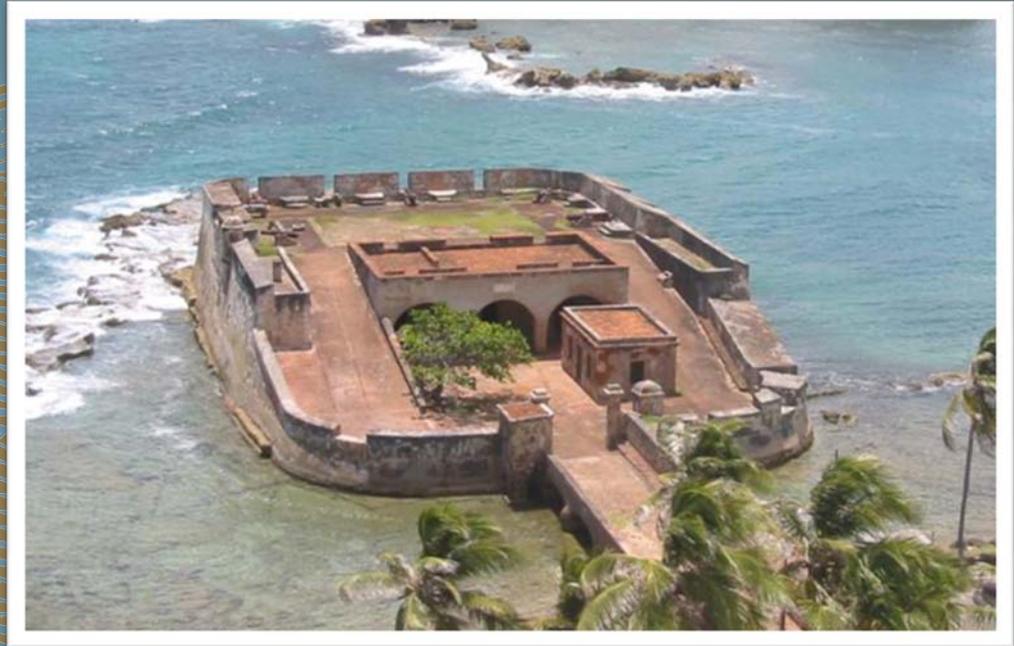




FORT SAN GERÓNIMO AND RELATED SITES SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



Special Resource Study

Public Scoping Meetings
February 1 and 3, 2011



WHO ARE WE?

Representatives from the National Park Service

San Juan National Historic Site

- Walter Chavez, Superintendent
- Eric Lopez, Historian

Denver Service Center

- Cynthia Romero Nelson, Project Manager
- Carrie Miller, Cultural Resource Specialist
- Jazmin Chavez, Project Specialist

Southeast Regional Office

- John Barrett, Park Planner



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

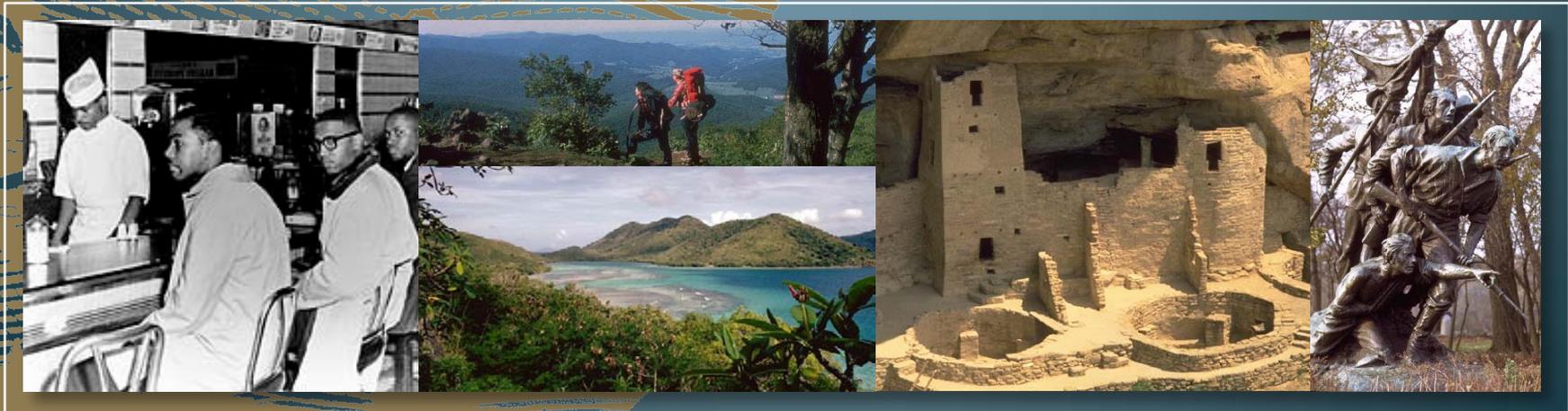


THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mission:

- Preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and value of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.
- Cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

National park units are special places: magnificent landscapes, places that enshrine our nation's enduring principles and stories.





WHY ARE WE HERE?

- The National Park Service is conducting a special resource study for the Fort San Gerónimo site and related resources.
- Congress required completion of this study in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which was signed into law by President Obama.
- From the legislation:

The Secretary [of the Interior] shall complete a special resource study of Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources to determine—

- (A) the suitability and feasibility of including Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as part of San Juan National Historic Site; and*
- (B) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of Fort San Gerónimo and other related resources by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.*



WHAT IS A SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY?

- Initiated locally and enacted through Congressional legislation
- Study in which National Park Service collects information and reports findings to Congress
- Collects information about: resources, potential for visitor use and efficient management, level of public support
- Relies on historical research and public involvement





THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITES

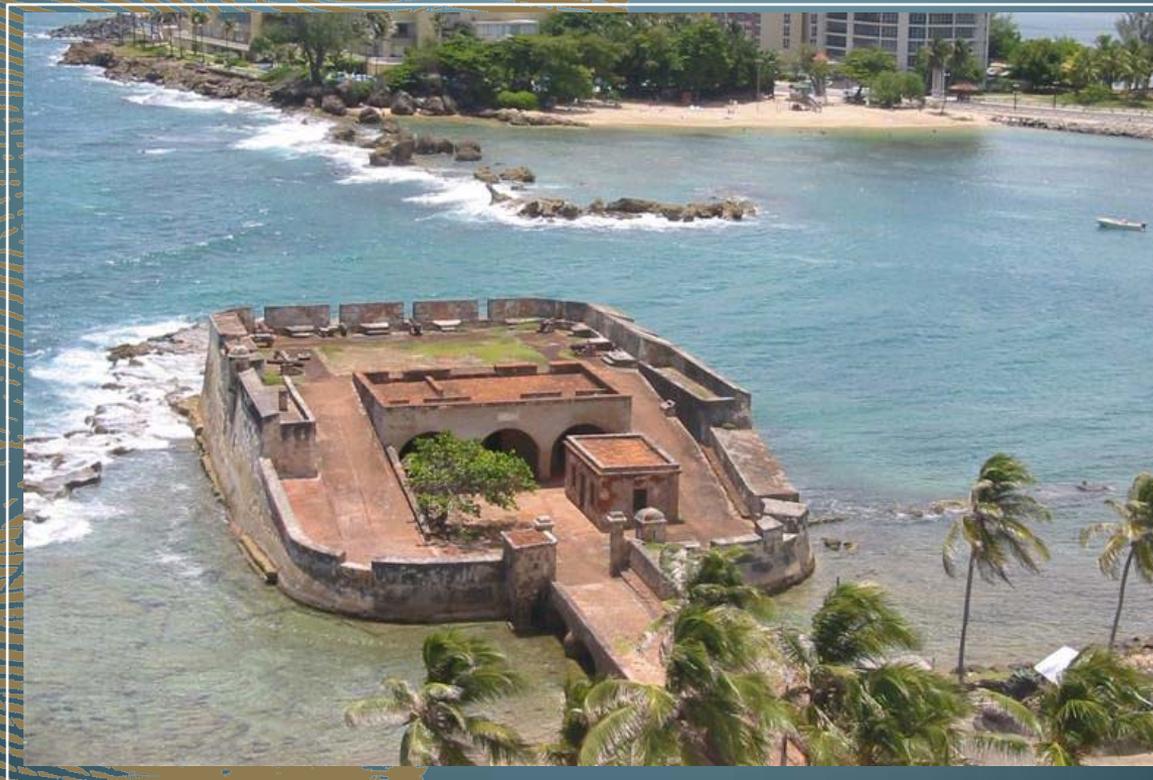
- Most of the special resource study sites were part of the Advance Defensive Line against an attack on San Juan from the east
- Constructed in the late 1700s for the Spanish Colonial capital of San Juan at the Boqueron Bay and San Antonio Channel
- The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has managed Fort San Gerónimo since 1942, and the 15 other related study sites are under private or public ownership.





SITE 1: FORT SAN GERÓNIMO

- A fort and grounds on the east end of the San Juan Islet
- Constructed by Spanish engineers in ca.1788 as part the Advance Defensive Line of San Juan
- Strategically located to protect the inlet to Laguna del Condado



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SITE 1: FORT SAN GERÓNIMO

- Currently owned by the Government of Puerto Rico and the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena
- Closed to public access due to disrepair





AGENCY UPDATES RELATED TO FORT SAN GERÓNIMO

- Cynthia Perez, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville District
- Darianne Ochoa, Instituto de Cultura Puertoriquena



HOW WILL THESE SITES AND RESOURCES BE EVALUATED?



As directed by the Congressional legislation, the study will apply established criteria for

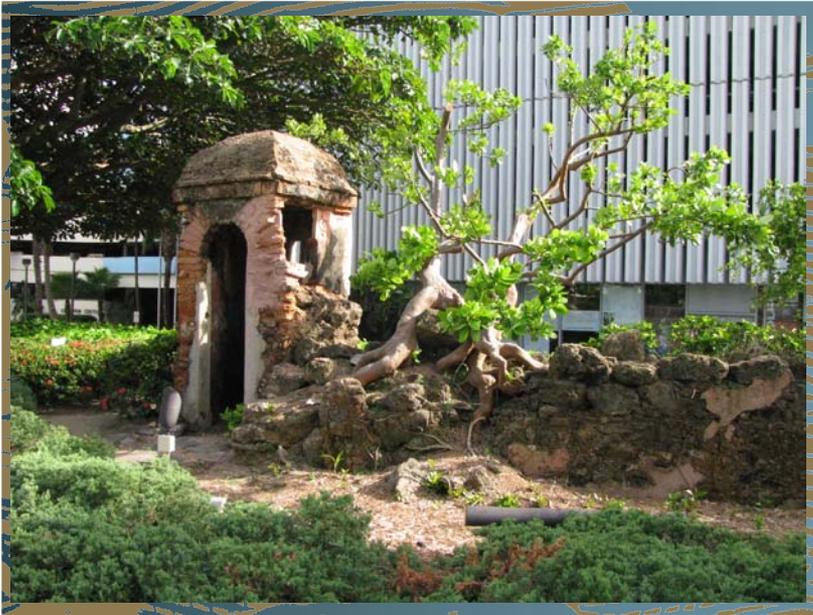
1. Suitability and
2. Feasibility.

Applying these criteria consistently helps the National Park Service to

- Weigh the relative merits of including any of the study sites as part of the San Juan National Historic Site, and
- Ensure that only those sites that best meet certain conditions are included within the national park system.



HOW WILL THESE SITES AND RESOURCES BE EVALUATED?



To evaluate potential inclusion of sites into the San Juan National Historic Site, the National Park Service will also apply established Boundary Adjustment criteria to analyze

1. Management options, and
2. Feasibility to administer sites considering size, configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors.



HOW WILL THESE SITES AND RESOURCES BE EVALUATED?

This study will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a significant effect on the environment, including natural, cultural, economic, and social aspects.

The National Park Service will prepare an **environmental assessment** for this special resource study. This process will include

- Analysis of potential impacts to study resources
- Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other applicable laws and consultations
- Public Input
 - Public scoping meetings
 - Public review of draft report



WHAT ARE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES?

As the Congressional legislation directs, the study will determine

“the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of Fort San Gerónimo and the other related sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.”

- Inclusion in the national park system will not be recommended unless this option is clearly superior.
- In some cases, the National Park Service may be involved by providing technical assistance or other advice.





SCHEDULE (UNDER CURRENT FUNDING)





HOW MAY I BE INVOLVED?

Your input is very important to us.

Project Website

- <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero>

Progress Reports at Project Milestones

Draft Study Review

- Posted on project website
- Public meeting



THANK YOU for your participation.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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