



1248

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Río Grande Fire Station
other names/site number Parque de Bombas de Río Grande

2. Location

street & number 6 Juan González Street and Del Carmen Street not for publication
city or town Río Grande vicinity
state Puerto Rico code PR county Río Grande code 119 zip code 00721

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide local

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Signature of certifying official

December 7, 2012
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)


 Signature of the Keeper

1/29/2013
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Fire Stations in Puerto Rico, 1942-1952

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Fire Station

SOCIAL/ civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Concrete/Masonry Units
roof: Concrete
other: Wood, Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Río Grande’s original fire station from 1951 faces north at the corner of #6 Juan González Street and Del Carmen Street, an urban intersection at the municipality’s *Barrio Pueblo*, two blocks south from the town’s main plaza. Although it is currently in use by Post #18 of the *American Legion Department in Puerto Rico*, from 1951 to 2005 – for 54 years – it lodged the Río Grande’s Fire Corps. The property occupies 25% of the 537.6 meters lot in which it sits. Its rectangular, concrete volume adheres to a two-story prototype developed in the early 1940’s in Puerto Rico as part of the Island’s preparation for the Second World War. Designed by Engineer Raúl Buxeda, the fire station is a spare, functional facility whose upper floor sets back from the first floor facade to create a terrace. Subdued Art Deco references distinguish the prototypical building in elevation but windows and wrap around eaves unequivocally date its construction to at least a decade later than the style’s heyday. In late 1980, a one-story lean-to (also in concrete) was added to the property’s main body in order to provide office space. Later on in the mid-90’s, the truck entrance was modified to accommodate modern, taller fire engines. In spite of these changes, the building’s original character has not been challenged, a fact underlined by the clear profile it still cuts within Río Grande’s urban core.

Narrative Description

Built at mid-20th century, what is known as “the old Fire Station” at Río Grande is a freestanding building erected in reinforced concrete at the town’s *Barrio Pueblo*. Said municipality lies north of Puerto Rico, where the Atlantic Ocean and the Municipality of Loíza flank it. On the south, it adjoins the municipalities of Las Piedras, Naguabo and Ceiba. To the east, two other municipalities (Luquillo and Fajardo) are its neighbors. To the west, Río Grande reaches up to the Municipality of Canóvanas. The piece of land occupied by the fire station at the intersection of #6 Juan González and Del Carmen Street is classified DT-G (“*Distrito Dotación General*”)¹ and categorized as flooding zone type X.² Eminently flat, the plot is slightly sloped north/south for surface drainage. An old mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) stands in its southeast corner; it has been there since the building was inaugurated in 1951. North of the property – two blocks away - stand Río Grande’s Catholic Church

¹ Puerto Rico Planning Board, Geolocalizador: Interactive Map of the Land Registry, <http://gis.jp.pr.gov/GeoLocalizador/Internet/> for Cadastre number – 090-078-038-69.

² Federal Emergency Management Agency Map, Panel 1140J (Revised November 18, 2009). Map No. 72000C0415J.

and the town's main plaza. South of it extends a government owned lot on which other official buildings are located. Among these, stand out the post office, a school, and a small courthouse from the 1970's. The Municipality of Río Grande owns the former firehouse, but in 2005 granted custody of it to Post #18 of the *American Legion Department of Puerto Rico*, which holds meetings and events on the premises. **(FIG. 1)**

The fire station replicates Prototype A, one of the models after which similar facilities were built at mid-20th century all over the Island. For their construction, concrete columns supporting concrete beams and held by rigid joints were used. Concrete masonry unit walls were used in alignment with the columns. Roofs are flat and also in concrete, all surrounded by parapets. Floor slabs were in the same material. True to its model, Río Grande's rendition of Prototype A is rectangular and symmetrical, its footprint measuring 14'-11" wide by 35'-0" long. Ceiling height at the first floor is 9'-10". The upper floor, 11'-2" high, is smaller than the lower one, receding 11'-0" from the front. By setting back, the upper level grants added verticality to the fire station's overall building volume. Some of that verticality is lost to passersby nowadays due to the construction in late 1980 of additional office space in close adjacency to the station. In lean-to manner, a one story, concrete volume extends north-south along the western façade. In spite of this later addition, the original volume – an upright L shape – projects effectively as an institutional presence. The symmetrical, axial disposition of most architectural elements underlines the property's institutional bearing. **(FIG. 2)**

At first floor level, folding doors in aluminum (with operable louvers and fixed glass panes) provide closure at what was once the opening for the fire truck garage. **(FIG. 3)** Space around the doors has been walled up in cement. Inside, there is a small storage space and a single tread stair leads to the second floor. Timidly imitating a "U" shape, the stair begins its run inside the garage; a full step turns left towards the 10-step single tread and, before reaching the upper level, turns left again. An additional set of 4 steps must be completed before reaching upstairs fully. These final steps project as an incline beneath the first floor ceiling. Treads are mostly 12" deep, with risers varying from 6 to 8 inches in height. An open area occupies most of the second story; what used to be a communal bedroom for firemen now holds office furniture and equipment, but changes have been few. A rest room includes a shower, toilet and sink. North of the space, a door opens unto a terrace protected by concrete parapets and an iron railing made up of tubular sections. Two flagpoles at each corner of the terrace – also tubular and in iron - face north. A third iron flagpole is attached to the façade, rising higher than the other two. A hollow, solid aluminum door opens unto the terrace. It has been fit into the concrete frame of an original, larger door, as recessed cement used to cover it reveals.

The façade is vaguely evocative of the Art Deco Style. At either side of the door, the surface steps back twice a few inches. Similarly, the wall steps down its profile against the sky, all of it reinforcing the overriding axial composition. **(FIG. 4)** Two items are featured in the façade segment above the terrace's door: a rectangular, concrete eave and a round escutcheon used as an appliqué in prototypes all over the Island at the time. In bas-relief manner, the latter depicts the fireman's distinguishing hat, a rescue ladder and two horns emblematic of the siren. The escutcheon publicly identified Fire Corps stations throughout the Island. **(FIG. 5)** Over the truck garage's entrance, above a terrace parapet, the sign of Post #18 of the American Legion covers the area where the original fire station sign used to be. Made in cement, its letters read *Insular Fire Service*.³

³ Identification of stations varied considerably from one location to another. Available documents did not state any particular reason for the use of Spanish or English in one or another station. Thus, names may vary from town to town

An individual concrete eave surrounds two sides of the building, north and east. The lateral facades (east and west) are unornamented, sporting rectangular windows laid out in vertical manner. The eastern elevation reveals fully the station's L-shaped volume. The continuity of the first floor eave and that of a shorter one at the second floor - underscores horizontality above individual windows in aluminum with operable jalousies. With "eyebrow" ends, these concrete overhangs bracket and group together the window units. The lower level includes four (4) windows, two of them paired together. The upper floor includes an individual window and two of them coupled. The windows in both floors line up. Other elements in this elevation include the meter to measure electricity, overflow pipes at roof level, some loose cables and a security lighting fixture. **(FIG. 6)**

The back façade faces south. The original component is "blind", having no openings. A single, concrete eave runs continuous below its top parapet. Sanitary and water piping installations are surface mounted, as is another security lighting fixture. A small tool shed in aluminum stands over a concrete pad, next to the main body of the building. **(FIG. 7)** Behind it raises the back façade of the concrete lean-to added in late 1980. Constructed in haphazard manner, this component includes two aluminum jalousie windows. An ornamental grille protects one of them, while an iron gate controls access to the back part of the lot. Along the west, an improvised, wooden roof creates an open, yet shielded area where materials and discarded equipment are regularly stored.

An aluminum louvered door leads into a rectangular space that, in turn, connects to the ground floor of the fire station. This is the late 80's addition, measuring 14'-6" wide, 28'-6" long, and 8'-0" high. It includes an open space used for clerical duties, a working area for an administrator, and a restroom. Its roof does not reach as high as that of the adjacent upper terrace of the 1951 building and lacks any practical function. Piping and other construction material is piled here. Regarding finishes, exterior and interior walls, as well as ceilings and eaves are plastered in cement and painted over. The station retains its polished cement floor, now painted in a grey color. The 80's addition incorporates terrazzo, clay and ceramic tiles.

The Impact of Time

Alterations and modifications ensured extended life to the resource as a fire station until 2005. Most of these changes are minor in character, removable, or inconsequential in terms of the property's historical and architectural integrity. Concrete paving outside the station was originally limited to the space leading from the street to the garage; grass grew in the rest of the lot. Nowadays, most of the area is paved in asphalt, a change dating from 2004.⁴ Originally, no perimeter barrier or site enclosure was provided. At some point between 1951 and 1971, the Fire Corps added a fence, but at an unspecified date it was eliminated. To provide additional office space, the station's first floor footage was "doubled up" in the late 80's along the west façade.⁵ A new concrete eave was made to match the existing one at the original station. This annex lodged a restroom and offices for a sergeant and a fixed officer or *retén*. This employee took care of the visiting public and incoming emergency calls, channeling them accordingly. Quotidian activities at the station included: keeping records, truck

accordingly: Parque de Bombas, Parque de Bombas Insular, Servicio Insular de Bomberos, and Fire Insular Station were all used.

⁴ Interview with Captain José Francisco O'Neill González, November 2, 2012. O'Neill González worked for over 30 years in Río Grande, rising from plain firefighter in 1971 to Sergeant in 1979. He became a Lieutenant in 1998, eventually becoming the first Fire Captain of Río Grande. O'Neill was in charge of the Puerto Rico's Firefighters Syndicate for eighteen years. Most changes undertaken at the Río Grande Fire Station were carried out under his administration.

⁵ Idem.

upkeep and maintenance, cleaning both grounds and building, celebrating training sessions, and making sure fire hydrants in town were operable. Common fires occurred in agricultural fields, particularly sugar cane ones.⁶

Currently, cracks in the concrete roof are responsible for some leakage mostly in the annex. The truck entrance at ground level has lost its original corner guards. In the 1990's, the entrance lintel was "shaved" 8 to 9 inches to accommodate a new, taller fire truck. Structural reinforcement was provided by placement of a new concrete beam inside. This is the reason why the concrete eaves on the north facade step up and down; the higher one is the most recent, even if connected to the older one. The current iron grille gate substitutes one installed before 1971; the original project did not include any.⁷

Additional changes took place upon the property's change of tenant. When the Fire Corps moved to new premises in 2005, the municipality awarded custody of the resource to *Post #18 of the American Legion in Puerto Rico*. In 2010, concerned about security, the Legion's administrators substituted the ground floor gate with an aluminum, three-fold door with operable metal jalousies. Because the standard height of the door exceeded that of the garage's lintel, the remaining space was filled with concrete masonry units and stuccoed and painted over. West of the annex, the remaining space between the neighboring lot was used to build a wooden lean-to where discarded materials, tools, and furniture are piled up. Construction of the annex itself also imposed some changes. To access the original fire station, its southwestern, first floor widow was turned into a door by demolishing the wall segment below it. The annex is one step higher than the station. Although a later addition, the annex makes this station resemble another prototype endorsed originally by the Fire Corps, the extended version of Type A, with an expanded lower floor.

One of the two flagpoles (west) was added to include the Puerto Rican flag next to that of the United States. On the upper floor, the open stair has been encased with wooden panels and a door. All windows were modified to fit a standard one in aluminum louvers. The original sign is gone; it was probably eliminated when, at an as of yet unspecified date, the *Fire Insular Board* was renamed "Cuerpo de Bomberos".⁸ In its place, a new sign identifies the current tenant, the American Legion. All polished concrete floors are now painted grey. Plumbing and electrical piping and lines have been added ad hoc, addressing practical problems without much concern for aesthetics. In the early 1990's electrical problems forced to substitute all piping embedded in the walls by surface conduits.⁹ Spalling is evident at two ceiling locations: at the stair and at center of the space formerly used as sleeping quarters.

⁶ Interview with Nereida Ortiz, November 1st, 2012.

⁷ Interview with Captain José Francisco O'Neill González, November 2, 2012.

⁸ Idem.

⁹ Idem.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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, 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1951-1962

Significant Dates

1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Department Public Works of Puerto Rico

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance of the property starts when the building was erected in 1951, and closes at the 50-year period cutoff date (1962).

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Río Grande’s fire station built in 1951 claims local significance under Criterion A (Social History). The property’s construction, its continued use, and the memories it still elicits from community members are relatable to the town’s “coming of age” along the 20th Century. The resource is a by-product of myriad historic processes that influenced each other during that time: Rexford G. Tugwell’s administration of Puerto Rico as governor; the hegemony of the Popular Democratic Party and Luis Muñoz Marín; the leadership of Fire Chief Raúl Gándara and, specifically; fear of the Second World War’s extended reach into the Atlantic. Likewise – as a distinct architectural model linked to the Island’s 20th century design legacy – Río Grande’s historic firehouse constitutes a fit present-day symbol of the town’s disinterested early firefighting efforts to protect human lives, property and country.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

For the construction of the firehouse at Río Grande came together key components that helped to implement the Government of Puerto Rico’s ambitious fire station building plan conceived in mid 20th century and carried out in subsequent decades. State and municipal representatives were then politically in tune with each other. The town provided the land; the State, the plans. Workers from Río Grande and San Juan joined forces with firefighters to get the job done. Collaboration made possible a fast-paced execution of the construction. To this day, the product of the effort still stands, having sheltered its original tenants for over half a century, until only seven years ago. As a result, to this day Río Grande’s fire station claims integrity, being able to convey its significance through its physical features. Not only does it retain its original location, but it simultaneously makes a statement within it, lying along one of the town’s most important streets. The building design adheres faithfully to the plans prepared by Raúl Buxeda, the engineer entrusted to develop the prototypical design (Type A) that was eventually replicated at many other Island settlements. At Río Grande, the original function of the resource can be easily adumbrated. Spatial organization, scale relationships, proportions, fenestration patterns, and ornamental details – even if spare - remain true to the original intentions of the designer and the builders.

As can be expected, the station’s surrounding setting has been somewhat changed, but without great consequence. Set back from the street, and standing as an object-building, the station brings attention upon itself within the context. Other government buildings added later nearby, contribute to underline the official character of the firehouse, in spite of its small size. The use of concrete as construction material in this property attests to the preference exhibited at the time for a durable, hurricane and fire resisting material. Most fires after all, started at wooden houses. To this day – and probably because it was built in concrete – the fire station at Río Grande retains, in good

condition, the key exterior material dating from the period of its historic significance. The property is one of the best preserved of its kind in Puerto Rico. Although built by firemen, the workmanship is exemplary in its simplicity regarding the use of cement as both structural and stucco material. Finishes are smooth and lines are crisp. The placement of the building within the urban realm, its physical features, and its tectonics jointly convey the aesthetic and historic sense of the period in time in which the firehouse was erected. By association, the resource detonates memories of key events in town that still resonate as personal time markers: when an airplane crashed above city hall (1982) or when a local notebook factory burnt down (1982). Of particular significance were the terrain collapse at Mameyes, Ponce (1985), and the Dupont Plaza Hotel Fire in the Condado area of San Juan (1986), two occasions in which the contribution of firefighters from Río Grande proved to be determinant. To this day, Río Grande's fire station exemplifies the best community values regarding public service, as represented by the decades-long commitment of firemen to their task.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Municipality of Río Grande lies northeast of Puerto Rico, alongside the Atlantic Ocean, and shelters key natural attractions like El Yunque Rain Forest and Luquillo Beach. In spite of it, it boasts a relatively small urban core. In comparison with other Island populations, Río Grande came into being relatively late in 1840. The previous centuries its territory belonged to the Municipality of Loíza. In the 19th century its economy was based on agriculture – mainly sugar cane – and livestock ranching. In 1940 its population reached 16,116 inhabitants; in 1990 it had grown to 45,860.¹⁰ By late 20th century, Río Grande sheltered some 19 manufacturing plants of plastic, electric, and pharmaceutical products, among others. Much of the municipality's growth took place under the extended tenure of Mayor Félix Sánchez Cruz. A businessman and farmer, he ruled for 28 years, until 1968.¹¹ In fact, the Mayor's house was located immediately west of the fire station, which he inaugurated. Being an active member of the Popular Democratic Party, it does not come up as a surprise that his town was included among the Island's government plan to build 100 stations at different municipalities.¹² The Annual Report of Fire Insular Board to the Governor of Puerto Rico from 1952 offers details regarding Río Grande's new firefighting facilities:

“At Río Grande, we received the Mayor and the Municipal Assembly's full-hearted cooperation, providing us a magnificent lot, splendidly located. We designated a foreman and two carpenters to direct and assist in the construction. With these three laborers and the four firemen in Río Grande, little by little, arose our Fire Station. When work was delayed, we doubled up efforts with firefighters from San Juan. It took us four months and days [sic] to finish the project, in which more than 70% of labor was rendered by members of the Fire Corps. The Fire Station at Río Grande is a “Type A’ one, with two stories, garage for one truck, and a sleeping area for four firemen. Estimated at a \$10,500 value, its cost barely reached \$4,000. It was inaugurated on April 14, 1951.”¹³

Fire Chief Raúl Gándara attended the inaugural ceremony. In subsequent years, he visited the firehouse regularly.¹⁴ **(FIG. 8)**

¹⁰ José A. Toro Sugrañes, *Historia de los pueblos de Puerto Rico* (Editorial Edil, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, 1995) 335,336.

¹¹ The Félix Sánchez Cruz Elementary School, in Río Grande Estates, is named after the Mayor.

¹² *Department of the Interior. Report of the Commissioner of the Interior of Puerto Rico for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1942* to the Hon. Governor of Puerto Rico, (San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing, and Transportation, 1943).

¹³ Servicio Insular de Bomberos, *Informe al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico de la forma en que fueron invertidos los \$80,000 asignados en la Ley número 89 de 1949.*(San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1952), 3.

¹⁴ Interview with Nereida Ortiz, November 1st, 2012.

At local level, additional layers of history add meaning to the property. Townsfolk in Río Grande link their 1951 fire station to “Cabo Pepe”, a much loved and remembered citizen. Allegedly, corporal José Ortiz Piñero initiated the children’s program known as “Los bomberitos” by recruiting kids from neighboring areas on Saturdays and teaching them the rudiments of fire prevention and firefighting.¹⁵ This community outreach program was implemented with great success in multiple locations throughout Puerto Rico.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Primary Sources

Department of the Interior. *Report of the Commissioner of the Interior of Puerto Rico for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1942 to the Hon. Governor of Puerto Rico*, (San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing, and Transportation, 1943).

Federal Emergency Management Agency Map, Panel 1140J (Revised November 18, 2009). Map No. 72000C0415J.

Puerto Rico Planning Board. *Geocalizador: Interactive Map of the Land Registry*; <http://gis.jp.pr.gov/GeoLocalizador/Internet/> for Cadastre number – 090-078-038-69.

Servicio Insular de Bomberos. *Informe al Honorable Gobernador de Puerto Rico de la forma en que fueron invertidos los \$80,000 asignados en la Ley número 89 de 1949.*(San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1952).

Secondary Sources

Miró Ramos, Magda E. *Río Grande: Notas para su historia*. (San Juan: Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica de La Fortaleza, 1984).

Toro Sagrañes, José A. *Historia de los pueblos de Puerto Rico* (Editorial Edil, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, 1995).

Figures

Víctor Blay

¹⁵ Further research is needed to corroborate if, in fact, the “Bomberitos” program had its start in Río Grande. Nereida Ortiz, daughter of Cabo Pepe, provided his information and the following: Ortiz Piñero was born in January 5, 1924 in Río Grande, where he lived all his life. He studied at the Firefighting Academy in San Juan and on August 21, 1950, he joined the Fire Corps. Given the coincidence of dates, he might have assisted in the construction of Río Grande’s fire station. He worked as First Corporal (“*primer cabo*”) under Fire Chief Raúl Gándara, being Mayor Félix Sánchez Cruz. Ortiz Piñero retired after almost 30 years of service. Cabo Pepe is also remembered for having been a commercial photographer in town. After moving to New York and suffering from smoke inhalation, he died on June 13, 1998. He was buried in Río Grande’s Municipal Cemetery.

Celina Bocanegra
Jorge Rigau

Interviews

Fire Captain José Francisco O'Neill González

Nereida Ortiz

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
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____ Municipality Río Grande

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre (.13)
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>20</u> Zone	<u>200929</u> Easting	<u>2034506</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries are indicated on the accompanying base map, and are shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map. See continuation sheet, section 10.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated property includes the entire lot historically associated with the Walter Mc K. Jones School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arq. Jorge Rigau, FAIA
organization Jorge Rigau Arquitectos date November 12, 2012
street & number #67 calle Los baños, 1er piso telephone (787) 982-0002
city or town San Juan state Puerto Rico Zip Code 00911
e-mail rigau@jorgerigau.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

1. Río Grande Fire Station
 2. Río Grande, Puerto Rico
 3. Jorge Rigau
 4. June 29, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. North and east elevations, looking southwest, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. The piece of land occupied by the fire station at the intersection of #6 Juan González and Del Carmen Street. The Municipality of Río Grande owns the former firehouse, but in 2005 granted custody of it to Post #18 of the *American Legion Department of Puerto Rico*, which holds meetings and events on the premises.
 7. #1
-
1. Río Grande Fire Station
 2. Río Grande, Puerto Rico
 3. Celina Bocanegra
 4. October 31, 2012
 5. Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico
 6. North elevations detail, looking southwest, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. Two items are featured in the façade segment above the terrace's door: a rectangular, concrete eave and a round escutcheon used as an appliqué in prototypes all over the Island at the time. In bas-relief manner, the latter depicts the fireman's distinguishing hat, a rescue ladder and two horns emblematic of the siren. The escutcheon publicly identified Fire Corps stations throughout the Island.
 7. #2
-
1. Río Grande Fire Station
 2. Río Grande, Puerto Rico
 3. Unknown
 4. Unknown
 5. *Cuerpo de Bomberos de Puerto Rico. 1951.*
 6. Group photo of the first firefighters of Río Grande, 1951. Only one of the members is identified . 1-Mr. José Ortiz Piñero, know as "cabo Pepe".
 7. #3

Río Grande Fire Station
Name of Property

Río Grande, Puerto Rico
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Río Grande Fire Station

Río Grande , Puerto Rico

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Fire Stations in Puerto Rico 1942-1952

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10. Geographical Data

PARQUE BOMBAS DE RÍO GRANDE,
RÍO GRANDE, PUERTO RICO

Location: Muñoz Rivera Street #6 Río Grande, Puerto Rico 00721
UTM Reference: 20, 200929, 2034506
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre (0.13 acre)



JORGE RIGAU
ARQUITECTOS



- ▀ Contributing resource
- Parcel boundary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Río Grande Fire Station

Río Grande , Puerto Rico

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Fire Stations in Puerto Rico, 1942-1952

Section number 10

Page 11

The limits of the plot were obtained from the official boundaries map provided by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The boundaries of the nominated resource are identified by an outline. Image taken from Google Earth.

PARQUE BOMBAS DE RÍO GRANDE,
RÍO GRANDE, PUERTO RICO

Location: Muñoz Rivera Street #6 Río Grande, Puerto Rico 00721
UTM Reference: 20, 200929, 2034506
Acreage of Property: Less than one acre (0.13 acre)



JORGE RIGAU
ARQUITECTOS



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Figures.



FIG. 1: Río Grande Fire Station North and east elevations, looking southwest, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. The piece of land occupied by the fire station at the intersection of #6 Juan González and Del Carmen Street. The Municipality of Río Grande owns the former firehouse, but in 2005 granted custody of it to Post #18 of the *American Legion Department of Puerto Rico*, which holds meetings and events on the premises. Photo: Celina Bocanegra, October 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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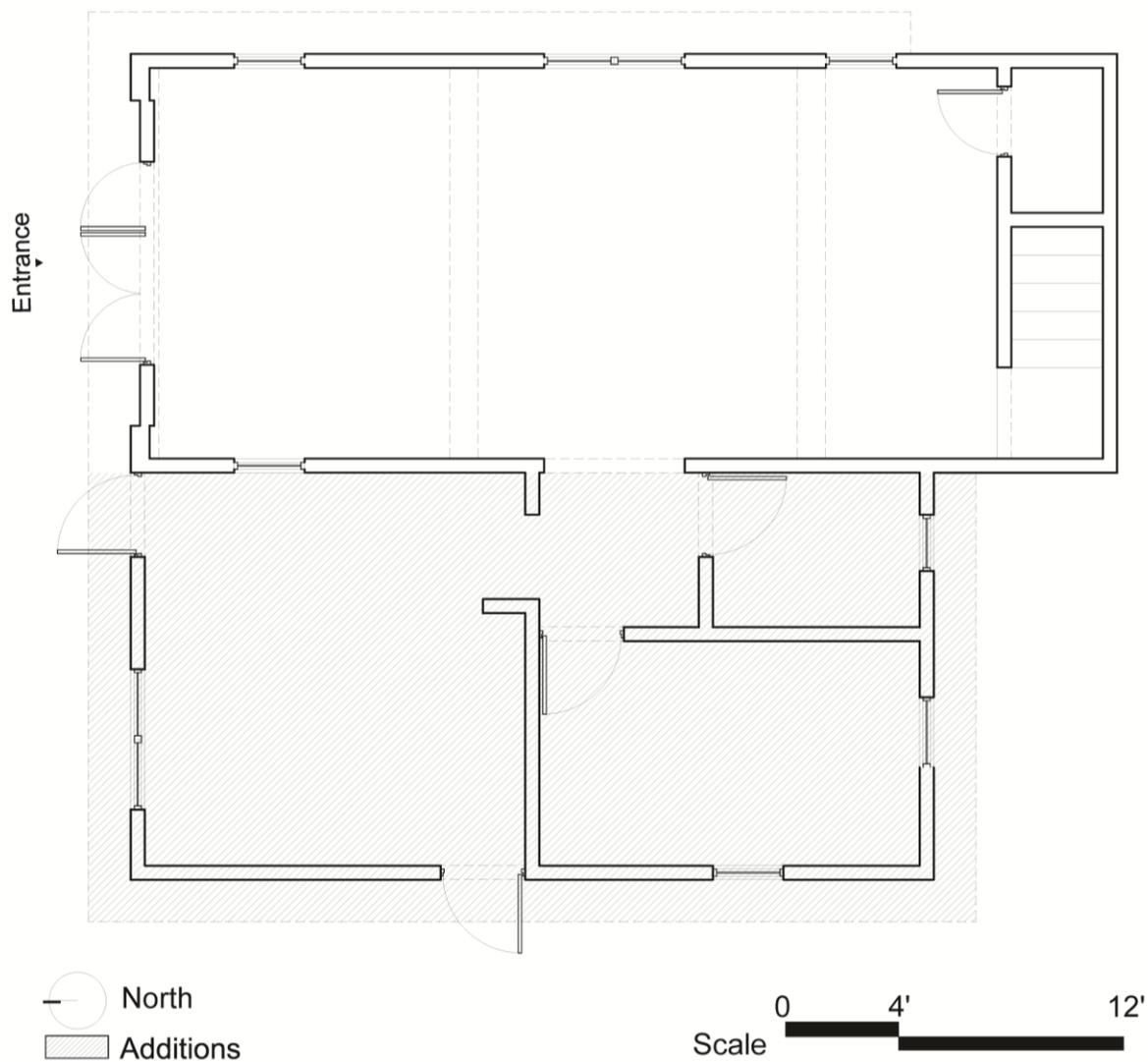


FIG. 2: Río Grande Fire Station Ground-level floorplan, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. Drawing: Guillermo Marrero, August 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 3: Río Grande Fire Station interior view, looking northeast, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. At first floor level, folding doors in aluminum (with operable louvers and fixed glass panes) provide closure at what was once the opening for the fire truck garage. (FIG. 3) Space around the doors has been walled up in cement. Inside, there is a small storage space and a single tread stair leads to the second floor. Photo: Celina Bocanegra, October 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 4: Río Grande Fire Station north elevation, looking south, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. The façade is vaguely evocative of the Art Deco Style. At either side of the door, the surface steps back twice a few inches. Similarly, the wall steps down its profile against the sky, all of it reinforcing the overriding axial composition. Photo: Jorge Rigau, June 29, 2011. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 5: Río Grande Fire Station North elevations detail, looking southwest, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. Two items are featured in the façade segment above the terrace's door: a rectangular, concrete eave and a round escutcheon used as an appliqué in prototypes all over the Island at the time. In bas-relief manner, the latter depicts the fireman's distinguishing hat, a rescue ladder and two horns emblematic of the siren. The escutcheon publicly identified Fire Corps stations throughout the Island. Photo: Celina Bocanegra, October 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 6: Río Grande Fire Station east elevations, looking west, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. An individual concrete eave surrounds two sides of the building, north and east. The lateral facades (east and west) are unornamented, sporting rectangular windows laid out in vertical manner. The eastern elevation reveals fully the station's L-shaped volume. The continuity of the first floor eave and that of a shorter one at the second floor - underscores horizontality above individual windows in aluminum with operable jalousies. With "eyebrow" ends, these concrete overhangs bracket and group together the window units. The lower level includes four (4) windows, two of them paired together. The upper floor includes an individual window and two of them coupled. The windows in both floors line up. Other elements in this elevation include the meter to measure electricity, overflow pipes at roof level, some loose cables and a security lighting fixture. Photo: Celina Bocanegra, October 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 7: Río Grande Fire Station south elevations, looking north, in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. The original component is “blind”, having no openings. A single, concrete eave runs continuous below its top parapet. Sanitary and water piping installations are surface mounted, as is another security lighting fixture. A small tool shed in aluminum stands over a concrete pad, next to the main body of the building. Behind it raises the back façade of the concrete lean-to added in late 1980. Constructed in haphazard manner, this component includes two aluminum jalousie windows. An ornamental grille protects one of them, while an iron gate controls access to the back part of the lot. Along the west, an improvised, wooden roof creates an open, yet shielded area where materials and discarded equipment are regularly stored. Photo: Celina Bocanegra, October 31, 2012. Source: Jorge Rigau Arquitectos, San Juan Puerto Rico.

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FIG. 8: Río Grande Fire Station in Río Grande, Puerto Rico. Fire Chief Raúl Gándara attended the inaugural ceremony. In subsequent years, he visited the firehouse regularly. Source: *Department of the Interior. Report of the Commissioner of the Interior of Puerto Rico for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1942 to the Hon. Governor of Puerto Rico*, (San Juan: Bureau of Supplies, Printing, and Transportation, 1943).