UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

NAME:
COMMON:
SAN JUAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
AND/OR HISTORIC:

LOCATION:
STREET AND NUMBER:
(area headquarters on Calle de Norzagaray)
CITY OR TOWN:
Old San Juan
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Puerto Rico
STATE:
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)

DISTRICT
BUILDING
SITE
STRUCTURE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC
YES
RESTRICTED
UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

AGENCY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Southeast Regional Office
CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta
STREET AND NUMBER:
3401 Whipple Avenue
STATE:
Georgia
CODE: 30344

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Federal Records
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Department of the Interior
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.
STATE:
D.C.
CODE:

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
(1) As Built Surveys, U.S. Army
(2) HABS
DATE OF SURVEY:
1952-55
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
(1) San Juan NHS
(2) Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
Old San Juan
Capital Hill
CITY OR TOWN:
Puerto Rico
WASHINGTON
STATE:
D.C.
CODE: 042

FOR NFS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

H-200 EL MORRO (Castillo de San Felipe del Morro)

Approximate acreage: 7

Geographical Coordinates:
LAT 66 07 29
LON 18 28 26

First Order of Significance

San Felipe del Morro is a large masonry Fort located on the far western tip of San Juan Island and commanding the entrance to San Juan Bay. The fort covers approximately 7 acres and is built in 8 tiers (levels). The lowest tier is 16 feet above mean water level; the top is 140 feet above. Of the 8 levels, two are outside the main structure—San Fernando Bastion in the South Moat and the caponnier Tejeda on the north side.

On the landside, El Morro is protected by a dry moat that stretches between the north coast of San Juan Island across the tip to steep cliffs on the bay side. The fortress roughly is triangular in plan with projecting hornworks on the landward side. A sallyport is the only means of egress to the fort and is centered in curtain walls between the hornworks and reached by a masonry bridge across the dry moat.

The level of the sally port is the parade, or "Plaza de Armas," a long, fairly narrow court which is flanked on both sides by casemates. The northside of the plaza is separated from Carmen Bastion by an arched passage way. Immediately opposite the sally port entrance is the main gun ramp, flanked by steps leading to Santa Barbara and lower levels.

On the level above the Plaza de Armas and partially supported on the casemates, two large bastions—Austria and Choco—face landward and a third battery faces northwest and the sea. These are reached by ramps from the Carmen Bastion and the south end of the plaza.

Santa Barbara Bastion, 48 feet below the level of the Plaza, faces the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of San Juan. The seaside and bayside batteries are divided by a courtyard at a lower level, reached by steps near the foot of the main ramp.

A series of casemates open on the northside of the courtyard. These casemates support Santa Barbara Bastion and were intended for armaments. The open vaulted "casemates" on the southside support the main ramp and were used for kitchen, forge and other service facilities for the garrison. From the casemate on the northwestern side of the courtyard, a vaulted tunnel leads to the remains of the 16th century tower that is the kernel of El Morro. Steps from the tower provide access to the "floating battery" at the western tip of El Morro. This
The San Juan fortifications consist of the major fortresses of El Morro and San Cristóbal with their outworks, the city walls, and the satellite forts of El Cañuelo and San Jerónimo, and other structures representing first, second, and third lines of defense. As one of the major Caribbean fortifications of the Spanish Empire, the San Juan defenses contributed to the protection of Spanish imperial interests in the New World.

Begun in the sixteenth century (1539), the defense works had been expanded and added to in four centuries to the period of World War II. In its existing form, the fortifications generally retain the character and appearance of the most advanced 18th century defense techniques that were applied to a difficult and unusual site. Within the framework of the eighteenth century, the defense units still exhibit traces of earlier origin and military features of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Exposed to military action and development in every century of its existence, the San Juan defenses are associated with historic figures such as Sir Francis Drake, Earl of Cumberland, General Bowdoin Henrick, Juan Bautista Antonelli, Field Marshall Alejandro O'Reilly, Thomas O'Daly, Sir Ralph Abercromby, and many others.

San Juan National Historic Site includes Castillo de San Felipe del Morro, El Cañuelo, the North Wall, most of the South Wall, and San Cristóbal and its outworks formed by Santa Teresa and La Princesa, El Abanico, the Great Moat and La Trinidad and San Carlos Ravelins.
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 48

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: F.C. Giessing, Architect; Loretta Schmidt, Historian 6-12-73

BUSINESS ADDRESS: San Juan National Historic Site

STREET AND NUMBER: Castille San Cristobal (Post Office Box 712)

CITY OR TOWN: Old San Juan

STATE: Puerto Rico

CODE: 00902

PHONE: 809-724-1974

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is [ ] National  [ ] State  [ ] Local

Federal Representative Signature  Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
is the lowest level of armament in the fortress.

A number of sentry boxes and listening posts (loopholes) are located on Santa Barbara and Carmen Bastions and the top level.

begun in the 16th century (1539), El Morro has been expanded, repaired and renewed many times. The last extensive remodeling was done during the 1780s. Since then a number of changes and additions have been made during the early and mid-nineteenth century, prior to the Spanish-American War, and during World Wars I & II.

The fort is constructed essentially with walls of San Juan sandstone, with vaulting and piers in brick, and sand and earth-fill between wall shelves. Late 19th century and World Wars I & II additions are concrete. All exposed surfaces inside and out originally were plaster.

The top tier supports a brick lighthouse from early 20th century; with the remains of a mid-19th century structure incorporated.

H-201 NORTH WALL

Acreage: 5 Geographical Coordinates: LAT LON
West point
66 07 24 18 28 26
East 66 06 45 18 28 15

First Order of Significance PRESERVATION

The North Wall is more than 3700 yards of the city walls, varying in width from 24-50 feet and in height between 15-30 feet. The walls are constructed in sandstone blocks and generally were plastered.

The six bastions—San Antonio, Santa Rosa, Santo Domingo, Las Animas, San Tomas and San Sebastian—are connected with curtain walls. Each bastion contains embrasures, firing steps and a sentry box.

Two former city gates penetrate the wall. One is Santa Rosa Gate in the curtain wall between Santa Rosa and Santo Domingo. The other, farther to the east, penetrates the wall in San Tomas.
The appearance of the wall, except the deteriorated finishes and some intrusion by the growth of La Perla, is nearly the same as the original one.

H-202 CASTILLO SAN CRISTOBAL

Approximate acreage: 4
Geographical coordinates: LAT 66 06 42 ON 18 28 14

Preservation and Restoration

San Cristobal is the inner line of defense of the large 18th century fortifications that guarded the landside of San Juan. It was connected to El Morro by city walls, north and south.

The fort is approached from the street by a ramp that leads to a central courtyard. A triangular plaza is bordered by barracks, casemates and officers quarters. The offensive part of the fort is directly north to northeast and southeast. The casemates on the northside of the plaza contained the enclosed gun positions and also supported a gun deck facing the Atlantic Ocean.

Tunnels from the eastside of the plaza lead to the Great Moat that separates San Cristobal from its outworks. Tunnel ramps lead to the main batteries on El Plano Bastion and El Caballero at levels higher than the plaza.

A gate from the south end of the plaza provides access to a semi-bastion and at one time was egress to the South Walls, razed in 19th century.

San Cristobal is built around the remains of a 17th century citadel. It contains additions of the mid-19th century on the plaza level, late 19th century gun emplacements on the northside of El Plano, as well as World War II observation posts on both El Plano and El Caballero.

El Caballero rises over 100 feet above the shoreline and provides a panoramic view of the ocean, city and bay. A signal mast and small structure occupied by the Port Authority provide communication link between incoming ships and the harbor master.

The architectural character of San Cristobal still is dominated by the 18th century construction period. It contains many fine features, particularly the gates and the quarters buildings.

Generally the walls are constructed from cut sandstone blocks with brick used in vaulting, lining and edging of parapet walls. Most surfaces are plastered. The floors have brick terrazzo.
pavement tile as well as modern concrete finishes.

San Cristobal is extremely impressive and one of the great fortifications of the Western Hemisphere.

H-203 SAN CARLOS, LA TRINIDAD and GREAT MOAT

Approximate acreage: 4
Geographical coordinates: LAT 66 06 40 LON 18 28 12

First Order of Significance PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

The moat to the east of San Cristobal separates the main fort from its outworks. Within the moat are San Carlos Ravelin and La Trinidad Bastion. The moat is formed by the scarp wall of San Cristobal which rises 30-60 feet above the present grade of the moat. To the east it is formed by the retaining walls of the outworks that rise on an average of 20 feet from the present grade of the moat.

San Carlos Ravelin is a triangular (demi-lune) structure, directed northeast to south. It was accessible from San Cristobal by a covered way across the moat and tunnel to the plaza. It has two levels with casemates on the lower level supporting the upper gun decks.

The former access to San Cristobal from San Carlos has been blocked by a World War II bomb-proof command post, which occupies full width of the Great Moat at its approximate center.

La Trinidad is a five-sided structure. Located to the south of San Carlos, it was built in three levels to accommodate the sloping terrain. Steps from the moat level provide access to the upper gun decks, which face east and southeast. Casemates exist at the lower and intermediate levels.

H-204 SANTA TERESA & LA PRINCESA

Approximate acreage: 16
Geographical coordinates: LAT 66 06 37 LON 18 28 16
66 06 26 18 28 18
66 06 38 18 28 11
66 06 29 18 28 19

First Order of Significance PRESERVATION & PARTIAL RESTORATION RECOMMENDED

The outworks of San Cristobal east of the great moat covers
terrain that gently slopes down from an elevation of 100° at the west end to 60° towards the east. The outworks include a redoubt at the northwest corner of the area and three fringing bastions: Santa Teresa facing north; La Princesa at the northeast tip of the outworks, facing north to east; and El Abanico facing northeast to south. These units were built in the last decades of the eighteenth century as outlined in plans of the 1760-70s. The outworks towards the east had a glacis fronting; the area between the bastion and the great moat contained a series of breastwalls, covered ways, re-entry places of arms, mining tunnels, etc. Construction during the last decade of the 19th century and during World War II considerably altered both Santa Teresa and La Princesa Bastions and obliterated the original features of the area between the bastions and the great moat. Towards the east, erosion has deformed the glacis.

At present, the area is defined by the Great North Wall that rises 70-100 feet straight up from the Atlantic shoreline, the walls of La Princesa Bastion, the moats of La Princesa and El Abanico Bastions. Between El Abanico and the Great Moat, the area is defined by a wall ranging in height from 10 to 20 feet. These walls and moats are part of the original construction. The area is accessible by the sally port and bridge between La Princesa and El Abanico Bastions and by a gate in the south wall (west of El Abanico) and steps in the counter scarp wall of the Great Moat.

Santa Teresa Bastion has retained fragments of the 18th century breastwalls; however, its original design is obscured partially by two gun positions and an earth-covered field magazine, constructed in the 1890s.

La Princesa Bastion has retained its original casemates and magazines, constructed at a lower level to the bastion. This unit has been overlaid by an earth-covered bunker and a concrete base of a World War II anti-aircraft emplacement.

The area east and south of the two bastions was levelled after World War II; ten detached single-story officer’s quarters were constructed, facing a central mall, on the site. Two single-story service buildings are located east and west of the housing. A 19th century three-room, one-story guardhouse in poor condition is located just inside the sally port and north of El Abanico. There are structural failures and footing problems caused by erosion and poor drainage.

**E-205 EL ABANICO**

Approximate acreage included in above unit, San Cristóbal Outworks: 100.000

Geographical coordinates: lat 66 06 39 10 10

First Order of Significance: PRESERVATION

**El Abanico is a principal unit of the San Cristóbal Outworks. It is an equilateral triangular bastion, shaped like a fan—hence its name.**
Located at the extreme southwest corner of the outworks, El Banico’s gundecks face northeast to south. Surrounded by moats, the little fort is approached from the southwest by a bridge that provided access to the lower level of the bastion. Two masonry ramps lead from the lower level to the gundecks along the two outer faces of the bastion. To the north and east, the gundecks are supported on casemates which served as magazine and storage areas. The salient angle is separated by a moat from the rest of the bastion. It contains a single gun position and is reached by a narrow bridge from the main section of the bastion. Behind the moat at this point (west), three gun emplacements are directed northeast and southeast to fire above the position in the salient angle. From the access bridge at the southwest corner of the bastion, steps lead to the moat. A second set of steps in the counter scarp wall provides access to a covered way behind the glacis wall along the southeast and partially along the northeast face and moat. Breatwalls and firing steps cross the covered way at two points to the south and at one point to the north. Behind the brearwall to the north, the extension of the moat to La Princesa opens into the Abanico moat.

El Abanico was constructed about 1800 and was the last element of the original design of the San Cristobal Outworks to be completed. It is constructed in cut sandstone blocks with lining and vaulting of brick. All masonry walls inside and out are plastered. In most areas, sufficient amount of the original finishes have been preserved to show the simulated quoins at corner walls, piping of breatwalls and embrasures in integral colored plaster. The finishes are marred by graffiti, some dating back to the mid-18th century. Traces of a chevel de frise can be observed on scarp walls. The finishes and layout of the bastion is elaborate and decorative, and voluted finials at head of the ramps add to this character.

The bastion with moat and covered way is approximately one acre. From east to west, glacis wall to the east moat’s counter scarp, it measures 240 feet; from north to south, the dimension is 270 feet. The height of the scarp wall is approximately 20 feet.

Erosion within the moat of El Abanico and to the glacis fronting has caused exposure of the footings of scarp and parapet walls. There are several instances of structural deterioration. Pavements with the bastion have been affected by vegetation and in many instances do not shed water adequately. The casemates will require repair, as will the steps and bridges.

H-206 SOUTH WALL #1 (East from El Morro to, but not including, San Juan Gate)

Acreage: 2.5 First Order of Significance PRESERVATION

South Wall #1 includes the fragmentary breastwalls above the steep sandstone cliffs just south and east of El Morro, Santa Elena Bastion, San Agustín Bastion, the curtain wall between the two bastions and the wall between, San Agustín and San Juan Gate. Not included in this unit is approximately 500 feet of fragmentary breastwalls just south of El Morro.
South Wall #1 is 2550 running feet of retaining wall, varying in height from 20 to 50 feet and supporting gun decks, parapet walls and embrasures. Between Santa Elena and San Agustín Bastions and east of San Agustín, the wall rises straight out of the shoreline on the Bay to its full height. Although partially part of an earlier origin, their present shape dates to the 18th century. Repairs to the wall have been made in four locations during the 20th century; the curtain wall between the two bastions was reconstructed in the 1930s. The walls are exposed to sea action and erosion from drainage. Several areas show signs of deterioration. This section of the city wall has a history of failure and requires considerable stabilization of its foundations to insure its preservation.

South Wall #2 includes the San Juan Gate, the Santa Catalina Bastion, La Princesa wall and La Palmas Bastion (to San Justo Bastion). Only the San Juan Gate, part of the La Princesa wall and Las Palmas Bastion are units of San Juan National Historic Site. This section is approximately 800 running feet of sandstone and brick retaining wall, varying in height from 20 to 60 feet. The other sections of this wall (1400 running feet) is administered by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and City of San Juan.

In part, the wall dates to the earliest construction period of the San Juan fortifications. San Juan Gate is the old water gate of the city but has been added to considerably and in its present form represents the 18th century.

Geographical Coordinates:

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A modest example of mid-19th century civil residential architecture. Originally, a one-story rubble masonry structure, 20' wide by 67' deep, with
a characteristic shallow "U" shaped plan for San Juan. The front section of the building is the full width of the lot and two rooms deep. It is joined to the rear section, also full width but only one-room deep, with an open patio along the north side of the lot. The patio now is somewhat diminished by a modern concrete staircase and balcony, which provides access to a small, modern penthouse above the rear section of the structure.

The street elevation and the interior of the front section have characteristic Moorish revival details, somewhat brutalized by unsympathetic repairs and inappropriate replacement of original sash. Ceilings are original, but floors and other finishes are of later date. The building is sound structurally, but finishes and utilities will require replacement.

Recommended treatment is the restoration of exterior and patio, with adjustment of interiors for use as residence. In plan and general development, the building is typical of the minor San Juan residential structures, with unusual architectural treatment of the elevation towards the street. Its historical association with the San Juan fortifications is not limited to its location between the main ramp of San Cristóbal and the Artillery Pavilions; but also served as an off-base residence for the commanding officer.

H-209 through H-211 Calle de Nortzaray QUARTERS HLDGS 2, 3, 4

ADAPTIVE RESTORATION

Geographical Coordinates: LAT LON
66 06 43 18 28 12

Quarters Buildings 2, 3, and 4 are located immediately west and below Fort San Cristóbal. They are 19th century additions to the military reservation and were constructed to implement the services of the fort.

Quarters #4 (H-211) was formerly the blacksmith shop. A one-story rubble and brick masonry building, it is now a park residence. It is altered extensively with late 19th and 20th century additions. The original structure (47' by 40') contained two enclosed rooms and an open covered porch (40' by 22') on the east side. Although the open porch has been enclosed and divided by interior partitions and additions made to the structure on the east and south, the original section still is apparent by the large dimensions of its wall, piers and arches.

This building is of the first order of significance. Acreage: 0.2

Quarters Building #3 (H-210), formerly an artillery pavilion, presently is unoccupied. A one-story, "L"-shaped brick and rubble masonry structure, its original section was built in the 1850s along the north side of the plot and measured 97'6" x 25'6", with the narrow side facing on Calle de Nortzaray. A late 19th century addition, along the east side of the plot away from the street, measured 47'9" x 23'6". In the 1930s additions were made to both sections, and the interiors were remodeled.

This building is of the second order of significance. Acreage: 0.8
Quarters Building #1 (B-207), presently unoccupied, was originally an artillery pavilion. A large 2-story brick and rubble masonry structure, rectangular in shape with a 47-foot frontage on Calle de Norzagaray and slightly less than 100 feet deep. It is separated from Quarters #3 to the south by an 8-foot open passage.

The two buildings, in their original form, were treated as one structure, with a continuous parapet wall and cornice on the facade towards the street and the entrance to the open passage between them developed as a doorway.

This treatment was altered after 1880 when additions were made to Quarters #3. In the 1930s, a second story was added to Quarters #2, and the interior was remodelled to provide seven apartments for married non-commissioned officers.

Adaptive restoration is recommended to the original elevation towards the street, with the removal of the second story and the remodelling of the first floor interior for use as park headquarters.

**Second Order of Significance**

**Geographical Coordinates:** IAT 66°03'31" LOI 18°23'55"

Accessto the fort originally was through the east face at the immediate level between ground and the gun platform. At the same level are vaulted casemates which were intended for storage and magazines. Originally, the fort had a super-structure which extended along the east, north and west sides of the gun platform. A sentry box is located on the northeast corner of the gun platform; the cistern was in the middle of the structure; latrine and kitchen were in the southwest corner.

Footings of the southeast corner of the fort failed, causing a partial collapse of the scarp wall; and through the washing out of fill behind it, the collapse of a section of the gun platform. Footings have been stabilized and the caisson wall has been built along the east and south footings. Except for the elimination of the super-structure, the present appearance of the fort essentially is the same as the original structure.
1. STATE
Puerto Rico

2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE “ARCH” BEFORE THEME NO.
Theme IV

3. NAME(S) OF SITE
La Fortaleza

4. APPROX. ACREAGE
1.6 acres

5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)
Southwest side of San Juan Island, between Calle Recinto Oeste and San Juan Bay

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Insular Department of Interior

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)
La Fortaleza (The Fortres) was San Juan’s first true fortification. Repeated
raids by French and English free-booters and Carib Indians led to its construction
between 1533 and 1540. Within fifteen years El Morro was built on the more strategic
headland guarding the entrance to the bay, and La Fortaleza was relegated to a position
of secondary importance in the defenses of San Juan.

La Fortaleza remained an integral, though secondary, part of San Juan’s de-
defensive system. When the Earl of Cumberland led the successful English attack on the
city in 1588, he described it as “a strong castle, built of stone, square, and com-
monly called the King’s Palace, ... and where we found a great stock of ammunition.”
A Dutch expedition led by General Bowdoin Hendrick captured La Fortaleza in 1625.
El Morro held fast against the attacking Dutch, and the retreating army burned La
Fortaleza along with the rest of San Juan. With its reconstruction early in the
seventeenth century, La Fortaleza began to be used as the residence of the island’s
governors.

In 1939, the building was renovated under the direction of the United States
Army. An inspection report submitted by Assistant Architect Stuart M. Barnette
indicates that structural and functional considerations often outweighed the desira-
bility of preserving the important historical features of the structure.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)
Adolfo de Hostos, Ciudad Murada (San Juan, 1942); E. A. Hoyt, A History of the Harbor
Defenses of San Juan (San Juan, 1944); Inigo Abbad y Lasieroa, Historia Geografica,
Civil y Natural de la Isla de San Juan (1783); A. P. Newton, The European Nations in
the West Indies, 1493-1688 (London, 1943).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES
research report, 139 pp., illus., appendices, San Juan NPS, August 22, 1955. (Copy
in Southeast Regional files.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS
ATTACHED: YES □ NO □

11. CONDITION
Excellent

12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)
Governor’s Residence

13. DATE OF VISIT
(not visited)

14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)
Horace J. Shoely, Jr.

15. TITLE
Historian

16. DATE
11/15/63

*DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 x 10 IN SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.
(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)
Puerto Rico

2. Theme(s). If archaeological site, write "Arch" before theme No.

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<th>4. Approx. acreage</th>
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5. Exact location (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)

Southwest side of San Juan Island, between Calle Recinto Este and San Juan Bay

6. Name and address of present owner (Also administrator if different from owner)

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Insular Department of Interior

7. Importance and description (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

La Fortaleza (The Fortress), first true fortification of San Juan, was built between 1533 and 1540 as a defense against continuing raids by French and English freebooters and Carib Indians. Because of its comparatively poor location, however, La Fortaleza soon came to occupy a secondary importance in the defenses of San Juan. Within 15 years, a more strategically located fortification, El Morro, had been built on the headland guarding the entrance to the bay. La Fortaleza remained an integral part of the San Juan defensive system, and when the Earl of Cumberland led the successful English attack on the city in 1598, he described it as "a strong castle, built of stone, square, and commonly called the King's Palace...and where we found a great stock of ammunitions". In 1625, La Fortaleza was captured by the Dutch expedition led by Gen. Bowdoin Hendrickson when El Morro held out against the Dutch attack, La Fortaleza was burned along with the rest of San Juan by the retreating enemy. Since its reconstruction early in the seventeenth century, La Fortaleza has been used as the residence of the insular governors.

In 1939, the building was renovated under the auspices of the U. S. Army. It is apparent from an inspection report submitted by Assistant Architect Stuart H. (from an inspection report submitted by Assistant Architect Stuart H.) that the Army paid little attention to the desirability of preserving the important historical features of the structure at that time.

8. Bibliographical references (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Adolfo de Hostos, Ciudad Murada (San Juan, 1948); E. A. Hoyt, A History of the Harbor Defenses of San Juan (San Juan, 1944); Inigo Abad y Lasierra, Historia General de la Isla de San Juan (1782); A. P. Newton, The European Nations in the West Indies, 1493-1688 (London, 1943).

9. Reports and studies (Mention best reports and studies, as, NFS study, HABS, etc.)

Ricardo T. Reyes, "The Harbor Defenses of San Juan in the Sixteenth Century", Ms. research report, 139 pp., illus., appendices, San Juan NHS, August 22, 1955. (Copy in Region One Files.)