

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Cueva La Espiral
other names/site number OR-31

2. Location

street & number Bauta Abajo Ward not for publication
city or town Orocovis vicinity
state Puerto Rico code PR county Orocovis code 107 zip code 00720

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Prehistoric Rock Art of Puerto Rico

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ Ceremonial Site

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION / Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Cueva La Espiral (OR-31)

[REDACTED] The property consists of two outcrops with approximately 170 rock art images, one very large boulder greater than 10 to 12 meters in size, plus a much smaller one 3 meters to the north, at the edge of a ravine [REDACTED]. The contributing resources are the two outcrops with petroglyphs, as well as the small space between them. The property is in a steeply sloped wooded area close to a small banana plantation approximately 40 meters to the west.

Narrative Description*Physical Location.*

[REDACTED]

Environmental Setting. Cueva La Espiral is composed of two boulders, the much larger of the two possessing a large overhang giving the impression of a cave entrance, situated approximately 750 meters above sea level in the central mountain region of Puerto Rico very near the geographic center of the Island. Steep, mountainous terrain is characteristic of the area.

Rock Art Location. The majority of the petroglyphs are located on the large overhang reclining down and away from the viewer into the ground floor. The other petroglyphs are found on a smaller boulder (roughly five meters in diameter) on the top edge of an abrupt slope three meters north of the large overhang.

Petroglyph Documentation. Jeff Walker took 10 black and white photographs in 1982. In the 1990's, Pedro Alvarado carried out the most extensive documentation with 50 detailed photographs of the various images. He identified 172 petroglyphs (Alvarado 1999: Vol. 2), with the majority (109) representing anthropomorphic images, followed by 51 zoomorphic, 10 geomorphic and 2 undefined. Marisol Meléndez has carried out the most recent documentation of the site as part of an archaeological reconnaissance of the municipality of Orocovis in 2008.

Cultural Affiliation. While on stylistic grounds, the images appear to be late prehistoric, direct dating of Puerto Rican petroglyphs continues to be problematic, hampering efforts to ascertain cultural affiliation. According to Irving Rouse's archaeological classification scheme (Rouse 1992), El Espiral lies along the loosely delimited cultural border between the Mona and Virgin Passages. Future archaeological investigations of the ground floor may reveal datable activities associated with the creation and/or use of the images, as well as diagnostic material to better define cultural affiliation.

Current and Past Impacts. Cueva La Espiral is a locally well known cultural feature frequently visited by local schools. Some of the images have been traced with chalk and, allegedly, several years ago a small segment with petroglyphs was removed.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art _____

Archaeology _____

Religion _____

Period of Significance

A.D. 600 - 1500 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

Pre-Hispanic _____

Architect/Builder

N/A _____

Period of Significance (justification)

Pre-Hispanic. The dating of pre-Hispanic Puerto Rican rock art remains problematic, although the majority of researchers consider them to date to the ceramic period of occupation: approximately 250 B.C. to A.D. 1500.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Not Applicable

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

According to the registration requirements detailed in the Prehistoric Rock Art of Puerto Rico Multiple Property Documentation Form, an eligible property must fit within the developed historic context prepared for this property type titled *Prehistoric Ceramic Period Petroglyph and Pictograph Sites of Puerto Rico*, have at least one petroglyph or pictograph, have the potential to address one or more of the research issues summarized below and possess integrity of location and workmanship.

Cueva La Espiral contains at least 172 clearly discernable pre-Hispanic rock art images at their original location of manufacture. As for research issues the Multiple Property Documentation Form lists seven: 1) Documentation Methodology, 2) Chronology, 3) Locational Representation, 4) Art, 5) Rock Art and Settlement Systems, 6) Rock Art and the Socio-Political Systems, and 7) Rock Art and the Religious System. As discussed below, Cueva La Espiral has the potential to address all seven

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criteria or Reasons for National Register Inclusion.

Investigations at Cueva La Espiral has the potential to address the following research issues:

Documentation Methodology

The preponderance of clearly discernable images allows for greater accuracy in reproducing them and detecting variations in common themes. Because of the large number of petroglyphs at the site, various non-destructive reproduction methods can be employed at the same time in different areas to compare their relative effectiveness. Techniques may be developed and tested to detect residues of no longer visible pictographs, all but erased due to exposure to the outside elements.

Chronology

Excavations of the floor facing the images may date indirectly the period of development and use of the site. Stylistic comparison with other rock art sites may refine the chronology of the site and determine the spread in time and space of particular stylistic renderings.

Locational Representation

Comparison of depicted rock art styles with their setting may give clues as to their meaning and function. Cueva La Espiral is a large boulder site in the geographic center of Puerto Rico within the Island's central mountain range [REDACTED]. How do the production techniques and artistic renderings compare to other rock art sites with similar or dissimilar settings? Can any correlations between styles and geographic location be discerned? In order to do this a data base of rock art styles and geographic settings, including those of La Espiral, needs to be developed.

Art

In addition to carefully documenting the renderings, because of their large number, evidence of possible intra-site patterning can be examined. Is there clustering of different motifs in particular areas of the site? Is there evidence of the employment of different techniques in the rendering of the petroglyphs that may suggest differences in preferences and/or skill among the individuals that produced the images? Can repetitive artistic "signatures" be detected to suggest that a certain number of images were done by only one individual?

Rock Art and Settlement Systems

There is no evidence of a habitation site at Cueva La Espiral. Future survey research in the area may identify habitation sites at a currently unknown distance that may have utilized the site. Excavations at the floor facing the petroglyphs may uncover cultural and chronological evidence to support potential candidates and reject others.

Rock Art and the Socio-Political Systems

In addition to serving a religious function or a source of artistic expression, La Espiral may have served a function of political demarcation. Almost directly across [REDACTED] is another rock art site composed of large boulders [REDACTED]. Do these nearby images, but on opposite sides of the river represent the same or different groups with the river serving as a political boundary? Was La Espiral the sole property or use of one habitation site, or was it a point of congregation of various villages at the same time?

Rock Art and the Religious System

Is there any discernable vertical or horizontal hierarchy in the images? Are there any correlations between contact period chronicles on taino cosmology and the images and their placement? Excavations at the base floor, plus a detailed study of the images at La Espiral and a comparison with descriptions in the ethnohistoric record may also provide insights into the purpose of the cave, including whether it was used by, or accessible to, everybody in the community or just a chosen few for shamanistic purposes.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aitken, Robert

1917 Porto Rican Burial Caves. *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress Americanists* pp.224-228. Washington.

Alvarado Zayas, Pedro

1999 *El Arte Rupestre en Puerto Rico*. Volumes I and II. Archaeology Division. Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Davila Davila, Ovidio

1985 La Arqueología de las Cuevas de Puerto Rico. *Revista del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña* Volume 24. Un. 89: 24-27.

1981 *Cueva Los Gemelos: un Sitio Precerámico de Morovis, Puerto Rico*. MA Thesis. Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dubelaar, Cornelis N., Michele H. Hayward, and Michael a. Cinquino

1999 *Puerto Rican Rock Art: A Resource Guide*. Prepared by Panamerican Consultants, Inc. for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Fewkes, Jesse Walter

1907 The Aborigines of Porto Rico and Neighboring Islands. *American Ethnologist* 25:3-269.

Haeberlin, Herman K.

1917 Some Archaeological Work in Porto Rico. *American Anthropologist* 19:214-238.

Hayward, Michele H., Lesley-Gail Atkinson and Michael A. Cinquino (editors)

2009 *Rock Art of the Caribbean*. The University of Alabama Press. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Hayward, Michele H., Michael A. Cinquino and Mark A. Steinback

2001 *Prehistoric Rock Art of Puerto Rico*. Thematic Nomination. Prepared for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Hostos, Adolfo de

1955 *Una Colección Arqueológica Antillana*. The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Puerto Rico. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mason, John Alden

1941 A large archaeological site at Capá, Utuado, with notes on other Porto Rico sites visited in 1914-15. *Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands*. Volume XVII, Part II. The New York Academy of Sciences, New York.

Meléndez , Marisol J. and Carlos M. Dávila Reverón

2008 *Reconocimiento general de sitios arqueológicos prehistóricos en el Municipio de Orocovis*. Prepared for the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Rainey, Froelich

1940 *Porto Rican Archaeology*. Scientific Survey of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Volume XVIII, Part I. New York Academic of Science.

Roe, Peter

1996 *Cueva de Mora (Comerio, P.R.) Pictograph: a Documentary Project*. Paper Presented at the 17th International Congress of Caribbean Archaeology. Nassau, Bahamas.

Rouse, Irving

1992 *The Tainos: the Rise and Decline of the People who greeting Columbus*. Yale University Press. New Haven.

Rouse, Irving and Ricardo E. Alegría

1990 *Excavations at María de la Cruz Cave and Hacienda Village Site, Loíza, Puerto Rico*. Department of Anthropology and Peabody Museum. Yale University Publications in Anthropology No.80. Yale University, New Haven.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): OR-31

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The east, south and west sides of the site are comprised of the physical extent of the two rocks on those sides. The space between the two rocks up to the edge of the ravine defines the northern boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

To date, no artifacts, or any evidence of site modification have been found, besides the rock art on the two outcrops, reason for which the boundaries do not extend beyond the two rocks and the space between them where the creators of the images positioned themselves in order to create them.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Miguel A. Bonini Lamadrid

organization Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office date May 16, 2011

street & number PO Box 9023935 telephone 787-721-3737

city or town San Juan state PR zip code 00902-3935

e-mail mbonini@prshpo.gobierno.pr

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 10 . Looking approximately east, general view of small boulder and its numerous petroglyphs.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

2 of 10 . Looking approximately south, general view of big boulder section with petroglyphs.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

3 of 10 . Looking approximately east to entrance.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

4 of 10 Looking approximately east, general view of small boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

5 of 10 Looking approximately east, southern section of small boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

6 of 10 Looking approximately east, central section of small boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

7 of 10 Looking approximately east, northern section of small boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

8 of 10 Looking approximately east, eastern portion of big boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

9 of 10 Looking approximately southeast detail of big boulder.

Name of Property: Cueva La Espiral

City or Vicinity: Orocovis

County: Orocovis **State:** Puerto Rico

Photographer: Marines Colón González

Date Photographed: April 14, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

10 of 10 Looking approximately southwest detail of big boulder.

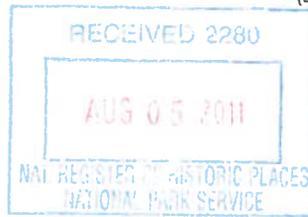
Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name [REDACTED]
street & number [REDACTED] telephone
city or town Orocovis state PR zip code [REDACTED]

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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1. Name of Property

historic name Cueva La Espiral

other names/site number OR-31

2. Location

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not for publication

city or town Orocovis

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code PR

county Orocovis

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I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Carlos A. Rubio Cancela
Signature of certifying official/Title

July 20, 2011
Date

Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is

entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Erin K. Martin Subert
Signature of the Keeper

9/20/11
Date of Action