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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: PUNTA JALOVA

other name/site number: 12VPr2-44

2. Location

street & number: [REDACTED]

not for publication: X

city/town: Barrio Puerto Diablo, Vieques

vicinity:

state: PR county: Humacao

code: 069

zip code: 00765

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - Federal

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ 7-13-92
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

please see attached letter dated 20 May 92
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 removed from the National Register _____
 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Janet E. Townsend 9-10-92

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: _____ Sub: _____

Current : Military _____ Sub: _____

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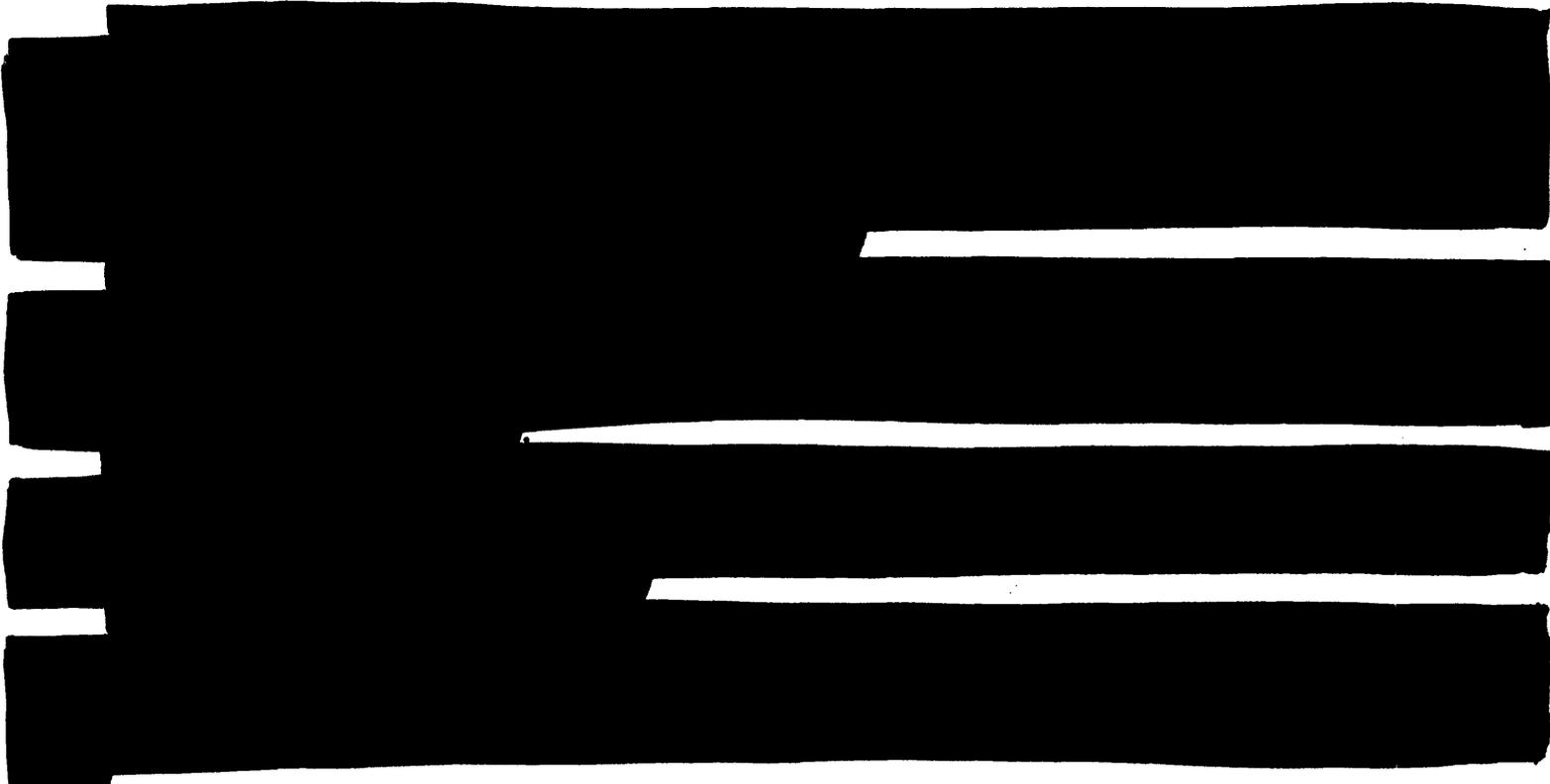
7. Description

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Architectural Classification: N/A

Materials: foundation _____ roof _____
 walls _____ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheets.



In 1978, in the course of a survey undertaken on behalf of the Navy, a team of archaeologists headed by Marvin Keller, of Ecology and Environment, Inc., recovered some prehistoric pottery and some shell refuse from the surface of an area on Punta Jalova

they retrieved a fragment of a polished petaloid celt. At the same time, L.S. Robinson located and excavated, a large coral "three-pointer", the rounded tip of which had been exposed by erosion.

By the time the 1978 survey had been completed, it was clear that the aboriginal site on Punta Jalova (registered as 12VPr2-44) was in at least one respect a place of special interest: of all the artifacts collected in the course of the reconnaissance, the coral three-pointer from the Jalova site was the only one that could possibly be interpreted as a ceremonial object.

In March 1980, in the course of a detailed reassessment of Navy-owned sites on Vieques, Robinson had an opportunity to return to 12VPr2-44 in order to investigate it more thoroughly. In collaboration with Carmine Tronolone, of

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sampling and test-pitting operations which were designed to define the extent, Ecology and Environment, she mapped the site and directed a series of surface-NPSdepth, structure and composition of the deposits, and to clarify the nature of the prehistoric occupation. Sixteen small excavations, with an overall area of

Those excavations yielded a total of 44,519 coarse-grade specimens (items large enough to have been caught on a screen with a 4x4 mesh.) Only a few of those specimens were artifacts. To be precise, a mere 133 of them--125 potsherds, a reworked griddle sherd, two modified shells, four pieces of worked stone and a single piece of modified coral--fell into the artifactual category. The rest were ecofacts, 8,912 of which--125 bone fragments, 8,709 pieces of unworked shell, 72 coral fragments and two lots of charcoal--proved to be of some archaeological significance, and the remainder of which could be dismissed (after fairly careful inspection) as being nothing more than native rock particles. A dozen surface-sampling points, established over a 32,000-m² (7.9-acre), yielded 449 additional specimens: 59 artifacts (57 potsherds, a portion of a perforated ceramic disk, and shell chisel) and 390 ecofacts (385 of which were shell fragments especially selected in the course of a search for suitable localities in which to place the test pits).

Although surface material is scattered over a fairly large area on Punta Jalova, the refuse appears to be concentrated mainly in one small (1800-m²) zone

crabholes. Hermit crabs are common in the area, and it is quite likely that their burrowing has resulted, slowly but steadily, in a fairly thorough redeposition of the ancient refuse. The main refuse deposits, though covered in most places by from 5 to 10 cm of more or less sterile overburden apparently undisturbed by human activity, are themselves highly disturbed, not only by crab burrows but by the proliferating roots of the shrubber. It is highly improbable, under the circumstances, that they are stratified in any meaningful way. There is a good possibility, in fact, that most if not all of the material currently to be found on the surface has been thrown up there by the crabs. The main refuse layer appears to be anywhere from 5 to 20 cm thick, with an average thickness of 13 cm. The maximum thickness is attained about 10 m east of the promontory's crest. At the crest itself the rubbish consists of little more than an occasional sherd or shell fragment nestled in some fissure of the exposed bedrock.

Most of the pottery that has been collected at Punta Jalova is of an Elenoid style, and can be assigned tentatively to Period 4E (c 900-100 AD). Some of the other artifacts in the collection--the perforated disk ("spindle whorl") fragment, the stone celt, and the shell chisel--can likewise be dated to that period, for they are of types commonly represented in early Elenoid assemblages. There are, however, a couple of items that seem to be somewhat out of place in an Elenoid context. One of them--the only ornament in the sample--is a small cylindrical stone bead, each end of which is ringed by an incised line. It is smaller and more finely executed than the stone beads usually recovered from Elenoid sites. The other anomalous object is the coral three-pointer that was found on the

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coral are fairly common at late prehistoric sites in nearby Puerto Rico, on occasion of the site's discovery, in 1978. Though three-pointers of stone or NPS Vieques they are rarely to be found at all, while further east, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, they seem to be especially characteristic of the late and epi-Saladoid cultures (Periods 4C-4D, c 600-900 AD) rather than the succeeding Elenoid complexes.

The shell refuse at 12VPr2-44 is not at all enigmatic, however. Like the pottery, it is typically Elenoid, consisting mainly of whelk (burgao) shells, clamshells and chiton plates. It is quite likely, as a matter of fact, that Punta Jalova was selected as a dwelling site by an Elenan group precisely because of the ready availability of whelks and clams, which were major elements of the Elenan diet. The whelk (*Cittarium pica*) [REDACTED] Punta Jalova is amply endowed. Large clams (lucines of the species *Lucina pectinata* and *Codakia orbicularis*), likewise favored by the Elenans, and well represented in the deposits at 12VPr2-44, [REDACTED]

In certain respects the Punta Jalova shell assemblage, though basically Elenoid, differs from most of the other assemblages of that category currently recorded from Vieques. Two of its features--a high incidence of fuzzy chiton (*Acanthopleura granulata*) plates and an abundance of shells of tiny clams of the species *Donax denticulata*--are especially noteworthy, for they also happen to be characteristic of the assemblage from one of the major Elenoid sites in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Magens Bay site (12VAm3-1) [REDACTED]. The Punta Jalova and Magens Bay assemblages are, in fact, so reminiscent of one another as to warrant the suspicion that there may have been some sort of fairly close, direct tie between the prehistoric inhabitants of 12VAm3-1 on the one hand and those of 12VPr2-44 on the other. Of course, it is possible that the resemblances are entirely fortuitous--the result of a purely accidental choice, by a couple of groups of people only distantly related to one another, of two dwelling sites that just happened to have a good many shellfish resources in common. but if any group with a predilection for *Donax* should have been looking for a good spot on which to settle on the south shore of Vieques, it must be said that they would have done very well to situate themselves on Punta Jalova, for *Donax* has a very specific habitat--that of the intertidal zone on steeply sloping sandy beaches--and that particular niche is well represented, of course, [REDACTED]

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: STATE AND LOCAL

Applicable National Register Criteria: D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHEOLOGY--PREHISTORIC

Period(s) of Significance: PREHISTORIC

Significant Dates : _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: ELENOID

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Punta Jalova site ranks as the second most important pottery-yielding site to have been discovered [REDACTED] and as the tiniest known member of a small constellation of late prehistoric peninsular dwelling places recently recognized on the [REDACTED]. Sandwiched as it is between two far larger sites of that constellation, the Boathouse Point site (12VPr2-79) [REDACTED] Carenero site (12VPr2-72) [REDACTED] 12VPr2-44 might seem, at first glance, to be a rather insignificant spot; but, as has already been noted (in Part 7 of this report), it is in reality an intriguing locality with some definite peculiarities all its own. Furthermore, though it seems to have been occupied over roughly the same time span as 12VPr2-79, and during a period when the much older settlement on Punta Carenero was still in existence, it remains to be determined whether it was really of the same type as either of those larger, flanking dwelling places. Whereas they may both have been occupied the year around, there is a distinct possibility that 21VPr2-44 was inhabited only seasonally, and that it functioned mainly as a fishing and/or shellfishing station. It is also possible that the punta Jalova site served some sort of special ceremonial purpose. One of the more puzzling aspects of the archaeology of eastern Vieques is the rarity of any objects of a ceremonial or ornamental nature. To date, a grand total of three items of recovered from the prehistoric sites on the [REDACTED] notwithstanding the fact that more than 40 places of that sort have been discovered and investigated (some of them quite intensively), and those five specimens come from just two site, one of which is, of course, 12VPr2044. Under the circumstances, the archaeologists who discovered it, and who subsequently tested it, have concluded that it definitely deserves to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Robinson, Linda S., and Gary S. Vescelius. The Punta Jalova Site (12VPr2-44). Reports of the Archeological Survey of Vieques, Series B, Number 18. Charlotte Amalie: Archaeological Services, 1980.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing



Verbal Boundary Description:



Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY:

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Name/Title: Linda S. Robinson & Gary S. Vescelius
(Archaeologist) (Archaeologist)

Organization: Archaeological Services & Ecology and Environment

Street & Number: P.O. Box 7818 P.O. Box D

City/Town: Charlotte Amalie, VI 00801 Buffalo, NY 14225

Date: 5 July 1980 Telephone: (809)774-3575 & (716)632-4491

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Form Re-submitted By:

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Name/Title: Dr. John B. Murphy/Cultural Resources Manager

Organization: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Date: 23 January 1992

Street & Number: 200 Stovall Street Telephone: (703) 325-7353

City or Town: Alexandria State: VA ZIP: 22332-2300

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001239 **Date Listed:** 9-10-92

Property Name	County	State
<u>Punta Jalova</u>	Vieques	PR

Multiple Name

 This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Janet E. Levenson
Signature of the Keeper

9-10-92
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

The county location is incorrect, the period of significance is unclear, and no historic function is indicated. The nomination is amended as follows: The county is Vieques. The period of significance is A.D. 900 - 1000. The historic function is "camp."

Mr. J. Bernard Murphy, the Navy FPO, was contacted regarding these amendments.

DISTRIBUTION:
 National Register property file
 Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)