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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 413
OMB No. 1024-0018
JUN 13 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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not for publication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 — **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:

__V__ 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

for 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"**

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions
Cat: **Transportation** Sub: **road-related**

Current Functions
Cat: **Transportation** Sub: **road-related**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification **Other/ Double intersection Pratt**

Materials

foundation	**N/A**
roof	**N/A**
walls	**N/A**
other	**superstructure - steel**
	substructure - concrete

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

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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 **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 # _____
_X_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # **N/A**

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**
_X_ Other
Name of repository: **General Archives of Puerto Rico**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **less than one acre**

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	**19**	**766390**	**2031820**	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**