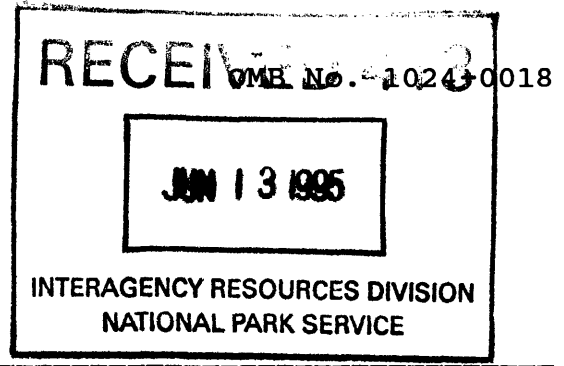


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name General Norzagaray Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #4, "Puente de Los Frailes"

2. Location

street & number SR 873, km 0.8, Barrios Tortugo/Monacillos

not for publication

city or town San Juan vicinity X

state Puerto Rico code PR county San Juan code 127 zip code 00901

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 Pabon PhD

Signature of certifying official

May 25, 1995  
Date

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* 7-12-95

Entered in the  
National Register

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

*for* Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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

Historic Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

Current Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

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

Architectural Classification Other/ brick barrel vault

Materials

foundation	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>superstructure - masonry, concrete, steel</u> <u>substructure - masonry, brick</u>

Narrative Description

General Norzagaray Bridge (Photo 1, 1989), over the Quebrada Frailes, is still in use in kilometer 0.8 of route 873.

In 1927 the bridge's superstructure was altered. The earth fill was removed and longitudinal girders were installed on the arch piers to support a concrete floor deck. Manholes in the pavement provide access to this structure within a structure. Transverse tension rods cross the spandrel space to pull the walls together. Its façade has been altered with concrete projections that stand out, one over each pier, and with exposed steel strips which anchor the tension rods (Photo 2, 1993). The tallest piers have buttresses on both sides of the arch under which the creek flows. Others have been reinforced with concrete buttresses, during this century.

The bridge's setting and structure have suffered no significant alterations. Two 19th century marble plaques on the bridge carry the name of the builders, designers, and a dedication to General Norzagaray (Photo 3). Despite the alterations to its super structure, the bridge retains a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, and setting.

A description of the structure follows:

span number: 8	construction date: 1854-1855
span length: 9.8 meters	superstructure: masonry, concrete, steel
total length: 120.7 meters	substructure: masonry, brick
roadway wdt.: 7.00 meters	current condition: fair

=====  
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 1855-1944

Significant Dates 1855, 1927

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Gustavo Steinacher, builder  
Manuel Sánchez-Nuñez y Layne, designer

Narrative Statement of Significance

The General Norzagaray Bridge is named after Fernando de Norzagaray y Escudero, governor of Puerto Rico from 1852 to 1855. The bridge is part of the San Juan-Caguas segment of the old Carretera Central. Designed by Chief Engineer Manuel Sánchez-Nuñez y Layne and executed by the prominent 19th century engineer Gustavo Steinacher for 45,346 pesos, it is one of the most impressive bridges from the Spanish Colonial period. It serves as a prime example of Spanish 19th century masonry arch technology. No similar example exist in the US jurisdiction.

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

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

**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	19	807340	2031680	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 120.7 X 7.00 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.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

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

organization Arqueología Industrial Caribeña date July 31, 1994

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

city or town San Germán state PR zip code 00683

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

name Public Works Department, Puerto Rico

street & number Minillas Government Center telephone (809) 729-1529

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00907