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OMB No. 1024-0018
JUL 12 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: **Las Tumbas de J.J. María Le Guillou**

other names/site number: **Las Tumbas de Le Guillou, The Tombs Le Guillou**

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2. Location

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street & number: **200 Santa María Road** not for publication ___
city or town: **Isabel Segunda** vicinity _X_
state: **Puerto Rico** code: **PR** county: **Vieques** code: **147**
zip code: **00765**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 ___ statewide _X_ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Arleen Pabón PhD **July 5, 1994**
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:

_X_	entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	[illegible]	8/26/94
____	determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.		
____	determined not eligible for the National Register		
____	removed from the National Register		
____	other (explain): _____		

for Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property

___ building(s)
___ district
_X_ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
_0_		_0_	buildings
_0_		_0_	sites
_4_	**(two groups of graves and two independent graves)**	_0_	structures
_0_		_0_	objects
_4_		_0_	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _0_

Name of related multiple property listing: **N/A**

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions
Cat: **Religious** Sub: **Funerary**

Current Functions
Cat: **Religious** Sub: **Funerary**

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification: **Neoclassical Funerary**

Materials
foundation: **Brick**
roof: **Brick**
walls: **Brick, Stucco**
other: **Stone**

Narrative Description

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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 birthplace or a grave.

_X_ D cemetery.

____ E econstructed 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: **Settlement**
Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance: **1843 - 1855**

Significant Dates: **1843, 1855**

Significant Person: **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **N/A**

Narrative Statement of Significance

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
_X_ Others

Name of repository: **Archivo Histórico de Vieques**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: **Less than one acre**

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	**18**	**242640**	**2009880**	3	__	_____	_____
2	__	_____	_____	4	__	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: **Hector Santiago Cazull/ Architectural Conservator; Robert Rabin/ Historian. (Revised and edited by the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office)**

organization: **Cultural Center Yaureibo and Institute of Puerto Rican Culture**

date: **September 30, 1993**

street & number: **54 Ulises Martínez St.** telephone: **(809) 850-1885**

city or town: **Humacao** state: **PR** zip code: **00791**

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Las Tumbas Le Guillou are a group of six graves located in a small, family graveyard, behind the house and vegetable garden, within the property of a Mr. García, on State Road #200, in Barrio Santa María, on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico (see sketch map). This property once belonged to the Hacienda **La Pacience**, the first sugar plantation on the Island, belonging to the Le Guillou Family.

The group of six stuccoed, brick and rubble-masonry tombs occupies an area of approximately forty-two by twenty-one feet, with a slight upward slope towards the south (see photo #1). The tombs are organized into two groups of two graves, and two individual graves. The tombs can be described as follows:

Individual Tombs:

Tomb # 1: The northernmost tomb is a 4½' x 9' x 2' rectangular volume with a low, gabled top, resting atop a slightly wider base, of varying height (see photo #2). The tomb is painted white and presents certain deterioration, especially at the southwestern corner, where the end of the gable is broken, leaving the brick exposed.

Tomb # 2: Approximately 6½ feet west and only slightly offset to the south is the second tomb, a wide, low pyramid atop an almost cubical base (see photo #3). The base of the tomb measures 4½' x 4½' x 2' high and rests on a low plinth. A plain rectangular panel adorns each of the four sides, leaving a molding five inches wide. A 2½-inch projecting molding defines the top of the base. The base extends four inches upwards of the 2½-inch molding, at which point the masonry structure begins to taper into a pyramidal form, which rises another 4'-10" and peaks at approximately 7½ feet above ground level.

Group #1 (includes Tombs #3 and #4):

The first group of two tombs sits immediately adjacent and south of the two individual tombs. The group rests upon a 21' X 10' stone and brick-masonry platform, which is partially indented at

its northwestern corner, to avoid colliding with the pyramidal tomb (see photo #1). The grouping is entirely fenced off along the periphery of the masonry platform by means of a simple, 6'-high, decorative wrought-iron fence. The fence consists of a series of wrought-iron bars, held into place by two flat-iron horizontal rails. The tips of the vertical bars are crowned by flat iron bars which have been formed into arrow-like, inverted "V"-shapes with curved ends. Access to the grouping is through a single gate, slightly west of center along the southern side of the fence.

Tomb # 3: Inside the fenced-in area, to the east, lies the largest and, historically and architecturally, most significant tomb, the double tomb of Teófilo J. J. Le Guillou (May 4, 1790 - July 9, 1843, 53 years) and his wife, Madame Guillermina Ana Susana Poncet de la Grave (July 4, 1855, 64 years) (see photos #4, #5 and #6). The tomb rests along an east-west axis and consists of a 4'-radius masonry barrel vault, placed atop a rectangular base, measuring 8½' X 10' x 2¾' high. The base is articulated by two circumferential string-courses, one serving as a plinth and the other defining the top of the base. The front or west end of the barrel vault is articulated only by a 4" surround. At the center of the arched portion, an 18"-wide x 12"-high marble plaque reads: "A Madame Le Guillou / Souvenir / de / JBD" (see photo #7). The east end of the barrel vault, located adjacent to the rear of the fenced quadrant, presents a smaller, concentric-arch surround within the major arch.

Tomb # 4: To the west, a small, unidentified, 3' x 5½' rubble tomb sits on a north-south axis (see photo #8). It has no distinguishable architectural form other than a rectangular form, and currently consists of a mound of rubble, atop a deteriorated rubble and brick-masonry base.

Group # 2 (**Tombs #5 and #6**):

Twelve feet south of the fenced quadrant lies the second group of tombs, consisting of two adjacent and similar tombs, which share a single 8½'-wide x 8'-long x 2'-high base (see photo #9). The eastern side of the base is roughly aligned with the eastern extreme of the fenced quadrant. The tombs are located above the base on an east-west axes, and are placed one foot away from each other. Each of the two tombs, above the base, consists of a 3½'-

wide x 8'-long x 2'-high rectangle, topped by a simple, one-foot high pediment. The tombs are articulated only by a four-inch surround on each of the small ends, creating a recessed, rectangular panel. A plain, circumferential molding defines the top of the rectangle and serves as the base for the pediment, which also is articulated by a plain molding.

Except for the marble dedication on Tomb # 3, none of the tombs conserves its original identification. For a more detailed graphic description, see the accompanying sketch map.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Las Tumbas Le Guillou, or the Le Guillou Tombs, is a historic site consisting of a series of six early-to-mid-19th-century graves, located on the lands originally belonging to the Hacienda **La Pacience**, the first sugar plantation on the Island of Vieques. Hacienda **La Pacience** was the property of Frenchman Teófilo José Jaime María Le Guillou, the first permanent Spanish-availed settler of Vieques, and founder of the Municipality of Vieques and of the town of Isabel Segunda. The small graveyard is significant under Criterion A, for its association with the agricultural development and settlement of the town of Vieques Island, and under Criterion C, for the uniqueness of its architectural forms and shapes. As a family cementery it is elegible under Criterion Consideration D for property derives its primary significance from its age, distintive design features, and association with historic events. The property is related to three historic contexts: **The Foundation and Settlement of Vieques, 1811-1860, The Immigrations to Vieques, 1823-1898, and Sugar Haciendas in the Development of Vieques, 1824-1900.**

Don Teófilo José Jaime María Le Guillou, a native of Quemperle, France and landowner on the Island of Guadaloupe, French West Indies, came to Vieques for the first time in 1823 to buy native hardwoods, a product for which the wooded Island was well known. At the time, the Island was in an embryonic stage in its process of development and settlement. Very few people were living here, mostly dedicated to the cutting and selling of hardwoods, or to

contraband activities. Realizing the agricultural potential of Vieques, Le Guillou decided to take advantage of the Spanish interest in populating the Island with productive and loyal subjects, by getting rid of the pirates and the contraband activities. Le Guillou returned to Vieques one year later and purchased lands from a woodcutter named Patricio Ramos and, upon clearing them, established the Hacienda **La Pacience**, the first large-scale sugar plantation on the Island of Vieques. From this moment on he became a permanent resident of the Island.

By 1839, Le Guillou was the wealthiest landowner and most successful planter in Vieques, with properties totaling 2,650 **cuerdas** (approximately 2,600 acres) and a net capital of 107,400 Spanish **pesos**. That year, **La Pacience** alone was formed by 1,200 of the above-mentioned **cuerdas**, 80 slaves and 61 oxen, and produced 66,500 Spanish **pesos**, more than half of which was derived from sugar production, and the rest from lumber, crops and textiles. The establishment and unprecedent success of **La Pacience** was to set the stage for the future, sugar-oriented economic development of Vieques. With the help of Le Guillou, various sugar plantations were subsequently established by European immigrants, mostly Frenchmen lured from the Islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe. These immigrants brought slaves and workers with them, thus planting the seed for the definitive settlement and population of Vieques, and contributing greatly to the formation of the Pan-Caribbean ethnic and cultural character of its people.

Le Guillou's great contributions to the establishment of a sugar-based economy and his influence on the immigration and settlement patterns which gave rise to the definitive and distinct cultural composition of the people of Vieques, demonstrate his importance in terms of the formation and history of the Island of Vieques.

Le Guillou is also an important figure regarding the political history of Vieques. Having consistently helped the local military authorities with their mission to rid the Island of pirates and criminal refugees, Le Guillou was recognized by the Spanish provincial authorities in Puerto Rico with various political and military titles, and in 1832, he was named Political and Military Governor of the Spanish Island of Vieques.

Le Guillou implemented, with the approval of the Spanish authorities, a development plan which transformed the Island into a prosperous colony within only ten years. His administration provided the basic infra-structure for the economic development of the Island of Vieques. He proposed the creation of a military administration, whose representatives would serve as members of the Island's Colonial Assembly. The administration would function primarily with the support of tariffs collected from imports to and exports from the Island, and occassionaly, by mandatory public-service of the inhabitants. He also implemented a novel tax-incentive system which called for only one-third of the tariffs charged on the Island of Puerto Rico, excluding necessary merchandise, provisions and utensils, which would enter Vieques exempt from taxation for a period of ten years. Le Guillou also favored the immigration of colonists and workers from neighboring French, English and Dutch islands.

In 1843, plans were drawn up for the Parish Church, the **Casa del Rey** (or King's House or City Hall), the Fort and the Cemetery, structures which defined and symbolized the foundation of a Spanish town. The following year, shortly after Le Guillou's death, a site was chosen for the Capital of the Island, the town of Isabel Segunda, apparently following his recommendations. For all of the above-mentioned reasons, Le Guillou has been historically considered the founder of Vieques.

The Tombs of Le Guillou are the only remaining part of a large historic site associated with the Hacienda **La Pacience**, and the later Central Santa María (sugar mill). Since due to alterations suffered by the Hacienda **La Pacience**, the site is not eligible as a site associated with the development of the sugar industry in Vieques, and since no extant independent buildings or ruins related to it can be directly associated with the life and works of Teófilo J.J. Le Guillou or with his very important Hacienda.

In addition, the entire group of six tombs being nominated is the oldest, identified European graveyard on the Island of Vieques. The public cemetery of Vieques was not built until 1844, when construction of the town of Isabel Segunda began. The oldest identified grave in the public cemetery, belonging to Frenchman and sugar-planter Daniel Terrible, dates back only to 1857. The Tombs

of Le Guillou, therefore, possess the oldest identified tombs on the Island. Although the tombs do not present stylistic significance independently of each other, the complex displays structural and stylistic integrity, and has not been modified at all during its 150 years of existence. In addition, the tombs form an integral part of the historic physical context of Le Guillou's tomb, and therefore cannot be treated separately from the tomb of the founder of Vieques.

According to the latest research, the Tumbas Le Guillou is the last remaining example of a private cemetery in Puerto Rico, not just of the 19th century. It is also a very important example of its type, providing a grouping of funerary architectural forms not found elsewhere; the pyramidal tomb, particularly, may well be the only one remaining in Puerto Rico. We know of no other example.

Therefore, the Tombs of Le Guillou, is able to fulfill all the requirements of Criterion Consideration D and is eligible, under Criteria A and C.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Bonnet Benítez, Juan Amadée. Vieques en la Historia de Puerto Rico. Segunda Edición. F. Ortiz Nieves: San Juan, 1977.

Buisenet, David. Historic Architecture of the Caribbean. London: Heinemann, 1980.

Cruz Casse, Marta. "Nineteenth-Century Funerary Architecture in Puerto Rico", a historic context prepared for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1988.

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "Sugar Haciendas in the Development of Vieques, 1824 - 1900", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843 - 1941".

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Foundation and Settlement of Vieques, 1811 - 1860", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941".

Rabin, Robert and Héctor Santiago. "The Immigrations to Vieques, 1823-1898", a historical context prepared with a "Survey and Planning" grant for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office, 1992, as part of the "Inventario de Recursos Históricos y Arquitectónicos de Vieques, Puerto Rico, 1843-1941".

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

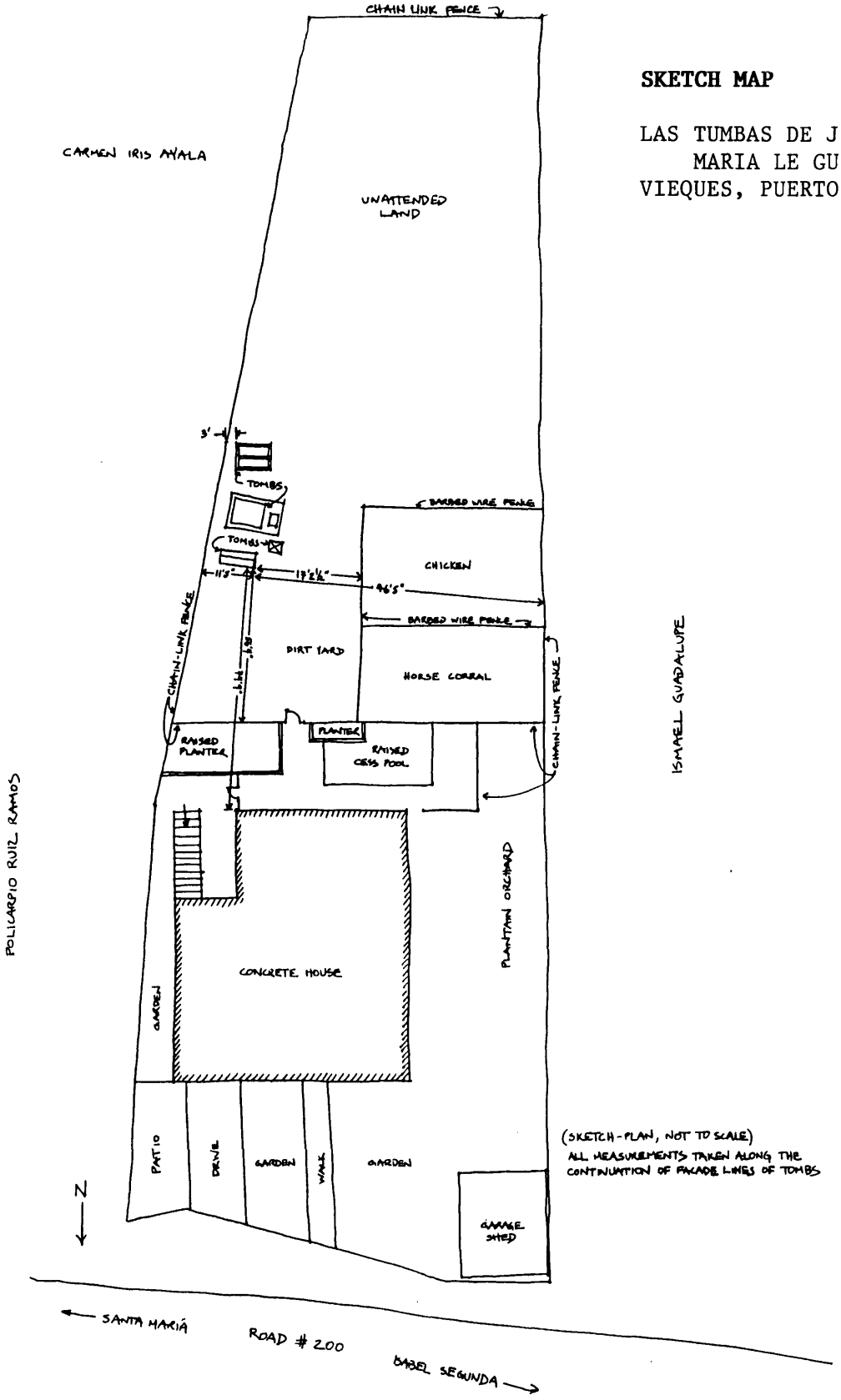
Boundaries of this property are represented by the broken line surrounding the property in the accompanying site map.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries include the property historically associated with the tombs and exclude the part of the property that no longer retains the integrity due to the interventions or new construction.

SKETCH MAP

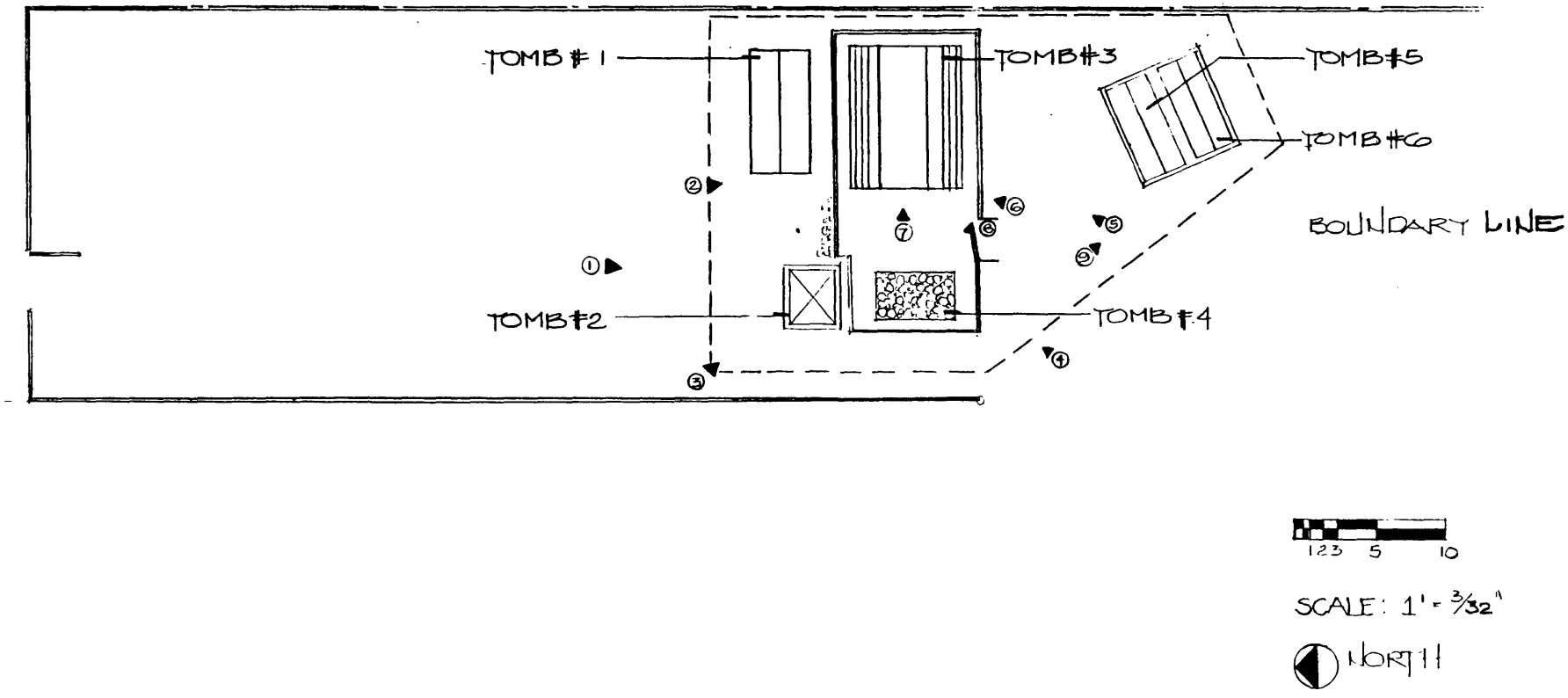
LAS TUMBAS DE J.J.
MARIA LE GUILLOU
VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO



LAS TUMBAS DE J.J. MARIA LE GUILLOU

ISABEL SEGUNDA, VIEQUES

PUERTO RICO



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000923 **Date Listed:** 8/26/94

Las Tumbas de J.J. Maria le Guillou — Vieques — PUERTO RICO
Property Name — **County** — **State**

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for _____ 8/26/94
Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 6

This nomination is amended to show that both the historic and current functions are FUNERARY/Cemetery.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Puerto Rico SHPO (8/26/94).

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)