

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):

Patricia Andrews

Signature of Keeper

9/2/2008

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

0 1 buildings

2 0 sites

1 2 structures

0 0 objects

3 3 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

Name of related multiple property listing Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Name of related multiple property listing Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat:	Agriculture/Subsistence	Sub:	Agricultural Field
	Transportation		Road-related
	Landscape		Natural Feature
	Domestic		Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Cat:	Transportation	Sub:	Road-related
	Agriculture/Subsistence		Agricultural Field
	Religion		Church-related Residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification Spanish Colonial

Materials

foundation	brick, masonry, earth
roof	wood
walls	brick, masonry
other	concrete

Narrative Description: See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, possesses high artistic values.
- 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: Military

Period of Significance: 1898

Significant Dates: July 25 -26, 1898

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: (See continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register (Hacienda Santa Rita)
 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
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: General Archives of Puerto Rican Culture, University of Puerto Rico

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 133.842 acres

UTM References:

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
19	724012	1992326	3	19 724100	1992216
19	724059	1992296	4	19 724039	1992157

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: (See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification: (See continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

First original draft: Arleen Pabón PhD and Architect Eduardo Regis (September 29, 1999)
Revised by: José E. Marull, State Historian; Hugh Tosteson, Historian
organization: Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office date: August 12, 2008
street & number: PO Box 9066581 telephone: (809) 721-3737
city or town: San Juan state: PR zip code: 00906-6581

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Yauco Battlefield Site is located in a small valley 3 kilometers northeast of the town of Guánica, and approximately 98 kilometers southwest of San Juan. The Battle Site is an 127.013 acre property and is composed primarily of agricultural fields in the Lajas Valley Reserve and four other resources including one buildings, one road (SR 116R), part of a highway (SR 116) and a 20th century bridge. The lands and buildings are associated with the first major skirmish between Spanish and American forces (July 25-26, 1898) in the Puerto Rican Campaign of the Spanish-American War. The battle site is made up of two irregular shaped areas (one small square shaped and a large polygon shaped) linked by SR 116R. The small square shaped area (Spanish Headquarters), located north of the SR 116R, contains the two contributing resources (Spanish Colonial buildings of the Hacienda Desideria). The large polygon shaped area (Skirmish site), located to the south and east of SR 116, includes three contributing resources (cultivation fields, SR 116R and Seboruco Scarp) and three non contributing resources (bridge #245, SR 116 and Hacienda Quiñones Main House). **[See Contributing and Non Contributing Resources Map]**

The Spanish Headquarters area, incorporates the main house and patio, the former slave quarters building of the 19th C sugarcane growing Hacienda Desideria (known today as Hacienda Santa Rita), where the Spanish forces assumed defensive positions and established their headquarters prior to the battle, on July 25, 1898, and from which their retreat began, on July 26, 1898. The main house of the hacienda has been used by the Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima as a convent and novice house since 1953, and was restored in 1993. The former slave quarters building is at present roofless, and has been used as a garage for some time.

The Skirmish area, to the southeast of the Spanish Headquarter area, is a larger tract **[See General Site Map]**, is where the fighting took place on July 25-26, 1898, and includes two US-Spanish skirmish sites and a US observation point. At the time of the battle, this area was entirely under cultivation, a use that continues unchanged to this day. Despite being crossed from south to north by highway (SR-116) built after WW II, and minor commercial development to southwest of the Skirmish Area, the nominated Yauco Battlefield Site still retains integrity of setting, materials and location.

Environmental Setting

The site is located on the fertile plains on the southern coastlands of Puerto Rico, which have been used since the early colonization period for agricultural purposes. The foothills that extend southwards from Puerto Rico's main mountain range (Cordillera Central) subdivide these lowlands, forming numerous valleys. Rivers that originate from the Cordillera Central feed the lowlands and contribute to the fertility of the soil.

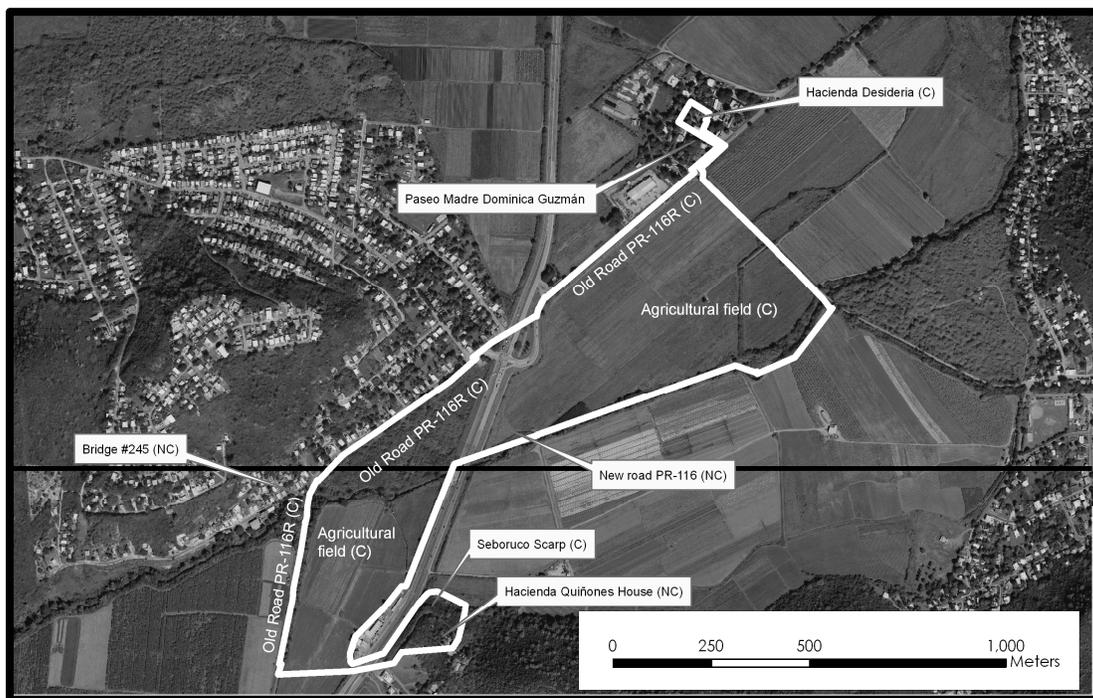
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

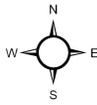
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 2

The nominated Yauco Battlefield Site is closely related to the pre-1898 Guánica-Yauco Road which, at the time of the Spanish American War and throughout the first half of the 20th C., was the only land route between the port and coastal community of Guánica and the inland city of Yauco. This road serves as the western and northwestern boundary of the Skirmish area, and connects with the Headquarters area to the north [See photos #4, #5, #20, #21, #22 and #23]. Being the only land route between the Guánica port and the interior of Puerto Rico through Yauco in 1898, it was of vital importance in the development of the Battle of Yauco. After being renamed State Road #116R and asphalted in the first half of the 20th C., the old Guánica-Yauco road was relegated to secondary road status in the second half of the 20th century, when the modern SR 116 2-lane highway was built. The portion of this highway that runs through the Skirmish area was widened to four lanes during the 1990's [See photo #24].



 <p>Source: Government of Puerto Rico, (2007). Aerial Photograph.</p>	<p>Contributing and Non Contributing Resources Map Yauco Battlefield Site Guánica, Puerto Rico</p>	  <p>1:11,250</p>
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 3

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Spanish Headquarters area

The Spanish Headquarter area is a roughly delineated square shaped tract of land located north of the Skirmish Area [**See Photo Key Map North**] approximately 3706.93 square meters or 0.916 acres. The Hacienda Desideria (known today as Hacienda Santa Rita) was established as field headquarters by Spanish Infantry Lieut. Col. Francisco Puig when he arrived from Yauco with his troops on the afternoon on July 25, 1898. After sending troops to advance positions on El Caño Hill and the cornfields between the Guánica-Yauco road and the Loco River, Lieut. Col. Puig stationed one infantry company at a firing position in one of the hacienda complex structures dominating the road, commanded by Captain Salvador Meca.

Located some 45 meters to the northwest of the old Guánica-Yauco road (now State Road #116R), the location of the hacienda allowed Puig a good command of the approaches to the anticipated Skirmish Area. The main house, its patio and the former slave quarters (used as a garage) were included in the National Register of Historic Places on January 5, 1984. Since 1953, the two contributing buildings in this area, the main house and former slave quarters have been used as the convent facilities for the Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima. Outside the property boundaries are offices and buildings of the now-defunct Puerto Rico Sugar Corporation (Corporación Azucarera de Puerto Rico), about 100 meters to the northwest of the garage.

The hacienda main house, L-shaped in form, is a two story wood and masonry building designed in vernacular plantation style. The building measures approximately 660 square meters in area. The exterior was finely detailed with applied plaster ornamentation around each doorway and a heavy cornice crowning the building. Originally a one-story building, the house was expanded through the addition of a second floor in 1850, following by the Corsican French influence that was evident in this area of the island area during the 19th century. Wooden columns from the second floor gallery support the roof of flat brick and masonry. The building has a pitched roof that extends beyond the building's walls to cover a verandah that encircles the entire second floor. This verandah is made of wrought iron and because of its ornate lacework it is one of the most dominant visual feature of the house. The building's distinctive forged iron work is noticeable in the gallery supports and in the railing of the second floor. Access to the second floor is made through a stairway, with marble floors, on the northern façade. Wooden louvered doors and windows give access to the first and second floor of the convent. The main house of this hacienda is one of the most distinctive and unique buildings of its type, sugar plantations, to survive to this day in Puerto Rico.

The slave quarters or "Corralón al Sur del Batey" as it was originally called, has suffered some alteration. The rectangular building, approximately 84 square meters in area, dates from the 1840's. Its structural system consisted of masonry walls supporting wooden beams and a flat roof. At present, the wooden doors, beams and flat roof have been removed for the restoration work that is contemplated by the current owners. Its front façade originally consisted of an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 4

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

elegant arcade that gives the building the look of a gallery [See photos #1 and #2]. There is a large patio area to the rear of both buildings, occupied by well-maintained gardens, where remnants of a historic wall, possibly an exterior wall, can be observed [See photos #7, #8 and #9].

Skirmish Area

The Skirmish Area is an irregular shaped tract of land (125.629 acres), bounded to the south an agricultural lands from SR 116R to the Seboruco Scarp. Excluded from the site is an area of commercial development west of PR 116 and Seboruco Scarp. The site is bounded on the west and northwest by the old Guánica-Yauco Road (now State Road #116R), to the southeast to east by the Río Loco River Basin and to the northeast by State Road #389 until it reaches the Loco River bed. [See photos #10, #11, #12, #13, #15, #16, #17, #18 and #19]

The Skirmish Area is located just to the northeast of a relatively narrow pass (approximately 400 meters at its narrowest point) between two small valleys, and is formed by the heights of the Seboruco Scarp to the southeast and El Caño Hill to the northwest, both averaging approximately 100 meters in height [See Site Topographic Map]. Approaching from the northeast, the old Guánica-Yauco Road (State Road #116R) skirts the southeastern slope of El Caño Hill until it veers south and reaches the bridge over the Loco River. A residential community named Bélgica (not included within the site) has developed since 1898 along the right side of this road, between the junction with the SR 116 highway and the bridge, reaching an climbing the lower slopes of El Caño Hill. It was on the heights of El Caño Hill that Spanish troops assumed defensive positions during late afternoon of July 25, 1898, dominating the approaches to the bridge and the river crossing as they awaited the expected American advance from Guánica along the old Guánica-Yauco road. Spanish troops were also placed in ambush in the middle of cornfields belonging to the Hacienda Desideria, between the old Guánica Road (State Road #116R) and the Loco River.

The bridge #245 at the PR 116R Loco River crossing is an Art Deco concrete structure built in the 1941, which replaced a Spanish-built masonry bridge constructed before 1898 [See photos #22 and #23]. The remnants of a Spanish built irrigation dike remain close to the bridge. After crossing the bridge, State Road #116R continues to the south-southwest and heading towards the entrance to Guánica, where it crosses the SR 116 highway once again. On its way south, at approximately 410 meters from the bridge #245, a dirt road that crosses the valley floor almost directly due east towards the closest slopes of the Seboruco Scarp. This dirt road is the Skirmish Area's southernmost boundary, and in 1898 was also the access road to a hacienda located on a small plateau overlooking the valley from the lower elevations of the Seboruco Scarp, about 40 meters above the valley floor. The hacienda's main house (outside the site), known as the Buenaventura Quiñones house, was destroyed in 1899 San Ciriaco hurricane, though later rebuilt

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 5

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

during the early 20th C. It was at his location, next to the original Buenaventura Quiñones House, where three US infantry companies set up an observation post in the evening of July 25, 1898. In addition to functioning as an observation point, this position was used to fire upon the Spanish positions during the battle and was the object of a Spanish counterattack. Today, the rebuilt wooden house of the still functioning hacienda, in addition to two concrete service structures behind it, can be seen on a promontory overlooking the valley to the north and south. The surrounding area of the Seboruco Scarp included within the site, with exception of the asphalted roadway that connects the Hacienda Quiñones with the PR 116, has retained the original natural context. The 4-lane expansion of SR 116 highway has cut into the base of the slope at this location and only commercial development nearby (but outside) the Skirmish area, though relative minor is located here.

The Skirmish Area has remained unchanged from 1898, a primarily agricultural lands, except for the construction of the SR-116 highway, a small commercial area (gas station, specialty stores, car dealership) along a small portion of its right-of-way, where it meets the Seboruco Scarp and the development of the Bélgica community to the north of the old Guánica-Yauco road (now State Road #116R) along the foot of El Caño Hill. The small commercial area and Bélgica community are outside the site's boundaries. Although the crops have varied from the sugar cane and corn production in 1898, the lands are used for cultivating of a wide variety of crops, rotated yearly, such as yams, pumpkins, watermelons, cabbage and peas. State legislation in 1999 set aside the Lajas Valley for agricultural uses.

INTEGRITY STATEMENT

With the exception of the development a modern (post WW-II) transportation corridor, there has been no substantial changes in the site. The chain of mountains south of the site (Seboruco Scarp and El Caño Hill) and the surrounding open agricultural lands help to convey a visual sense of place.

The Spanish Headquarters area has remained relatively intact from its period of significance. The 1992-93 restoration project sponsored by the Puerto Rico Quincentennial Commission returned the historic character of the property by removing the 1976-77 alterations and changes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

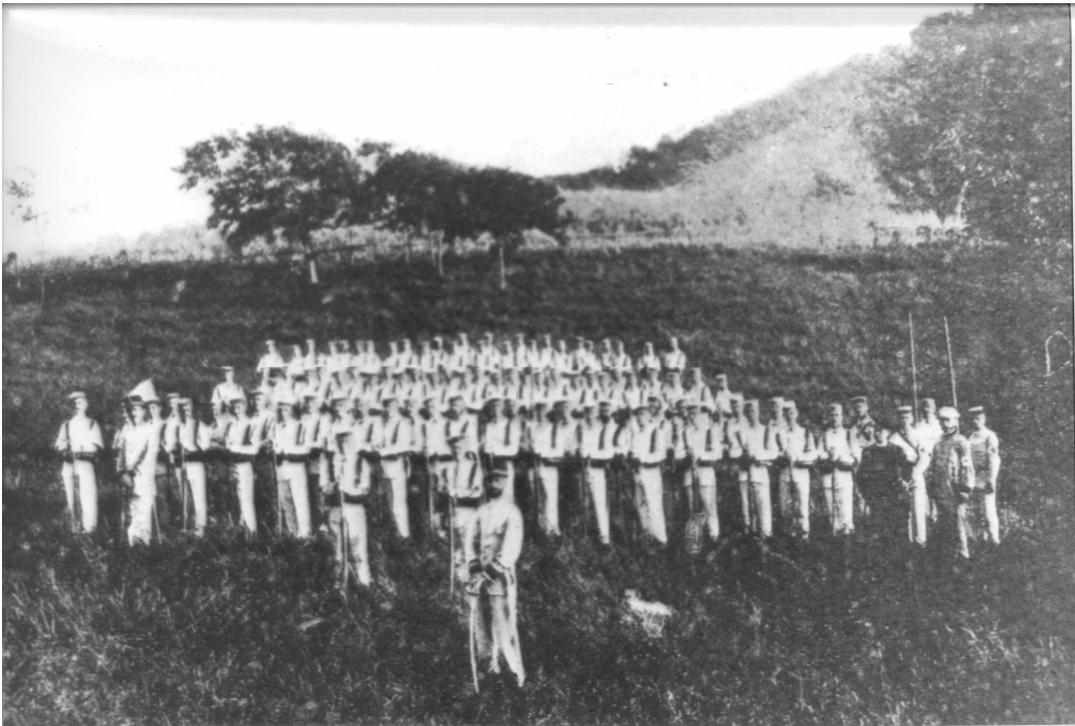
Section number _____ Page 6

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Yauco Battlefield Site is significant at state level, under criterion A, for its importance in military history. The site is where the preparatory actions and the first major skirmishes between American and Spanish infantry units occurred in the Puerto Rican Campaign of the Spanish American War. The skirmish was preceded by troop concentrations at Hacienda Desideria and at the foot of the Seboruco Scarp, and rifle exchanges between Spanish and American pickets during the afternoon and evening of July 25, 1898. In the morning of July 26, 1898 a skirmish occurred between three Spanish infantry companies under the command of Lt. Col. Francisco Puig and eight companies from the 6th Massachusetts and 6th Illinois Volunteer Regiments, commanded by General Garretson. Criterion Consideration A is applicable for the properties within the site that today belong to the Convent of the Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima. These properties (two buildings and yard of the former Hacienda Desideria) are significant due to the events in 1898 when they were part of a sugar hacienda.



Historic photo of one the two Spanish Infantry companies of the Patria Batallion involved in the battle in Guánica. Photo from Angel Rivero's book, *Crónica de la Guerra Hispanoamericana en Puerto Rico*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 7

Background on the Hacienda Desideria

Don Mariano Quiñones, a powerful and wealthy local landowner from the town of San Germán originally established this hacienda. Then known as Santa Rita, the hacienda was important to the agricultural development of the region. The original main house, built in 1800, was a one story brick and masonry construction with a rectangular plan. The building measured roughly 13m x 22m in length. A second rectangular section measuring 6m x 21m forming the hammer (“martillo”) or “L” form was added later. In 1850 a second floor was added to the building. The Hacienda Santa Rita (also known as Hacienda Quiñones) served as center for a large extension of land dedicated to sugar cane cultivation. A perimeter wall was constructed surrounding the building and its processing structures. The sugar produced in this Hacienda was stored in wooden barrels (bocoyes) that were shipped from the nearby Guánica port.

In 1893 the hacienda passed from the Quiñones family to Don Domingo Marianis Dominicci, of Corsican extraction, who was a powerful coffee planter and retailer in the town of Yauco. The hacienda’s name was then changed to Hacienda Desideria. Marianis Dominicci was the owner of the property when the battle of Yauco occurred. Local lore has it that the Spanish, French and U.S. flags flew over the hacienda on July 26, 1898. In 1901 Marianis Dominicci sold Hacienda Desideria for the amount of \$125,000 to the Santa Rita Estate Corporation, a subsidiary controlled by the South Porto Rico Sugar Company, who owned the Central Guánica Sugar Mill at the time. The property was again renamed Santa Rita, and the new owners used the buildings as administrative offices and the lands for sugar cane cultivation. Although the Main House and the former slave quarters were used, the rest of the structures were either integrated into new structures or abandoned. At this time, other buildings were constructed in the vicinity, including residences for company officers, a paymaster house, a store and a Catholic chapel. As result of the decline of the sugar industry in the second half of the 20th century, the buildings and structure lost their importance to the Central Guánica owners., and in 1953 the company agreed to temporally give the main house, its patio, and garage to the Catholic Dominican Order of Our Lady of Fátima. Nine years later (1962) the property was sold to the Order. The Order has embarked on an ambitious which has succeeded in restoring the main house to its 1898 splendor and next plans to restore the garage (former slave quarters). Although the Order has expanded their facilities since it bought the main house and the garage, the new constructions have been made to the north of the historic buildings, so as not to impact on the historic setting, association and feeling that property represents.

Importance of the Hacienda Desideria

The Hacienda Desideria was important as a concentration place for the Spanish forces (Cazadores Patria Regiment) arriving from Yauco in the afternoon of the July 25, 1898, under the command of Lieut. Col. Francisco Puig [see photo #25]. Also, the Spanish commander

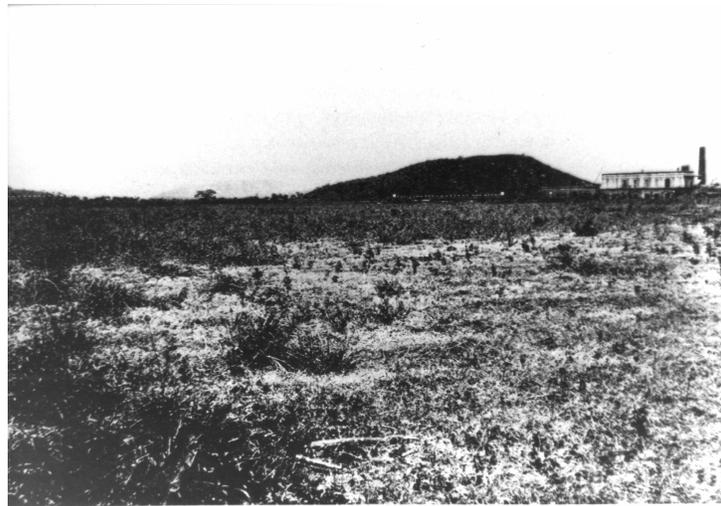
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 8

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

recognized the strategic value of the walled hacienda, astride the Guánica-Yauco road, and placed one of his infantry at that location [see photo #26]. This company, under Captain Salvador Meca, opened loop holes in the exterior walls of the hacienda to fire upon an approaching enemy force. It served as concentration point for the company that had been positioned in the cornfields when they were forced to retreat after being discovered by American troops on the heights of El Caño Hill. By the time the U.S. infantry reached the Hacienda Desideria it had been abandoned by the Spanish forces.



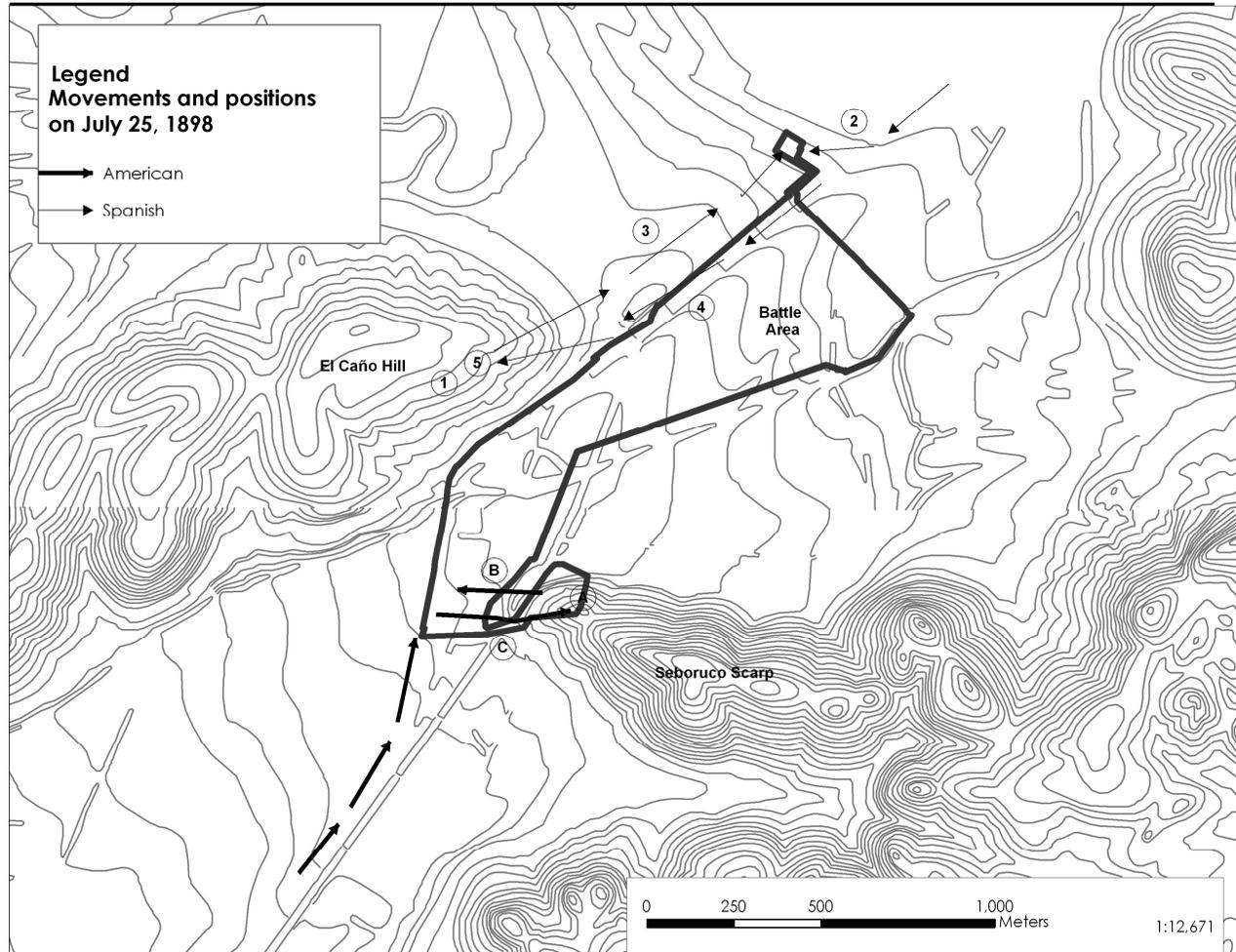
Historic photo of the Hacienda Desideria as it appeared in Angel Rivero's book
Crónica de la Guerra Hispoanamerican en Puerto Rico

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 9



Map 1. Movements and positions on July 25, 1898. Spanish troop movements are represented by numbers while the US troop movements are indicated by letters.

Spanish troop movements: (1) Captain Salvador Meca and an infantry company arrives from Yauco and sets up an observation position at El Caño Hill; (2) Lt. Col. Francisco Puig arrives from Yauco with two infantry companies, guerrilla and civil guards setting up headquarters at Hacienda Desideria; (3) Captain Salvador Meca and his company leave El Caño Hill and take up positions at the Hacienda Desideria; (4) A Spanish Infantry Company is placed in a cornfield along the Guánica-Yauco Road south of the Hacienda Desideria; and (5) Captain San Pedro is placed at El Caño Hill which dominates the Guánica-Yauco Road.

US Troop Movements: (A) An US Infantry Company of the 6th Illinois arrives from Guánica and sets up an observation position at Seboruco Scarp; (B) US forces at Seboruco Scarp deploy outpost toward the road and rifle fire is exchanged with the Spanish forces during the night; and (C) Major Charles K. Darling with two infantry companies of the 6th Massachusetts join the Illinois company at the observation post.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 10

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Importance of the Skirmish Area

The Skirmish Area, on July 26, 1898, was the first confrontation between Spanish regular army units and the American forces, which had landed the previous day at the port of Guánica. Also, it was the only attempt by the Spanish Army to contain an American landing during the Puerto Rican Campaign. Although ordered by the Governor to limit his actions to determining the strength of the enemy force, Lt. Col. Francisco Puig deployed his force to meet the US troops moving north from Guánica. According to Angel Rivero (1924), Lieut. Col. Puig rallied his men to fight and did not heed telegrams by the Governor that ordered his withdrawal, expecting the arrival of reinforcements to push the Americans from their base of operations in Guánica. The two companies deployed south of the Hacienda, one on El Caño Hill and another in the cornfields, were the first to fire on the American infantry.

The initial exchanges between Spanish and American forces occurred when scouts, from the company G of the 6th Illinois in outpost duty at the Seboruco Scarp, received fire from the Spanish position at El Caño Hill. After these exchanges the outpost was reinforced by two infantry companies (L and M) under the command of Major Charles K. Darling arriving from Guánica in the evening of July 25th 1898. After Major Darling arrived more scouting was conducted. "Under the guidance of a native guide the surrounding country was reconnoitered and outposts were placed in all available points supposed to be facing the enemy." It is probable these outposts drew the attention of the Spanish positions under the command of Captain San Pedro at El Caño Hill that led to another exchange of fire around 2 a.m. (Rivero 1972:196)

As result of this last exchange the outpost requested reinforcements from Guánica in anticipation of an attack early in the morning of July 26th. General Garretson, his staff and Commander Hayes arrived with 5 companies (A,C,K,G and E) of the 6th Massachusetts early in the morning around 4:30 a.m. (Rivero 1972: 196). An advance force composed of three companies moved north on the road to Yauco when they were fired upon from El Caño Hill when having advanced but a "few hundred yards." Companies K and E moved up the hill to confront the Spanish position. Although they received fire as they ascended they were not able to get close to the Spanish force because the former had withdrawn.(Edwards 1899:76-77). While the confrontation between the Spanish and American forces occurred at El Caño a Spanish force exchanged fire with the American position at the Seboruco Hill. This force would later withdraw to the Hacienda Desideria (Rivero 1972:202-203).

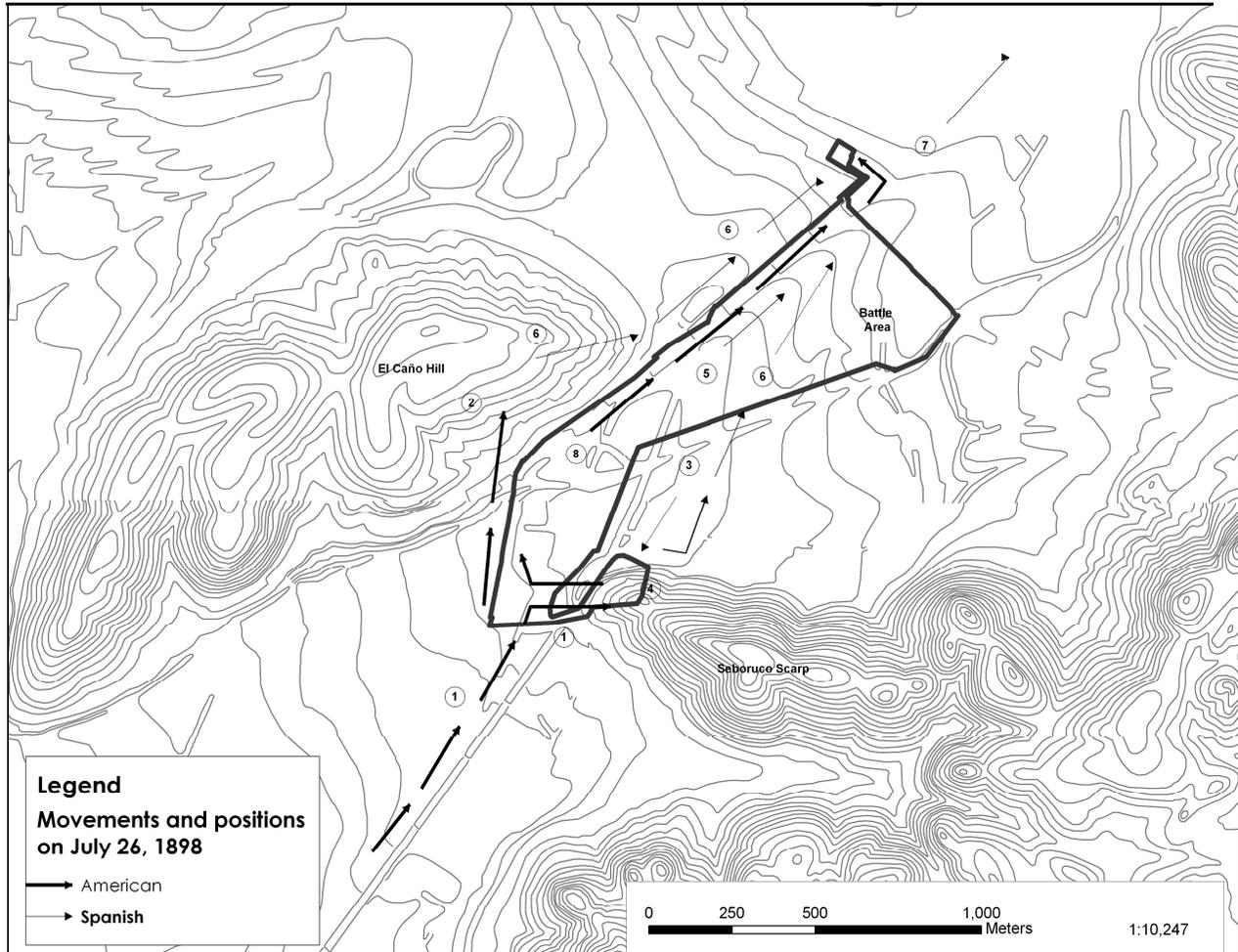
Meanwhile, when the American force took El Caño Hill they were able to discover the Spanish ambush position in the cornfield to the northeast and Spanish force withdrawing from the area of Seboruco Scarp. The American force fired upon the Spanish forces on the cornfield that, confronted with enemy fire, withdrew to the Hacienda Desideria (Edwards 1899:76-77).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 11

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico



Map 2. Movements and positions on July 26, 1898. Actions and troop movements are enumerated – both Spanish and US actions – as they unfolded that day: (1) Five Companies (A, C, E, G and K) of the 6th Massachusetts arrived from Guánica to reinforce outpost. Three Companies (A, L and G) form U.S. vanguard northward along the Guánica-Yauco Road; (2) Spanish infantry from their positions in El Caño Hill open fire on the US advance positions. Companies K and E advance up El Caño Hill; (3) Spanish forces advance and exchanges fire with US positions at Seboruco; (4) Illinois Company opens fire on Spanish positions on El Caño Hill to support attacking US force; (5) Spanish troops lying in ambush in the cornfield are fired on by US troops on El Caño, and retreat to Hacienda Desideria; (6) Retreating Spanish troops from flanking movement on Seboruco and from El Caño Hill congregate at Hacienda Desideria; (7) Lt. Col. Francisco Puig withdraws his force by way of the old Guánica-Yauco Road; and (8) US contingent reaches Hacienda Desideria, which they find abandoned by the Spanish forces.

After waiting more seventeen hours for reinforcements or support from other garrisons, the Spanish commander reluctantly ordered the retreat that morning around ten o'clock. The Spanish force moved out of Hacienda Desideria and retreated, in good order, to the town of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 12

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

Yauco. The U.S. forces proceeded cautiously from their initial encounter at the base of El Caño Hill to Hacienda Desideria, where they discovered the Spanish had already left.

As result of this battle, the Americans were able to secure the landing from enemy attack and opened the way for the capture of Yauco and Ponce. Unable to return by rail from Yauco to Ponce after the battle, the Spanish troops were forced to march over the central mountain range to the northern coastal town of Arecibo, diminishing the Spanish garrison left in Ponce to face the eventual arrival of a US naval force on July 28, 1898.

This battle was the only one during the war exclusively engaged in by American infantry forces, since they were the only forces readily available to deal with the perceived threat of the Spanish military. In all other military actions, the American military, with the exception of scouting parties, used a combination of cavalry, infantry and artillery forces. Also unique to this battle was the use of Springfield rifles by the U.S. Volunteers. The use of Springfield rifles proved disadvantageous to the U.S. forces since the discharge was visible to the Spanish enemy, who used the Mauser 1893 model with smokeless gun powder. This could probably explain why the U.S. observers on the Seboruco Scarp were unable to accurately detect Spanish positions on El Caño Hill in the early hours of July 26th.

For further contextual information regarding the property's historic importance, registration requirements, see related multiple property listing "Spanish American War in Puerto Rico".

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

**Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico**

Section number _____ Page 13

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Torres Santiago, Jerry. “Apuntes sobre la historia de la Antigua Hacienda Santa Rita” 15 de noviembre de 1990.

----- “Memoria explicativa proyecto de reforma Casa Grande de la Hacienda Santa Rita, Guánica, P.R.” Yauco, 5 de septiembre de 1991.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References

The nineteen coordinates for the Yauco Battlefield Site, as follows (continued from nomination form):

#	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	#	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
5.	19	724365	1991845	13.	19	723459	1991040
6.	19	724184	1991645	14.	19	723425	1990931
7.	19	723430	1991404	15.	19	723310	1990922
8.	19	723306	1991086	16.	19	723265	1990883
9.	19	723177	1990962	17.	19	722983	1990858
10.	19	723164	1990892	18.	19	723077	1991350
11.	19	723261	1990929	19.	19	723627	1991774
12.	19	723367	1991077	20.	19	723639	1991823
				21.	19	723981	1992274

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached site maps.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 14

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATIONS

Skirmish Area

Northern and Northeastern boundary

The northern boundary of the site includes the agricultural fields south of PR 116R and west of the PR #389. The PR #116R (old Guánica-Yauco road) existed prior to 1898 and continues to serve as a secondary road. The PR #389 was selected as an arbitrary boundary and is not included within the boundary of the site because it was built in the 20th century. The Bélgica community, a 20th century residential development north of the road (which runs east from junction with the SR 116 highway until reaching Río Loco Bridge) is also excluded from the site because all of the new construction in the area that occurred after July 26, 1898. In addition, according to the historical record, the Spanish troop positions in the fields during the skirmish were to the south of the Guánica-Yauco road. The State Road #389 was selected as an arbitrary northeast boundary because it provided a clear demarcation of the agricultural fields.

Southeastern boundary

The Loco River bed was selected as boundary to the skirmish area because the historical record (Spanish or American sources) does not mention troops crossing this river. For this reason, this area north of this area is probably where all the movements and exchanges occurred on July 25-26, 1898.

Southern boundary

The southern boundary was selected for the following reasons: (1) because the southernmost dirt access road indicated was the access road used by American troops to establish their observation post on the Seboruco Scarp; (2) because they define the area where U.S. 6th Illinois infantry company initially extended their picket lines on the evening of the 25th, from their positions on the Seboruco Scarp; (3) because these roads also define the area where the American troop concentration occurred in the late hours of July 25th and early hours of July 26th; and (4) because they define the area where the American troops were surprised by Spanish rifle fire from the heights of El Caño Hill, as they advanced on the old Guánica-Yauco road, and from where later they staged their attack on those positions. Not included within the site is the commercial development that has occurred on the SR 116 highway immediately to the west of the Seboruco Scarp. The westernmost section of the Seboruco Scarp is included as part of the site.

Western boundary

The old Guánica-Yauco road (now State Road #116R) was selected as the western boundary because the historical record indicates that U.S. troops advanced on it northward from their positions at the base of the Seboruco Scarp toward the Spanish positions in El Caño Hill. This

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Section number _____ Page 15

Spanish American War in Puerto Rico

sector is also part of the larger area where the initial scattered rifle fire exchange and skirmishes occurred between the U.S. and Spanish picket lines. The historical record does not mention any picket lines, skirmish lines or engagement west of the SR #116R. The El Caño Hill was excluded because of the 20th constructions in the area including the Bélgica community. This community is made up of modern concrete residential buildings dispersed all along the face of the hill.

Spanish Headquarter area

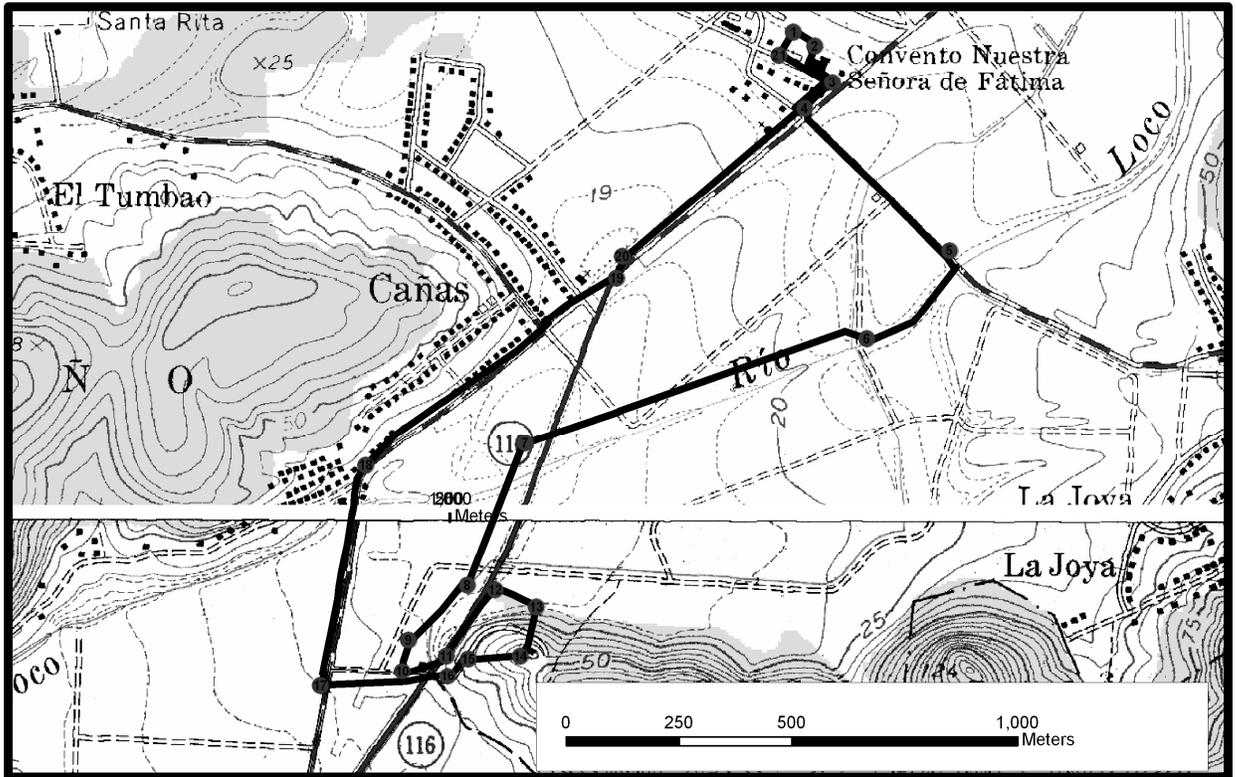
The Spanish Headquarter area's boundaries are linked to the extent of the main house, patio and former slave quarters of the 19th century Hacienda Desideria. The area only encompasses those buildings and area (patio) directly linked to its use as Spanish Headquarters. The historical sources do not document troop emplacements or movements north of the ruins of the exterior wall of the patio. Also, the site excludes the grounds and buildings of the Convent acquired or built after 1898. The western boundary excludes the open tract of land and two-story 1923 concrete building belonging to the Puerto Rico Sugar Corporation. The southern boundary includes the width of the community's access road (named "Paseo Madre Dominica Guzmán") but excludes the residences south of the road. These residences – built over the area where the Spanish infantry set up picket lines – have been impacted in the 20th century by the construction of houses associated with the 20th C. Central Guánica.

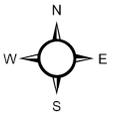
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

**Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico**

Section number _____ Page 16



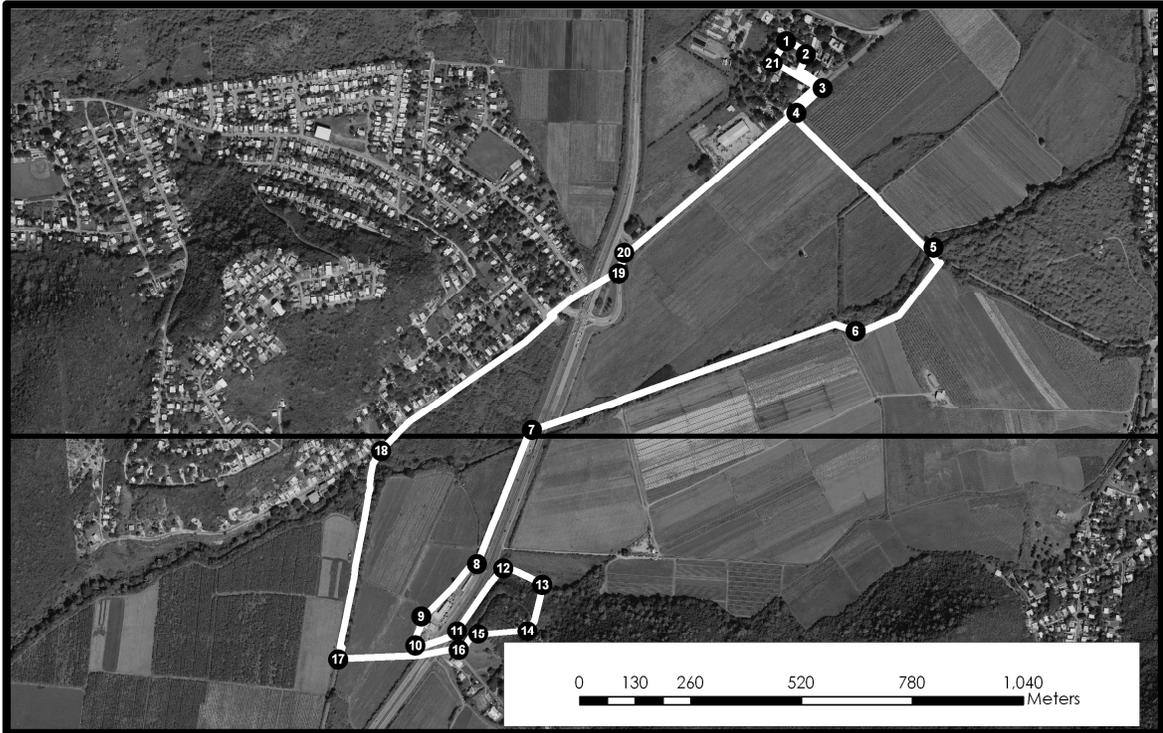
 <p>Source: USGS Quadrangle Maps (1966) Guánica and Sabana Grande.</p>	<p>Site Map Yauco Battlefield Site Guánica, Puerto Rico</p>	  <p>1:11,000</p>
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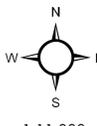
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

**Yauco Battlefield Site
Guánica, Puerto Rico
Spanish American War in Puerto Rico**

Section number _____ Page 17



 <p>Source: Government of Puerto Rico. (2007). Aerial Photograph.</p>	<p>Site Map Yauco Battlefield Site Guánica, Puerto Rico</p>	 <p>1:11,000</p>
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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):

Patricia Andrews

Signature of Keeper

9/2/2008

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

0 1 buildings

2 0 sites

1 2 structures

0 0 objects

3 3 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

Name of related multiple property listing Spanish American War in Puerto Rico