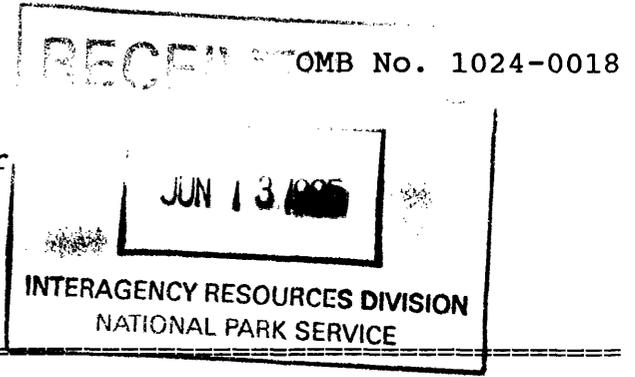


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Marqués de la Serna Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #379, Puente de Bayamón

2. Location

street & number SR 890, km. 24.1, Barrio Juan Sánchez not for publication  
city or town Bayamón vicinity X  
state Puerto Rico code PR county Bayamón code 021 zip code 00956

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arleen Pabón PhD  
Signature of certifying official

May 25, 1995  
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall      7-19-95  
Entered in the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper      Date  
for      of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Puerto Rico"

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

Current Functions

Cat: Recreational use Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification: Other/ rolled iron segmented arch

Materials

foundation N/A  
roof N/A  
walls N/A  
other superstructure - iron and concrete  
substructure - masonry

Narrative Description

The Marqués de la Serna Bridge is today the center piece of a small park located immediately northeast of kilometer 24.1 on route 890. The bridge has segmented arches that are similar to those of the Arcole Bridge in Paris (Photo 1). Twenty-four feet above the level of the river, the structure is composed of four parallel set rises, trusses with arched lower chords, diagonal spandrel elements and with the cords embedded into the rubble masonry of the abutments. The floor/deck substitution does not affect the essential character of the structure, which is provided by the arches and cast iron ornamentation, which cover the deck's edge. This bridge possesses historic integrity of location, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The alterations in setting and materials are minor. It is sided by cast iron elements adorned with relief flowers. Originally the structure had the Marqués de la Serna's coat of arms at the center of the railings. The bridge's setting has been altered, but it retains some of its character and focuses on the bridge itself. The railings are not as important in this case in which observers are not limited to crossing the bridge but walk around and beneath it. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1	superstructure: iron and concrete
span length: 25.5 meters	substructure: masonry
total length: 25.5 meters	construction date: 1869
roadway wdt.: 4.60 meters	current condition: good

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: engineering, transportation

Period of Significance: 1869-1944

Significant Dates: 1869, 1881, 1889

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Isidoro Abarca (erected by)

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Marqués de la Serna bridge is named after the marquis of Serna, Félix María de Messina, who was governor of Puerto Rico from 1862 to 1865. It is the first metal bridge to have been built in the Island, and the only metal arch bridge that exists in Puerto Rico. The iron elements were brought from France. The bridge was assembled by Isidoro Abarca, Founder of Abarca Foundry, over the rubble masonry abutments of an older wooden bridge as part at the Cataño-Bayamón highway, one of the first in Puerto Rico and an important link between San Juan Bay and the agricultural land to the South and West.

Between 1881 and the early 1900s the bridge also served the Línea Férrea del Oeste Railroad. For that purpose, two of the arches were reinforced in 1881.

This valuable relic is the only bridge of its type in Puerto Rico and within the jurisdiction of the United States. It is well conserved and an excellent example of how to preserve for full recreational and educational value those historical bridges no longer in vehicular use.

For further contextual information regarding bridge building in Puerto Rico, registration requirements, and property types, see related multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Puerto Rico".

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Pumarada O'Neill, Luis. Los Puentes Históricos de Puerto Rico. Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo, RUM, Mayagüez 1991.**

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency: **Puerto Rico Highway Authority**
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus**
- Other

Name of repository:

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>800500</u>	<u>2037190</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___	See continuation sheet.		___	___	___

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 25.5 X 4.60 meters, which is centered on the coordinates listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure and floor system.

Boundary Justification

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with this bridge.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Luis Pumarada O'Neill, Ph.D. (Revised and edited by PRSHPO)

organization Arqueología Industrial Caribeña date July 31, 1994

street & number 3-D-37 Villa Interamericana telephone (809) 264-4024

city or town San Germán state PR zip code 00683

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

name Municipality of Bayamón

street & number Bayamón City Hall telephone (809) 780-5552

city or town Bayamón state PR zip code 00956