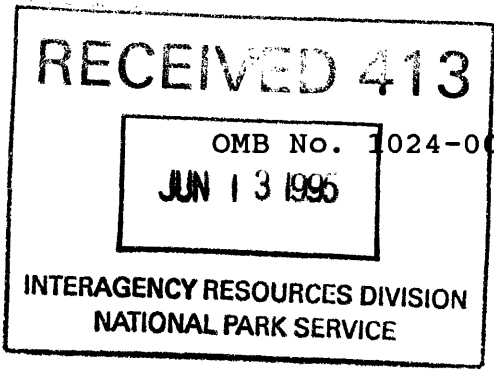


8413



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 Arenas Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #466, Puente Río La Plata

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number SR 735, km 1.3, Barrios Montellano/Arenas

not for publication

city or town Cayey vicinity X

state Puerto Rico code PR county Cayey code 035 zip code 00736

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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 _____ 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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

Current Functions

Cat: Transportation Sub: road-related

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification Other/ metal truss

Materials

foundation	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>superstructure - metal</u> <u>substructure - ashlar masonry</u>

Narrative Description

Arenas Bridge is still in use across the Plata River in kilometer 1.3 of route 735, part of the old Carretera Central stretch between Cayey and Caguas (Photo 1).

Its ashlar abutments with edge courses and buttress caps raise the truss 60 feet above the normal water level. Abutment walls of the same materials are topped with ornamented parapets (Photo 2). The truss itself possesses remarkable workmanship and an attractive grille railing. The deck consists of transverse and longitudinal joists supporting suspended domed plates with central drainage. The bridge and its setting have suffered no significant alterations since the period of significance. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, and setting. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1894
span length:	62.4 meters	superstructure:	metal
total length:	62.4 meters	substructure:	ashlar masonry
roadway wdt:	4.30 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 (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 1894-1944

Significant Dates 1894

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder: Mariano Schar, designer
Nicrisse & Decluve, fabricators
José Roque-Paniagua, substructure supervisor
Tulio Larrinaga, Erecting Engineer

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Arenas Bridge was the longest span built in Puerto Rico during the Spanish Colonial period. Designed by Mariano Schar, who was then the District Engineer at Ponce, the 23,623 pound steel truss was built by the prominent Belgian firm Nicrisse and Decluve for 56,221.44 pesos. It was brought to the island aboard the steamboat Teutonia. The erection of the abutment was under the supervision of contractor José Roque-Paniagua. Prominent Engineer Julio Larrinaga was in charge of assembling and painting the truss.

This is the most important metal bridge structure of the Spanish Colony in Puerto Rico. It shows remarkable European elegance and workmanship. It was built as part of the Carretera Central, the first highway across the central mountains of Puerto Rico.

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".

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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 19 802810 2007500 3 _____
2 _____ _____ 4 _____
 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 62.4 X 4.30 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

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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