



934

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced

other names/site number Parque Maximiliano Merced; Antiguo Parque de Bombas de Aguas Buenas

2. Location

street& number 42 Muñoz Rivera Street

N/A

not for publication

city or town Aguas Buenas

N/A

vicinity

state Puerto Rico code PR county Aguas Buenas code 007 zip code 00703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Carlos A. Rubio Cancele

Carlos A. Rubio Cancele
Signature of certifying official

September 26, 2012

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

other (explain):

For Edison W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

11.14.12
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Fire Stations in Puerto Rico, 1942-1952

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Fire Station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete/Masonry Units

roof: Concrete

other: Wood, Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

The Aguas Buenas Fire Station was built in 1955 in accordance with prototypical plans provided for such purpose by Puerto Rico's Fire Board. The station sits on a rectangular, 156 square meters lot, at 42 *Luis Muñoz Rivera* Street, only a few blocks away from Aguas Buenas' main square. The two-story resource, providing 510 square feet of usable space was built in reinforced concrete; a one story high, non-descript addition in the same material was incorporated in 1995. Construction of the station culminated local efforts dating back from the 1930's to constitute a local fire corps, an initiative led by Maximiliano Merced, to whom the property was dedicated once it was built. The firehouse's main façade is symmetrical. Compositional equilibrium lends urban authority to the unassuming freestanding station. A few of its elements recall the Art Deco idiom in somewhat subdued manner. Today the property lies abandoned, and in spite of some deterioration, it retains its architectural character. Often listed among the town's amenities, the historic firehouse at Aguas Buenas culminated the efforts of local civic leader Maximiliano Merced to create a firefighting corps in town. The station constitutes the extant symbol of community engagement for the protection of people and property, and is valued as such.

Narrative Description

The Aguas Buenas Fire Station, as built in 1955, follows one of the design prototypes officially endorsed by Puerto Rico's Fire Board after 1942, interested as it was in providing similar facilities at diverse Island locations. Many others were already erected. Although different models were available, *Prototype A* was the one chosen for Aguas Buenas. The station occupies a rectangular lot on the higher area of town, embracing 156 square meters at the intersection of *Luis Muñoz Rivera* and *José Isaías Camacho* streets, at the heart of town. Muñoz Rivera Street is a main access road to town, threading it from east to west, and sloping towards the urban settlement's main open plaza and its Catholic church, only a few blocks away (170 meters).

West of the lot lies a private residence; east of it runs the José Isaías Camacho street. Because of the incline condition, the adjoining house sits higher than the fire station, while José Isaías Camacho Street runs at a lower gradient. The rather steep slope of the street makes vehicle access to the lot somewhat difficult, particularly nowadays when – after more than half-a-century – traffic has increased

considerable at Muñoz Rivera Street. The station building occupies most of the lot, allowing only limited parking space for one car, in parallel to José Isaías Camacho Street. The entire lot surface has been paved over in concrete, slanting with Muñoz Rivera Street, while at the same time, gently sloping for ease of access into the station, whose ground floor slab is flat and horizontal.

The original fire station occupies a footprint 14'-11" wide and 34'-2" long, and it is set back 8'-0" from the street. It is two stories high, although the upper floor does not extend the full length above the first one, in order to accommodate a small terrace (facing north, towards Muñoz Rivera Street) where fire hoses were cleaned and hung to dry. At ground level, the interior space reaches a height of 11'-2". The fire truck garage occupies most of the square footage in this first floor. Toward its back, the stairs that connect to the second level are located; next to it is a small storage. At the second floor, a sleeping area with bathroom occupies most of the area. Said room accommodates several firemen; the bathroom includes a shower. The terrace, overlooking most of the town, occupies about 1/3 of the upper floor.

In 1995, a one-story addition was incorporated to the original building volume parallel to its west façade. Spanning from north to south for about 8'-5", and reaching only 9'-10" high, it is much lower than the original fire station. The added volume, clearly a plug-in solution to provide additional space, lodges three distinct spaces, now empty. One was used for a watchman and the radio operator; the second, for the sergeant's office; and the third, for a kitchen. The "lean-to" addition is built in reinforced concrete, as is the original property dating from 1955, using rigid joints, a bearing-wall system, and cement masonry blocks. Floor and roof slabs are also in concrete, of flat surface, and devoid of any ornament. Walls are stuccoed in cement and painted over.

The main (north) façade is symmetrical in composition. The garage opening at ground floor level framed what constituted the station's foremost feature: the fire truck parked inside, facing towards the street, always ready for dispatch. Two dissimilar gates – one in iron tubing, the other in chain link fence – are now used to close off the space in a rather improvised manner. At each side of the original garage entrance, walls corbel out to support a concrete lintel. The official fire service escutcheon appears as an architectural appliqué at center, above the truck's entrance. Used in standard fashion in many fire stations dating from the same period, the circular, shield-shaped emblem includes the fireman's distinguishing hat (with a longer brim at the rear), a single or straight ladder (among the basic tools of the profession) and two horns (sirens) all in bas-relief. The garage volume is crowned by the iron railing of the terrace above it. The railing's posts (left and right, and at center) – flanked by a pair of flagpoles - further underline symmetry.

At the second floor, the façade recedes, but also steps down in vaguely reminiscent Art Deco fashion, incorporating the period's prototypical, rounded corners at the uppermost profile. A single door that leads to the terrace and an accompanying transom, capped by a projecting concrete eave, appear all on axis. Porcelain rosettes for lighting fixtures remain left and right of the door. Above the door's eave, a sign (original) reads: "Parque Maximiliano Merced". The building honors Merced with his name. Thin-sectioned iron members make up both the frame and the text of the sign, appearing as a strikingly naïve and modern solution at the same time. The placement of openings, the twin garage corbels, the terrace's soldier-like flagpoles, the terrace access on axis, the façade stepping to the center, and the building's sign key location, all contribute to reiterate symmetry. Equilibrium in composition projects order and stability, concepts commonly associated with institutional buildings and the fulfillment of the State's public duties.

The fire station's emblematic presence is further established by its object-like nature. From the northeast, the building appears clearly as a freestanding volume within the surrounding urban milieu. This is due in part to the sloping topography, the corner location and the setbacks, as well as the property's verticality, all of which enhance the perception of the fire station as an independent object in space. This perception was probably stronger in earlier days, when the urban texture of Aguas Buenas consisted primarily of one story high properties.

To the east, alongside José Isaías Camacho Street, a 4'-0" high concrete wall/fence defines the fire station's site limits, performing simultaneously as retaining wall for the uneven, sloping terrain. The wall, capped by a cement border has been damaged at its north end; next to it sits a fire hydrant. The property's east elevation can be best appreciated from this point, making evident that the ground level extends beyond the floor above it, and the terrace compensates for the difference. Fenestration – important to ventilate the sleeping space – is provided in asymmetrical arrangement. The placement of three rectangular windows on the first level bears no architectural relationship with two located in the second. Windows are in aluminum, operable jalousie type. At each level, concrete eaves extend from one window to another uninterrupted. Paint is delaminating. Electrical infrastructure (pipes, cables, and metering box) runs exposed. At both northern corners of the station – and in makeshift manner – a projecting iron pipe drains water from the second floor terrace. The southern façade faces towards the back of the site, looking onto an adjoining private residence, also two stories high. Space in between both is limited; therefore, the fire station's elevation is barely visible to otherwise engaged passersby. Here the building reaches two floors; only two small windows puncture it. One window in the second level of the original station belongs to the bathroom, for ventilation. The second one pertains to the added volume, at ground floor level. Both are in aluminum, jalousie type. Electrical cables also run above this side of the fire station.

On the west elevation, the bottom level is partially occluded and relatively inaccessible. In the added volume, windows have been removed and their openings are damaged. Cable work runs haphazardly, used and discarded alike. At the second floor of the original property, one window remains, another has been walled in, and a plywood panel covers an opening for an air conditioning unit, carved out at some point in time. Nonetheless, the original concrete eave runs its full extension. The building's iron ventilation vent remains in place close to the southern end of the elevation.

Unoccupied since 2005, the fire station's originally spare and pragmatic character now seems more so, devoid as it is today of any distinguishing feature or furniture, and made less attractive by its state of abandon. Within the garage space, the concrete beams that support the upper floor are evident. Two wooden plank doors with glass transoms lead to the added volume. At the second level of the original building, an aluminum (paneled) door with accompanying glass transom provides access to the terrace; no door shields the bathroom from the sleeping area. A u-shape stair leads to the second floor, comprising three flights and two landings in its run. The first flight presents three steps, the first of which is also used to access the added volume, higher than the garage. The second flight includes nine steps, culminating with five steps on the third flight. The stair treads are twelve inches deep and risers vary inconsistently in height. As designed originally, the stair lacks any railing, thus being today non-compliant with applicable building codes.

Exterior and interior walls, ceilings, and eaves are all stuccoed and painted over. Flat concrete is the prevailing floor finish, except at the second-floor bathroom, where 1" X 1" inch mosaic tiles of varied colors were applied. At this level, the floor in the sleeping area has been covered with three different vinyl tiles of 12" by 12" inches. Bathroom walls have been covered in ceramic tile.

The Impact of Time

Those modifications to which the Aguas Buenas fire station has been subjected throughout time are minor, easy to remove, and unchallenging to the integrity of the historic property. In 1992, when a new fire truck was acquired – much taller than the previous one - it could not fit into the garage. To overcome the problem, the first floor lintel above the entrance opening and its eave were removed. In addition, the ground floor level was excavated twelve inches, and the site minimally re-graded to facilitate the truck's access. Unadorned iron grills were added to the truck entrance for reasons of security.

By 1995, when the added volume was incorporated to the original resource, provisions for an air-conditioning unit were made on the second level's western elevation. After 2001 - the year the Aguas Buenas Fire Corps moved elsewhere in town to enjoy improved facilities - the municipal corps of paramedics occupied the building. With the advent of these new communal services into the premises, several changes were then implemented at the fire station. The second level area originally used for sleeping was subdivided with wooden partitions, and the name of the building – originally painted over the garage lintel to read "*Servicio de Bomberos PR*" – was painted over. The doors leading to the stair, the storage space, the bathroom, and the sleeping quarters were removed. Overall damage, however, is minor and superficial, caused primarily by lack of maintenance and neglect. On the outside, paint is peeling off, and plant material, rust, and soot cover portions of surfaces. The iron grill entrance gate is rusted and has been repaired in improvised manner. One window is broken and two of them have been walled in. The air conditioning opening (non original) is currently covered with a plywood panel. Inside, walls and floors are also covered by soot. The electrical panel does not work. Most of its cables are exposed; some sections have been removed. Vinyl tile on the floor, although not original, is in poor condition.

All in all, alterations and additions have not contributed to the loss of character in Aguas Buenas' firehouse, that retains its urban presence within town; the original volumetric configuration; Art Deco surface and profile articulations; materiality; key compositional elements (iron railings, flagpoles, escutcheon and eaves) as well as most of its original windows and the original building sign. The concrete addition incorporated later is perceived from the street as a low wall, more than a volume. Therefore, the property retains all of its most important original architectural attributes, further enhanced as they are by the history linked to the small-scaled, unassuming fire station.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ 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)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1955-1962

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Department Public Works of Puerto Rico

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance starts in 1955 when the fire station's construction was completed and loses at the 50 year cut-off date (1962). During this period this building served as the community's fire station.

Criteria Consideration (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Aguas Buenas' 1955 fire station claims local significance under Criterion A (Social History) as its construction, operation, and mnemonic associations are pertinent to the town's development in the 20th Century. The property constitutes a by-product of conjunctural historic processes that include: Rexford G. Tugwell's tenure as Puerto Rico's governor; the advent of the Popular Democratic Party; and, particularly, the impact of World War II in the Island. Moreover – and embodying the distinctive characteristics of a prototypical building type linked to the Island's 20th century architectural legacy – Aguas Buenas' historic firehouse, constitutes a fit present-day symbol of the town's pioneer firefighting efforts to protect people and property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Municipality of Aguas Buenas, founded in 1834, lies on the eastern stretch of Puerto Rico's Central Mountain Range, specifically the so-called *Sierra de Cayey*. Its history has been determined, to a large extent, by its location. Removed from key urban centers – except for Caguas – Aguas Buenas has been doubly influenced by geography and topography. Isolation imposed a relative self-sufficiency in its inhabitants; the mountainous terrain dictated the nature of its agricultural development. Coffee was the key product of its hills during the 19th century; tobacco from the 1930's on. Poor living conditions by mid-20th century fueled a rural/urban migration that led the town inhabitants to move to San Juan, capital city of Puerto Rico, and New York. The process was not unique to Aguas Buenas. Indeed, resettlement impacted most Island locations.¹ Urban growth slowed its pace and most towns remained places whose communal needs were tended through the leadership of its inhabitants.²

The humble sign that states the official name of the fire station at Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, stands for much more than the mere recognition of a man – Maximiliano Merced – but for a whole town's pioneer firefighting vocation, one that lacks comparison in the rest of the Island. The fire station building itself was erected in 1955, but the man it honors began efforts to create a firefighting corps in

¹ The literature on rural/urban migration in Puerto Rico is extensive. For general explanations about the phenomenon, see: James L. Dietz, *Historia económica de Puerto Rico*. Puerto Rico: Huracán, 1989;

Eduardo Rivera Medina and Rafael L. Ramírez, *Del cañaveral a la fábrica: Cambio social en Puerto Rico*. Puerto Rico: Huracán, 1985; Francisco A. Scarano, *Puerto Rico: Cinco siglos de Historia*. México: McGraw-Hill Interamericana, 1993.; and Blanca G. Silvestrini and María Dolores Luque de Sánchez, *Historia de Puerto Rico: Trayectoria de un pueblo*. Puerto Rico: Cultural Puertorriqueña, 1987.

² During foundational periods of most towns, private citizens actively promote or endorse initiatives to improve local social and economic conditions, later becoming key, almost legendary, and historic figures at local level.

Aguas Buenas by the mid 1930's. The town's longstanding firefighting tradition - respected and revered to this day - began that far back, when fires customarily wreaked havoc in similar settlements whose vernacular architecture was based primarily in wood construction.

Townfolk vividly recall that, shortly before 1936, the wooden house of a local policeman caught fire, burning to the ground.³ Local citizens responded quickly, succeeding in the effort of extinguishing the fire before it could spread, thus avoiding disastrous consequences.⁴ The next day, Maximiliano Merced, one of Aguas Buenas' benefactors, urged a group of friends to organize a volunteer brigade to fight fires:

*"Don Maximiliano Merced... was one of the town's most distinguished men during the first 35 or 40 years of this [20th] century. He was born a civic leader, deeply concerned for the problems and needs of his hometown, respected for his good intentions, always willing to serve his people without considering the ensuing sacrifices it might entail. He played a key role in the transformation of what was then an incipient city into a modern one."*⁵

It would take over 20 years after Merced's pioneer initiative to organize a volunteer fire corps in Aguas Buenas, for an official, government-sponsored, firefighting corps (*Cuerpo de Bomberos*) to come into being. In the meantime, volunteers worked at a miniscule station located at #49 Rafael Lasa Street, facing the town's plaza. Merced advocated for having the new station built, also for equipment and uniforms to be provided for all firemen. He died in 1938. His efforts predated - and thus propitiated - the construction of the fire station erected in Aguas Buenas in 1955.⁶

*"By 1955, the Fire Service was implemented in town as per Law 158 [May 9, 1942]. Before that date, fires in Aguas Buenas were tended to by local volunteers assisted by firemen from the Municipality of Caguas... firemen worked in two shifts of 24 hours, beginning at 6:00 PM, and finishing the next day at 6:00PM. Upon completing a shift, firefighters used to lower the flags of Puerto Rico and the United States, while the entering firemen remained in salute position."*⁷

Firemen and collaborators took on the construction.⁸ Personnel from the Aguas Buenas and Caguas fire corps worked together in the project. As such, the building's construction is today understood as the culmination of a local, visionary firefighting tradition, rather than the beginning of one, as it happened in many other Island locations during the 1950's.

In keeping with the commitment requested from local authorities, the Municipality of Aguas Buenas contributed the land where the Department of Public Works built the fire station.. From a private owner (Domingo Sanabria), the municipality bought plot #42, facing Luis Muñoz Rivera Street at a nominal cost of \$1.00. Mirán Carrasquillo Cartagena was Mayor (1948-56) at that time. It was deemed an "extreme necessity", acknowledging that said property "...meets the required conditions

³The police man was Juan Sánchez Pizarro, nickname "Pizarrito", as stated by Enrique Díaz Maldonado in his *Prontuario Histórico del Municipio de Aguas Buenas*. (Municipio de Aguas Buenas, 1986) 67-68.

⁴Idem.

⁵Idem. In spite of being publicly and repeatedly acknowledged as a key personality from Aguas Buenas, Maximiliano Merced remains a rather obscure figure as references about his background or activities are, to this day, lacking.

⁶A son of Maximiliano Merced also became a fireman. Rafael Merced López (nicknamed "Candela") helped to extinguish a notorious fire in town in 1945. Idem.

⁷Wilberto Velázquez, *Cuerpo de Bomberos de Puerto Rico en el pueblo de Aguas Buenas*. (Informational Pamphlet, 2008) 1,2.

⁸Interview with Ángel Luis Hernández, member of the Fire Department of the Municipality of Aguas Buenas since 1987; June 13, 2012.

*given its central and strategic location in the urban zone... in order to render a good service...*⁹ The Puerto Rico Planning Board and the Insular Fire Service agreed on the appropriateness of the chosen site.¹⁰ The local Fire Corps, following plans designed by the Public Works Department, would carry out the construction, assisted in the more complex components by a contractor.¹¹

When the fire station was inaugurated in 1955, Merced's name was bestowed upon it. A picture of him was unveiled.¹² Several personalities attended the dedication and the inaugural activities: Puerto Rico's Fire Chief Raúl Gándara; José Mimoso Raspaldo, Member of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives, and delegate to the Puerto Rico Commonwealth Constituent Convention; also the Fire Chiefs of Caguas, Humacao, and Bayamón (Manolo Bernardo, Herminio Díaz, and Cándido Correa, respectively), and the Mayor of Caguas, Ángel Rivera. Ángel Luis Hernández recalls the station's construction process, which he witnessed as a child.¹³ After becoming a member of the children's volunteer fire corps – *Los bomberitos* – Ángel later became a firefighter, working in Aguas Buenas for over three decades. Having held the title of sergeant, Hernández remembers the rituals then pursuant to his job: public demonstrations of the dangers of fire; events to raise community awareness; and, in slumber days, just tending to cars that occasionally caught fire.

The fire station at Aguas Buenas – like many others alike at other Island locations - was for decades the stage for quotidian activities, in contrast with other traditional historic resources where events of a notable character take place. At Aguas Buenas, local firefighters dedicated most of their time to fire prevention, visiting homes, offering orientation, and involving community members in simulacra and demonstrations. The intensity and effectiveness of personal contact is what today weighs in meaningfully in the local significance awarded to the *Parque Maximiliano Merced*.

The Municipality of Aguas Buenas continues to validate its citizens' decades-old commitment to fight fire through its most prized symbol: the fire station building. Such is the relevance awarded by the surrounding community to the resource that, in spite of being abandoned, it is often quoted as a place of interest for tourists.¹⁴ Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a prototypical building type linked to the Island's 20th century architectural legacy, Aguas Buenas' firehouse, constitutes a fit insignia of the town's early firefighting efforts, an emblem of a period, a most deserving post-mortem badge of Maximiliano Merced's pioneer and self-imposed enterprise to engage a community in the protection of its people and its resources.

Developmental history/additional historic context information(if appropriate)

⁹ *Ordenanza número 13, aprobada por la Asamblea municipal, 11 de Julio de 1952; en Libro de Actas #10 del Municipio de Aguas Buenas, 13 de abril de 1953.*

¹⁰ *Idem.*

¹¹ To this day, no official documentation has been found regarding construction documents for the Aguas Buenas fire station or the project's contractor.

¹² The painting hangs today in a more contemporary fire station in Aguas Buenas, named after José Del Carmen Nieves, nicknamed "Pinky".

¹³ Interview Angel Luis Hernández. June 13, 2012.

¹⁴ See two related websites: <http://www.uprm.edu/agricultura/sea/mapa/Aguas%20Buenas%20PEAN.pdf>; and <http://puertoricoturistademitierra.blogspot.com/2011/01/aguas-buenas-informacion-turistica.html>.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Primary Sources

Libro de Actas #10, Municipio de Aguas Buenas, 13 de abril de 1953.

Secondary Sources

Díaz Maldonado Enrique. *Prontuario Histórico del Municipio de Aguas Buenas*. (Municipio de Aguas Buenas, 1986)

Massa Figueroa, Diana. *Aguas Buenas: Notas para su historia*. (San Juan: Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica de La Fortaleza, 1984).

Velázquez, Wilberto. *Cuerpo de Bomberos de Puerto Rico en el pueblo de Aguas Buenas*. (Informational Pamphlet, 2008).

Internet

<http://www.uprm.edu/agricultura/sea/mapa/Aguas%20Buenas%20PEAN.pdf>

<http://puertoricoturistademitierra.blogspot.com/2011/01/aguas-buenas-informacion-turistica.html>

Figures

Angel Luis Hernández, 1988

Guillermo Marrero, AIT, February 9, 2012

Municipality of Aguas Buenas

Interviews

Norma De León Otaño, Planning Department, Municipality of Aguas Buenas

Ángel Luis Hernández, retired fireman

José Félix Nieves, son of fireman José Del Carmen Nieves

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☒ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 19 806140 2021002
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

See continuation sheet, section 10.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries encompass the full extent of Parque Maximiliano Merced.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arq. Jorge Rigau, FAIA, Guillermo Marrero, AIT
organization Jorge Rigau Arquitectos date August 9, 2012
street& number #67 calle Los baños, 1er piso telephone (787) 982-0002
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico zip code 00911
e-mail rigau@jorgerigau.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map

1. Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced
 2. Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
 3. Guillermo Marrero, AIT
 4. February 9, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. North elevation, looking south. As it stands today, the building retains its key distinctive elements (outdoor terrace, eaves, railings with flag poles, escutcheon). The original iron sign naming the park after *Maximiliano Merced* remains in place.
 7. #0001
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1. Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced
 2. Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
 3. Guillermo Marrero, AIT
 4. February 9, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. North side elevation details, looking south. Front facade displays the prototypical Fire Department escutcheon over the garage entrance. Notice the round tubing post and rail connected with a three-way elbow on top, and a four-way elbow at mid post.
 7. #0002
-

1. Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced
 2. Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
 3. Guillermo Marrero, AIT
 4. February 9, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. North elevation detail, looking south. At the upper terrace, symmetry is underlined by door and transom, the concrete eave, and the Art Deco stepping. Original iron sign honoring pioneer fireman Maximiliano Merced.
 7. #0003
-

1. Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced
 2. Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico
 3. Guillermo Marrero, AIT
 4. February 9, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. Detail of the Fire Department escutcheon over the garage entrance; looking south.
 7. #0004
-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced

Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Fire Stations in Puerto Rico 1942-1952

Section number 10 Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Map shows the contributing resource (gray shading) with the parcel boundaries (black outline). The legal parcel number is 198-074-019-03. The data was obtained from *La Oficina de Catastro Digital del Centro de Recaudación de Ingresos Municipales de Puerto Rico*.

PARQUE MAXIMILIANO MERCED,
AGUAS BUENAS, PUERTO RICO

Location: Muñoz Rivera Street #42 Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico 00703
UTM Reference: 19, 806140, 2021002
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre



JORGE RIGAU
ARQUITECTOS

- Contributing resource
— Parcel boundary

United States Department of the Interior
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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Fire Stations in Puerto Rico, 1942-1952

Section 10

Page 2

10. Geographical data

The limits of the plot were obtained from the official boundaries map provided by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The boundaries of the nominated resource are identified by an outline. Image taken from Google Earth.

PARQUE BOMBAS MAXIMILIANO MERCED,
AGUAS BUENAS, PUERTO RICO

Location: Muñoz Rivera Street #42 Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico 00703
UTM Reference: 19Q, 806140 mE, 2021002 mN
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre



JORGE RIGAU
ARQUITECTOS

feet
meters 100 400



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced
NAME:

MULTIPLE Fire Stations in Puerto Rico MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PUERTO RICO, Aguas Buenas

DATE RECEIVED: 9/28/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/13/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/14/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000934

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11.14.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

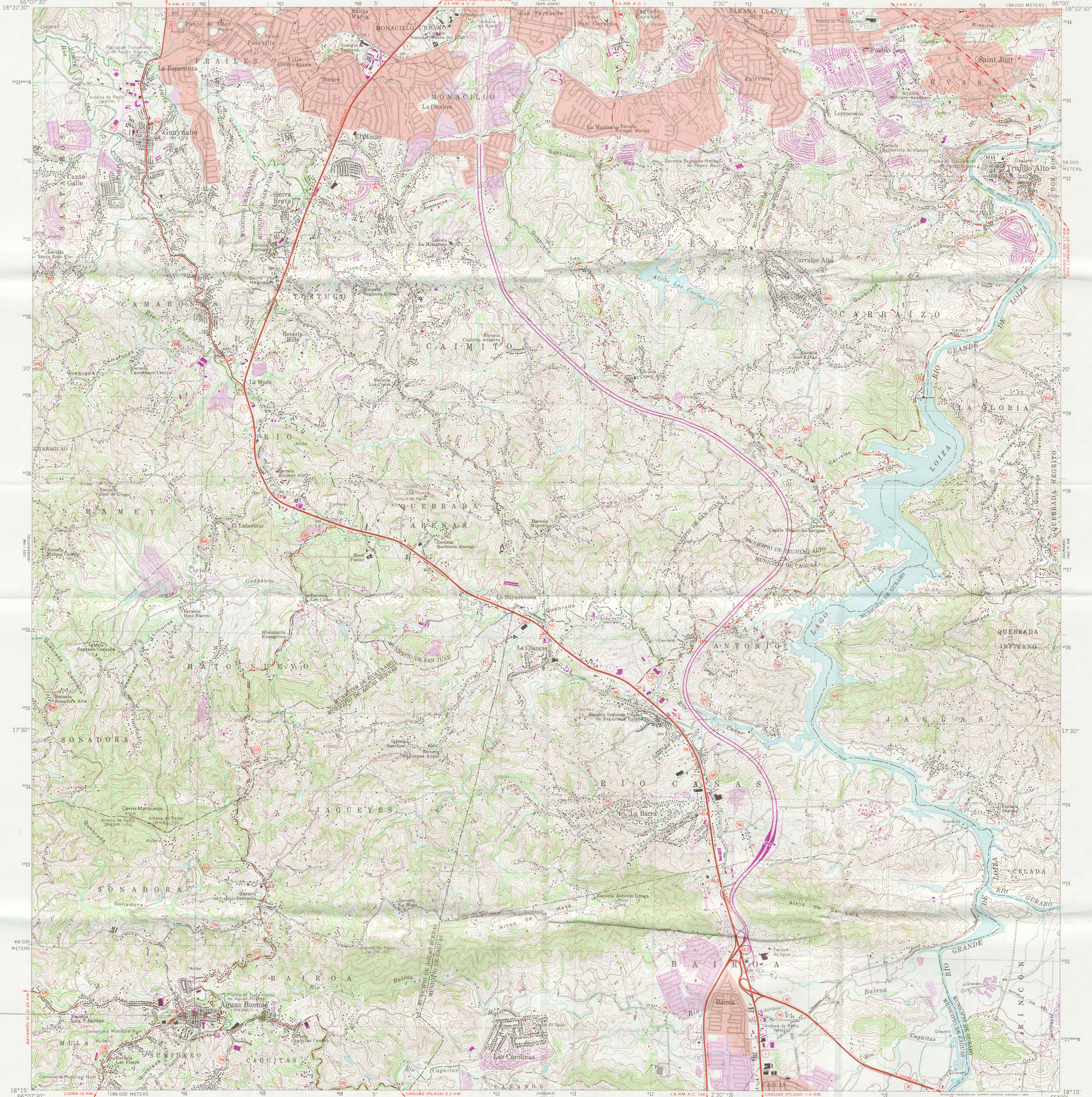
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





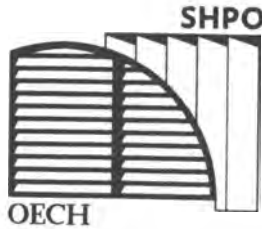






OFICINA ESTATAL DE
CONSERVACIÓN HISTÓRICA
OFICINA DEL GOBERNADOR

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



September 27, 2012

Ms. Carol D. Schull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor (MS 2280)
Washington, DC 20005

SUBMISSIONS - Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced; María Dávila Semidey School; Padre Nazario School; José Miguel Gallardo School; Daniel Webster School; Williams Product Corp.; De Luxe Florida

Dear Ms. Schull:

We are pleased to submit for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places the following nominations:

- **Parque de Bombas Maximiliano Merced**, Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico.
- **María Dávila Semidey School**, Patillas, Puerto Rico
- **Padre Nazario School**, Guayanilla, Puerto Rico
- **José Miguel Gallardo School**, Juncos, Puerto Rico
- **Daniel Webster School**, Peñuelas, Puerto Rico
- **Williams Products Corp.**, Luquillo, Puerto Rico
- **De Luxe Florida**, Florida, Puerto Rico

Should you have any questions on any of these nominations, please contact Arch. Berenice Sueiro, AIT, Deputy SHPO, at 787-721-3737 or bsueiro@prshpo.gobierno.pr.

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela, Architect
State Historic Preservation Officer

CARC/BRS/JLS/jvr

Enclosures

WWW.OECH.GOBIERNO.PR