

64500995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

New Deal Era Constructions in the Forest Reserves in Puerto Rico, 1933-1942

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Civilian Conservation Corps' Constructions in the Caribbean National Forest

C. Form Prepared by

name/title: Mark Barnes, Ph.D., Senior Archeologist, NPS-SERO Jeffrey B. Walker, Ph.D., Forest Archeologist, Caribbean National Forest, and Frank J.J. Miele, Ph.D., Senior Historian, SERO-NPS.

street & number HC 1 Box 13490 telephone (787) 888-5660

city or town Río Grande state Puerto Rico zip code 00745

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Aida Belén Rivera Ruiz
Signature and title of certifying official

27 September 2007
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

for Edson H. Beall

11.14.07

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

New Deal Era Constructions in the Forest Reserves in Puerto Rico, 1933-1942

Puerto Rico

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Bounded by NW 4th St., S. Railroad Ave., SE 1st Rd. & N. Krome Dr.,
Homestead, 07001199,
LISTED, 11/19/07

FLORIDA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY,
Lamb, A.M., House,
2410 W. Shell Rd.,
Ruskin, 07001049,
LISTED, 10/12/07

GEORGIA, HENRY COUNTY,
McDonough Historic District,
Centered on Griffin St. and Keys Ferry St.,
McDonough, 07001201,
LISTED, 11/19/07

MASSACHUSETTS, WORCESTER COUNTY,
Goldberg Building,
97-103 Water St.,
Worcester, 07001202,
LISTED, 11/19/07
(Worcester MRA)

MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY,
Grove Street--Jackson Historic District,
Along Grove and Jackson Sts. bet. Cherry St. and First N. St.,
Vicksburg, 05001613,
LISTED, 11/21/07
(Vicksburg MPS)

MISSOURI, JACKSON COUNTY,
U.S. Courthouse and Post Office--Kansas City, MO,
811 Grand Blvd.,
Kansas City, 07001231,
LISTED, 11/20/07

MONTANA, ROSEBUD COUNTY,
St. Philip's Episcopal Church,
701 Main St.,
Rosebud, 07001232,
LISTED, 11/20/07

NEW YORK, GENESEE COUNTY,
Machpelah Cemetery,
North St.,
LeRoy, 07001204,
LISTED, 11/19/07

NEW YORK, SCHENECTADY COUNTY,
Niskayuna Railroad Station,
N. side River Rd., Lyons Park,
Niskayuna vicinity, 07001205,
LISTED, 11/19/07

NEW YORK, ULSTER COUNTY,
Cordts Mansion,
82-152 Lindsley Ave.,
Kingston, 07001039,
LISTED, 10/03/07

PENNSYLVANIA, PIKE COUNTY,
Metz Ice Plant,
Harford St.,
Milford, 07001206,
LISTED, 11/19/07

PUERTO RICO, MULTIPLE COUNTIES,

New Deal Era Constructions in the Forest Reserves, 1933-1942 MPS
64500995
COVER DOCUMENTATION ACCEPTED, 11/14/07

PUERTO RICO, RINCON MUNICIPALITY,
Boiling Nuclear Superheater (BONUS) Reactor Facility,
Punta Higuero Sector, PR 413,
Rincon, 07001194,
LISTED, 11/14/07

SOUTH CAROLINA, SPARTANBURG COUNTY,
Pacolet Mills Historic District,
Roughly bounded by Brewster, Millikin, Walker, Montgomery & Moore Sts. & Granite Ave.,
Pacolet, 07001207,
LISTED, 11/16/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, BROOKINGS COUNTY,
Pioneer Park Bandshell,
SW corner Jct. US 14 & 1st Ave.,
Brookings, 07001208,
LISTED, 11/19/07
(Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota MPS)

SOUTH DAKOTA, CHARLES MIX COUNTY,
Wagner House,
29649 401st. Ave.,
Wagner vicinity, 07001209,
LISTED, 11/19/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, CLAY COUNTY,
Colton House,
402 S. University St.,
Vermillion, 07001210,
LISTED, 11/19/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, HAND COUNTY,
Jones, Mack, House,
315 E. 3rd Ave.,
Miller, 07001211,
LISTED, 11/19/07
(Lustron Houses in South Dakota MPS)

SOUTH DAKOTA, KINGSBURY COUNTY,
Stark and Blanch Garage,
204 S. Main,
Arlington, 07001212,
LISTED, 11/19/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, MEADE COUNTY,
Covered Wagon Resort,
14189 Cty. Rd. 79,
Piedmont, 07001213,
LISTED, 11/20/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, MINNEHAHA COUNTY,
L & A Baking Company,
910 N. Main Ave.,
Sioux Falls, 07001214,
LISTED, 11/20/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, UNION COUNTY,
Nora Store,
30705 475th Ave.,
Alcester vicinity, 07001215,
LISTED, 11/20/07

SOUTH DAKOTA, YANKTON COUNTY,

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E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

1. Introduction. In the first third of the twentieth century, Puerto Rico's economic livelihood was primarily based on the production of crops that could largely only be grown in a tropical climate, such as sugar, coffee, tobacco, and various fruits; and which were mainly exported to the United States. Just prior to and in the early years of the Great Depression, a great deal of this agriculture base was destroyed in the hurricanes of 1928 and 1932. In addition, the largest employer on the island - the sugar industry - was imperiled by the economic crisis in the United States, which was proposing to import less sugar from the island. As a result, at the start of the Depression, nearly three-quarters of the island's population were directly affected by devastating environmental and economic disasters.

The response of the federal government under the newly elected Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, beginning in 1933, was first to provide direct relief to families and second long-term programs to rebuilt the depressed economy. The federal programs initiated to achieve these two goals, which included the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) programs which are the focus of this nomination, were collectively called the "New Deal." Programs of direct relief in Puerto Rico were initiated by the Puerto Rico Emergency Relief Administration (PRERA), to prevent wide spread starvation, with some make-work employment programs. By 1936, the PRERA was succeeded by the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration (PRRA), which continued direct relief to families, but also instituted several large scale long range programs of economic reconstruction, until the outbreak of World War II.

Some of the most enduring physical examples of the CCC

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reconstruction programs, funded by the PRERA and PRRA, may be found on the Forest Reserves in Puerto Rico, then administered by the Forest Service, under the USDA, and consisting of roads, hiking trails, recreational facilities, and administration buildings, constructed by men working for and trained by the federal government. The Forest Service had previously (1932) undertaken a study of the needs of all forest lands and reserves under its administration¹. As a result, when Federal funds became available for public works on Puerto Rico's Forest Reserves, in 1933, the Forest Service already had plans in place that would employ numerous islanders through the CCC. Or, as it was known locally, "Las Tres Cs." (Walker 1983)

Under the CCC, the Forest Service established work camps in the Forest Reserves, where islanders learned new skills, such as masonry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, cabinet making, carpentry, tree planting and most importantly concrete construction. Most of the CCC road, hiking trail, recreational, administrative, and experimental facilities on forest preserves, such as the Caribbean National Forest (locally known as El Yunque), were constructed of reinforced concrete from the new concrete plant established on the island with federal funds. The use of concrete and many of the architectural styles pioneered in forest projects for recreational structures and administrative buildings would have long-range effects on future residential and public construction on the island.

2. Background narrative of the history of New Deal CCC properties in Puerto Rico.

The New Deal in the Forest Reserves

¹ Williams, Gerald W., Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 1933-1942. Manuscript, June 28, 2002, p. 1

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As with many New Deal federal government programs for Puerto Rico, the efforts of the CCC programs in the Forest Reserves could be in the short term beneficial and in the long term unintentionally significant to the island.² The CCC programs undertaken in the Forest Reserves in the 1930s were intended to conserve forest resources, provide employment for islanders and enhance recreational opportunities for the people of Puerto Rico. However, it also provided the training in the basic skills of construction - electrical, plumbing, masonry, carpentry, and concrete - which would have a great deal to do with changing the look of the built environment on the island in the following decades.

The Civilian Conservation Corps began when

...the U.S. Congress passed the Emergency Employment Act of March 31, 1933. The Act authorized the President of the U.S. to expend funds and to utilize the resources of federal agencies to create a program of employment for young men to work in various projects to improve federal and state forests and parks.³

President Roosevelt established the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) agency by Executive Order 6101, on May 5, 1933 to guide the

² Ramos Vélez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Córdova 1999, p. 2. For example, study of the CCC remains at the Bosque Seco de Guánica, on the southwest side of the island found the local men had been employed to construct a medieval rustic style stone and concrete castle or fort on the location of a short-lived 1898 Spanish American War encampment. This CCC constructed structure has been incorporated into the town seal of Guánica.

³ Ramos Vélez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Córdova, Ibid., 1999, p. 6.

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federal and state forest programs.⁴ The ECW programs would be incorporated into the CCC, created by an act of Congress on June 28, 1937. The CCC itself was terminated by Congress on July 2, 1942, with final liquidation of its programs accomplished on June 30, 1943.⁵

In response to the federal government's activities, as early as April of 1933, the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico, Hon. Santiago Iglesias, discussed with the Secretary of War a plan to employ some 25,000 men "in soil conservation, in the enlargement and protection of forest reserves, and in plant and pest control" utilizing islanders who would shortly be needing work with the end of the cane cutting season.⁶

The plan, when it did come through, set up work for 1,200 men-not 25,000 envisaged by Iglesias. The administration and supervision of the work to be undertaken was to be handled by the representative in Puerto Rico of the United States Forest Service with an officer of the army as fiscal agent... The forest supervisor was William Barbour, who drew up the general outline of the projects. He had some \$197,610 to work with. Of the 1,200 men, some 800 were to be employed intermittently in the forests. Contrary to the continental programs, few camps were established, since towns were plentiful and men did not have far to travel to

⁴ Helms, Douglas, *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Record Group 35*. National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington. 1980, p. 1.

⁵ Helms, Douglas, *ibid*, p. 7.

⁶ Mathews, Thomas G., *Puerto Rican Politics and the New Deal*, 1960, p. 118-119.

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the projects.⁷

The 1933 plan for forest reserves work was approved by the President and the Secretary of Agriculture, under an act to provide employment through the EWC, soon to be known as the CCC, and this was the beginning of the CCC efforts on the island. Funding for all CCC projects came from the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933 (approved May 12, 1933), with an initial appropriation of \$250 million, with the federal government providing one dollar for every three put up by the local governments.⁸ Funding for relief and reconstruction work was further offered the island, at this time, through the National Recovery Act of June 16, 1933.

New Deal Programs and the Puerto Rican Response

By the beginning of the Great Depression, starting in 1929, Puerto Rico had been under American administrative control for some three decades.

When the United States occupied Puerto Rico [in 1898] a military government was set up for a period of less than two years. In 1900 Congress, through the Foraker Act, extended civil government to the island. This measure was a temporary one which allowed the islanders a limited form of self-government. The governor and his six departmental administrators, who with five islanders composed the executive council, were appointed by the President of the United States with the consent of the Senate, and were

⁷ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 119-120.

⁸ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 121.

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subject to the Bureau of Insular Affairs in the War Department. The Puerto Ricans were authorized to elect a house of delegates and a resident commissioner to speak for the island in the House of Representatives in Washington.⁹

By 1917, due in large part to the Resident Commissioner, Luis Muñoz Rivera, the Organic Act of the island was amended to allow for

... a popularly elected senate and house of representatives [which] replaced the former executive council and house of delegates. Islanders were declared citizens of the United States. The President continued to appoint the governor, the attorney general, and the commissioner of education. The other four administrators were named by the governor with the approval of the insular senate.¹⁰

As Congress had never declared Puerto Rico an incorporated territory, as it did with Hawaiian and the Virgin Islands, the Constitution had limited application to the island and its population. Therefore, the application of federal programs was often not uniformly applied to Puerto Rico.

Just prior to the onset of Great Depression, Puerto Rico had been devastated by "the Second" Hurricane San Felipe of 1928. In the following year, President Herbert Hoover appointed Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. as Governor of Puerto Rico. Governor Roosevelt, during his tenure of 1929 to 1932, undertook many efforts to provide temporary relief funding for victims of the 1929

⁹ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 12.

¹⁰ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 12

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hurricane and to those put out of work in early years of the Great Depression. However, even as these relief measures were being implemented the island was again razed by Hurricane San Ciprian of 1932. It is estimated the two hurricanes alone did over a \$100 million dollars in damage, killed over 500 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed much of the tobacco and coffee crops upon which large numbers of island workers depended. The primary island crop, sugar, was spared by the hurricanes, but the onset of the Great Depression imperiled this industry increasing the numbers of men out of work, as the island's main purchaser of sugar, the United States, proposed to cut back on its purchases.¹¹ In these respects, the heavy dependence of Puerto Rico on the production and sale of one primary crop made the economic situation at the beginning of Great Depression on the island vastly more serious than in the United States. According to the author Thomas G. Mathews,

One writer, Alyce Harris, in a pamphlet published in 1932, entitled Porto Rico: Fact and Fable, declared: "What this island needs is a new deal all around, with an honest man shuffling the cards. These words seem prophetic, because Puerto Ricans were shortly to have a new dealer and a New Deal in the relations with business and politics."¹²

In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt was elected as the first Democratic President since 1916, by then the political parties of Puerto Rico had evolved into four entities, which based their political platforms on the island's relation to the United States. The

¹¹ Mathew, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 1-8; Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration (PRRA), Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 1.

¹² Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 19.

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Republican Party supported a platform of eventual statehood for the island. The Union Party, originally under the leadership of Luis Rivera supported local autonomy for Puerto Rico, although "complete independence was the ultimate goal most frequently expressed in campaign oratory."¹³ By 1932 the "newly baptized Liberal Party was clearly clothed in the ideal of independence" was under the emerging leadership of Luis Muñoz Marin, Muñoz Rivera's son. The Socialist Party, tended to work on better economic and social reforms for the island working class through assistance from the United States. And, finally, the Nationalist Party, an outgrowth of the Union party, aspired toward immediate independence. During the 1920s, the Republican and Union/Liberal parties formed an alliance which generally dominated Puerto Rican politics. Between late 1932 and early 1933, all parties had to examine their platforms in light of the Democratic New Deal programs which promised federal government funding for relief of the island's people and reconstruction of the island's economy.

By the spring of 1933, President Roosevelt had selected Robert Hayes Gore a businessman from Florida as Governor of Puerto Rico, and established in San Juan, in August 1933, under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture a relief program, known locally as the Puerto Rican Emergency Relief Administration (PRERA), under James Bourne.¹⁴ The fact that Gore admitted that he did not know where Puerto Rico was, however, did not bode well for the

¹³ Mathews, Thomas, G., *ibid*, p. 14, 30.

¹⁴ Federal Writers Project, *Puerto Rico: A Guide to the Island of Boriquén*. Federal Writers Project, 1940, p. 7. Note: "James Bourne was a graduate of Yale and for the past three years (1930-1933) had been plant superintendent for the canneries of Hill Brothers, Inc., in Puerto Rico. Previously he had been manager of a large farm in Dutchess County, New York, in which Hyde Park is located. As has been mentioned, the Bournes were close friends of the President and his wife. It would be reasonable to assume that this fact influenced the selection of Mr. Bourne as representative of the PRERA." Mathews, Thomas, G., *ibid*, p. 127.

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island.¹⁵

Within a few months, Governor Gore managed to offend most of the political parties, and in particular the Liberal Party, through a series of ill-conceived appointments. In a wire from Antonio Barceló, of the Liberal Party to President Roosevelt, he stated,

Governor Gore has so far utterly failed to live up to his early declaration of efficiency and non-politics and has frequently during his short seven weeks grated on the sensibility of our people by uncalled-for grossness of statement culminating in his announcement that he would exact blank resignations from his cabinet.¹⁶

Probably one of Gore's worse mistakes was his efforts to remove Dr. Carlos Chardón, an outstanding scholar and one of the few acknowledged non-political individuals, from his post as chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico. The popular chancellor was the main author of the Chardón Plan for relief and economic reconstruction of the island, which was supported by the majority of the political parties.¹⁷ At the same time Gore was attempting to remove Dr. Chardón, James Bourne of the PRERA was implementing many of the Chardón Plan relief and reconstruction programs, in particular road construction projects, such as the construction of the first major road through the Caribbean National Forest, the Rio Blanco to Mameyes road (now PR 191). By the time Governor Gore submitted his resignation to President

¹⁵ Mathews, Thomas, G., *ibid*, p. 56.

¹⁶ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 71.

¹⁷ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 68-69.

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Roosevelt, in December of 1933, orchestrated largely through the Liberal Party's Luis Muñoz Marín's connection with Mrs. Roosevelt, the PRERA was already dispensing relief and some reconstruction monies from the federal government.¹⁸

The PRERA, starting in August of 1933, would spent millions of dollars on providing direct relief to the islanders in the form of food distribution, and had begun to implement some government funded work programs. PRERA estimated that "by the summer of 1934 unemployment in Puerto Rico had reached a total of approximately 350,000, which-directly or indirectly-is estimated to have affected some 75 per cent of the entire population at that time."¹⁹ According to *Puerto Rico: A Guide to the Island of Boriquén* (Federal Writers Project, 1940),

In the early 1930s, the Island's economic and financial life was at its lowest ebb. The Puerto Rico Emergency Relief Administration [PRERA] was organized in August, 1933, to provide direct relief, but soon branched into work relief and devoted its efforts toward economic reconstruction.²⁰

Under Bourne's leadership PRERA, by the end of 1934, had made good progress at direct relief to unemployed men and their

¹⁸ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 105. In November of 1933, Luis Muñoz Marín was introduced to Mrs. Roosevelt at one of her "White House teas" where ideas to implement New Deal Programs were often discussed and passed on to the President. After meeting Marín, Mrs. Roosevelt wrote, "I feel very strongly that Gore has neither the personality, background, or education or tact to deal with the different groups in Puerto Rico and someone who does know Latin American people would do much better."

¹⁹ PRRA, *Puerto Rico in the Great Depression*, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 3.

²⁰ Federal Writers Project, *Puerto Rico: A Guide to the Island of Boriquén*. 1940, p. 7.

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families, but long-term economic reconstruction solutions would occur under its successor the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration (PRRA), starting in the summer of 1935.

In the four months of operations of 1933, the PRERA disbursed \$339,145 in work relief projects. In September [1933] only some 5,000 cases of direct relief had been handled. In the months that followed, the average number of cases aided directly was over 50,000; 93 per cent of these were families in which there were, on the average, five people. Still, the aid was insignificant when only 35 per cent of the working population, some 176,331 were gainfully employed. The PRERA distributed some 120,000 pounds of surplus pork throughout the island, cooperated in road building and extension programs with the department of the interior of the insular government, cooperated with the department of health in malaria control, and set up needlework centers throughout the island where work was done for the Red Cross. In all, the total \$770,000 which the FERA was able to send to Bourne in 1933 was well spent in spite of the charges and countercharges of politics and prejudice. Nevertheless, it was recognized by all that this insignificant amount could not be considered as more than temporary relief.²¹

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt approved the Adjutant General of the War Department, General Blanton Winship as Governor of Puerto Rico, in early 1934. Under Governor Winship's administration, generally no political party was favored over another, although the Liberal Party through its embracing of the New Deal programs and personal connections with the Roosevelt White House tended to dominate the political scene on the island. Throughout the rest

²¹ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 130-131.

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of the 1930s, the Liberal Party worked to ease James Bourne out of the PRERA, and cooperated with Governor Winship to move the programs into the Puerto Rico Recovery Administration (PRRA) where the majority of staff were islanders. To further facilitate relief and reconstruction, Roosevelt transferred the civilian affairs of Puerto Rico from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, under direct supervision of Secretary Harold Ickes, by Executive Order 6726 on July 28, 1935.²² The PRRA would be staffed mainly by competent and well educated islanders who implemented many of the programs of the Chardón Plan for the relief of Puerto Ricans and economic reconstruction of the island. The PRRA looked upon the New Deal programs provided by the federal government as a means to change the reliance of island workers on one major crop, through the diversification of employment. As stated by Luis Muñoz Marin,

The New Deal is a mobilization of great economic forces directed towards a permanent reconstruction upon the basis of individual resources, to attain a higher level of living and culture in the communities affected by it.²³

Relief funds were intended to generate economic recovery as the funds were circulated through the states and territories. Therefore,

...relief money spent rapidly and within the two-year limit as required by the \$4 billion bill served to revive industry. The contrary was true in Puerto Rico, plagued with a colonial economy. The economic problems of Puerto Rico could only be solved by a complete readjustment of a

²² PRRA, Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 1. Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 172-173.

²³ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 151.

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permanent nature of economic relationships. It was estimated that sixty cents out of every dollar spent in Puerto Rico returned to the United States on the first turnover. To remedy this would take much longer than two years. Also, the reconstruction program envisaged a long-range program of reforestation, land resettlement, electrification, and other projects, and the President was called upon to use his influence on Congress, where, without it, any Congressional approval seemed doubtful."²⁴

Of the \$4 billion dollars approved for relief and reconstruction by Congress in 1935, however, only \$35 million was allocated to Puerto Rico as the PRERA programs were beginning to be transferred to the PRRA. In spite of the small amount of funds allocated to the island, during 1935, the PRRA, in addition to relief funding, implemented

...64 individual official projects approved by the President for prosecution under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. They covered a wide range of activities including rural rehabilitation, rural electrification, forestation and reforestation, slum clearance and low-cost housing, construction of buildings and improvements for the University of Puerto Rico, construction of a cement plant, and cattle tick and coconut bud-rot eradication.²⁵

One of the key programs instituted by the Forest Service, at this time, was a program to alleviate soil erosion of steep mountain slopes. A reforestation program had been started by Chief Forester Barbour under the PRERA, and later the PRRA funded this

²⁴ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 227.

²⁵ PRRA, Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 2.

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with greater amounts of monies.²⁶ During these early years, work camps were established in Forest Reserves throughout Puerto Rico, from which men learned technical skills to construct roads and recreational facilities.

In the following three years (1936 to 1938) the President approved some 88 "individual Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration work projects," involving "Federal and non-Federal projects for highways road, streets, public utilities, public buildings, flood control and social service and relief programs of a 'white collar' type." However, the majority of the public monies went to relief and continuation of public works initially begun in 1935 and continued through 1938.²⁷

By in large the majority of the federal funds appropriated for Puerto Rico went to relief and reconstruction projects outside Forest Reserve lands. Although, in the report, "Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration," published in December of 1938, it noted rapid progress in work on Forest Reserve lands.

On the 21,835 acres of forest land already acquired or under contract for purchase, three ranger stations and two buildings at the Forest Experiment Station have been constructed; 58 miles of roads and 61 miles of forest trails have been laid out; 10,096,700 mahogany and spruce trees have been transplanted, most of the plants coming from eleven nurseries constructed and now being operated. Eleven workers' reconstruction camps were operated in connection with the forestation and reforestation program until June

²⁶ Mathews, Thomas G., *ibid*, p. 281.

²⁷ Anonymous, Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 2.

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30, 1937.²⁸

In 1936 the Caribbean National Forest prepared Recreation Plans for both the Luquillo and Toro Negro Units. The reports outlined what had been accomplished up to that date, projects that were in the works, and possible future projects. These well thought out recreation plans demonstrate a concerted effort on the part of the Forest Service to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities to the public. These plans laid the foundation they served for much of what is available to recreation visitors at these locations today.

During the period of PRRA's work (1935-1939), nearly \$54,000,000 were expended on the island for relief and public works, of which about \$3.5 million went to reforestation and soil erosion projects, along with the construction of roads and hiking trails, recreational facilities, and administrative buildings on Puerto Rico's Forest Preserves.²⁹

Specifics of CCC Programs on Forest Reserve Lands

The Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) agency, later renamed as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), was established in April of 1933. The most important aspects of the ECW/CCC programs on Forest Reserves in Puerto Rico was a program of massive reforestation designed to replace native trees logged for decades to use for housing, charcoal, and furniture, along with

²⁸ Anonymous, Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 6.

²⁹ Anonymous, Puerto Rico in the Great Depression, Facts about the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, December 1938, p. 11.

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addressing soil erosion and flood control.³⁰ As envisioned by President Roosevelt's message to Congress, in 1933,

I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects.³¹

However, the most visible signs of the CCC work on Forest Reserves today consist of masonry and concrete administration buildings, hiking trails, roads and bridges, and recreational facilities. This work was intended to provide economic relief to out of work men, but the CCC programs also "provided unskilled laborers with valuable experience and even vocational training and education."³²

According to Ramos Velez and Anderson-Cordóva,

President Roosevelt authorized an ECW program for Puerto Rico on May 5, 1933, and work actually commenced by July 1, 1933 with an initial authorization to employ 1,200 men. By January, 1935, this manpower authorization had been increased to 2,400 men. The administration of the ECW, and later the CCC, program in Puerto Rico was different from how

³⁰ Anonymous, A History of Caring for the Land, Caribbean National Forest Brochure, n.d.. This brochure noted that the core of the Caribbean National Forest, or El Yunque, was set aside by the Spanish in 1876 as "a Forest Reserve, making it one of the oldest reserves in the Western Hemisphere." By 1903, it was called Luquillo Forest Reserve, "the only tropical rain forest in the National Forest System." In 1935, the Luquillo National Forest was renamed the Caribbean National Forest, but it is popularly called El Yunque, after the highest peak in the national forest, and following the addition of the Toro Negro Unit to the Caribbean National Forest.

³¹ Williams, Gerald W., Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 1933-1942. Manuscript, June 28, 2002, p. 1.

³² Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Historical-Architectural Assessment and Treatment Plan for Three New Deal Era Structures on the Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico (Final Report). Report Prepared by ConservAcción, January 15, 1999, p. 8.

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it was carried out in the continental United States. The USDA Forest Service was the federal agency responsible for enrolling the men selected, and for operating the camps and carrying out the work projects. The War Department's only role was to pay the enrollees. The Forest Service organized the camps according to work projects. Large projects required more permanent camps in which the enrollees would live during the work week, while smaller projects could be accomplished in camps set up closer to the enrollees' homes. The average number of enrollees employed in 11 CCC camps established in Puerto Rico was 2,100, and, contrary to the case in the continental United State, no marital or age limitations were established. The higher unemployment rates and population density in Puerto Rico and the large number of dependents of many unemployed men had presented aggravating circumstances that influenced the United States' decision to apply different criteria for Puerto Rico.³³

The CCC New Deal work also meant opening up the National Forest and Forest Reserve lands for recreation as defined by North Americans - hiking, picnic, swimming, trout fishing, and driving to natural areas. This represented both a change in use of forest lands and introduction of new recreational opportunities to islanders.

In 1932, the Forest Service undertook a comprehensive study of the situation of forests and forestry nationwide, included estimates of the supply of and demand for forest resources, and projected future needs. "A National Plan for American Forestry," better known as the Copeland Report, described and evaluated virtually all aspects of forestry, public and private, taking in timber, water, range,

³³ Ramos Vélez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Córdova, *Ibid.*, 1999, p. 9-10.

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recreation, wildlife, research, State aid, and fire protection. The document, which became the New Deal blueprint for forestry, advocated more planning and more extensive management of all forest lands, including more resource development. The Copeland Report provided the basis for a major shift in emphasis and a significant change in Forest Service policy ... It marked the agency's departure from its earlier custodial role. To accomplish the work identified in the report, a larger work force was needed, and buildings to house the personnel and necessary machinery. Establishment of the CCC coincided with the submission of the report to Congress. This temporary labor pool was vital in the Forest Service's resource restoration and development programs. The CCC would be the mechanism for beginning and expanding the forest conservation task outline in the Copeland Report.³⁴

With available labor and monies from the New Deal CCC program the Forest Service commenced to implement construction programs, such as road building and creation of hiking trails, which opened up the Forests to the general public in a manner never before imagined. In addition, the CCC, under the guidance of the Forest Service, began building recreational facilities to further support public visitation, and administrative and research facilities to aid in the long term management of the forests.

The Forest Service generally attempted to construct permanent facilities, such as recreational and administrative properties according to some type of thematic design. According to one researcher,

³⁴ Anonymous, Multiple Property Documentation Form, USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1991, p. 3-4. Copy on file with the Southeast Region Office of the National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

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Each Forest Service Region undertook to design buildings appropriate to climatic characteristics, vegetation and forest cover, utilizing the predominant native building materials. Some regions were able to take advantage of their traditional or native architecture while others found it necessary to develop original designs based only in part on Regional prototypes.³⁵

In many CCC New Deal building projects on Forest Service lands in the United States the Service opted for what has come to be termed Rustic architecture. This style of masonry **and/or log** architecture was labor-intensive, requiring "the efforts of many men, highly trained professionals, skilled and unskilled workmen, in planning design, and execution."³⁶

According to one author,

The rustic style represents an early twentieth century movement in American architecture. Based on a philosophy of non-intrusiveness, it was particularly appropriate to rural environments. It was picturesque, romantic architecture that recalled the American past, was wholly integrated with the landscape and responsive to the environment. The idiom was developed as a solution to the problem of providing facilities for the public, in National Parks and National

³⁵ Anonymous, Ibid., 1991, p. 7. This pattern is eminently apparent in the Caribbean National Forest where CCC structures were first built of log and stone, copying "boiler plate" plans either from Washington, DC, or a Regional Forest Service Office, in the United States. These structures were very soon replaced by concrete, probably because the sill logs would have quickly rotted in the wet tropical environment of Puerto Rico, and much of the stone was of poor quality. This is probably why not only the architectural designs as well as the materials were replaced in the Caribbean National Forest with more suitable plans and more durable materials as early as 1938 (J. Walker, personal communication, 2006).

³⁶ Anonymous, Ibid., 1991, p. 7.

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Forests, and in state parks that did not compete with natural or scenic value. Administrative buildings as well as public buildings were built in the style. While rustic differed substantially from the traditional urban expressions of the power and presence of government, the architecture was nonetheless symbolic. Representing authority at the local level, the buildings were functional and accessible place for government work. Rustic helped to create an image, and to convey an ethic of conservation. It strongly influenced public expectations about the appropriate character and appearance of recreational and administrative buildings in parks and forests.³⁷

In Puerto Rico, the traditional upper class Spanish creole masonry Neo-Classical architecture is found in many urban buildings dating from the Spanish colonial or pre-1898 period.³⁸ This style of architecture continued to be maintained even into the early decades of the twentieth century, although other styles, particularly Victorian had begun to be constructed on the island.³⁹ However, during the Depression two trends emerged which greatly changed the look of the island of Puerto - training of laborers in concrete work, using materials produced by the concrete manufacture built on the island in the mid-1930s, and the introduction of the International style of residential construction was relied heavily on the use of concrete. According to Carol Jopling,

In 1938 serious efforts were made by the U.S. government to alleviate miserable existing housing conditions by

³⁷ Anonymous, *Ibid.*, 1991, p. 8.

³⁸ Jopling, Carol F., *Puerto Rican Houses, in Sociohistorical Perspective*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville. 1988, p. 25.

³⁹ Jopling, Carol F., 1988, p. 45-54.

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supporting the construction of dwellings through government and private programs. The international style of architecture, then in its ascendancy, was the principal inspiration for the Puerto Rican Urbanización style which emerged⁴⁰

The CCC masonry/concrete ranger residences, and bathhouses constructed in the 1930s, are "generally a rectangular, one-story, flat-roofed, box-like structure" that predates the Puerto Rican Urbanización style which "has proliferated throughout the island."⁴¹ These CCC constructed buildings are some of the early rural examples of this style of building type which had its beginnings as early as 1909 (Enrique Vivoni personal communication July 2006), and later flourished on the island in the 1950s. The construction of these buildings served as a "classroom" to instruct large numbers of workmen in the application of reinforced concrete construction techniques, increasing the trained workforce who continued to construct residential and public buildings with these materials.

⁴⁰ Jopling, Carol F., 1988, p. 54.

⁴¹ Jopling, Carol F., 1988, p. 54.

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F. Associated Property types (Descriptions): Physical Aspects

1. Description - The Civilian Conservation Corps facilities in the Puerto Rico Forest Reserves (c. 1934-1941) constitute a variety of extant structures and buildings. Among these are the transportation networks of roads - PR 191 and 186 - and their associated masonry and concrete retaining walls, guard rails, culverts, and bridges; hiking trails - with masonry paving, box drains, retaining walls, rest stops, causeways, and observation towers; the remains of CCC Work Camp sites; masonry and concrete recreational facilities - containing swimming pools, bathhouses, picnic structures; and concrete administrative buildings - ranger housing, research stations, trout hatchery, and tree nurseries. The majority of the first CCC structures and buildings were made originally of local masonry or wood, while many of the latter were constructed of reinforced concrete, following the construction of the first concrete plant c. 1935.

2. Significance -

a. - Historic Association with CCC - Civilian Conservation Corp facilities in the Puerto Rico Forest Reserves, which have been studied and found to possess integrity, are significant under criterion A for their association with events occurring during the Depression of the period 1933-1942, and the efforts of the Federal Government to provide both relief work and to aid in the reconstruction of the economy of the island. As noted in one National Forest New Deal Multiple Property Study,

The broad pattern of American history to which the Federal response to the Depression relates is the institutional development of the National Government in the United States, including its proper function within the Federal union, its powers, its limitations, and its obligations. The New Deal,

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which composed the Federal government's response to the Depression 1933-1940 was instrumental in recasting American political thinking on the responsibilities of government. The New Deal did not change the essential form of government, nor alter the economic system. It did alter the role of the Federal Government in National life from neutral arbiter to promoter of society's welfare and guarantor of economic security. Thus, the context signifies a major turning point in the historical development of the national government. An important and noticeable shift in the outlook and approach of Government toward society occurred as a result of the New Deal.⁴²

b. - Architecture - Puerto Rico response to Federal programs
Federal program introduces regional styles of architecture and material to new settings - Before the 1930s, architectural design was heavily influence by traditional Nineteenth Century creole Classical Revival styles of masonry building, while rural domestic architecture tended to involve wooden buildings. With the construction of a concrete manufacturer on the island with New Deal monies, a new source of cheap and readily available construction material was available for buildings and structures. The CCC in the early part of its operations constructed recreation structures and buildings using local wood and stone masonry, following the region's traditional Classical Revival design elements. Later, with availability of workers trained in reinforced concrete construction, many of the CCC forest recreation structures and buildings continued to be built in a Classical Revival style, but from concrete instead of stone and mortar. This CCC work was significant in introducing these urban building construction techniques and architectural style elements in to rural forest recreation settings throughout the island. CCC

⁴² Anonymous, Ibid., 1991, 2.

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structures and buildings of the 1930s are significant under National Register criteria C as transitional for construction materials and architecture building design on the island, by introducing new materials and traditional regional design elements into a rural forested recreation setting.

Specific Properties types in the Caribbean National Forest

Transportation Construction segments of Rio Blanco to Mameyes Road (State Route 191) & Canovanas Road (State Route 186) - Consists of roads, retaining walls, guard rails, culverts, and bridges, all constructed by hand. Initial segments, begun in 1933 were a means of opening the interior of the Caribbean National Forest to both the public and further development of recreational facilities. The earliest part of the highway were constructed mainly by hand, in a process similar to the Spanish construction of PR 1, using hand tools to cut the highway through the mountains and grade the roadbed. Then a layer of local stone was laid down, and covered with gravel. This style of road construction - referred to as the Telford style - involved hand laid stone pounded into place then the roads were covered with soft gravel. Deep culverts and bridges, heavy stone and concrete guard rails and retaining walls were necessitated by the Caribbean rain forest environment.

On some Forest Reserves, machinery helped with earth moving tasks and concrete replaced the stone.⁴³ Stone and later concrete retaining walls, guard rails, culverts, and bridges were constructed as needed. In acknowledging the unique environment of

⁴³ Ramos Vélez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Córdova. Phase II Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, Guánica Project, Final Report. 1999, p. 3. Submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office of Puerto Rico. A good example of a CCC road consisting of "limestone rocks of various sizes compacted to form a relatively smooth surface" in an unpaved state is the 5.6 kilometer long Camino Couto in Bosque Seco.

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the tropical rainforest, culverts and bridges were built with a greater depth and height, respectively, to accommodate the heavy rainfall experienced in El Yunque. Those segments of Puerto Rico Routes 191 & 186 exhibiting original CCC construction have been determined to be eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C.

Trails and associated structures - Once the construction of PR 191 and 186 were underway, the Forest Service began to develop plans for hiking trails, with periodic rest stops, and overlook towers at the end of some trails.

A fine example of these hiking trails is the Rio de La Mina Hiking Trail which starts at the La Mina Recreation Area on PR 191. The trail follows the course of the Rio La Mina (or The Mine River) from the recreation area for about 1.3 miles to terminate at the area of an abandon early nineteenth century gold mine. The CCC-built portion of the trail ends at a mining site discovered and worked by Manuel Martinez, between 1832 and 1841. A mine shaft and several stone foundations are located at this point of this trail.⁴⁴

It is believed that this trail was constructed between 1935 and 1936 by the CCC, possibly following the path of an earlier Spanish period trail.⁴⁵ It would appear that this trail along the south side of the Rio La Mina was an older trail through the mountains that was improved by the CCC with a rock paving and steps over the steeper parts of the trail. Associated features of the trail are hand-made stone box drains "to channel water from

⁴⁴ Walker, J., Ibid., 1992, p. 46-54.

⁴⁵ Walker, J., Rio de la Mina Trail Project Cultural Resources Assessment, State IA and IB. Report Prepared for the Caribbean National Forest, Southern Region, El Yunque Ranger District, Puerto Rico. February 1992, p. 22. Copy on file Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

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the up slope to down slope side of the trail" under the trail; stone causeways - some over 30 meters in length - to cross low boggy areas, made of solid masonry; and masonry retaining walls and stairs.⁴⁶ The Rio de La Mina hiking trail with its masonry features would be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under criteria A and C.

Other trails built in the 1930's, such as; El Yunque, Trade Winds, Sabana, and El Toro Trails have not been studied to the extent that Rio de La Mina Trail has been. As a result, little information is currently available to evaluate these CCC constructed hiking trails. However, the two most prominent features of these trails - Mt. Britton and El Yunque observation towers and associated rest facilities - at the end of El Toro and El Yunque Trails, respectively, however, would probably be eligible as outstanding examples of hand-made masonry and concrete structures built by the CCC in the mid- to late 1930s, under criteria A and C. Further research would be required of these trails and their associated features to make a final determination.

CCC Work Camp Sites - Between 1934 and 1939, some fifteen (15) CCC work camps had been constructed on Puerto Rican Forest Reserves,⁴⁷ Nine (9) work camps were known to have been constructed within the Luquillo Unit of the Caribbean National Forest. All of these CCC work camps were dismantled by mid-1942, and only one camp has been partially investigated for National Register eligibility.

Bella Vista CCC Camp
Camp No. 10 CCC Camp

⁴⁶ Walker, J., Ibid., 1992, p. 34-35, 45.

⁴⁷ Ramos Velez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Cordova, Ibid., 1999, p. 10.

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Rio Blanco Ridge (Camp No. 8) CCC Camp
Hicaco CCC Camp
Cienaga Alta CCC Camp
Juan Diego CCC Camp
Sabana CCC Camp
El Verde CCC Camp
Palma Sierra CCC Camp

A number of the above Camp sites were associated with the construction of Puerto Rico Route 191 and hiking trails in the Caribbean National Forest. According to Jeff Walker,

...to house workers building the road (PR 191) and forest trails. The road begun in 1934 and completed pre-World War II was started from both north and south ends and joined in the middle. Work began on the south end in 1936 and the sequence of camps along this leg from south to north was: Camp Cubuy (or Florida, on the west side of the Cubuy River opposite Parcel 36; Camp Buena (or Bella) Vista ... Camp No. 8 [Rio Blanco Ridge], which was one of the largest; ... and Camp No. 10.⁴⁸

However, with the exception of preliminary evaluation work carried out in 1983 on Camp No. 8 (Y-14), only limited studies of the work camp sites of the CCC have been accomplished to date.⁴⁹ According to elderly CCC workers interviewed by Walker, Camp No. 8

...was one of the larger camps of the CCC and served as a

⁴⁸ Walker, J. B., *Ibid.*, 1983, p. 14.

⁴⁹ Walker, J. B., Final Report of the Cultural Resources Survey of Area 1 Adjacent to the Icacos River in the Caribbean National Forest. Copy on file with the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia. 23 March 1983.

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supply base, having the only bakery and being the camp where animals were slaughtered and butchered for distribution to the smaller camps. At one time it is said to have housed between 100 and 200 men working on the construction of the road and trails in the area. The camp was a complex of raised wooden buildings, one serving as the office, one as a dormitory (and kitchen?), a stone face latrine pit which had a wood cover, and a brick bakery oven ... What remains today are concrete, stonework, and brick foundations and features.⁵⁰

No specific plans for any of the CCC camps built in Puerto Rico have been located. Although the Forest Service developed model plans for camps containing 25, 50, 100, and 200 men, used to a great extent in the continental United States, until further field work is accomplished on the CCC camps on the island it is presently not feasible to determine how closely the Forest Service used these camp models in the construction of work camps on Puerto Rico or to determine the function of the remains of the CCC camps. In addition, without further field investigation, the integrity of many of these work camps remain unverified, particularly those not on the Caribbean National Forest, so their potential National Register eligibility is presently unknown.⁵¹

Recreation Facilities - La Mina Recreation Area, (which includes Baño del Oro Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, Baño Grande Pool and Bathhouse, and El Yunque Pavilion, Sierra Palma Picnic Area, and Palo Colorado Picnic Area).

⁵⁰ Walker, J. B., Ibid, 1983, p. 31.

⁵¹ Ramos Velez, Marlene & Karen F. Anderson-Cordova, Ibid., 1999, p. 11.

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The first recreational facility on the Caribbean National Forest, in a chronological fashion, appears to have been the masonry and concrete Baño de Oro Swimming Pool and a wooden Bathhouse, noted on a 1934 map. By 1936, the facility was complete with a wooden bathhouse, "concrete walkway encircled a stone-faced pool," ... "created by a small, stone-masonry dam at the Eastern extreme of the pool."⁵² As noted by Héctor Santiago Cazull,

The stone facing blended in with the earth and the La Mina River bed, whereas, the palm wood walls of the bathhouse play with the surrounding palm trees. The oversized hipped roof sheathed with tin, gave the site a "tropical" appearance. This was not at all uncommon at the time, given the exotic and picturesque tendencies in late 19th and early 20th architecture, still in vogue at the time, and the more recent developments in the American Arts and Crafts Movement. More importantly, the overall appearance of the site was very much in tune with the building principles behind CCC constructions in the United States, Puerto Rico and other territorial possessions, which emphasized the use of local materials and unobtrusive, conservation-oriented design.⁵³

The wooden bathhouse of 1934, however, was replaced in 1939 with a "solid, reinforced concrete [building], in an eclectic style typical of the New Deal Era buildings in Puerto Rico," and similar in style to the Baño Grande Bathhouse, constructed in

⁵² Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Historical-Architectural Assessment and Treatment Plan for Three New Deal Era Structures on the Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico (Final Report). Report Prepared by ConservAcción, January 15, 1999, p. 70.

⁵³ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid, 1999, p. 71.

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1938.⁵⁴ In style the bathhouses "evoked the Spanish-colonial history of Puerto Rico" looking similar to the Camineros, or Roadmen's houses built by the Spanish in the late-nineteenth century. Although,

Grid-pattern, concrete vent holes on the main facade hinted at influences from the European Arts and Crafts Movement. Horizontal window openings through solid concrete wall hinted at the International style, or perhaps Prairie influences. ... This marked eclecticism was more than familiar throughout Puerto Rico at the time, as it was common to the structures designed by the Department of Public Works and the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration during the 1930's, often under the supervision of architect Rafael Carmoega.⁵⁵

The Baño de Oro Swimming facility was the first recreational facility constructed by the CCC in 1934. The swimming original pool design shows the early CCC efforts to incorporate local materials (quarried local stone) and design the pool with the natural landscape. The later Baño de Oro and Baño Grande concrete bathhouses demonstrates extensive use of steel-reinforced concrete which were not necessarily intended to fit into the natural setting. Both bathhouse facilities at Baño de Oro and Baño Grande have been closed since the late 1960s.⁵⁶

The next recreational facility constructed was the Baño Grande

⁵⁴ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid, 1999, p. 71.

⁵⁵ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid, 1999, p. 72.

⁵⁶ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid, 1999, p. 73.

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Bathhouse and Swimming Pool, in 1936. Baño Grande was somewhat different from the earlier constructed Baño de Oro facility. The Baño Grande Swimming Pool was designed to fit into the natural environment, with "the stone-masonry swimming pool and dam, along with the perimeter flagstone trails, formed a fresh-water swimming pool, which appeared almost as a natural occurrence within the riverbed,"⁵⁷ while the bathhouse was functionally designed using the newly available concrete building material.

The new bathhouse was to possess architectural characteristics in tune with current modern building practices on the Island, rather than with design practices promoted by the CCC for Forest area, or the traditional local practices. Harsh, straight lines, a flat roof, horizontal window courses and overall simple and cold surfaces and character defined the building, which asserted its modernism and stood out like a sore thumb amidst the exotic, pluvial forest surroundings. The combination of modern materials and intentions with vague historical references resulted in an austere eclecticism typical of depression-era government buildings in Puerto Rico.⁵⁸

Both the Baño Grande and Baño de Oro Recreational facilities would be eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. The El Yunque Pavilion, was torn down due to damage by hurricanes a few years ago, but still might be eligible under criterion B, because of its association with Governor Luis Muñoz Marin, and his cabinet meetings here in the early 1950s.

⁵⁷ Santiago Cazull, Héctor. Historical-Architectural Assessment and Treatment Plan for New Deal Era Properties on the Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico (El Yunque Pavilion, Baño de Oro, & Baño Grande). Report Prepared by ConservAcción, January 15, 1998, p. 33.

⁵⁸ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid, 1998, p. 34.

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Administration Buildings (Ranger Stations, Residential Buildings, Research Facilities): Stone House, a massive masonry structure with exterior walls made of local stone, is probably the first residential/administrative building built on the Caribbean National Forest. It is divided into a kitchen, two bedrooms, and living room, all of Stone House's interior walls and floors are made of wide, hand-sawn local lumber. It was probably the prototype for the poured concrete Ranger Residences built later - they all display the identical footprint, facades, and architectural features. Casa Cubuy (Cubuy House), is a copy of Stone House, and matches "historical plans for a standard Cottage or Guard Station (Ranger Station Dwelling, Type II), prepared by Forest Staff."⁵⁹

Casa Cubuy is a small, one-story rectangular, poured-concrete residential building, constructed circa 1938-1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a home for a Park [Forest] Ranger, at the western entrance to the Caribbean National Forest, better known as *El Yunque*. The building was designed in a simple, transitional style typical of late 1930's CCC buildings in Puerto Rico, which represents influences from traditional Puerto Rican architecture and contemporary *modern* Puerto Rican Department of Public Works architecture. In this particular building, the design combines simple, non-articulated concrete surfaces and flat roofs - characteristics of the international style of the modern movements - with a front porch, a gallery arcade, French windows, board and batten doors, and stick-style

⁵⁹ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Architectural Conservation Assessment for Repairs to Ranger Dwelling (Cubuy House), Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico, Prepared by ConservAcción, October 20, 2000, p. 3.

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transom, all traits common to various styles of Spanish, Creole or Caribbean domestic architecture.⁶⁰

The interior space plan is divided into three activity areas. The central area contains the living room, and the northern area contains the porch and kitchen, while the southern area contains two bedrooms with an adjoining bath. The exterior and interior surfaces are plastered with concrete cement and presently painted with white paint and dark green trim. The only decorative element is a wooden string-course molding which runs through out the house interior, between the level of the door lintels and the ceiling. The floors are paved with large, square, concrete tiles, apparently original to the building.⁶¹ Stone House has been determined to be eligible for the National Register, and others of these types of buildings would be eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C.

F. Registration Requirements

The Historic Context for this Multiple Property Nomination is CCC properties on Puerto Rico Forest Reserves, specifically those on the Caribbean National Forest. In order for a CCC property from Puerto Rico to be considered for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or to be determined eligible for the National Register, under criterion A and/or C, and D in this multiple property study it must demonstrate the following three components: period of significance (1933-1942); cultural association (CCC constructed wood, loose stone, masonry and concrete structures and buildings and associated archaeological

⁶⁰ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid., p. 3.

⁶¹ Santiago Cazull, Héctor, Ibid., p. 4.

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features); and geographic (CCC properties located on former Puerto Rico Forest Reserves), and in addition possess integrity.

Administration Buildings: Ranger dwellings, such as the Stone House made of stone and mortar, and Casa Cubuy and El Verde Residence constructed of concrete, reflect traditional Caribbean Creole and modern styles, as interpreted by the CCC in the 1930s. These properties should be considered of significant architectural value, as these buildings contribute to the assemblage of CCC buildings on National Forest and Forest Preserve lands on the island of Puerto Rico. They also are representative of an island-wide style of dwelling construction typical of the mid-twentieth century; eligible under National Register criteria A and C.

Work Camps: All nine (9) CCC work camps within the Caribbean National Forest have been located, but to date only a few are extensively recorded by field work. In addition, site plans to compare these work camps with other Puerto Rico Forest Reserve work camps, and those in other island Forest Reserves and the continental United States is lacking for comparative National Register evaluation. All of the CCC work camps in the Caribbean National Forest and other Forest Reserves were dismantled by the end of the program (1942). Not enough information is presently available to make a recommendation on National Register eligibility for all these camps, although is it likely most could be nominated under criteria A and D, if field investigations disclosed these sites possessed integrity.

CCC Constructed Recreation Facilities - During their period of work at the Caribbean National Forest, the CCC constructed numerous recreation facilities. Included in the facilities are: cottages, picnic areas, restrooms, bathhouses, swimming pools, and a visitor pavilion. The most significant of these was the La

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Mina Recreation which included Palo Colorado Picnic Area, Palma Sierra Picnic Area, and El Yunque Pavilion Area, Baño de Oro and Baño Grande Bathhouse and Swimming Pools. Recreational facilities constructed by the CCC in the 1930s have the potential to yield significant information about the CCC activities in the area during the Depression. They are also representative of a transition of architecture construction in materials and styles, which affected the island from this period on. These two recreation facilities were determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register under criteria A and C in 1988 by the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Officer.

Hiking Trails & Associated Features (1933-42) - Prior to the New Deal CCC programs, recreation on the island of Puerto Rico tended to revolve around town plazas and theaters. The idea of wilderness recreation, such as hiking, was more characteristic of North America. The New Deal vision of wilderness recreation assumed that people would embrace a modestly developed system of wilderness trails. Indeed, the opening up of the remote Caribbean National Forest through the building of roads allowed thousands of islanders and tourists to experience for the first time the unique natural treasures of the Puerto Rico Forest Reserves, using CCC constructed hiking trails. The hiking trails and associated features (masonry paving, box drains, causeways, bridges, rest stops, and steps, plus masonry and concrete observation towers, such as those at Mt. Britton and El Yunque) would be eligible under criteria A and C, as would other trails intended for administration access and timber management activities.

Research/Conservation: Presently three groups of facilities on the Caribbean National Forest fall into this category - Trout Hatchery, Tree Nursery, and El Verde Research Station. All three facilities, were constructed in the 1930s by the CCC with the

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intent of developing new recreation (trout fishing), conservation (tree nursery), and long-range research (El Verde Research Station) in the Caribbean National Forest. The trout hatchery and tree nursery were utilitarian in their design, but the El Verde Research Station was constructed in a traditional Classical Revival style regionally prevalent in the 1930s for locally manufactured concrete buildings.

Neither the Trout Hatchery, nor Tree Nursery has been evaluated for integrity so this needs to be accomplished before the properties can be evaluated for National Register eligibility. The El Verde Research Station, however, exhibits good integrity of architecture of the 1930s, as built by the CCC, and contains interesting examples of CCC carpentry work and furniture. This facility also has an important history of research on the tropical rainforests which make it eligible under National Register criteria A and C.

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G. Geographical Data

As noted above, CCC constructed roads, trails, recreational structures, and administration buildings are found throughout the island on Forest Reserves. However, the majority of documented CCC properties to be found in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are located within the Sierra de Luquillo on the Caribbean National Forest, located in Rio Grande Municipality. The CCC properties located on the Caribbean National Forest are the primary focus of this Multiple Property Study, but this nomination is intended to be applicable to similar CCC Forest Reserve properties throughout Puerto Rico.

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The following list of known CCC properties from the Caribbean National Forest in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is derived from documentation gathered by Dr. Jeff Walker, Heritage Program Manager and the site survey files of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Organization of the documentation into a Multiple Property Study (MPS) was undertaken by staff from the Cultural Resources Division with the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, in conjunction with the staffs of the SHPO of Puerto Rico and the USDA Forest Service.

Category	Property Name	Status
Administration	Stone House (1934)	National Register eligible
	Casa Cubuy (Cubuy House, 1938-40)	National Register eligible
	El Verde Residence and Guard House (1938-40)	Needs further evaluation
	Sabana Ranger Residence and Guard House (1938-40)	Needs further evaluation
Transportation Networks (1933-42)	Segments of PR 191 (Rio Blanco to Mameyes Road) &	National Register eligible
	PR 186 with original road way, culverts, bridges and guard rails.	Needs further evaluation
Hiking Trails & Associated Features (1933-42)	Río de la Mina Trail	National Register eligible
	El Yunque Trail	Needs further evaluation
	Los Picachos Trail	Needs further evaluation

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<i>Category</i>	<i>Property Name</i>	<i>Status</i>
	El Toro Trail	Needs further evaluation
	Río Sabana Trail	Needs further evaluation
	Espíritu Santo Trail	Needs further evaluation
Hiking trails	Trade Winds Trail	Needs further evaluation
	Zarzal Ridge Trail	National Register eligible
Observation Towers	Mt. Britton Tower (1937) & Shelter (1938)	National Register eligible
	El Yunque Tower & Bathrooms (1938)	National Register eligible
	Los Picachos Observation Platform (1930s)	Needs further evaluation
Recreation Facilities	El Yunque Pavilion (1935)	Demolished due to damage from hurricanes in 1989 and 1998
	Palma Sierra Picnic Area	Needs further evaluation
	Palo Colorado Picnic Area	Needs further evaluation
	Baño de Oro Swimming Pool, Stone Dam & Bathhouse	Determined to be eligible for National Register by the SHPO - 7/12/88
	Baño Grande Swimming Pool, Stone Dam, Bathhouse and Bridge (1936 & 1939)	Determined to be eligible for National Register by the SHPO - 7/12/88
Work Camps	Bella Vista CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	Camp 10 CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	Rio Blanco Ridge (Camp No. 8) CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	Hicaco CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	Cienaga Alta CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation

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	Juan Diego CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	Sabana CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
	El Verde CCC Camp	
	Palma Sierra CCC Camp	Needs further evaluation
Category	Property Name	Status
Research/Conservation	Trout Hatchery	Needs further evaluation
	Tree Nursery - Catalina	Needs further evaluation
	El Verde Research Station	National Register eligible

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Puerto Rico Forest Reserves Map

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| 1 Guajataca | 6 Carite | 11 Susúa |
| 2 Río Abajo | 7 Aguirre | 12 Guánica |
| 3 Piñones | 8 Toro Negro | 13 Boquerón |
| 4 Caribbean National Forest | 9 Guilarte | 14 Isla de Mona Natural Reserve |
| 5 Ceiba | 10 Maricao | |

