UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE NO. 0-35
PART 1

NATIONAL MONUMENT
ROSSELL CAVES

IMPORTANT
This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT
Director.
Anton Texas
Nov. 16, 1931

Unistar Land Office
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I, the undersigned, Sabino Alvarez, on October 19, 1931, found a cave in Chaves County, in the State of New Mexico, close to Roswell, New Mexico. I and my sixteen-year-old son walked in the cave about three and a half hours on that date up until we saw a hole and climbed out. The cave still continued, but I was afraid to get lost. From the entrance a little ways there led some more caves leading from the main cave. The main cave is nice; it is about eight feet wide and seven feet high. The walls and ceiling are...
very smooth, I was in this place in Sept. 1931 and tried to find the entrance and opening where we came out. As of 1919 as stated and both places are caverns and I was at the present time. I am taking the steps for support and further information from which branches are concerning. This cavern in a private land and as I am very old now I want to see this cave worked out. I solemnly swear that there cavern there and is not discovered by anybody else. I would kindly give me your quick answer and advise and advise me what I do to get a little support in money to get down with the bottom in either entrance as I have no money to work it
out and saw the only one
that know about this
end at the present time.

Very Truly yours,

Sarino Aldaba
His + signature

P.S. Please address my return mail
in 0, Mr. Salazar Santiago
at Anton, Box 135
July 22.
This letter must be acknowledged or answered **WITHIN FOUR DAYS** from date stamped on this slip. **NOV 21 1934**

If you desire case returned to your Division, so state in space provided below.

Return papers to Division ______________________ for further action.

_____________________________  ______________________
(INITIALS OF CLERK)  (DIVISION NUMBER)
The attached communication has been received by the General Land Office and is referred for answer to the National Park Service, without acknowledgment.

Assistant to the Commissioner.
Dear Mr. Alvarez:

By reference from the General Land Office this will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 16, 1931, with reference to certain caves which you state you have discovered in Chavez County, New Mexico.

It would appear from your letter that these caves are within privately-owned lands and that you would like to raise money to develop the same.

I am sorry that we do not know of any source from which you might secure funds for developing these caves. This Department does not render any service of that kind.

If you will advise us the location of the caves by section, township and range, we may be able to send one of our investigators to examine them with a view of determining whether they measure up to the standards for a national monument.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,
Director
From Garin, A. S. Salazar
Bot 135
anton Iran

JAN 3
1235PM
1932

To Horace M. Albright
Penton of Park Service
Washington D.C.
January 2nd, 1932

Mr. Horace J.M. Albright
Director of Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I am sending you the information that you wish to have in connection with my letter of November 16, 1931 concerning to a cave that were found by me in Chavez County Estate of Mr. Mexico.

The information that I have concerning to your wishes show as follows: There is a high way road from Roswell west lies of Section 20 in Township 14 South Range 21, 22, 23, and 24 and is
Desire more information. Please let me know and I will get them for you. I note in your letter May 30, 1931, that you may be able to send one of your investigators. If so, please send him at once to your station and he will find me in the firm. I am well known here, and then I will bring him to get in contact with me. Staring around as I am in connection with this affair in this case, he is an old gentleman and cannot talk the English language, and this man will in this case
few miles as he stated. Two is too many, many ways to describe this transaction. As I have made two trips at that place and 2 a.m., from the place 200 miles just in front, you investigators to get in contact with us in because we know the place and do not take but a little time. Please let us know what steps are you going to take, and waiting your quick answer.

Santiago Salazar
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

JAN -8 1932

Mr. Savino Alvarez,
Casa Mr. Santiago Salazar,
Box 133, Anton, Texas.

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 2, 1932, relative to certain caves in Chaves County, New Mexico.

From your letter it would appear that these caves are located in Township 11 South, Ranges 21, 22, 23 and 24 East, which is within the immediate vicinity of Roswell, New Mexico.

It would also appear that these caves are in private ownership, which, of course, removes them from any immediate consideration by the Federal Government. However, we are willing to enter them on our list of proposed projects for future investigation provided we have sufficient definite data to locate them when our investigators in that vicinity of the State of New Mexico.

Therefore, it is suggested that if you are further interested in having this Service make an investigation, you send us a map or some rough sketch, showing the exact location of these caves in relation to the Government survey by sections, township and range.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) G. A. MOSKEY

G. A. MOSKEY,
Acting Director.
Mr. Smith

Anton, Texas

Jan. 13, 1932

U.S. Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington D.C.

In your letter of January 8, 1932 you inquire for more information. I am sending you a rough sketch so you can get to one of the openings of the cave. Both openings are shown in as stated in the other of my letters. In leaving the corporation of the town of Roswell you follow the highway due west on highway 366 west of Roswell. This road is about 14 miles west of Roswell in the hills. On going to one of the openings you will have to go to the old Hondo Dam Reservoir. On the northeast side of the dam there is a slow ascending hill and you will
see brick, and, I judge, where water has stood several years back. And at the present time you can see the line which is a good sign that the opening is somewhere there. There is a round earth hole about twenty-five inches in diameter. In August 1931 I left a post there indicating a sight for future search. As I am showing on this sketch, two holes that look alike not over two hundred feet apart which I think one of this is the opening of the tank, whereas the earth out. This is all the information concerning that opening. Now I am going to tell you of the other opening over in the hills facing to the west. There are three windmills just on the foot of the hills, about half a mile apart. And the windmill on the north.
(3.)

has tree but no house
and also the other windmill
is haven't either tree or
houses. The spot fit the
windmill in the middle
is the best sign in telling
the direction of the East
facing west, so opening
of the cave stands facing
Roswell parallel with the
windmill. The opening of the
cave is in foot of the hills
but not over one third of
mile into the hills as you
will see in the sketch that
I am sending you. This
opening of the cave is where
I went in, but now it is
closed in also. This is the
very true information I can
give you. You will see many
cave ins and holes in the
hills that lead to a good
sign that the cave is there.
Please give me a prompt reply and I will appreciate it very much.

Yours truly,

Sabino Alvarez

To Santiago Salazar
Anton J. Texas
Box 135
Mr. Sávino Alvarez,  
Care Mr. Santiago Salazar,  
Box 135,  
Anton, Texas.

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

I have your letter of January 17, 1932, enclosing a sketch of certain caves near Roswell, New Mexico.

These caves have been entered on our list of proposed projects, but, as stated to you by our letter of January 8, it would appear that they are in private ownership which removes them from any immediate consideration by the Federal Government.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER

ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Acting Director.
**ROSWELL CAEVES NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location and Area</th>
<th>In Chavez County, New Mexico, and near Roswell. Appear to be in township 11 South; Ranges 21, 22, 23 and 24 E. Area unknown.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History and Remarks</td>
<td>Suggested by Mr. Savino Alvarez. No special formations or features of interest are alleged to exist. The only request appears to be just to have the caves &quot;worked out.&quot; They are in private ownership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>By motor from Roswell, New Mexico.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Interested</td>
<td>Mr. Savino Alvarez, c/o M. Santiago Salazar, Box 135, Anton, Texas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>No investigation is contemplated at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF PLANNING
EXTENSION DIVISION

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS
(Form of report from Regional Officers)
To be typed throughout.

Letter of transmittal: To be attached (summary and recommendation)

Name of Project: Roswell caves Nat. Mon.

Location - (state, county, distance and direction from known city)
New Mexico, Chaves County, near Roswell

Area - Total ___________________________________________ Acres ____________ Square Miles.

Boundaries - (description, reference to maps to be attached)

Proposed:

Recommended: This area is not recommended because of its lack of scenic importance and its dangerous caves, two persons have already been killed in cave ins.

Accessibility:
Railway: No.
Highway: 12 miles via dirt road from Highway.
Airline: No.
Waterway: No.

Major characteristics - (Indicate those which are outstanding and attach additional information if necessary)

1. Scenic features - (topography, elevation, plant cover, water, etc):
   Slightly rolling country with little scenic value. Plant growth confined to desert grasses and small scrubby vegetation.

2. Historical or prehistoric features: None.

3. Geological features: Dangerous caves caused by underground streams cutting away the gypsum formation.
4. Recreational possibilities (if compatible with project)

   National: None.

   Local: Not recommended because of the dangerous character of the area.

   Estimated population within a radius of 50 miles:
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance (miles)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Biological features:

   Vegetative: Desert grasses and sparse shrubby growth.

   Wildlife: Some small fish in holes containing water. These are said to have been planted.

   Need for conservation: None.

Relative importance in comparison with areas of similar nature elsewhere: The caves compare only slightly with other areas of similar nature. Their dangerous character renders them unsuitable for development.

Possible development -

Recreational facilities (if compatible with project):

Utilities -

Water supply: Extremely mineral in content.

Parking space, capacity: Unlimited

Campground sites, capacity: Unlimited

Light and power facilities: None
Sewerage disposal facilities: None.

Capacity for handling of visitors: Unlimited

Practicability of administration and protection: Impractical

Other land uses -
Mining resources: None reported.

Agricultural resources: No.

Grazing: Slight.

Cultivated crops: None.

Timber: None.

Hunting & Fishing uses: None.

Power Resources: None.

Irrigation Resources: None.
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
STATE PARK DIVISION

4 State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 24, 1935

State Park ECW
National Park Service
Bond Building
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Report of Investigation of the Proposed
Roswell Caves National Monument Area

Sirs:

We are enclosing herewith two copies of our report of
the investigation of the Roswell Caves Area, New Mexico, which
has been proposed as a National Monument.

From the information presented in this report, it seems
apparent that this area cannot qualify or be recommended as a
National Monument.

While there are many caves in this area which in them-
selves present some interest, they are continually caving in. For
this reason, we cannot recommend that the area be opened to the
public. Two persons have already been killed in investigating
these caves.

Yours very truly,

HERBERT MAIER
Regional Officer, ECW

LVR:MKL
Enc.
PROPOSED ROSWELL CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT

REVIEW:

These caves are located in Chaves County, New Mexico, near Roswell. They were first proposed to the Service by Mr. Savino Alvarez of Anton, Texas, who explored the caves in 1919. In later explorations to the area he found the entrances caved in. He desired that this Service dig out the caves. Replies to him stated that private ownership of the lands eliminated immediate consideration by the Government.

A report submitted on July 24, 1935 by the Seventh Regional Officer states that the caves are weak and constantly caving in, having killed two people. They are entirely lacking in scenic importance.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this area be disapproved as a national monument and dropped from our list.

APPROVED:

[Signature]
Lawrence C. Merriam
Acting Assistant Director.

[Signature]
Director.
Roswell Caves National Monument, N. M.

General:
Location: In Chaves County, near Roswell.
Area: Privately owned.

General Characteristics:
(a) Scenic:
(b) Historical:
(c) Geological:
(d) Recreational:
(e) Biological:

Accessibility:
Interested Individuals: Mr. Savino Alvarez.

Reports:
Suggested by Mr. Savino Alvarez. On Jan. 6, and Jan. 30, 1932, he was advised by the Acting Director that inasmuch as the caves are apparently privately owned, they could not receive any immediate consideration by the Federal Government.