

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **JAN 26 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Puente Blanco

and/or common Puente Blanco

2. Location

N.E. of Quebradillas off PR 485

street & number State Road #485, Terranova Ward not for publication

city, town Quebradillas vicinity of

state Puerto Rico code 72 county Aguadilla code 0790

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: <u>None</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell and Mr. Gene Wellington

street & number Box T 200-11

city, town Quebradillas vicinity of Quebradillas state Puerto Rico 00742

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Arecibo Government Center

city, town Arecibo state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Hatillo, Camuy, Quebradillas
title Architectural Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Puente Blanco" is a railroad bridge that runs east, west and spans one hundred and fifty (150) feet across the Quebrada Mala Canyon, close to the Puerto Rico Northern Coast Cliffs in the old railroad system between Camuy and Quebradillas. It was built in 1922 by the American Railroad Company. It is a single span reinforced concrete filled arch bridge, the highest of its kind in Puerto Rico. "Puente Blanco" lies in the rocky Mala Creek Canyon walls with its highest point of the arch one hundred and fifty five (155) feet above ground. Structurally, it consists of a double row of reinforced concrete columns (seventeen per row) between the main top concrete beam and the arch filled concrete beam. Two other smaller concrete beams connects the arch and columns dividing horizontally the central section of the arch. The east section of the arch consists of four double columns and the west section of five double columns on each side. Other structural elements connects internally the beams and columns of the north and south rows. Careful repetition of forms throughout the bridge help make it a stilistically coherent whole. It has a smooth cement wall finish. The structure is in fair condition having some iron rods exposed due to the continued exposure to weather conditions and lack of proper maintenance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1922 **Builder/Architect** American Railroad Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bridges, serving as the barometer of our society's development and expansion hold a fascination that is unique in our cultural heritage. "Puente Blanco" is a railroad bridge that was built in 1922 as part of the American Railroad Company last effort to connect the railway system existing from San Juan to Camuy and from Aguadilla to Ponce that were begun by the Spaniards in 1880. This railway system eventually connected all of Puerto Rico's northern, southern, eastern and western coasts generating an economic boost to the development of these regions. The area between Aguadilla and Camuy is one of the most beautiful and impressive areas in the Quebradilla's coast. It consists of a tropical forest with deep canyons and high cliffs. Because of this condition, several bridges and tunnels were built in the area, being "Puente Blanco" the only reinforced concrete bridge in the area and the highest of its kind in Puerto Rico. Nearby, the famous Guajataca tunnel was built that connected the western coast to the eastern coast of Puerto Rico. As better roads were built in Puerto Rico in the forties and fifties, transportation, both public and private, was faster and cheaper by car than by train. During these years, personal income increased due to an economic boost in Puerto Rico making more cars available to the people, thus, diminishing the railroad revenues and earnings; and as a result, brought the end of the railroad era in Puerto Rico. Iron bridges disappeared when the railroad company was auctioned in 1952, but the impressive "Puente Blanco" bridge survived because of the durability and strength of reinforced concrete and its inaccessible site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 189 sq. mts.

Quadrangle name Quebradillas

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References

Latitude 18°-29'-17" North, Longitude 66°-55'-35" West

A

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B

Zone	Easting			Northing			

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded to the North and South by the Quebrada Mala Canyon, to the East by property owned by Mr. J. Soto and to the West by property owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell and Gene Wellington. See enclosed Site Plan.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Armando Morales Parés - State Architect
Victor J. López Reyes - Architect

organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 17, 1983.
Soc. Histórica Arqueológica Camry Hatillo

street & number La Fortaleza telephone (809)- 721-3012, 721-4389

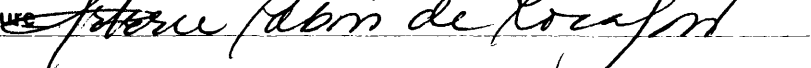
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico 00901

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

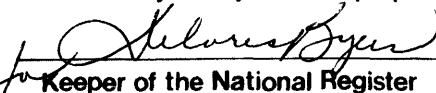
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 17, 1983.

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Entered in the National Register date 2/23/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

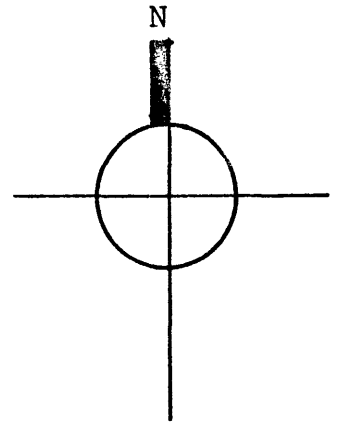
Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Campbell

QUEBRADA MALA CANYON



Mr. J. Soto

NOMINATED PROPERTY:
PUENTE BLANCO
AREA: 189 SQ. MTS.



SITE PLAN

0 10 20 30 40 80 120 feet

