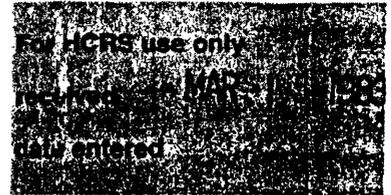


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HACIENDA BUENA UNION

and/or common TRAPICHE EL GUAMÁ, HACIENDA ACOSTA

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED] not for publication

city, town SAN GERMÁN vic. vicinity of congressional district N/A

state PUERTO RICO code 127 county MAYAGÜEZ code 920

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name SAN GERMAN 2000, Inc.

street & number St. 5 & 7 - A-87 Reparto Universitario

city, town SAN GERMAN vicinity of state PUERTO RICO

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRY OF DEEDS - SAN GERMAN

street & number STATE GOVERNMENT BUILDING CENTER

city, town SAN GERMÁN state PUERTO RICO

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HAER INVENTORY has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date JULY, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records HAER, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

city, town state WASHINGTON, D.C. 202

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The greater part of this hacienda's lands were dedicated to sugar cane, and most of the remainder to pastures for its oxen and cows. There were also patches of coffee, mostly in the steeper slopes, and minor crops, as well as "corozo" palms, used for wood and pig feed.

[redacted] were its main structures (establecimientos). These included the owner's house, two smaller houses, a cowshed, another shed for pig stys, a storage building next to a grain - and coffee - drying yard, probably a general store, and the sugar structures: ox-powered mill, boiling house, purge house and two bagasse sheds. Several small wooden houses, occupied by fieldhands and foremen, dotted the canefields. The buildings were made of native hardwoods and roofed with thatch, except for the storage building and the homes, which used Spanish tile or corrugated iron.

The ox-mill's structure consisted of a conical thatched roof, formed by six radial, diagonal beams, each of which was pulled at its end by an ox-team. This structure was supported by the mill itself, which was located at its center, and consisted of a heavy hardwood housing with three vertical iron cylinders. The oxen, prodded with sticks by children from sunrise to sunset, turned both the mill and the roof structure. The cane juice extracted in the mill traveled through a covered sluice under the path of the oxen and down to the boiling house. This was a rectangular structure with open sides, a brick floor, and a thatched roof. At the lower side, bagasse was fed to the fire of its Jamaican train; this heat was pulled by the chimney located at the far end under a line of four boiling pans or teaches, in which the cane juice boiled until it gained the consistency of massecuite.

Today, Buena Union is a cattle farm, with all of its land in pastures. Of the original structures, there remain only one small foreman's house, altered and in use, the ruins of one of the small "establecimiento" houses, the foundation walls and drying yard of the storage building, the cowshed's concrete floor, the foundation walls and brickwork of the boiling house, including the chimney and most of the Jamaican train, and the cut-and-fill area of the mill, with remains of its cane juice sluice. The ruins of the boiling house include the intact 40' tall chimney, the Jamaican train (80% complete) with part of its firewall, the base of the cane juice brick tank, the floor with the bases of the peripheral wood columns, a line of three massecuite cooling trays, parallel to the train's teaches, plus two additional, deeper ones (which were reportedly never used), and the bagasse-men's area with its ash-removal ports. The ruins of a masonry arched bridge [redacted]

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates CA 1870-1908

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The sugar haciendas were a mainstay of the economy of Puerto Rico between c. 1800 to c. 1900, with most of their production being sold to the United States. The majority of the island's hacienda mills were similar to Buena Union's: around 250 of the probable 350 which existed around 1890 were driven by oxen and produced sugar with Jamaican trains. However, there are no extant ox-mills, even in ruins, and only three Jamaican trains are known to exist in conditions similar to or better than that of Buena Union. Of the latter, none appear to keep any indication of the position of its ox-mill. Buena Union is better documented than other hacienda sites: there is a good, rather complete photograph of c. 1900, and there are oral accounts of former employees who are still alive. It is protected by its owners, and slated to become a regional sugar industry museum. Neither of the other two actually protected haciendas, Vives, a large, wind-powered mill in the Southeast, and Esperanza, a very large, steam-powered mill in the North, was really typical of the majority of Puerto Rico's mills, and unprotected hacienda remains are in constant danger due to the value of their bricks, and, in many cases, due to land development projects and agricultural land clearing. Buena Union's immense value for the study of the engineering and industrial history of Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and the sugar industry in general is heightened by its proximity to the island's main expressway, and its location in a region which is rich in historic sites of other natures.

