

PH0670120

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Faro de Arecibo
**

AND/OR COMMON same or Arecibo Light

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER End of route 686

CITY/TOWN Arcicibo NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Puerto Rico; VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME U.S. Coast Guard

STREET & NUMBER La Puntilla

CITY/TOWN San Juan VICINITY OF STATE Puerto Rico

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Archives

STREET & NUMBER Pennsylvania Avenue NW

CITY/TOWN Washington STATE DC

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventario de Monumentos de Puerto Rico

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

CITY/TOWN San Juan STATE Puerto Rico

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The lighthouse at Arecibo is one of series built at the end of the 19th century by the Spanish colonial authorities. Each site, according to its strategic importance or the amount of trade passing through, was assigned a specific size and model. These ran from simple and compact to larger scale. The Arecibo model is rather large since the town was active as a trading center as well as military outpost,

The lighthouse is situated on a promontory east of the town, dominating the northern coastline of Puerto Rico. The tower is about 3 meters in diameter.

In plan and design it is simple and functional yet has the neo-classical proportions and ornament popular at the end of the 19th century. The plan is rectangular, with an hexagonal tower at the center of the back (facing the sea) elevation. The main entrance is pronounced by being slightly forward of the wall plane. The strong vertical and horizontal proportions make this otherwise utilitarian structure very imposing, and in this case the effect is accentuated by the dramatic environment: rough coral formations reaching to the sea below.

Interior walls are of brick and exterior walls are masonry rubble. The exterior is painted white with pastel trim of light grey. The roof is of flat tile supported by wood beams. The windows and doors which originally were wooden and louvered, were then replaced by glass panes. However, at present all openings are gone except where they have been bricked up. The interior has been severely vandalized with scratchings and painted commentary.

The current light consists of modern equipment secure because of a solid steel door at the top of the tower. The lighthouse has been continuously vandalized and the lantern has been a target of sharpshooters for the last years. The original light was a '3rd order' Fresnel type fixed lens with 5 panels. Two panels on the land side of the light were prismatic reflectors. The light is 120 feet above the sea.

The interior spaces were designed to accommodate the keeper and his family. There was a kitchen, storage, sleeping quarters and sitting room.

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	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The port of Arecibo may be considered the second most important after San Juan along the northern (Atlantic) coast of Puerto Rico. For this reason when the Spanish authorities determined to build light houses around the island at the end of the 19th century, Arecibo was assigned one of the 'larger order' designs.

Several models were designed from small to rather elaborate in scale according to the importance of the location. In general the lighthouses are rectangular in plan with hexagonal towers housing the lantern. The Spanish colonial military designers produced an unpretentious plan, however, the strong openings and the delicate neoclassical ornamentation has contributed to rather unique series of special architecture. The lanterns were the achievement of the French prism lens makers (in Puerto Rico usually 3rd or 4th order classic Fresnel type). Lens are classified in six orders). Originally the lens was rotated around oil lamps by a wight mechanism. In Arecibo the light was electrified in 1930, and placed in automatic operation in 1964.

These few remaining light houses, such as in Arecibo, are quite handsome in appearance, yet once out of order or unattended, they have been subject to continuous vandalism. The community of Arecibo plans to restore their light house as a center for educational/recreational activities. Although the 'light' belongs to the US Coast Guard, the main structure can be used for such purposes.

