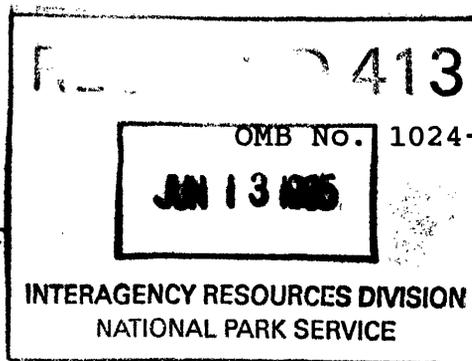


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Río Piedras Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #3

2. Location

street & number SR #8839, km. 12.5, Barrios El Cinco/Hato Rey

not for publication

city or town San Juan vicinity X

state Puerto Rico code PR county San Juan code 127 zip code 00917

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.)

Apleen 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/ brick barrel vault

Materials

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

Narrative Description

Río Piedras Bridge is still in use near the entrance to the Río Piedras Experimental Station, Route #8839, Kilometer 12.5, above the Río Piedras river. The structure is symmetrical about a larger central arch. The brick piers have buttresses with conical buttress caps, while the faces are soberly decorated by a belt course. These can be appreciated in Photo 1, taken in 1989 just after the bridge had been cleaned. The brickwork parapets are continuous and rounded. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, and setting. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 3	construction date: 1853
span length: 9.1 meters (center span)	superstructure: masonry
total length: 21.5 meters	substructure: masonry
roadway wdt.: 5.00 meters	current condition: good

=====
8. Statement of Significance
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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 1853-1944

Significant Dates 1853

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

Río Piedras Bridge is the oldest structure among the historic bridges identified in the 1989 islandwide bridge study (See Section H). In addition, it is also the oldest extant bridge of the Carretera Central and the best-preserved example of a Spanish technology masonry arch bridge in Puerto Rico and within the US jurisdiction.

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:

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>811090</u>	<u>2036520</u>	3	___	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 21.5 X 5.00 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

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Property Owner
=====

name Municipality of San Juan

street & number San Juan City Hall telephone (809) 724-7171

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00701