RECEIVED 413
JUN 13 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

==========

1. Name of Property

==========

historic name **Río Matón Bridge**

other names/site number **Bridge #177**

==========

2. Location

==========

street & number **SR 14, km. 63.2, Barrio Matón Abajo** not for publication
city or town **Cayey** vicinity **X**
state **Puerto Rico** code **PR** county **Cayey** code **035** zip code **00736**

==========

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 — **May 25, 1995**
Signature of certifying official — 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 W. Beall 7.19.95
Entered in the National Register

_____ Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
___ private
___ public-local
X public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
___ building(s)
___ district
___ site
X structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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/ iron lateral solid web girder**

Materials

foundation	**N/A**
roof	**N/A**
walls	**N/A**
other	**superstructure - iron**
	substructure - brick, masonry

Narrative Description

Río Matón Bridge which spans the Matón River is still in use at kilometer 63.2 of route 14. The structure's brick abutments are especially attractive, about 35 feet high with corner strings, phases and spring capstone courses in ashlar. The bridge has corner pillars in rubble masonry capped in stone to protect the ends of the girders. Large abutment walls crowned by continuous rubble masonry parapets with spring courses and buttress caps add to its beauty (Photo 1). The foundations are directly supported on solid rock. The deck is composed of joists and domed plates (Photo 2).

The bridge and its setting are essentially unaltered since its 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:	1886
span length:	19.4 meters	superstructure:	iron
total length:	19.4 meters	substructure:	brick and masonry
roadway wdt.:	4.60 meters	current condition:	very good

==========

8. Statement of Significance

==========

Applicable National Register Criteria

_X_ 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.

_X_ 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 **1886 - 1944**

Significant Dates **1886**

Significant Person **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Eng. Manuel López-Bayo**

Narrative Statement of Significance

Río Maton Bridge is the most attractive and well-conserved of the solid web girder with transverse joist bridge type in Puerto Rico. The structure, which lies between the Aibonito and Cayey municipalities, was constructed as part of the old Carretera Central. The 1886 bridge's iron span, designed by the Spanish Engineer Manuel López-Bayo, was purchased from Europe for 11,105 francs.

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"**.

==========

9. Major Bibliographical References

==========

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
_X_ Other State agency: **Puerto Rico Highway Authority**
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
_X_ **University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus**
___ Other
Name of repository:

==========

10. Geographical Data

==========

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	**19**	**795012**	**2007990**	3	__	_____	_____
2	__	_____	_____	4	__	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 19.4 X 4.60 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**