Dear Ms. Rössler:

This is a clarification of the boundary of the World Heritage property “La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site” in response to the Retrospective Inventory, as well as a request for a minor boundary modification to formalize this clarification.

In compliance with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines, namely paragraph 164 and Annex 11, we are providing the following information to propose the minor boundary modification:

1) **Area of the property (in hectares):**

   a) The original nomination (in 1983) did not clearly identify the area in hectares for the components of the serial property. The clarification of the boundary has established that there are three components of the serial property: Bastión de las Palmas, the third component, is a small portion of the fortress wall on the southern boundary of the property. As we have now determined that it is separated by a very small distance from the rest of the wall, it forms a separate component.

   b) The corrected number of hectares for the property is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La Fortaleza and San Juan NHS</td>
<td>31.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo)</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastión de las Palmas</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>33.39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**November 6, 2015**
2) **Description of the modification:**

The modification requested corrects obvious errors, omissions and lack of clarity in the original 1983 map that was used at the time of inscription.

The map of the San Juan National Historic Site (NHS) boundary submitted with the nomination in 1983:

- Included a parcel that the National Park Service (the entity that owns and manages the San Juan NHS) has never owned (#1 on the accompanying overlay map) at Isla de Cabras and incorrectly identified it as El Cañuelo;
- did not include another parcel that the National Park Service did own (#2 on the overlay map), Fort San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo) in Isla de Cabras;
- Included a portion of the South Wall (Santa Catalina Bastion) that is not part of the NHS (#3 on the overlay map)
- Included a portion of the South Wall between La Concepción Bastion and Bastión de las Palmas that is not a part of the NHS (#4 in the overlay map)
- Included a parcel of land east of Castillo San Cristóbal that is not part of the NHS (#5 on the overlay map)
- Did not include a parcel of land north of Castillo San Cristóbal that is part of San Juan National Historic Site (#6 in the overlay map)
- Did not include a parcel of land known as the Esplanade of El Morro (#7 in the overlay map)

These errors have been rectified in the requested modification.

Correspondence from the World Heritage Centre regarding the Retrospective Inventory has noted that ICOMOS recommended in May 1983 "that the proposed cultural property be inscribed on the World Heritage List after the extension of the envisioned zone of protection," and that the World Heritage Bureau recommended in June 1983 the inscription on the World Heritage list "on the condition that the authorities (1) extend the envisaged zone of protection (2) provide a map indicating the delimitation of this zone (3) take safe-guarding measures to ensure the equilibrium between the historic zone and the modern town and (4) provide the documents relevant to these measures." The Centre also noted that, in October 1983, the U.S. Delegation to UNESCO sent to the World Heritage Centre a map and an accompanying letter stating the following: "Specifically the supplemental materials requested include a map indicating the delimitation of an extended zone of protection. This zone of protection and its clear delimitation will address the ICOMOS recommendations [...]. The Government of the United States is pleased to comply with this request for further information in support of its nomination of the Historic Fortifications of San Juan. A map clearly displaying delimited buffer zones for the historic properties which are being nominated [...] are being gathered."

Unfortunately, we do not ourselves have a record of the correspondence cited or the map provided to the World Heritage Centre. Although we have requested copies of this material from the Centre, they have not yet been provided to us, and we cannot offer any further explanation. Therefore, at this time we are not proposing a buffer zone for the property and are only clarifying the boundaries of the property.
3) **Justification for the modification:**

The boundary map submitted in 1983 with the nomination inaccurately recorded the boundaries of San Juan National Historic Site, which was intended to be the basis for the nomination (except for La Fortaleza, which is unaffected by these corrections). Significant areas of the NHS were not included on the map, and areas that never were part of the NHS, and have never been under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, were shown as part of the property.

The map used in the original submission was made by hand, using an existing map of the colonial city of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, which was not made specifically for the purpose of the nomination and did not show the actual boundaries of San Juan National Historic Site. Among the many errors it contained, it located Fort San Juan de la Cruz (El Cañuelo) on the northern coastline of Isla de Cabras instead of in the south of the island.

The revised map now submitted was created digitally using updated digitized maps from the Land Resources Program Center of the Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service. This map accurately reflects the boundaries of the San Juan National Historic Site at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1983.

Therefore, the revised boundaries, although containing a number of differences, were those intended to be the basis for the nomination in 1983. The changes to the boundary will have no effect on the continuing conservation or protection of the property, and will eliminate confusion deriving from the inaccurate information on the original map.

4) **Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value:**

The modifications requested are in the nature of a correction. They do not add areas that were not intended to be part of the World Heritage property or exclude areas that were originally intended to be included. The proposed corrections to the map do not affect the structures and features that contribute to the property’s Outstanding Universal Value and were described in the nomination.

5) **Implications for legal protection:**

The correction to the boundary will make no change to the legal protection of the property.

6) **Implications for management arrangements:**

The correction to the boundary will make no change to the management of the property.
7) **Maps:**

Three maps are attached:
- A newly created map of the boundary as it was included with the 1983 nomination (in response to the Retrospective Inventory);
- A map containing the proposed minor boundary;
- A map with an overlay of the two boundaries.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen A. Morris  
Chief, Office of International Affairs

cc: Félix López, San Juan National Historic Site  
Ambassador Crystal Nix-Hines, U.S. Permanent Representative to UNESCO

**Attachments:**
- Map of the boundary proposed with the 1983 nomination (in response to the Retrospective Inventory)
- Map containing the proposed minor boundary modification
- Map with an overlay of the two boundaries.
Boundary Map of La Fortaleza and San Juan NHS World Heritage Site at the Time of Inscription (1983)

Legend

1983 Boundary of the World Heritage Site

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, ©OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Map prepared on October, 2015

Produced by: National Park Service Southeast Region Geospatial Support Program
Data: NPS, ESRI. Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 19 N. Scale 1:10,000

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Proposed Minor Boundary Modification for La Fortaleza and San Juan NHS World Heritage Site

Legend
- Proposed Boundary of the World Heritage Site

Area: 33.39 hectares

La Fortaleza
San Cristóbal
Viejo
San Juan
El Morro
El Cañuelo

Map prepared on October, 2015

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, ©OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Data: NPS, ESRI. Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 19 N. Scale 1:10,000