1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Callejones Site
Other Name/Site Number: (LR-2)

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: ________________
City/Town: Lares
State: Puerto Rico
County: Lares
Code: 081
Zip Code: ________________
Not for publication: X
Vicinity: X

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: X
Public-local: ___
Public-State: ___
Public-Federal: ___

Category of Property
Building(s): ___
District: ___
Site: X
Structure: ___
Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing
Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:
Ball Courts Sites in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands
4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

[Signature]
Signature of Certifying Official

[Date]

SHPO - Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

[Signature]
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

[Date]

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

[ ] Entered in the National Register [SLR]

[ ] Determined eligible for the National Register

[ ] Determined not eligible for the National Register

[ ] Removed from the National Register

[ ] Other (explain): _____________________________

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

[Date]
Date of Action
6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic  
          Religion  

Sub: village site  
     ceremonial site  

Current: Agriculture  

Sub: agricultural field

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS:
Foundation:
Walls:
Roof:
Other:
Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Introduction:

is a prehistoric village site containing the remains of one stone lined batey, or ball court and a stone lined terrace feature (see Figure 1). Ceramic analysis has identified both Ostiones and Capá style sherds, indicating the site dates from "the end of a transition from the former style to the latter", or Rouse's Period IVa (ca. AD 1000 to 1250) (Alegria 1983:96)

Environmental Setting: In 1937, when the Callejones Site was first described by Irving Rouse, of Yale University, it was found to be situated

The plateau was noted as being planted in coffee in 1937.

Previous Archeological Investigations: Prior to the visit to the Callejones Site by Irving Rouse, of Yale University, in 1937, the site had been visited by Samuel K. Lothrop and had produced material associated with the batey ball game. According to Alegria,

It was known to Lothrop (n.d.) and several local collectors who, according to Rouse, had removed several stones bearing petroglyphs from the court. Rouse was informed that the owner of the site had found a stone collar and other artifacts near the southeastern corner of the court [1983:95].

During Rouse's 1937 investigations at Callejones, he noted the main ball court was actually rhomboidal, instead of rectangular, to conform to the contours of the plateau (see Figure 1) (Rouse 1952:474). The east and west sides of the main ball court were "lined with walls of earth and stones, but the two (north and south) ends are open" (Alegria 1983:95). According to Alegria, in his book Ball Courts and Ceremonial Plazas in the West Indies,

At the time of Rouse's visit [1937], little remained of the eastern wall except some scattered round stones and a slight rise in the ground, which he thought was material thrown up during the leveling of the court. The western wall was better preserved. Here the hillside had been cut to a depth of 2 m, and the resulting [earthen] embankment had been terraced with two rows of stones. These two rows, standing one above the other, are both composed of large thin slabs nearly 2 m high; Rouse compared them to a grandstand. They
were set for half of their height into the ground. Although none showed carving, previous visitors to the site are said to have carried off petroglyphs from among these slabs (Rouse 1952:474). Rouse notes that on the northwestern side of the court, erosion had begun to eat away the edge of the plateau and, apparently to prevent this, a crude wall of small river stones had been erected there [1983:95].

Rouse noted the presence of prehistoric ceramics to the east and north of the ball court. According to Alegria,

Two pits were excavated by Rouse [in July of 1937] in which he found 150 sherds of Capá pottery style and only 6 of Ostiones style. Only 26 sherds are from open bowls, as compared to 75 from constricted bowls; 55 are unidentifiable. The associated artifacts include a fragment of a griddle, a stone celt, a celt hammer, a piece of coral, 2 broken stalactites, a fragment of charcoal, and 24 flint chips [1983:95].

The Callejones Site is interpreted as a transitional Ostiones/Capa, or Period IVa (AD 1000 to 1250) prehistoric habitation and ball court site (Alegria 1983:96).

On October 15, 1996, Dr. Mark R. Barnes, Senior Archeologist, of the National Register Programs Division, with the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office in conjunction with Mr. Miquel Bonini, Puerto Rican State Archeologist, accompanied by Geraldine Toste and Grisel Rosa, staff archeologists with the Puerto Rican State Historic Preservation Office visited the Callejones (LR-2) ball court site in Lares Municipality, to evaluate the site for National Register eligibility. It was found that the stone lined ball court was still intact and scattered prehistoric artifacts were noted throughout the site.

The alignment of the ball court is substantially the same as noted in 1937. Fourteen (14) stones on the west side (see Photos 1-2) and four (4) stones on the east side of the ball court were located. Many of these stones were 2 meters in height and still standing in an upright position. The retaining wall to the west of the ball court is still intact and six (6) large stones were noted in place. The stone terrace formation in the northwest part of the site was found to be made up of at least three stone terraces (see Photo 3). This terrace feature is probably prehistoric, but could have been possibly built in the twentieth century to prevent erosion of the area for the cultivation of coffee.

Site Integrity: which may have removed some of the stones of the ball court. This construction activity certainly appears to have removed the area of Rouse's Excavation 2 unit.
Overall, the site is in good condition. The ball court and western retaining wall are still defined, as is the stone terrace feature to the northwest of the ball court. Surface artifacts of a prehistoric nature were noted throughout the site during the October 1996 site visit indicating a good probability of intact deposits for future investigations.
8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: ___ Statewide: X Locally: ___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B ___ C ___ D X ___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___

Areas of Significance: Archeology - Prehistoric

Period(s) of Significance: Ostiones/Capá, or Period IVa (AD 1000 to 1250)

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Pre-Taino, Taino

Architect/Builder: N/A
State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary Statement of Significance: Batey, or Ball Court Sites in the American possessions in the Caribbean are significant prehistoric ceremonial resources. They first appear in the Early Ostiones or pre-Taino Period (AD 600 to 1200), with the majority of them dating from the Late Ostiones or Taino Period (AD 1200 to 1500). Early sixteenth-century Spanish descriptions of ball courts and the ball game, both called batey, indicate they were the central feature of the larger Taino villages. From these descriptions it is clear that the intent of the ball game was for settlement of disputes between Taino chiefs, and had a ceremonial oracular function, in addition to recreation. The ball courts also represented not only a certain degree of technological competence in their construction, but also a political and organizational ability to oversee their execution, probably at the level of a chiefdom.

The Callejones Site is complex site containing a central plaza, ball court, and habitation site, which exhibits a particularly interesting batey construction technique. Ball courts are usually rectangular in shape, however, the small plateau on which the Callejones ball court is built forced the builders to skew the shape of the ball court into a rhomboid shape. In addition, the builders had to excavate nearly 2 meters of earth on the west side of the ball court in order to achieve a flat surface area. The west side of the ball court was so steep the builders also constructed a stone retaining wall west of the batey. To the northwest of the site is a stone terrace feature, consisting of at least three stone terraces. Surrounding the batey on the north and east sides are the areas of habitation.

Current research on ball court sites includes topics such as; settlement patterns; identification of the area of origin for the introduction of the ball game and ball court into the Caribbean; clarification of dating of ball court sites; and ethnohistorical study of the role of the ball game in the sociopolitical context of Taino culture. The following research topics might be addressed in future investigations at the Callejones Site.

a. Settlement Patterns - Additional archeological surveys to locate ball courts sites are needed to determine if the present distribution of these resources are correct. The majority of known ball courts in the Caribbean are found in the mountainous areas of Puerto Rico. This distribution pattern may be skewed by historic agricultural activities in the coastal areas of Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands that have been subjected to land modification which has masked the occurrence of ball court sites.

Extensive field research and radiocarbon dating of archeological sites containing ball courts still is required before reliable diachronic patterns of settlement in the early Ostionoid and Taino Periods can be determined. Considering the length of time
archeological investigations have been conducted on prehistoric sites in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Little is known about large, coastal village/ball court sites, possibly due to destruction of such sites by colonial and post-colonial agricultural activity. Additionally, little is known about the nature of sites that occur in interior mountainous or upland areas. Investigation of these would contribute much to an understanding of site function and intra- and inter-regional relationships.

- Are there differing patterns of the distribution of ball court sites typical of coastal and inland areas?

- Do settlement patterns of ball court sites change through time? Are these affected by long-term climatic change and/or sea level fluctuations?

- Do interior sites concentrate along major streams as indicated by Alegria or is this a product of our unsystematic site records?

- Were some ball court sites occupied seasonally, or year-round, or during periods of ceremonial activities?

- How do the village sites associated with ball courts vary through time? For example, how far back in time do ball courts and associated village sites extend? Is there a time difference between coastal and inland sites?

- What is the specific nature of public architecture (e.g., ball courts, houses for the chiefs and religious structures (caney), petroglyphs, alignment of stones, plazas, etc.) at these sites and how do they change through time?

b. Chronology - Alegria (1983) has provided the most comprehensive work for the occurrence of ball courts in the Caribbean to date. He shows that ball courts began to show up in the archeological record ca. AD 600, with the beginning of the early Ostionoid Period and continue and expand in the Taino Period (ca. AD 1200). This dating is based on ceramic chronology and a few radiocarbon dates gathered from past archeological investigations.

Considering the ongoing nature of the refinement of chronology and dating of sites and artifacts in the Caribbean it is assumed that the traditional view of ceramics and settlement patterns will be enhanced by the construction of local scale environmental chronologies. For example, recent geological advances allow the construction of localized sea level and rainfall curves for the Holocene Epoch. Fluctuations in sea level or rainfall translate into significant changes in the coastal and mountain/upland environments and resources available to prehistoric peoples in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.
- How should paleoenvironmental continuity and change over time be investigated?

- How do the paleoclimatic and paleoecologic records relate to patterns of settlement, subsistence, and ultimately political organization?

- How can ceramic, bone, shell, and stone artifact types be refined to permit their use in chronological studies?

- What is the nature of the earliest occurrence of ball courts and ball game paraphernalia in Puerto Rico, and what is the place of origin for this activity?

- **c. Social and Political Organization** - Little archaeological information exists to complement the ethnohistoric documents of the early sixteenth-century Spanish colonial accounts of ball courts and the ball game. Alegria (1983) and Stevens-Arroyo (1988) offer testable models of cultural development. There is a need for large-scale excavation to generate significant data sets before such issues can be resolved.

- What is the form of prehistoric political organization? For example, is the historic Taino complex political organization of caciques employing the use of batey games and divination using zemis, a prehistoric feature as well?

- How does political organization change through time?

- What are the archaeological correlates of complex sociopolitical organization?

- Can social status be detected through dietary and dress preferences?

- How early and at what frequency do large construction projects, such as ball courts, appear in the archeological record?

- What is the extent and nature of Taino political alliances? How far back in time do these alliances extend?

- Is there a prehistoric trade network that links the political organizations on Puerto Rico?

- How do the nature and boundaries of prehistoric networks shift through time?

- What roles do the mountain and coastal ball courts sites play in the trade/exchange networks?
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alegria, Ricardo E.
1983 Ball Courts and Ceremonial Plazas in the West Indies. Yale University Publications in Anthropology No. 79. Department of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven.

Fernández de Navarrete, Martin

Fewkes, J. W.

Las Casas, Bartolomé de

Lothrop, Samuel K.

Mason, J. Alden

Oviedo, Gonzalo Fernández de
1851 Historia general y natural de las Indies. 4 Vols. Madrid.

Picó, Rafael

Rainey, Froelich G.

Rodríguez, Miguel
Rouse, Irving


Stahl, Agustín

Stevens-Arroyo, Antonio M.

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:

X State Historic Preservation Office Puerto Rico
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
X Other(Specify Repository): González Family
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99001022 Date Listed: 9/03/99

Callejones Site
Property Name

Lares PR
County State

Ball Court/Plaza Sites of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands
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.

Signature of the Keeper 9/22/99

Amended Items in Nomination:

The following information was provided by Hugh Tosteson of the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office. Item 1 is to be added to the significance statement, Item 2 to the site description, and Item 3 to the geographical information.
1. Callejones is a complex site containing a central plaza, ball court, and habitation site, exhibiting a rhomboidal shape, which varies from the usually rectangular shape for ball courts. This suggests that the siting itself prefigured any consideration of establishing the ball court, whose design was adapted to the small plateau where it is located. This is reinforced by the extent of the terrain modification undertaken in order to level the ball court area, including stone terraces to counter the steeper side slopes. The fact that this site is interpreted as a transitional Ostiones/Capá, or Period IVa (AD 1000 to 1250) prehistoric habitation and ball court site (Alegria 1983: 96) places it at the beginning of the known development of ball courts and chiefdom society lends it great research potential. These elements, addressed through excavation of the site, could address the following specific research topics, as identified in the MPS and individual nominations:

   a. Were some ball courts occupied seasonally, or year-round, or during periods of ceremonial activities?
   b. How early and at what frequency do large construction projects, such as ball courts, appear in the archaeological record?
   c. What roles do the mountain and coastal ball court sites play in the trade/exchange networks?

2. See accompanying sketch map for additional information required.

3. DISTRIBUTION:

   National Register property file
   Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)