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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 17 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 18 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 Fuerte de Vieques (Fort of Vieques) or Fuerte de Mirasol

AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Calle del Fuerte

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Isabel II

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Isle of Vieques

Puerto Rico

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

San Juan

VICINITY OF

STATE
Puerto Rico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registro de la Propriedad

STREET & NUMBER

Municipio de Vieques

CITY, TOWN

Isabel II

STATE
Vieques Puerto Rico

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic 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

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The fort is one of many variations of geometrical design which was adopted by the Spanish military engineers. The structure is one of the smaller fortifications to be found in Puerto Rico, probably because Vieques was not as threatened as the main island, where major fortifications existed since the late seventeenth and during the eighteenth centuries. This fort was also built toward the end of the Spanish colonial 'investment'.

The general shape of the exterior wall is an oval, however the oval is interrupted by sharp angles (see attached map). Within the wall is the main structure which is rectangular in plan with a semicircular hexagonal tower at one end. There are two interior courts.

The fort is in two levels, both of which are currently being restored. The materials are timber beam roofing, brick and stone supporting, exterior and interior walls, and local tile flooring. Parts of the structure are painted white others are left exposed, both for the interior and the exterior. The white is lime mortar.

The wall which serves as first line of defense was never completed.

The style ~~is~~ for Spanish Renaissance fortifications was maintained despite the late date of construction of the fort. The whole roof line was crenelated. In general, openings were rectangular, however, in the interior, wide arched openings are used throughout and there are occasional 'gothic' narrow arched doors.

The exterior, 'defense' wall, has a height from the ground to the floor level of the upper story, so that the effect is that the second level of the fort is on an extended protective platform.

The alterations consist mainly of changes in the form of the openings, which at one time were larger, then bricked up, then opened again to what is now considered the original size. Since the fort also served as a jail toward the end of the 19th century, certain alterations were made for security purposes, but no evidence of these changes remain since the start of restoration.

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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The fort was constructed in 1845, during the reign of Isabel II of Spain, by order of Don Rafael de Aristegui y Velez de Gevara, Count Mirasol, to control the passage between Vieques and prevent French and English raids. It is one the few military fortifications remaining in the Caribbean which is also in rather fair condition and in the process of restoration.

The island which was originally occupied in turn by the French and the British, [REDACTED] had fortifications built by those powers. These were destroyed by the Spanish fleet which occupied the island in 1647. The British managed to return to Vieques which [REDACTED] Spain was not defending as vigorously as other more important outposts. In the mid- 18th century a small band from Puerto Rico was sent to eradicate the British settlement, and decided to control the island in a more official manner. In 1843 it became a part of Puerto Rico, and Don Santiago Mendez Vigo the Governor, also controlled the island. From then on many sugar plantations flourished on the island, and the population increased. It thus became necessary to build the Fort which was to protect the island from any future intervention as well as to visually establish its importance. It seems to have ended up functioning more as a garrison than a truly defensive bastion.

The island still retains the vestiges of its 3 cultures, with many streets and families bearing French and English names.

The Fort is being restored by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and shall be used as a museum for art and Vieques history and culture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

La Guerra del Caribe en el Siglo XVIII, J.M. Zapatero, San Juan, 1964

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

UTM REFERENCES N lat 18 8'⁵⁰'22" W lon 65 26'35"

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

Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Plaza San Jose

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 x

STATE x

LOCAL x

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

8-I-77

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 11/18/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [unclear]

DATE 11-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER