

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic CUEVA DE LOS INDIOS

and/or common CUEVA DE PTA. MALDONADO

**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town LOIZA  vicinity of congressional district N/A

state PUERTO RICO code 72 county LOIZA code 0600

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

street & number MUÑOZ RIVERA AVE., STOP 3, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (BOX 5887, PTA. DE TIERRA)

city, town PUERTO RICO \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. RECORDER'S OFFICE

street & number CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title CAVE AT PUNTA MALDONADO has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date DECEMBER 19, 1974 BY ARCHEOLOGIST OVIDIO DAVILA  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records INSTITUTE OF PUERTO RICAN CULTURE

city, town SAN JUAN state PUERTO RICO

# 7. Description

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

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Proposed site is a small cave [redacted] n. Its height is about 6 feet on the average. The cave floor is covered by organic deposits and it is frequently flooded, making it uncomfortable to walk in. [redacted] some sunlight penetrates through the vegetation covering and surrounding the cave as well as through some cracks in the ceiling during some hours of the day. Vegetation consist mainly of mangrove trees, the site is not readily visible from any point. Inside the cave, on its humid walls there are fourteen (14) indian petroglyphs four of which are totally or partially painted with a red pigment. None of these petroglyphs have been altered or mutilated and the cave remains essentially like it was before the discovery of the Island.

[redacted] few scattered plots of Swamp-bloodwood swamps south of the mangrove system. Wildlife is abundant throughout. In short, it is an extensive natural wetlands-system which offers a striking contrast with the extensively developed Metropolitan San Juan.

This area was densely populated by the Taino Indians at the time of the Islands' discovery in 1493. In this region they were ruled by a woman Chief named Luisa [redacted] Ample evidence of Indians' occupation in the area is found in several other archaeological sites which yet remain to be explored.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates    N/A                                    Builder/Architect    N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The significance of the Cueva Punta Maldonado site derives from the fact that it constitutes the only recorded ceremonial cave in the northeastern coast of Puerto Rico that corresponds to the Taino aboriginal occupation, and that it is a highly potential research site with respect to the prehistoric rock art of the Island. The petroglyphs of the site are very well preserved, and there is no evidence of disturbance or vandalism as in other similar rock art sites of Puerto Rico. This fact strengthens the viability of future archaeological research in the cave. From the stylistic point of view the motifs of the petroglyphs encountered in the cave do not follow the pattern of design in the traditional rock art found in other prehistoric sites corresponding to the Taino culture, hence the archaeological importance of this site deserves its study and preservation.

