

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 19 1986

date entered APR 3 1986

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

1. Name

historic Fuerte de la Concepción (Conception Fort)

and/or common El Fuerte

2. Location

street & number Stahl Street

not for publication

city, town Aguadilla

vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

code 072

county Aguadilla

code 0040

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Puerto Rico Department of Instruction

street & number Government Building, Muñoz Rivera Street

city, town Aguadilla

vicinity of

state Puerto Rico

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Progreso Street Courthouse

city, town Aguadilla

state Puerto Rico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Aguadilla Architecture Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August, 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

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

This small building is the only remaining structure of what was once a military complex "The Fuerte de la Concepción". The old Fort was protected by a moat and walls. It had a guard and sentry house, a large two-story building, a smaller one-story structure and cannon platforms facing the port entrance. All these were severely damaged during the 1918 earthquake and were later razed together with the walls. Only the small one-story structure was left since its strong thick mortar and brick walls were able to withstand the earthquake; only the ceiling collapsed and was later rebuilt in metal instead of the original brick. During this remodeling a concrete floor was placed over the original one.

The simple rectangular structure contains molded window frames and door openings, cornice, and a high rectangular frontispiece. The East elevation sports three molded windows. The West facade has one door and a window plus a stepped parapet. The North elevation contains three small molded windows and one door. The remaining facade provides four doors (no cornice or parapet was provided on this side). Two of the buildings corners are slightly curved, motif that is repeated by the cornice above. Inside, the existing roof is of later construction, but the massive walls and plan disposition are original.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military history	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 Circa 1750/1880/1918 **Builder/Architect** Spanish Royal Engineers Corps

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Being strategically located on the northwestern corner of the Island, Aguadilla was a favorite target for British war vessels as a result of the long-standing hostilities between Spain and Great Britain.

This strategic area was protected by a small battery erected during the second half of the XVIII Century. Its military value was confirmed first in 1797 and 1801 during British attacks to the area and again in 1819 and 1825 during the Spanish Main rebel attacks. The confirmation of the area's military importance made the Spanish government expand the fortification. In 1880 the "Fuerte de la Concepción" military complex was built.

Most of the Island's defense system was centered around the capital, and very few fortifications were built along the coasts. The remaining building of the Fuerte de la Concepción Military Complex was one of them. This small structure is a good example of secondary fortification Spanish military architecture in Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brau, Salvador, Historia de Puerto Rico, 1904 N.Y. Appleton
Lealtad y heroismo de la isla de Puerto Rico, 1897, S.J., A. Lynn
Miller, Paul G. Historia de Puerto Rico, 1922, N.Y., Rand McNally
Pedro Tomás de Cardona, (Tomo II, P. 169)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 32.1m² = .08 acres

Quadrangle name Aguadilla

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

UTM References Lambert: 18°26'-17"
67°09'-02"

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

See enclosed plan

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Félix Julián del Campo & Joaquín Acevedo

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date January, 1986

street & number La Fortaleza

telephone (809) 721-3737

city or town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

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 Mariano G. Coronas Castro, Arch.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Ray Schlegel

date 4/3/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration