

II.1 Introduction

(See Section 1 of the current Nomination Form and Section 1, 2 and 3 of the original Nomination Forms)

1a) *State Party:*
USA

1b) *Name of World Heritage property:*
La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico

1c) *Please provide geographical coordinates for the site to the nearest second. (In the case of large sites, please give three sets of geographical coordinates.)*

Geographical coordinate: 18°28'23 N; 66°08'24 W

Geographical coordinate: 18°27'57 N; 66°07'01 W

Geographical coordinate: 18°28'12 N; 66°06'18 W

Geographical coordinate: 18°27'56 N; 66°07'13 W

1d) *Give date of inscription on the World Heritage List.*

date (dd/mm/yyyy): 09/12/1983

1e) *Give date of subsequent extension(s), if any.*

1f) *List organization(s) responsible for the preparation of this site report.*

Organization #1

Organization Name: National Park Service, San Juan National Historic Site
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First Name: Walter
Title: Superintendent
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State/Prov: Puerto Rico
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Email: Walter_Chavez@NPS. GOV

Organization #2

Organization Name: State Historic Conservation Office
Last Name: Torregrosa de la Rosa
First Name: Enid
Title: Director
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City: San Juan
State/Prov: Puerto Rico
Postal Code: 00906-6581
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Email: enidtorregrosa@prshpo.gobierno.pr

II.2 Statement of Significance (see Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 5 of the original Form)

2a) When a State Party nominates a property for inscription on the World Heritage List, it describes the heritage values of the property which it believes justifies the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. Please summarize the justification for inscription as it appears in the original nomination of the property.

At the time of submitting the nomination for the La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site for inclusion on the World Heritage List, the United States of America submitted the following justification:

"The historical and architectural ensemble comprising the fortifications of San Juan merits inscription on the World Heritage List under criteria (iv) and (vi) for cultural properties. The group includes highly characteristic examples of important architectural and engineering developments. The San Juan fortifications are also eminently associated with events of exceptional historical importance and significance.

The complex includes two massive forts, the city walls, and La Fortaleza, the oldest executive mansion in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest fortification in San Juan.

San Juan's system of fortifications retains the general appearance of advance eighteenth century defense technology, as applied to the topography of a difficult and strategically significant site. Built on the foundation of a major sixteenth century fort, the system also bears nuances imparted by nineteenth and early twentieth-century construction. Specifically, in their character, the forts reflect Italian Renaissance, Baroque, and French Enlightenment designs for military emplacements. These successive techniques and technologies in fortification construction can be clearly identified in the existing fabric. The system thus embodies technology transfer from Europe to America over a long period and its adaptation to a tropical environment.

The history of the forts attests to their essential success in protecting a key imperial outpost of Spain. The continuity of their development is heightened by their being one of the last, of the numerous seats of power in Spain's American Empire. They thus are significantly associated with the waning as well as the waxing of the Empire.

This historical continuity and evolution are strikingly epitomized in the architecture of La Fortaleza, the first major fortification of San Juan. A walk from the medieval towers of this structure to its elegant Isabelline-era salons illustrates this evolution, as well as the enduring character and richness of Hispanic culture, and in aspects other than military art. In few buildings other than this oldest executive mansion in the Americas is the scope of cultural evolution of Hispanic America, spanning four and a half centuries, so well embodied physically.

The great diversity of work performed by the talented military architects and engineers of those centuries cannot easily be classified. In Europe, one of their prime concerns was the construction of walled cities and impregnable land defenses. In the more mature parts of the colonial empires developing in those centuries, the fortifications were, on the contrary, most frequently necessary for maritime reasons, such as the protection from contending European powers of key harbors and sailing routes astride favorable trade winds.

In the Caribbean, a transition occurred relatively early from forts built to defend settlements from attacks by native peoples to the planning of fortress cities that could be used to defend the trade routes linking the far-flung Spanish Empire. Spain soon contended not only with the local peoples, but, "The Caribbean Sea, the Spanish Main and the Gulf of Mexico were the scene of an important part of the struggle for world-supremacy in which Spain and England engaged through the 16th Century."¹ Other antagonists, notably the French and the Dutch, challenged Spain's suzerainty, but the English were the most persistent.

The events associated with the Spanish fortifications of the Caribbean, including those of San Juan, epitomize the imperial rivalries, commercial and economic developments, and political events that have marked the evolution of the Americas in the nearly five centuries since Europe discovered (or rediscovered) them. They particularly relate to the manner in which Europe and the New World transformed each other.

Puerto Rico's location made the island the goal of several centuries of military and diplomatic schemes, and it was for this reason that the Spanish fortified her so intensely. Both the Spanish, and the Europeans who attempted to dislodge them from Puerto Rico, attached great strategic significance to the island. Evidence of the Spanish appreciation of the importance of Puerto Rico is both physical and documentary. It is embodied in the fortifications that to this day encompass a substantial portion of San Juan Island.

The system not only protected Puerto Rico, but also assisted in the defense of the Spanish American Empire by guarding the trade routes that were its lifelines.

The imperial mission of San Juan's forts is also notably attested to in the Royal decree by Carlos III in 1765, directing that San Juan be made a "Defense of the First Order", which was issued after advice from Field Marshall Alexander O'Reilly of the irreparable damage to Spanish commerce that would result from Puerto Rico's possession by others.

The strategic emphasis looms as a theme in Spanish documents even toward the end of the nineteenth century, decades after the loss of the mainland colonies that had constituted most of the Empire. For example, in 1880, when the French were engaged in plans to build the Central American canal, Spanish experts prepared for the Geographical Society of Madrid a documented study setting out the geographic, commercial, and military advantages Puerto Rico possessed in the event such a "new universal route" was built.²

¹ Haklyut Society, *Spanish Documents Concerning English Sea Voyages to the Caribbean* (London, 1928), Series II, Vol. LXII, ix.

² F.M. Zeno, *Historia de la Capital de Puerto Rico* (San Juan: Publicación oficial del Gobierno de la Capital, 1959), II, 29.

Finally, a particular striking illustration of Puerto Rico's significance, for Great Britain, as well as Spain, was Spain's refusal in 1783 to exchange Puerto Rico for Gibraltar. This possibility was raised in the negotiations between the two nations that concluded their parts in the broader war that has been spurred by the United States' War for Independence.³

This Caribbean Gibraltar, or "Christian Rhodes"⁴ (as it was dubbed at a time when that Greek island, a Christian outpost in an Islamic sea, had been only recently surrendered to the Turks), is then also a monument to Spain's enemies as well as to its builders, for these antagonists were the principal reason the fortifications were constructed.

The city of San Juan then was ... both defined and protected by the system of fortifications that guarded its vital harbor. The possession of this "Rich Port" has been for more than four centuries a goal of diplomacy and war. All along, Puerto Rico's strategic location has been her pride and her peril. Their defensive value no discounted, San Juan's forts remain as the cultural patrimony of the Puerto-Rican people. They offer permanent testimony to the influences and events that have shaped her distinctive character and the grandeur of her history.

The fortifications of San Juan and the other mighty redoubts built by Spain in the Americas are premier physical evidence of the epic imperial struggles that permanently fixed the destiny of the Americas. They are key monuments of the era when the Caribbean was "the cockpit of international maritime rivalry", and its "islands played a part of almost undue importance in world strategy" that was "particularly international in its happenings".⁵

In their engineering art, the Spanish forts girdling the Caribbean are manifestations of the architectural-engineering and historical heritage of the Old World in the New, reminders that are poignant in many respects, but ones that retain enduring significance. Considered in their broader roles, they made vital contributions to peaceful progress. They sheltered communities that became centers of international commerce and where other pursuits, including the arts, could flourish. With lighthouses and other navigational aids crowning them, they served well to guide vessels threatened by enemies even more treacherous and implacable than Spain's political and military foes: the storms and currents and reefs and shallows of the Caribbean Sea.

³ Richard B. Morris, *The Peacemakers, the Great Powers and American Independence* (New York: Harper and Row, 1965), 389-408.

⁴ Tapia y Rivera, *op. cit.*, 331.

⁵ Arthur P. Newton, *The European Nations in the West Indies, 1493-1688* (London: A&C Black, Ltd., 1933), ix-x.

In summary, in the physical remains of the Spanish defenses may be traced epochal events in the history of the Empire that mirror its destiny. Its history, indeed, cannot be narrated without encapsulating them: the initial settlement of Hispanic America, reflecting a major shift in European affairs from a Mediterranean toward an Atlantic emphasis; Spain's rise to pre-eminent power in the World, deriving in major part from the riches of the Americas; the struggle for ascendancy in the West Indies that made their possession for several centuries a vital consideration in World politics; the long but inexorable decline of the Spanish Empire, marked at last by the independence won by most of the colonies; and the aftermath of the pre-eminence of Spain as a military and political force in the Western Hemisphere.

2b) *At the time of initial inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee indicates the property's outstanding universal value(s) (or World Heritage value(s)) by agreeing on the criteria for which the property deserves to be included on the World Heritage List. Please consult the report of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed and indicate the criteria for which the Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Choose one or more boxes.)*

Cultural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv
- v
- vi

Natural Criteria

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv

2c) *At the time of initial inscription, did the World Heritage Committee agree upon a Statement of Significance for the WHS? (Consult the report or minutes of the World Heritage Committee meeting when the property was listed.)*

No

2c1) If YES, please cite it here.

2c2) *If NO please propose a Statement of Significance for the World Heritage Site based on the consideration given the property by the Committee when it inscribed the property on the World Heritage List. (Note: Following the completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision to approve any proposed Statement of Significance. The Committee must approve any proposed Statement of Significance through a separate, formal process. See 7g.)*

Property	La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site
Id	266
State Party	United States of America
Criteria	(vi)

The Committee inscribed La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site on the World Heritage List under criteria (vi):

Criterion (vi): La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site are characteristic examples of historic methods of construction as applied in military architecture between the early sixteenth and late nineteenth centuries. They epitomized the use of adapted European methods of military construction, especially reflective of the late 1500's and the late 1700's, the two primary periods of their construction. They represent the continuum of more than four centuries of architectural, engineering, military, and political history.

2d) Since the original inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, has the World Heritage Committee agreed with a proposal by the State Party that the property be recognized for additional World Heritage values and added additional criteria to the inscription as a result of a re-nomination and/or extension of the property?

No

2d1) *If YES, please indicate which new criteria were added and the date. (dd/mm/yyyy)*

II.3 Statement of Authenticity / Integrity
(See Section 2 of the current Nomination Form and Section 4 of the original Form)

3a) *In addition to meeting one or more of the criteria, which justify inscription on the World Heritage List, a natural or cultural property must meet the appropriate conditions of authenticity and/or integrity, as defined in clauses 24b and 44b of the Operational Guidelines for Implementing the World Heritage Convention. If at the time of inscribing the property on the World Heritage list, the State Party and the International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS and/or the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN, evaluated the authenticity and integrity of the property, please cite those evaluations here. (Please quote directly from the nomination, Committee minutes and the Advisory Body's evaluation.)*

At the time of the nomination the United States noted that: "San Juan National Historic Site is fundamentally in a good state of preservation. Difficult preservation problems exist, but they are being systematically addressed."

"Heavy visitation poses certain maintenance problems; the park welcomed approximately 1.5 million visitors in 1979. The antiquity of most of the structures and the vulnerable materials, principally sandstone, finished in brick and plaster of which they are composed, present formidable problems in preventive maintenance and restoration. Climatic factors also create special needs: for example, vegetation tends to luxuriate, requiring the park staff to give regular attention to its removal."

"The greatest danger to the preservation of the fortifications of San Juan, however, is the erosive action of the sea on the cliffs that underpin the seaside structures."

This problem affected most of the sites included within the park and certainly is still affecting the fortifications. In the nomination, erosion was mentioned as a persistent problem at San Felipe del Morro Castle, San Cristóbal Castle and its Outworks, Fort San Juan de la Cruz (referred as El Cañuelo in the nomination form), and the West Wall (referred as South Wall No. 1 in the nomination form).

Other problems mentioned in the nomination were the condition of the brickwork and breaks at certain sections of the walls. Although these conditions were cited at the moment of the nomination as a lesser concern, the park has reevaluated this position. Since some of the repairs on the walls were done prior to the 1990's, with historically inaccurate materials (like cement) and techniques, the park has found that these repairs, in reality, have further damaged the fortifications. This raises doubts on the stability of the walls and the threat on the integrity and authenticity of the resources.

3b) *Have there been significant changes in the authenticity or integrity of the property since inscription?*

Yes

3b1) *If YES, please describe the changes to the authenticity or integrity and name the main causes.*

Since the 1990's, park management decided to relocate the administrative offices it had on the premises of San Cristóbal Fort. The fortification's Officers and Troop quarters housed the offices of Management, Administration, Interpretation, Fee Program, and Cultural Resources Management. These offices had air conditioning, potable water, electrical and telephonic systems that were affecting the integrity of the buildings in which they were housed. Further problems manifested when the buildings started presenting signs of deterioration due to the environmental changes that the air conditioning system caused.

As in San Felipe del Morro Castle, casemates and rooms of the fortifications have been used for a number of activities for which they were not designed. The park is currently trying to correct this deficiency by consolidating storage spaces and relocating facilities to non-historic areas while restoring the newly opened spaces.

At the moment, the only historic structure that is being used to house office spaces is the Santa Elena Magazine near the premises of Fort San Felipe del Morro.

II.4 Management

(See Section 4 of the current Nomination Form and Section 2 and 4 of the original Form)

Management Regime

4a) *How can the ownership/management of the property best be described? (Select all that apply.)*

- X management under protective legislation

- X management under traditional protective measures

Please describe.

4b) *Please indicate under which level of authority the property is managed*

La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site World Heritage Site have two managers. La Fortaleza is administered by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and thereby is a state site; San Juan National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service as a federal national historic site.

4c) *Please describe the legal status of the property. For example, is it a national, provincial or territorial park? A national or provincial historic site?*

The legal status of La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site arises essentially from their forms of ownership. In addition, La Fortaleza has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States. The San Juan National Historic Site was established in 1949 by Executive Order from the Secretary of the Interior (F.R. Doc 49-1402) under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. This order was repealed in 1976 when a new Executive Order from the Secretary of Interior (No. 2994) was adopted; the site was designated the San Juan National Historic Site, now incorporating the changes of a Cooperative Agreement Between the Commonwealth and the National Park Service.

Both components of the property are subject to preservation legislation by the Federal Government. La Fortaleza also is subjected to the regulations of the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, as well as to the protective purview of the Commission of the Historic Zone of San Juan, an independent commission of the Capital of Puerto Rico. The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture has established standards of conservation and restoration in the historic zone.

La Fortaleza is owned in fee by the Government of Puerto Rico and is the residence and office of the highest elected executive official of Puerto Rico, the Governor. Especially significant in matters related to the historic character of La Fortaleza, is a special committee established to assist in its preservation: Consultant Committee for the Restoration, Conservation, and Improvement of La Fortaleza.

San Juan National Historic Site was established as a unit of the National Park System by order of the Secretary of the Interior, as approved by the President of the United States in 1949. This order directed cooperative management by the National Park Service and the Department of the Army, both agencies of the Federal Government of the United States. This agreement was repealed in 1976 when a new Cooperative Agreement was signed with the Commonwealth clarifying boundaries at the Grounds of San Felipe del Morro Fort and confirming the cession of the area around the Ballajá Quarters Building (inclusive).

Over the period 1955-1973, all land presently constituting the National Historic Site, including portions formerly held by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, as well as the U.S. Army, has been acquired by the National Park Service, which holds fee title to the entire National Historic Site.

4d) Please provide the full name, address and phone/fax/e-mail of the agency(ies) directly responsible for the management of the property.

Contact #1

Agency Name: National Park Service
First Name: Fran
Last Name: Mainella
Address: National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 3112
City: Washington D.C.
State/Prov: Washington D.C.
Postal Code: 20240
Telephone: 202-208-4621
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Contact #2

Agency Name: National Park Service
First Name: Walter
Last Name: Chavez
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City: San Juan
State/Prov: PR
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Telephone: 787-729-6777
Fax: 787-729-6665
Email: Walter_Chavez@NPS.GOV

Contact #3

Agency Name: State Historic Conservation Office
First Name: Torregrosa de la Rosa
Last Name: Enid
Address: P.O. Box 9066581
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State/Prov: Puerto Rico
Postal Code: 00906-6581
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Fax: 787-722-3622
Email: enidtorregrosa@prshpo.gobierno.pr

4e) *Please provide a list of key laws and regulations, which govern the protection and management of the cultural and natural resources of the property.*

Cultural areas under the direct administration of the United States Government possess the highest level of protection available to such properties under U.S. law. Their management and administration are subject to exhaustive sets of codified standards. Internal mechanisms exist to report on dangers to their integrity; such examinations and findings are a matter of public record. Furthermore, such properties are immune to intervention from external private interests, except under license or contract. Finally, all matters affecting the cultural qualities of such property are also subject to review by the State Historic Conservation Office, and in case of a disagreement between the two agencies, by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the administrative regulations governing such review provide for the participation of the public in the decision-making process.

In addition to the substantive protections specified by the laws of Puerto Rico, La Fortaleza was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in 1960. This designation recognizes La Fortaleza's historic significance at the highest national level of importance. While this designation does not limit the authorities of the owner of property, it does mandate the inspection and reporting to the Congress of the United States of any threats to the historic integrity of the property. In addition, no federal funds may be expended on or federal licenses extended to projects that will affect any National Historic Landmark without review of the project by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

San Juan National Historic Site was established by an Executive Order in 1949 by the Secretary of the Interior. This executive order was replaced in 1976 by Order # 2994 of the Secretary of the Interior, which established the San Juan National Historic Site, per boundaries negotiated as part of the Cooperative Agreement of the same year. The park is administered within the National Park System. This system is governed by a series of laws and regulations that are applied at the historic site. These regulations are:

Acts of the United States Government

Antiquities Act of 1906
Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
Government Performance and Results Act of 1993
Historic Sites, Buildings and Antiquities Act
Museum Act
National Environmental Preservation Act of 1969
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
National Park Service Organic Act

Executive Orders

E.O. No. 13006 Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties
E.O. No. 13287 Preserve America

Policy Related Regulations

36 CFR Chapter 1 All National Park Service Regulations
36 CFR Part 2 Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation
36 CFR Part 60 National Register of Historic Places
36 CFR Part 65 National Historic Landmarks
36 CFR Part 68 Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment
of Historic Properties
36 CFR Part 79 Curation of Archeological Collections
40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 N.E.P.A. Regulations
43 CFR Part 7 Archeological Resources Protection

National Park Service Management Policies

4f) Please describe the administrative and management arrangements that are in place for the property concerned, making special mention of the institutions and organizations that have management authority over the property and the arrangements that are in place for any necessary coordination of their actions. Make special reference, if appropriate, to the role of First Nations in managing the property.

San Juan National Historic Site is a unit of the National Park System, administered by the National Park Service. San Juan, by virtue of the internal organization of the agency, is part of the Southeast Region (SERO). The Park Service is a bureau of the Department of the Interior of the United States Federal Government. Hence, the Superintendent oversees management on a day-to-day basis, and reports to the Regional Director who in turn, reports to the National Park Service Director. The park's organizational chart was approved in 2003 and on it the park was reorganized in 6 divisions or offices: Office of the Superintendent, Administration, Maintenance, Protection, Cultural Resources Management, and Interpretation.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico administers La Fortaleza. By virtue of Commonwealth law # 182 of July 23, 1979, the Office of the Governor created a Governor's Advisory Committee for the Restoration, Conservation and Betterment of La Fortaleza. This Advisory Council, previous consultation with the Institute of Puerto-Rican Culture, had responsibility to established public policy with respect to preservation at La Fortaleza. The Office of the Governor has in place a program for maintaining the fort called "Executive Mansion." This program is in charge of maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds, as well as the organization of the activities held at the fortification. Lastly, the State Historic Preservation Office is in charge of the restoration projects for La Fortaleza, directing and funding them previous consultation with the Institute of Puerto-Rican Culture.

In 1976, the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico entered into a cooperative agreement in which responsibilities, boundaries and ownership of lands were settled. This agreement clarified boundary issues on the grounds of San Felipe del Morro Castle and established the responsibilities of both the National Park Service and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in managing this area, and confirmed transference of the former Army Hospital at Ballajá Quarters to the Commonwealth. The agreement confirmed NPS ownership of Parcel "A" (that area of the grounds of the fortification that goes from the North Wall to West Wall, not including a tract of land in front of the Plastic Arts School). This agreement is still in effect.

4g) Please also note whether there have been any significant changes in the ownership, legal status, contractual or traditional protective measures, or management regime for the World Heritage Site since the time of inscription.

There have been no significant changes in ownership, legal status, contractual or traditional protective measures, or management regime for the World Heritage Site since the time of inscription.

4h) Is there a management plan for the property?

Yes. The San Juan National Historic Site has a General Management Plan. The plan, however, dates from 1985 and will be updated.

The Commonwealth has indicated that such a plan will be developed in the future.

4h1) If YES, please summarize the plan, indicating if the plan is being implemented and since when, and the URL where the plan can be located, if available. (A copy of the plan should be submitted in December 2004. See Section 8)

The San Juan National Historic Site has used its General Management Plan to prioritize and develop strategies to accomplish its mandated mission. Although it needs to be updated, the plan also provides with general directions as to some of the most common problems faced at the park: rehabilitation of the historic structures (especially San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo) and the San Cristóbal Outworks), transportation to and from the site, jurisdiction and boundary issues with the Commonwealth, etc. As a result, a whole series of studies specifically designed for programs currently operating at the Historic Site have been developed.

The current plan at San Juan National Historic Site was approved in 1985. It calls for the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources and for the expansion of the interpretive program, while allowing passive recreational activities in appropriate areas. The plan proposes the following actions:

1. Preserve the historic structures and grounds in their existing form.
2. Prohibit any arbitrary alteration, restoration, or removal of historic fabric (defined as the materials dating from the historic period, 1539-1961, that make up the historic structures and grounds).
3. Develop comprehensive preservation/maintenance guides specific to the needs of the historic site.
4. Initiate the necessary research to provide for the proper management, interpretation, and protection of cultural resources.
5. Improve the interpretive program, giving particular emphasis to providing visitors with an overview of almost 500 years of history represented.
6. Develop a pre-visit information system to enhance the visitors' understanding of the resources represented and to inform them of available opportunities.
7. Establish the detached El Cañuelo unit as a primary visitor experience; institute a ferry shuttle from San Juan Harbor across the bay to El Cañuelo; provide interpretation at El Cañuelo; encourage the Bacardi Company to develop a regular land-based shuttle between El Cañuelo and the Bacardi plant.
8. Remove all vehicles from the El Morro Esplanade and prohibit any new parking development within the historic site; develop through cooperative efforts a park-and-ride transit system that will connect the major parking lots, garages, and harbor area of Old San Juan with the San Cristóbal outworks, San Cristóbal, the Esplanade, and El Morro.
9. Improve the law enforcement program to ensure adequate visitor protection.
10. Retain the operating El Morro Lighthouse in its present location; rehabilitate it to ensure preservation and visitor safety.
11. Encourage and work closely with the Civil Defense Agency to assist in relocating that operation outside the historic boundary within the life of this plan.
12. Encourage the commonwealth to assist where appropriate in the planning, implementation, and funding of this general management plan effort, according to the 1976 cooperative agreement.

The National Park Service has complied with most of the proposals in the plan and is working towards accomplishing the most difficult ones (namely those concerning El Cañuelo and encouraging the Commonwealth to assist the park in undertakings associated with the historic site). This plan, as written elsewhere in this report, needs to be updated. The park is planning to start working on the update of the GMP in FY 2005.

4h2) *If NO, is a management plan under preparation or is preparation of such a plan foreseen for the future?*

Financial Resources

4i) *What is the annual operating budget for the property in the current fiscal year? (For sites consisting of more than one property provide the budgets of constituent parts.)*

Allotment for fiscal year 2003 was \$2,471,600 USD. Moneys from non-recurrent sources (mainly maintenance projects) amount to \$1,397,820 USD. For La Fortaleza, the recommended budget was \$5,120,000 USD. This figure, however, represents the overall programs of the Office of the Governor. The actual figures for the Executive Mansion Program (dedicated solely to maintenance and preservation of the fortification) is \$1,560,000 USD. Also money invested by the State Historic Preservation Office in restoration of the site is not included.

Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

4k) *Please describe any sources of specialized expertise, training, and services that come from sources off-site (e.g., training centers, museum conservation facilities).*

The San Juan National Historic Site, as part of the National Park Service, has a series of specialized centers that provide expertise, training and services:

Historic Preservation Training Center at Frederick, MD

Harpers Ferry Center at Harpers Ferry, WV

Horace M. Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon, AZ

Virginia Lime Works, Lynchburg, VA- Provides training in lime-based construction techniques

National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, VA

Denver Service Center at Denver, CO

Southeast Archeological Center at Tallahassee, Florida

Expertise for La Fortaleza is provided by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the Department of transportation and Public Works, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

4j) *Please provide information about the number of staff working at the World Heritage Site (enter figures).*

For the San Juan National Historic Site:

Full Time:	34
Part Time:	0
Seasonal:	0
Other:	63 (Includes employees under contracts, and employees from concessionaires)

For La Fortaleza:

Full Time:	95
Part Time:	0
Seasonal:	0
Other:	0

Please list the job categories of these staff (e.g., Park Superintendent, Historian, Ecologist, Interpreter, General Works/Maintenance Manager) and describe the specialized skills and expertise of the World Heritage Site's staff members.

Currently these are the categories of staff working at the San Juan National Historic Site:

- a) Management-4 employees
- b) Administration-5 employees
- c) Cultural Resources Management-7 employees
- d) Interpretation-8 employees
- e) Protection-12 employees (the Fee Program of the park is included within this Division).
- f) Maintenance Division-53 employees
- g) Concession to Eastern National Monuments and Parks Association-8 employees

At La Fortaleza:

- a) Direction and General Administration- 30 employees
- b) Executive Mansion-50 employees
- c) Office of the First Lady-15 employees

Visitation

4l) *Are there any visitor statistics for the site?*

Yes.

41) *If YES, please provide the annual visitation for the most recent year it is available, indicating what year that is, a brief summary of the methodology for counting visitors, and briefly describe the trends in visitation. (In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)*

Report Date: December, 2002

FACILITY	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	CALENDAR YTD % OF CHANGE	FISCAL YTD	FISCAL YTD% CHANGE
El Morro	39,105	522,122	4.2	102,144	2.6
San Cristóbal	23,751	317,631	-11.5	63,404	-12.4
Grounds of El Morro	32,848	438,616	4.2	85801	2.6
Total	95,704	1,278,409	-0.2	251,349	-1.6

Since 1983, various systems for collecting visitation data were tried at the San Juan National Historic Site. A study conducted in 1993 on visitation patterns determined that a percentage of 84% of the actual visitation registered at Castillo de San Felipe del Morro would be added to account for visitation at the grounds of the fort. Since this study, visitation to the park was calculated based on the figures for visitors on special tours and educational programs, visitation by individuals, and adding the aforementioned fixed percentage to these figures to account for total visitation at the park.

According to La Fortaleza's Tour Guide Office; there were approximately 25,000 visitors in 2003. The data were gathered using a daily log of the excursions or individuals who visit the executive mansion.

4m) *Please briefly describe the visitor facilities at the property.*

The San Juan National Historic Site offers the visitor a different set of options. In 2002, a new visitors center at Fort San Cristóbal was inaugurated which allows for better access to the fortification. The new visitor center has more parking spaces (about 30, including reserved parking spaces for the handicapped), restrooms, and a concessionary. Consumption of food (other than water) and smoking are not allowed in the premises of the park. Castillo de San Cristóbal is handicapped accessible. On the fortification itself, the park has a concessionary and restroom facilities. Castillo de San Felipe del Morro has a concessionary and restroom facilities.

The park does not offer transportation from Castillo de San Cristóbal to Castillo de San Felipe del Morro. The City of San Juan, however, does offer public transportation within the Old San Juan area in which stops at the fortifications are included. Assistance for persons with disabilities is provided by the park at the request of the visitor.

La Fortaleza, due to the fact that it's the Governor's residence, does not have visitor facilities. However, after rehabilitation of the nearby building of the "Real Audiencia" is completed, a visitor center will be opened (date to be opened is unknown).

4n) *Is there tourism/visitor management plan for the property?*

No.

4n1) *If YES, please briefly summarize the plan, and provide a URL where the plan can be located.*

N/A

Scientific Studies

4o) *Please list key scientific studies and research programs that have been conducted concerning the site. (Please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)*

Since 1983, a series of studies have been conducted in the San Juan National Historic Site that inform the decision-making process of the parks management: e.g., *The Fortifications of San Juan: Historic Structure Report*, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 1991.

4o1) *Please describe how the results of these studies and research programs have been used in managing the World Heritage Site.*

In 1991, the park commissioned a Historic Structures Report. This report addresses the historical evolution of the fortifications of San Juan emphasizing the technical developments that led to changes in the Spanish defensive system in Puerto Rico. The report made recommendations about preservation techniques and conservation of the resources. Current techniques employed in preserving the fortifications are based on these recommendations. The H.S.R. is widely used as a reference source for maintenance, interpretation, and research, as well as compliance documentation.

4o2) *What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played in the design of these scientific studies and research programs? For example, has there been a specific effort in these programs to focus on the recognized World Heritage values of the property?*

None, or very limited.

Education, Information and Awareness Building

4p) *Is there a plaque at the property indicating that it is a designated World Heritage Site?*

Yes

4q) *Is the World Heritage Convention logo used on all of the publications for the property?*

Not all, but most publications of San Juan National Historic Site do have the WHC logo.

4r) *Are there educational programs concerning the property's World Heritage values aimed at schools?*

Yes.

4r1) *If YES, please briefly describe these programs.*

Our educational programs (a 50 minutes conference and a 2 hour special tour) are considered by teachers and students that visit us as "a perfect complement for social studies and history classes" (according to their written evaluations).

San Juan National Historic Site not only emphasizes the historical and cultural richness of the fortifications of San Juan, but also their amazing architecture and the efforts to preserve them for future generations. Both the historical and cultural aspects of the forts of Old San Juan are part of history and social studies curriculums used in public and private school systems. Also, by discussing the architectural aspects of the forts, we also reach other curriculum topics in art, geology and geography.

One of the tools that the park has been using for the past three years is the educational program "Patrimonitos". Approximately 2,298 persons have participated in the 96 programs offered by the park. As a World Heritage Site, we are working with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Education to develop a series of lesson plans that will allow both the public school system and San Juan National Historic Site to incorporate an innovative educational tool in the official social studies and history course curriculums. By doing this, we hope to increase the student's knowledge and pride for one of their most important cultural and historical heritages.

4s) *Are there special events and exhibitions concerning the property's World Heritage values?*

Yes

4s1) *If YES, please briefly describe them.*

Although, the educational programs are, probably, the best example of World Heritage-focused programs in San Juan NHS, all our exhibits are related to important events of our military history that testifies to the original objectives for the construction of the fortifications of San Juan. Historical events from 1521 to 1898 are part of our archives and museum collections and are included in brochures and other written information given to students and tourists. The park has also declared December 6, the date were the site was included in the List of World Heritage Sites, as a free-admission day.

Finally, as an example of Puerto Rico's strategic importance through the centuries, we have the opportunity to show our students an example of a 20th century American bunker. In this bunker, there are exhibits explaining what a World Heritage Site is, some examples of World Heritage Sites around the World, and examples of sites in the United States. Also, there we can discuss and analyze Puerto Rican history at the beginning of 20th century, the advances in military engineering and technology and, of course, the obvious differences between the construction materials used by the Spanish and Americans.

4t) Please briefly describe the facilities, visitor center, site museum, trails, guides and information material that are available to visitors to the World Heritage Site.

The San Juan National Historic Site offers the visitor a different set of options. Throughout the site, visitors will find waysides illustrating different features of the fortifications, or telling the story of the 400 years of Spanish presence on the islands. The park brochure addresses the most important aspects of the structural evolution of the forts, as well as their importance for the Spanish Empire. Also featured on the park brochure are the most important attacks and the historical context in which they happened. Covering two main fortifications, one minor but very important one, and most of the walls surrounding colonial San Juan, park interpretive staff have developed a series of brochures that are particular to each fortification. These enable visitors to walk by themselves through the fortifications. Tours are offered daily on both forts; twice in English and twice in Spanish. Educational programs are offered on Thursdays and Fridays during the school year. These programs are in the process of being adapted to the standards of the local Department of Education.

In 2002, a new visitor center was inaugurated at Castillo de San Cristóbal which allows for better access to the fortification. The new visitor center has more parking spaces (about 30, including reserved parking spaces for the handicapped), an audiovisual room for about 75 people, a video about the history of the fortifications, restrooms, a concessionary, and exhibits on the history of the site and its World Heritage Site character. Researchers can also access the historic site's museum and library collections at its Cultural Resources Management Division headquarters located in the Visitors Center. Castillo de San Cristóbal is handicapped accessible. At the fortification itself, visitors can go to a concessionary and view exhibits. Original pieces of artillery are displayed around the fortification, and a video demonstration on how these cannons were fired is available. Restrooms are also available in the first level of the fort.

Castillo de San Felipe del Morro has a concessionary and museum. Exhibits portraying the history and development of the fortifications can be found around the fortification. The new Protection Division headquarters are located in the dry moat of the fortification. A renewed audiovisual room will be available to the visitors in 2004. Restrooms are located in the main plaza of the fortification. Only the upper levels are handicapped accessible. At the top level of the fort, visitors can see the oldest lighthouse built by the Spaniards in Puerto Rico.

Another feature of the site is the "Paseo del Morro." This trail was opened in 2000 and allows access to the harbor area through the San Juan Gate, the only one of the historical gates that remains unchanged and the only gate that also allowed access to the city through the harbor. The "Paseo" borders the whole West Wall and gives another perspective on the fortification system. Throughout the trail, wayside exhibits are available.

Crossing the harbor is a little fortification called Fort San Juan de la Cruz, commonly referred to as El Cañuelo. Interpretive wayside exhibits are located in this area.

La Fortaleza (due to the fact that it is the Governor's residence) does not have visitor facilities. However, after rehabilitation of the nearby building of the "Real Audiencia" is completed, a visitor center will be opened (a date for the opening of this visitor center was not available at the time of writing this report).

4u) What role, if any, has the property's designation as a World Heritage Site played with respect to the education, information and awareness building activities described above? For example, has the World Heritage designation been used as a marketing, promotional, or educational tool?

The designation has been used mostly as a promotional and educational tool. Most of the brochures of the park have the World Heritage Site Convention logo and the plaques commemorating the inclusion in the List of World Heritage Sites (one located at Castillo de San Felipe del Morro, the other at Castillo de San Cristóbal) are located in visible places.

The park also offers two educational programs that promote the park as a World Heritage Site. In these programs the need to preserve is not only related to the value that the fortifications have for Puerto-Ricans, it is also related to the history and development of a culture, the development of a common identity with other Latin-American countries, and finally, with what this fortification has meant to other nations in the past, present and future, in other words their universality.

II.5 Factors Affecting the Property (See Section 5 of the current Nomination Form)

5) Please briefly identify factors affecting the property under the following headings: *Development Pressures, Environmental Pressures, Natural Disasters and Preparedness, Visitor and Tourism Pressures, Number of Inhabitants Within Property and Buffer Zone and Other* - major factors likely to affect the World Heritage values of the property. First discuss those that were identified in the original nomination, in the same order in which they were presented there, then those that have been discussed in reports to the World Heritage Committee since inscription, and then other identified factors.

This section should provide information on all the factors which are likely to affect a property. It should also relate those threats to measures taken to deal with them, whether by application of the protection described in Section 4e or otherwise.

Not all of the factors suggested in this section are appropriate for all properties. The list provided is indicative and is intended to assist the State Party in identifying the factors that are relevant to each specific property.

(In describing these trends, please use the year of inscription as a baseline.)

For EACH Factor, please specify the following:

key actions taken to address factor

any plans that have been prepared to deal with factor in the future

whether the impacts of factor appears to be increasing or decreasing, and the timeframe for which the comparison is being made.

Development Pressures

5a) *Provide information about Development Pressures on the following: demolitions or rebuilding; the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses which would harm their authenticity or integrity; habitat modification or destruction following encroaching agriculture, forestry or grazing, or through poorly managed tourism or other uses; inappropriate or unsustainable natural resource exploitation; damage caused by mining; and the introduction of invasive nonnative species likely to disrupt natural ecological processes, creating new centers of population on or near properties so as to harm them or their settings.*

Most of the problems confronted by San Juan National Historic Site in terms of development are born of the location of the park. The City of Old San Juan confronted development pressures since its enclosure within the walls during the 18th Century. The problem became unsustainable in the 19th Century, and in 1897, a section of the wall was demolished to allow the city to expand.

Since Old San Juan is a historic district, development in the city is regulated. One of the most urgent problems is the encroachment of the North section of the walls by the neighboring community of La Perla. The National Park Service owns a tract of land that has been occupied illegally by residents of the neighborhood. The park also owns 6 feet of land extending from the foot of the wall that is necessary for allowing equipment used for maintenance of the 40 feet high wall. These circumstances have made it more difficult to carry out restoration projects aimed at stabilizing the north wall. This problem has left the park with the difficult situation of issuing eviction notices. An associated problem is vandalism, in the form of stolen property and graffiti. Throughout the north wall, graffiti is omnipresent and at El Morro, there have been at least two incidents where stolen property was involved.

Another area in which the impact of development can be seen is at the breakwater at Castillo de San Felipe del Morro. The breakwater had to be constructed to stop erosion caused by waves and constant activity of San Juan Harbor (the fourth in the Americas in terms of quantity of ships) -- ships entering and exiting the port also contribute to erosion at the base of the fortifications. This problem is aggravated by the occasional grounding of ships. Two cases were particularly dangerous, one in 1999 when a Russian ship ran aground at the breakwater of El Morro, and in 2003 when one did so in front of Fort San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo).

Development has impacted other areas of the fortifications. Old San Juan has a high volume of traffic which is not regulated. The City tried to ban heavy vehicles from circulating in the historic district, but a decision of the Commonwealth's Supreme Court declared this city regulation illegal (based on the principle that no legislative authority was issued to the city for such purposes). The situation of unregulated traffic in the city is cited as the main cause for the collapse of a section of the north wall, near Santo Tomás Bastion on February 29, 2004. The park, in partnership with Commonwealth and City agencies, is conducting a survey on the stability of the wall and will pursue regulation of traffic within areas surrounding the historic site. Also, repairs and rehabilitation of the wall will be underway this fiscal year. Strong public support for legislation restricting the access of heavy vehicles to the City has been constant since the collapse of the wall.

Environmental Pressures

5b) Environmental pressures can affect all types of property. Air pollution can have a serious effect on stone buildings and monuments as well as on fauna and flora. Desertification can lead to erosion by sand and wind. What is needed in this section is an indication of those pressures which are presenting a current threat to the property, or may do so in the future, rather than a historical account of such pressures in the past.

The San Juan National Historic Site confronts three main threats in this area: erosion, air pollution and vegetation growth on the walls:

Erosion

A problem which was present at the time of inscription, which has persisted although controlled by the park, has been erosion from both wind and waves. In the case of wind erosion, the direction of the trade winds (from east to west) -- and strong currents they generate -- is causing loss of fabric material. The problem is aggravated by the fact that the fortifications are among the tallest buildings in Old San Juan or are, by virtue of their geographic location, in high places (an obvious placement considering they were military outposts). In the case of Fort San Juan de la Cruz, there are no natural or artificial barriers blocking the wind, leaving the fort subject to wind erosion. Because of problems caused by this type of erosion, most of the main features of the fortifications have recently undergone preservation work (e.g. Lighthouse of El Morro).

Wave-caused erosion presents another problem for the park. The northern coast of the San Juan Islet is receding, and main features of the park have already been affected (Devil's Sentry Box and La Princesa Battery at Fort San Cristóbal, Water Battery at Fort San Felipe del Morro). Because of the high volume of ship traffic on San Juan Bay, both Fort San Juan de la Cruz and Fort San Felipe del Morro have been affected by the waves that ships cause and had to be protected with breakwaters.

Vegetation Growth

Vegetation growth in the walls of the fortifications has resulted in the loss of historic fabric. This problem, documented at the moment of the inscription of the site has been controlled through cyclic cleanings on sections of the fortifications and walls. The roots of trees are the primary cause of this problem. If the trees reach maturity, they can cause the wall to collapse due to their weight. Also, nesting birds in the walls further damage the historic fabric. When the birds migrate, the nests become the home of other pests like rats who, in turn, continue to gnaw on the historic fabric creating further structural damage.

Air pollution

This problem was not documented in the nomination form in 1983. However, since the rapid development on the San Juan metropolitan area it has become an issue. The park is located in a heavy industrialized area and, with heavy sea and land traffic. Air pollution is a problem caused by the heavy vehicular traffic in the area due to the fact that both the Commonwealth and City have their main offices there. There is also constant traffic of inhabitants of the old City, tourist buses, and local visitors. Although Old San Juan and the Isla de Cabras area properly do not have industrial complexes, its proximity to areas such as Hato Rey, Guaynabo, Bayamón and Cataño make it vulnerable to the gases generated by the industries operating in this areas. The historic site undoubtedly has suffered the effects of pollution. This fact is verified by the quantity of painting that needs to be done annually, and by chemical analysis on the mortar finish.

In this latter case, the chemicals in the air react to the mortar mix and can create discolorations on the walls. In the worst case, this can accelerate deterioration on the finishes, hence affecting the structural integrity of the fortifications.

The park has dealt with these problems through a cyclic maintenance program that, in general has been successful. Building or reinforcing breakwaters along the coasts of the site has controlled erosion caused by sea waves. Most notably among these are the ones located at Isla de Cabras (protecting Fort San Juan de la Cruz-El Cañuelo), at the entrance of the harbor (protecting Castillo de San Felipe del Morro) and the one at the Devil's Sentry Box (Fortín del Espigón at Castillo de San Cristóbal). Also, a successful restoration program has restored not only the appearance of the forts, but also the resistance of their walls to the elements.

Natural Disasters and Preparedness

5c) This section should indicate those disasters which present a foreseeable threat to the property and what steps have been taken to draw up contingency plans for dealing with them, whether by physical protection measures or staff training. (In considering physical measures for the protection of monuments and buildings it is important to respect the integrity of the construction.)

The most recurrent natural threats to the site are hurricanes. The hurricane season starts in June and ends in November. In recent years, San Juan National Historic Site has been affected by two major hurricane events: Hugo and Georges. The site has in place a Hurricane Plan and an Emergency Action Plan that are activated when a major event threatens the site.

The park Emergency Action Plan provides the park with emergency alert procedures, evacuation procedures, a procedure for accounting for all employees after evacuation has been completed, personnel responsibilities and equipment, emergency response procedures, recovering, investigation, and assessment of damages procedures, employee training, and evaluation of implementation of the plan. In case of a hurricane, the park has designed a 6-step action plan. These actions begin at least 1 month before June 1st. From condition 5 to 1 all necessary measures are taken to secure the areas and features (like museum collection repositories and items on exhibit) of the fortifications that are determined to be vulnerable and likely to suffer heavy damage.

Visitor and Tourism Pressures

5d) *In completing this section what is required is an indication of whether the property can absorb the current or likely number of visitors without adverse effects (i.e., its carrying capacity). An indication should also be given of the steps taken to manage the following:*

- i. damage by wear on stone, timber, grass or other ground surfaces;*
- ii. damage by increases in heat or humidity levels;*
- iii. damage by disturbance to the habitat of living or growing things; and*
- iv. damage by the disruption of traditional cultures or ways of life.*

Park visitation figures have been steady for the last two years. On average, about 1.2 million visitors come to the San Juan National Historic Site. The area where visitation is clearly visible is maintenance/historic preservation. Visitation at the fort continually affects the integrity of their historic fabric. It is estimated that approximately 81% of the \$1.15 million USD in Maintenance expenditures was spent on the Forts and City Wall subprogram in FY 2002. This program includes the money spent on staff, supplies, and materials needed to restore three forts and 2.5 miles (4 km) of walls accounts for these expenditures.

A highly impacted area is the grounds of Castillo de San Felipe del Morro. According to park statistics, about 500,000 visitors annually use this area. Most of them come for recreational purposes; others use it as an area for public demonstrations. The grounds have not yet been surveyed for archeological sites, but since the area was urbanized by the U.S. Army (the National Park Service later demolished all the modern structures), the probability of intact sites is questionable, yet needs to be officially determined.

Since visitation to the fortifications is seasonal, preservation work is scheduled accordingly. Through cyclic and preventive maintenance, use of historically accurate preservation methods, and directing visitation patterns, the park is able to minimize the impact on the integrity of the resource.

5e) *Include the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants, if any, within the property and any buffer zone and describe any activities they undertake which affect the property.*

The 2000 Census data indicates that the City of San Juan is the most populated municipality of Puerto Rico. It is estimated that 434,374 people live in the capital city. An additional one million people come and go on a daily basis. Within the metropolitan San Juan area, the population exceeds more than 1,000,000 inhabitants. This urban area is the setting for La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site.

Old San Juan proper houses 7,963 inhabitants, but its surrounding area -- namely Santurce and Puerta de Tierra -- have a population of 94,067. These urban settings have a strong impact on the management of the site. One of the main concerns as of 2003 is the boundary between the San Juan National Historic Site and the community of La Perla. This area is one of the most dangerous zones of the city. Drug dealing and use, prostitution and a high number of homeless persons have affected the site's capability of providing maintenance, interpretation, and proper law enforcement in the area.

Lastly, there are also the important tourist-commercial and governmental activities that take place in Old San Juan. The old city is a preferred destiny not only for cruise ships and foreign tourists but also from local visitors. This in turn generates great economic activity in the area. Most people visiting San Juan end up paying a visit to the fortifications.

Since both the City and the Commonwealth governments are located in the area there is a high volume of activities that can affect daily operations of the site. Demonstrations both against and for governmental policies take place at the Puerta de Tierra area (where the Capitol building is located) or at La Fortaleza. Since these demonstrations usually involve the interruption of traffic, the park can experience a decrease in visitation, and/or employees are not able to get to their workplaces.

5f) *List Other Factors*

II.6 Monitoring

(See Section 6 of the current Nomination Form)

Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property

6a) *Is there a formal monitoring program established for the site? In this case, "monitoring" means the repeated and systematic observation and collection of data on one or more defined factors or variables over a period of time.*

No

6a1) *If YES, please describe the monitoring program, indicating what factors or variables are being monitored and which partners, if any, are or will be involved in the program.*

Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation

6b) *At the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage list, or while in the process of reviewing the status of the property at subsequent meetings, have the World Heritage Committee and the State Party identified and agreed upon key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage values?*

No

6b1) *If YES, please list and describe these key indicators, provide up-to-date data with respect to each of them, and also indicate actions taken by the State Party in response to each indicator.*

6b2) *If NO key indicators were identified by the World Heritage Committee and used so far, please indicate whether the World Heritage Site management authority is developing or plans to develop key indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the property's World Heritage Values.*

San Juan National Historic Site management staff have contacted the appropriate Commonwealth agencies that are responsible for fortifications in the San Juan area (and under their jurisdiction) to establish protocols for maintaining these structures according to National Park Service standards. As of the writing this report, the State Historic Conservation Office, the Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture were in preliminary conversations to establish such a protocol.

Through this protocol the park wants to standardize preservation practices with the different local agencies that work with fortifications in the San Juan Islet area. Such a protocol will include a monitoring program, standard procedures, and cyclic maintenance schedules.

Results of Previous Reporting Exercises

6c) *Please describe briefly the current status of actions the State Party has taken in response to recommendations from the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription or afterwards, through the process known as "reactive reporting." (Note: The answer to this question will be "not applicable" for many sites.)*

Not applicable

II.7 Conclusions

World Heritage Values

7a) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the state of the World Heritage values of the property (see items II.2. and II.3. above).

Since the time of the inscription in the World Heritage List (1983), La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site have made a lot of progress in preserving these masterpieces of military architecture. At San Juan National Historic Site, the park started practicing and mastering construction techniques used here centuries ago by the Spanish builders. Restoration projects have focused more and more on solving problems caused by erosion, vegetation, human action, and pollution.

At the time of inscription, the primary concern was the effects of erosion on structures. Now, even though the above is still a major concern, the park is moving ahead and trying to focus more on removing the modern materials which are affecting the stability and integrity of the fortification system. This process will give the fortifications a historically accurate appearance, structural stability, and, esthetically, a better finish, hence fostering those values for which they were included in the World Heritage List.

Preservation of these wonders has to take into consideration not only the esthetics of the site, but their historic context, their meaning to the public and finally the craftsmanship of the builders of the fortifications. Current conservation methods the park is using are the same techniques that the Spanish used. Similar materials are being used and material that has been identified as damaging to the walls is being removed. However there is much to be done. With the partnerships developed between with Commonwealth agencies and the park, the park will be able to, as mandated by legislation, dedicate itself to: "...the preservation, protection, and interpretation of its internationally significant resources including its vast Spanish fortifications and military history to provide understanding, appreciation, and inspiration to this and future generations". After 21 years, the World Heritage values for which this site was inscribed remain intact.

Management and Factors Affecting Site

7b) Please summarize the main conclusions regarding the management of and factors affecting the property (see items II.4. and II.5. above).

Of the factors affecting the property are the matter of boundaries and preservation of the walls. Being located in an urban environment, the park is exposed to threats like vandalism and trespassing, effects of modern means of transportation, and in general, of modern life in the fortifications. The issue of juxtaposition of the neighborhood of La Perla is a difficult situation. Our maintenance employees work under difficult circumstances when conducting work to preserve the walls at La Perla. Lack of law enforcement personnel has been identified in our plans as one of our most serious flaws.

Some of the problems affecting the site like erosion, air pollution, vegetation growth and visitors impact on the resources are being considered right now as part of the different planning efforts (General Management Plan, Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, etc). At this moment, through preventive and cyclic maintenance the San Juan National Historic Site has been able to minimize the impact of these factors, but the threat to the resource is still present. The most obvious example being the section of the north wall that collapsed at the end of February 2004.

Natural disasters may be inevitable, even though the fortifications were not affected by a recent (2003) hurricane. Fortunately enough the park has two emergency plans and more in preparation.

Although some problems will affect the ability of San Juan National Historic Site to perform its duties, the park is currently establishing partnerships with different agencies. Law enforcement issues will be worked out with local police and other Federal Law Enforcement agencies. The park is working towards achieving a protocol that will regulate preservation work in the fortifications of San Juan, according to NPS standards. This will enable coordination of efforts with local agencies when performing rehabilitation of a structure. In other words, collaboration and communication will enable both the Commonwealth and the historic site to maintain the fortifications of San Juan in formidable conditions.

Proposed Future Action(s)

7c) Please describe briefly future actions that the State Party has approved to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage values of the property.

The National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico firmly believe that a change in the boundaries of the World Heritage Site is in order. The City Wall that belongs to the Commonwealth -- from San Juan Gate to Las Palmas Bastion (not included), and from Las Palmas to San Justo -- is also part of the Spanish defensive system. The National Park Service concurs with the Commonwealth that such fragmentation of the World Heritage Site will convey the incorrect notion that this section of the wall has less historical value. The Commonwealth is already working on the inscription of the walls as a National Historic Landmark, an endeavor that the National Park Service completely supports.

San Juan National Historic Site has, through a series of initiatives, tried to increase its funding sources. Alternatives have ranged from rewriting funding projects to reducing costs; most of these strategies are part of the park's Business Plan. The park will include World Heritage values in its new General Management. Work on this plan is scheduled to begin in FY 2005. The park has been involved with the Commonwealth in establishing a protocol for treatment of the fortifications of San Juan in which preservation practices can be outlined. This important step towards a common policy in preservation matters will allow future generations to enjoy and learn from these important reminders of our past.

Responsible Implementing Agency(ies)

7d) *Please identify the agency(ies) responsible for implementation of these actions described in 7c, if different from those listed in Section II.4.*

Timeframe for Implementation

7e) *If known, or predictable, please provide a timeline for the implementation of the actions described in 7c.*

Actions for solving the main problems faced by the fortifications are already being implemented. It is expected that after the General Management Plan for the San Juan National Historic Site is completed the park will already have a series of strategies to achieve these goals.

Needs for International Assistance

7f) *Is it anticipated that International Assistance, through the World Heritage Fund, will be requested for any of the planned actions described above?*

No

Potential Decisions for the World Heritage Committee

7g) *Please indicate if the World Heritage Site management authority has preliminarily identified, as a result of this reporting exercise, an apparent need to seek a World Heritage Committee decision to change any of the following:*

(Note: Following completion of the Periodic Report exercise, the State Party, in consultation with appropriate authorities, will determine whether to proceed with seeking a Committee decision on these changes. To request such changes, the State Party will need to follow a separate, formal process, subsequent to submitting the report.)

- change to criteria for inscription
- change to Statement of Significance
- proposed new Statement of Significance, where previously missing
- change boundaries or buffer zone

II.8 Documentation

(See Section 7 of the current Nomination Form and Section 3 of the original Nomination Form)

8a) Please review the original nomination for the property to determine whether it is necessary or advisable to supply, update or amend any of the following documentation for the World Heritage Site. Indicate what documentation will be supplied to supplement the information found in this report. (This documentation should be supplied at the time the Periodic Report is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in December 2004.)

- a) Photographs, slides and, where available, film. This material should be accompanied by a duly signed authorization granting, free of charge to UNESCO, the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use it in accordance with the terms of the authorization attached.
- b) Topographic or other map or site plan which locates the WHS and its boundaries, showing scale, orientation, projection, datum, site name, date and graticule.
- c) A copy of the property management plan.
- d) A Bibliography consisting of references to all the main published sources on the World Heritage Site, compiled to international standards.

8b) Do you have a digital map of the WHS, showing its location and boundaries?

No.

8bi) If yes, in what format(s) is the map?

8bii) Is it published on a publicly-accessible website?

No.

8biii) If yes, please provide the URL of the site where the map can be found. Must be a valid URL.

