LAZARETTO - GOATS ISLAND 1864:1883

The lazaretto's original purpose was to house yellow fever and cholera victims, but few remember said noble commitment today. Instead, for over a century - and in spite of being a ruin - the lazaretto has been an emblematic landscape component in San Juan's Bay with a distinctive profile that has been appreciated by many generations of residents and visitors of the old city.

It represents the only example of its kind ever built in Puerto Rico, simultaneously underlining how Spanish colonial building codes required health related facilities to be built outside the walled enclave. Its construction methods highlight building practices imposed on the Island (and Cuba) by Madrid's School of Engineers, Roads, and Port Facilities. The project's dossier (narrative) became the precedent for detailing succeeding comparable building initiatives in terms of scope, tectonics, and contents.