard lens with an 8 mile range. It had 30 cm. in diameter and was formed by 4 panels; 5 elements in each panel of the central drum; 5 prisms on each panel above central drum and 2 prisms below. The lens was held in place by a cast-iron pedestal. The keeper's quarters were located north of the vestibule: a 4.95 x 3.25 mts. living room, a 4.95 x 2.55 mts. dormitory and another, 4.95 x 3.40 mts. West of the tower base, opening into the rear patio a 3.75 x 3.40 mts. kitchen-dining area was found. It had a 1.5 x 0.64 mt. pantry room recessed into the tower base. South of the vestibule, the engineer's room, 4.95 x 3.2 mts. and the keeper's assistant room (also named office) 4.95 x 3.2 mts. were located. Finally, two more rooms were found in the SW corner: a 3.4 x 2.1 mts. oil room and a 2.7 x 3.4 mts. storeroom connected by a common door. The entire structure was 16.2 x 10.6 x 5.7 mts. The external decorative elements are identical to those of Punta Figuras and Punta Mulas.

The original structure went through several alterations in the 1940's: the brick roof was rebuilt in reinforced concrete; the old north and south kitchen walls were torn down partially and new openings were made for doors; the oil room became the new pantry and the storeroom a dining area; the office room became the storeroom and the engineer's room a bedroom; the old vestibule was transformed into a livingroom

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and the livingroom became the new office. Most of the original interior woodwork was retained, though. In 1944 further alterations were introduced: the 1940 pantry became a power plant; the diningroom a battery room; the storeroom a bathroom and space was made up for a new storeroom out of the office. The interior original wood work was again retained. Also retained was the original lantern as well as the old cistern and well.

In 1949 the light was converted into an unattended automatic light and boarded up. Since the 1960's, the lighthouse has been reoccupied and on a relatively permanent basis someone has been taking care of the premises. The light characteristics went also through several changes, at least seven, since 1902.

SIGNIFICANCE: It was established as a minor local light to guide the navigation through a very dangerous passage formed by a chain of reefs, among these, the renowned Caballo Blanco on the Vieques Sound, and the Vieques Passage. It was also of key importance for the sea traffic going through San Juan Passage. Thus, the lighthouse has the unique position to act as a minor light-bridge between Punta Tuna, Culebrita, and Cabo San Juan Lights.

It terms of its altered structure it testifies to its adaptability to modern needs without discarding its basic original elements.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Area nominated: 2.5 acres. Boundary description: beginning at a point S 21° 45' E 153 ft from S corner of dwelling; thence N 60° 30' E 104 ft to a point; thence N 27° E 27 ft to a point; thence N 8° 45' E 266 ft to a point; thence N 46° 15' W 126.9 ft to a point; thence S 75° 30' W 83.4 ft to high water mark; thence along high water mark southerly and easterly to a point N 60° 30' E 40 ft from point of beginning; thence from this point to the point of beginning.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: v. attached pocket #13 "Punta Mulas Light". Enclosures are: Quadrangle; plan area nominated; 1898 photo; 1978 photos; original site drawings photos; alteration's drawings.