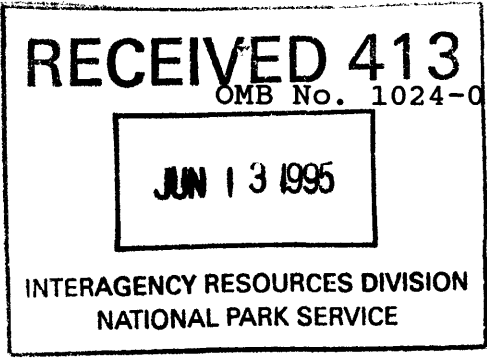


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NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Manatí Bridge at Mata de Plátano

other names/site number Bridge #321, "Puente Juan José Jiménez"

2. Location

street & number SR 6685, km. 9.7, Barrio Hato Viejo

not for publication

city or town Ciales vicinity X

state Puerto Rico code PR county Ciales code 039 zip code 00638

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 \_\_\_ 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. Ball* 7-19-95  
Entered in the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
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/ Double intersection Pratt

Materials

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

Narrative Description

Manatí Bridge at Mata de Plátano (known today as Juan José Jiménez Bridge) crosses 44 feet above a spectacular curving canyon of vertical walls traversed by the Manatí River (Photo 1). The bridge, a steel double intersection Pratt truss (Photo 2), is located at kilometer 9.7 of route 6685 and is part of the old highway from Manatí to Ciales.

This bridge and its setting have not suffered 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:	1905
span length:	82 meters	superstructure:	steel
total length:	82 meters	substructure:	concrete
roadway wdt.:	3.80 meters	current condition:	very good

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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 1905-1944

Significant Dates 1905

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Eng. Luis Ninlliat, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Manatí Bridge at Mata de Plátano is the only highway example of a Double-intersection Pratt steel rectangular through truss in Puerto Rico. The other such truss extant is a railroad bridge over the river Río Grande de Arecibo (Cambalache Bridge) which is in poor condition. The steel structure, purchased by the Spanish colonial government, was originally slated for placement over the Loiza River near the town of Carolina. However, during the period of U.S. military government (1898-1900) the materials were transferred 9 kilometers from Manatí on the insular road to the site called Mata de Plátanos. In 1905 the engineer Luis Ninlliat, contractor selected for the project, completed the \$12,770 bridge. The Manatí Bridge at Mata de Plátano is significant as the earliest truss bridge constructed in the first years of the American regime. According to the marble plate located on this bridge, it was renamed Juan José Jiménez Bridge in 1945 in honor of a dedicated and popular Superintendent of Public Works who supervised its construction. This bridge was built for the first highway to reach Ciales, an important coffee producing municipality.

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: **General Archives of Puerto Rico**

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>766390</u>	<u>2031820</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 82 X 3.80 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, 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 Public Works Department, Puerto Rico

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

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00907