

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NATIONAL
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Ventana 4 (12VPr2-171)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Barrio Punta Arenas, Vieques

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Puerto Rico

VICINITY OF

CODE

72

COUNTY

Humacao

CODE

1030

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Headquarters, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (Department of the Navy)

STREET & NUMBER

Norfolk Naval Station

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

STATE

Virginia 23511

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registro de Propiedades & LANTDIV COMNAVFORCARIB

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 3037

CITY, TOWN

Humacao, Puerto Rico

STATE

Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, Puerto Rico

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Records of the Archaeological Survey of Vieques

DATE

10 October 1984

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Atlantic Division: Puerto Rico Branch

CITY, TOWN

PO Box 3037, Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, Puerto Rico 00635

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE Oct. 84

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In April of 1982, in the course of an archaeological reconnaissance of the Vieques Naval Reservation, conducted by Ecology and Environment, Inc., Harry Alemán Crespo noted aboriginal ceramics, stone tools, and shell refuse on the ground surface.

In July of 1982, on behalf of the U.S. Navy, accompanied by Alemán, Jack E. Tyler, of Ecology and Environment, Inc., and a small team of investigators, returned to the site of the original find, to sample, and provide preliminary information for the site. At this time, the ground surface was closely inspected in the site's vicinity and three test pits 30 x 30 cm in size, were dug. These investigations indicated an extensive surface scatter of prehistoric refuse and subsurface midden deposits. Consequently, it was recommended that further testing be undertaken at the site to determine specifically the nature of the prehistoric deposits encountered.

The district in which the site was discovered has been owned ever since 1942 by the U.S. Navy,

For about a century prior to its acquisition by the Navy, most of the area had been under cultivation, for it includes some of the best farmland to be found anywhere on Vieques, and it formed part of the sugar plantation known as the Hacienda Resolución. Since the Navy purchased the property, all of it has lain fallow, and it appears to have been utilized for only two purposes: by the Navy itself as an ammunition depot, and (under a lease arrangement) by the Vieques Cattlemen's Association as grazing land.

there any reason to suppose that deposits of that sort were obliterated in the course of their construction. Grazing cattle are unlikely themselves to do a great deal of damage to archaeological remains of the sort found in the Ventana district. It might be thought, then, that the activities that have taken place in the district since the time of the Navy's takeover would have had relatively little impact on the cultural deposits. Unfortunately, however, even though the present land-use pattern can be characterized as being one of low intensity, a lot of damage has been done, some of it quite recently, in the course of bulldozing. Some bulldozing was probably done in the area years ago,

but most, if not all, of the the recent activity of

# 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 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though the Ventana site has been damaged in the course of the agricultural and military activities that have taken place on and around it during the last century and a half, it retains a considerable degree of significance and must be classed, on certain grounds, as a unique historic resource. It is one of only two large aboriginal dwelling sites ever to have been found [REDACTED], and it is a place that is likely to have played an very important and rather special role in the middle stages of the island's ancient history. However much it may have been disturbed by ploughs or bulldozers (and it is by no means certain that all portions of it have indeed been heavily affected), it has produced substantial quantities of archaeologically useful artifactual and eco-factual material, and it should definitely be preserved. Of all the Navy-owned archaeological sites on Vieques, those of the Ventana district (e.g., 12VPr2-5 and 12VPr2-61) are perhaps the most promising ones on which to investigate problems of ancient land use, and they are virtually the only ones of which we are presently aware from which it might be possible to learn something about special aboriginal adaptations to an inland, as opposed to a littoral, habitat. For these reasons, the archaeologists who investigated the Ventana 4 site are of the opinion that it clearly deserves to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lopez Sotomayor, Diana, Vieques--Un Momento en Su Historia, MA Thesis, Mexico, DF: Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, 1975; Cinquino, Michael A., Carmine A. Tronolone, Charles E. Vandrei, & Gary S. Vescelius, Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey for the Vieques Naval Reservation, prepared by Ecology and Environment, Inc., Buffalo, New York 1984.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED]

D [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael A. Cinquino & Carmine A. Tronolone (Senior Archaeologists)

ORGANIZATION

Ecology and Environment, Inc.

DATE

19 October 1984

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box D

TELEPHONE

(716) 632-4491

CITY OR TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

New York 14225

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Arch. Mariano G. Coronas Castro

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

See attached, signed letter (8 July 1991)

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Janet E. Townsend

DATE 8-21-91

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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that sort is attributable to the cattlemen, who have made regular use of earth-moving equipment for brush-clearing purposes and in connection with their fencing operations. Still, it is improbable that there were any sizeable completely undisturbed refuse deposits in the Ventana district even in 1941, on the eve of the Navy's purchase of the property, for if (as is likely) the greater part of it was once planted with sugarcane, the farming operations alone would have sufficed to churn the ground up very thoroughly. Cane ploughs can cut to depths of as much as 18 inches (46 cm), and that is enough to affect even the bottommost portions of the average prehistoric refuse deposit on Vieques.

In November of 1983, Carmine A. Tronolone and Michael A. Cinquino of Ecology and Environment, Inc., headed a small group of investigators to conduct a more thorough study of the deposits at Ventana 4. The site was mapped, its surface was systematically sampled, and six additional test pits were dug for the purpose of ascertaining the extent, both horizontal and vertical, of the deposits at the site. The six excavations, 50 x 50 cm in size, encountered in places midden deposits to a depth of 30 cm where bedrock was encountered. The testing served to suggest that the average depth of the deposits is between 5 and 25 cm, covering a rather extensive area of about 8.75 ha.

The investigations resulted in the discovery of numerous artifacts, many of which exhibited diagnostic characteristics, as well as numerous items of eco-factual remains. The pottery found appears to be of several styles: the Middle and Late Saladoid traditions (Periods 4B and 4C c. 350-800 AD); the Ostionoid tradition (Period 4D c. 800-900 AD); and the early Elenoid tradition (Period 4E c. 900-1100 AD). Non-ceramic artifacts recovered from the site include the following items: petaloid celts (including fragments and preforms); hammerstones; flakes, utilized and fire-cracked; a possible coral abrader; and definite and possible shell celts and tools. The non-ceramic artifact assemblage at Ventana 4 includes a typical complex of celts, celt preforms, and battering tools. The site has edge-battered ground cobbles with anvil-like surfaces on their sides similar to, although often larger than, those recovered from Archaic and early Ceramic Age sites on the island. The majority of the tools are made of igneous rock, although some flakes are made of chert or mudstone and may be non-local.

In their choice of an area in which to settle, the Ventana people positioned themselves midway between two of the finest zones of alluvial soil on Vieques, at

