

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 17 1980
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 20/47

Arejico

NAME: Historic: Faro de Punta Higuero
Common: Punta Higuero Light

LOCATION: On Point Higuero on the most westerly point of Puerto Rico between Mayaguez and Aguadilla Bays. On position 18° 21' 49 " N - 67° 16' 15" W.

CLASSIFICATION: Unoccupied. Restricted access.

DESCRIPTION: Good condition. Unaltered. Original site.
In 1892 the original light was built as a fixed white 6th order station with a 6 mile range light beam. It was a singular piece of design and construction similar to Guánica Light. Its most striking feature was the peculiar use of materials in the facades and tower. The light, as a result of the 1918 quake, was rebuilt in 1921 but demolished by the U.S.C.G. in 1922.
As originally built, it was a brick and stone rectangular dwelling --for one 2nd class keeper-- constructed around an exposed brick octagonal tower. Its Mediterranean appearance came from an elaborate combination of exposed and indented brick work in the facades --around doors and windows-- and corners. The "castle" look was further emphasized by reddish stucco imitating stone-work on all facades and the very elaborate exposed brick cornice topped by a parapet built in lace-like brick-work. The tower followed the same style.
The original illuminating apparatus was a 4th order Bernard & Barbier 1892, lenticular lens with 50 cm. in diameter. The lens had 6 panels; 6 flashing panels in the central drum formed by 5 elements each panel. It also had 6 prisms on each panel above the central drum and 3 below. The flashes were produced by the entire revolving lens activated by a clock work device. The cast-iron, copper, and glass lantern was approximately 2 mts. in diameter.
The evidence suggests that the lens was destroyed by the 1918 quake; nevertheless, the lantern and clock system were apparently moved to the new light in 1922: a reinforced-concrete cylindrical structure. This one is almost identical to Punta Borinquen but varies in dimensions. It has a 21 ft square 4 ft deep foundation reduced by four superimposed concentric belts to a 12 ft tower with an internal 10 ft diameter. It has 3 floors, watchroom, and lantern. A concrete stairway leads to each floor and a railing iron ladder to the lantern. It has a central hollow concrete shaft lined with galvanized iron for the old clock work cord. In 1933 the light was made automatic and left unattended.

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The structures and dwelling which were also built in the 1920's were razed by a fire some years ago and severely damaged.

SIGNIFICANCE: Originally built to connect the intermediate space left by Punta Borinquen and Cabo Rojo Lights. It incorporates some of the old light devices: lantern and sections of the rotating apparatus. The tower is the smallest of the two built by the U.S.C.G. in Puerto Rico.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA: Area nominated: 2.46 acres. Boundary description: beginning at a point at corner of fence S 44° 8' E 178 ft from SE corner of old dwelling; thence northerly along right-of-way of old American Railroad Co. of Porto Rico 265 ft to a point; thence NW parallel to railroad track 118 ft to a post; thence in a curve along top of slope in northerly direction 178 ft to a point; thence NW 25 ft a point; thence NE 60 ft to high-water-mark; thence along high-water-mark W and S to a point 155 ft S of SW corner of old dwelling; thence N 76° 15' E 150 ft to point of beginning.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: v. attached pocket #4 "Punta Higuero Light". Enclosures are: Quadrangle; plan area nominated; c. 1898 photo; 1978 photos; alteration's drawings.