

10-23
(May, 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROSWELL CAVES ~~XXXX~~ NATIONAL PARK MONUMENT

FILE No. **0-35**

PART 1

NATIONAL MONUMENT

ROSWELL CAVES

LAST DATE ON TOP

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This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.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.

1436640

Anton Texas
Nov. 16/1931

K
General Land Office
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I the undersigned
Sabino Alvarez on October 19/19
I found a cave in Chavez County
in the State of New Mexico close
to Roswell N. Mexico. I and
my sixteen year old son
walked in these cave
about three and a half hours
on that date up until we
saw a hole and climbed out.
The cave still continued but
we was afraid to get lost.
From the entrance a little
ways there are 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. In Oct 1919 as I stated
and both places are caveing in
and I was at the present time
I am taking the steps for
support and further information
from which branches are
concerning. This cave is in
a private land and as I am
very old now I want to see
this cave worked out. I
solemnly swear that these
cave is there and is not
discovered by anybody else.
Hoping kindly give me your
quick answer and advise
and advise me what to 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 I am the only one
that know about this
case at the present time.

Very Truly yours.

Savino Albarez
His + signature

P.S. Please address my return mail
in c/o Mr. Salazar Santiago
at Antón Box 135
Jazm.

YR007818
BOSTON
MA 02114

ALVAREZ, 'INO' ANTON TEX K
11-16-31
RE DISCOVERY OF CAVE IN NEW MEXICO

1436640

This letter must be acknowledged or answered **WITHIN**
FOUR DAYS from date stamped on this slip. **NOV 21 1931**

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

Return papers to Division _____ for
further action.

1436640 "K" JPH
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

WDA

JPH

The attached communication has been
received by the General Land Office and
is referred for answer to the National
Park Service, without acknowledgment.

E. A. [unclear]

Assistant to the Commissioner.



gub

11-23-NBL

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

NOV 30 1931

Mr. Savino Alvarez,
Care Mr. Salazar Santiago,
Box 135,
Anton, Texas.

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.

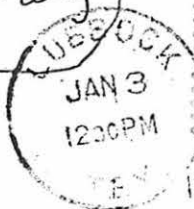
Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) HORACE M. ALBRIGHT

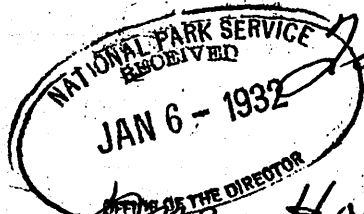
HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,
Director.

HLE/cmr

From Santiago Alvarez
C/O Salazar
Box 135
Anton Itza



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



Mr. Roscoe P. E.
Anton Letos.
January 2nd, 1932.

Mr. Horace 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
State of New Mexico.

The information that I have
concerning to your wish
show as follows there is a
High way road from Roswell
West Texas of sections Roswell
in Township 11 South Range
of 21, 22, 23, and 24 and if.

2

Desire more information
Please let me know and I
will get them for you.

I note in your letter Nov. 30
1931 ~~or~~ that that you may be
able to send one of your
Investigators. if do so, please
send him at Anton J. J. as
and he will find me in a
Farm I am well known
here and then I will bring
him to get in contact with
Mrs. Savino Alvarez as I am
in connection with me

Alvarez in this, he is an old
Gentleman and can't talk the
English Language and this
man walk in this case

3

few miles as he state there
 is too many ways to
 believe in this transaction
 as I have made 2 trips
 at that place and I am
 from the place 200 miles just
 in send your investigator
 to get in contact with
 us is 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.

Anton
 Bat 13543

Yours Truly
 Savino Alvarez
 C/o Santiago Salazar

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

JAN - 8 1932

Mr. Savino Alvarez,
Care Mr. Santiago Salazar,
Box 135, Anton, Texas.

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 3, 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 are 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.

(1.)



Mr. Smith
Rmst

Austin, Texas
Jan. 17, 1932

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

Dear Sir:

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 openings of the cave. Both openings are caved in as I stated in the other of my letters. In leaving the corporation of the town of Roswell you follow the highway to Lincoln Highway 366 west of Roswell. This cave is about 4 miles west of Roswell in the hills. In going to one of the openings you would have to go to the old Honda Dam Reservoir. On the northeast of the dam there is a a slow descending hill and you will

(2.)

see fresh, and inside where water has stood several years back. And at the present time you can see cave ins 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~~ post there indicating a sign 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 cave, where I came 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 Roswell. There are three windmills just on the foot of the hills about half a mile apart. And the windmill on the north

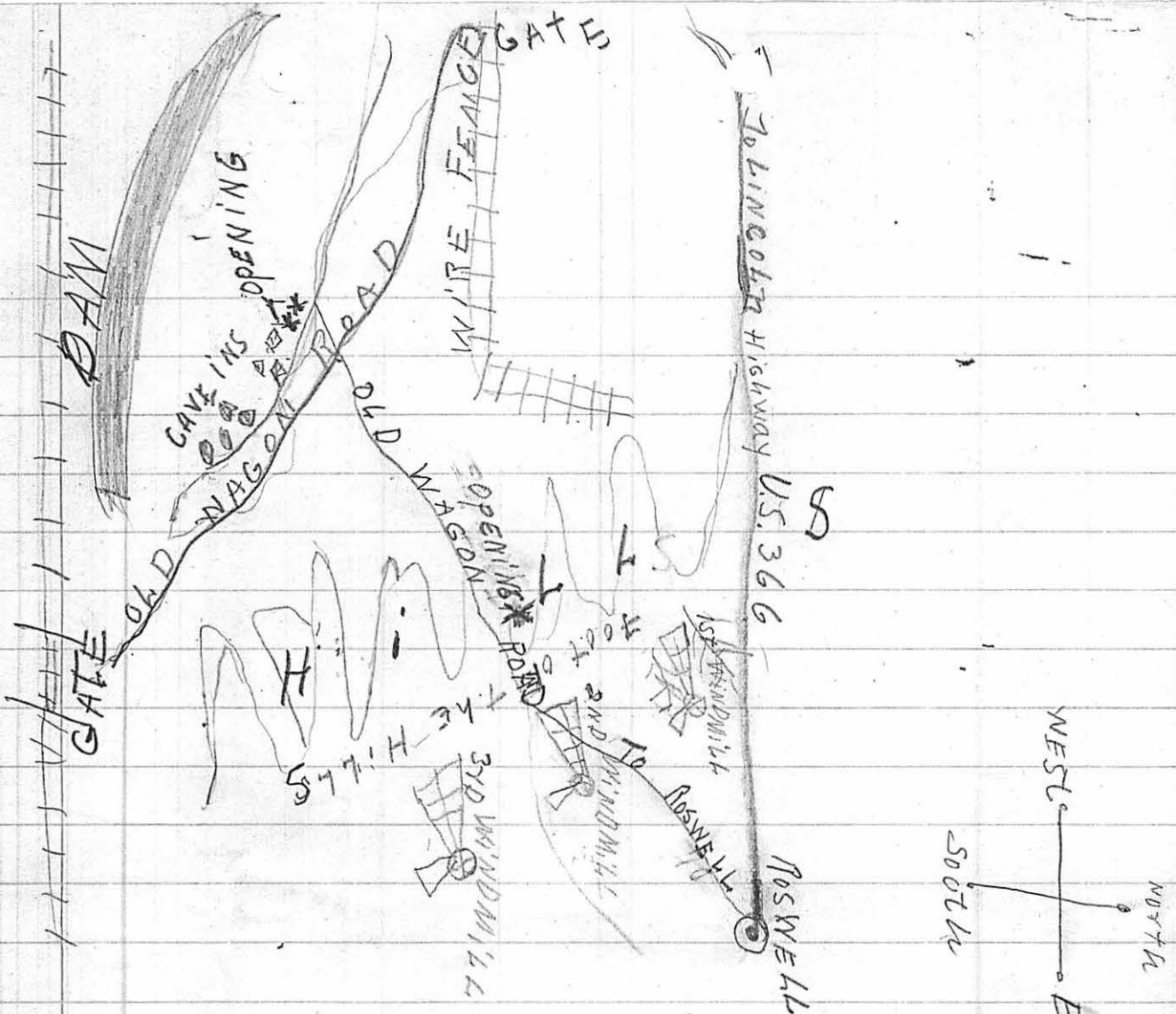
(3.)

has trees but no houses and also the other windmill ~~has~~ haven't either trees or houses. The ~~one of it~~ The windmill in the middle is the best sign in telling the direction of the cave facing west. The ~~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 a 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 caved 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.

(4.)

Please give me a prompt
reply and I will appreciate
it very much.

Yours truly,
Sabino Alvarez
c/o Santiago Salazar
Anton, Texas
Box 135



Roswell New Mexico
Township 11.
Chavez County.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

*Brooks
Hocking
Jennings*

Mr. [✓]Savino Alvarez,
Care Mr. Santiago Salazar,
Box 135,
Anton, Texas.

JAN 29 1932

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

I have your letter of January 17, 1932, inclosing 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.

HLB/omr

ROSWELL CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO.

File
N.M.
Roswell Caves

Location
and
Area

In Chavez County, New Mexico, and near Roswell.
Appear to be in township 11 South; Ranges 21, 22,
23 and 24 E. Area: unknown.

History
and
Remarks

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 "worked out." They are in private
ownership.

Accessibility

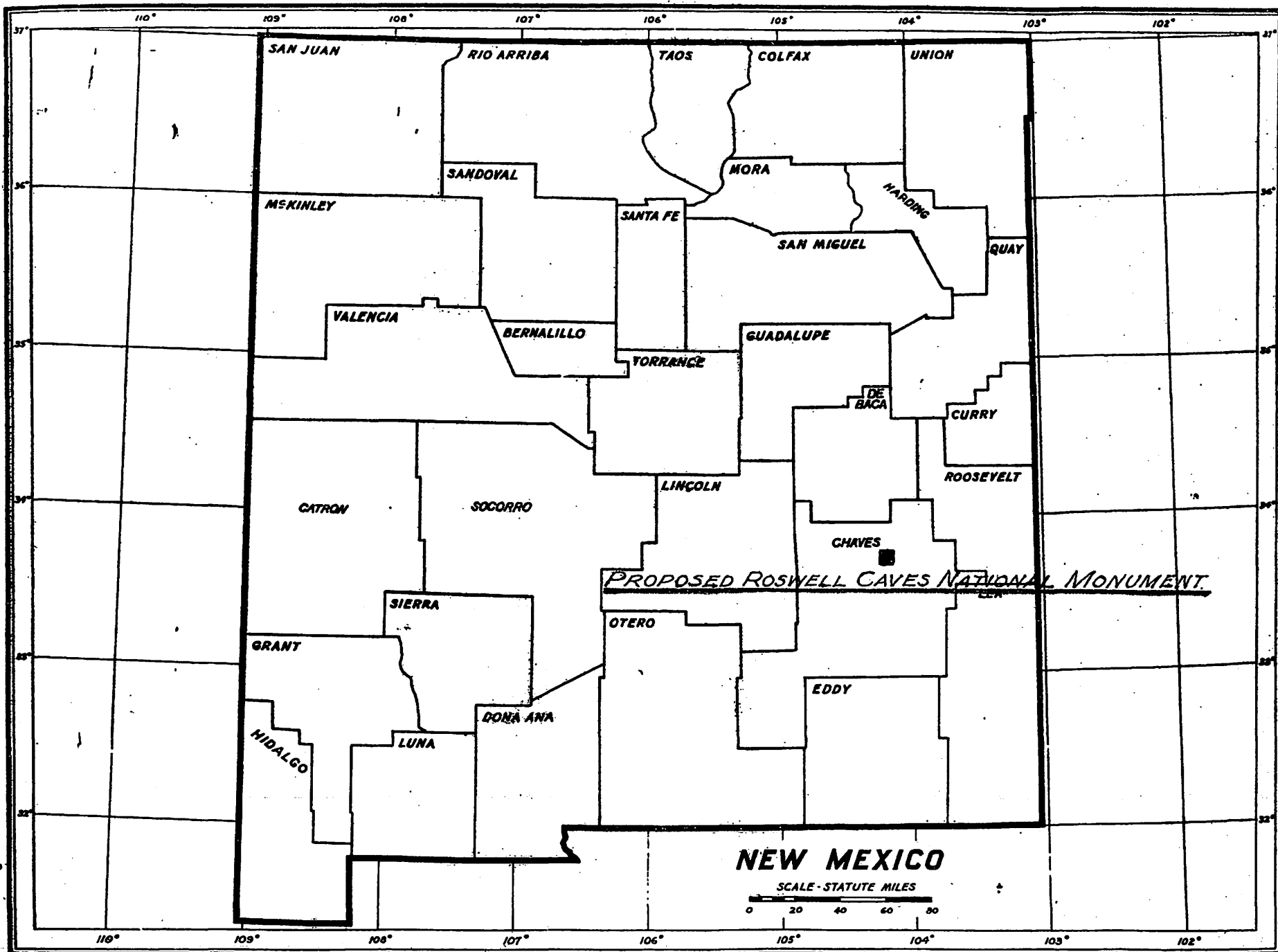
By motor from Roswell, New Mexico.

Persons
Interested

Mr. Savino Alvarez, c/o M. Santiago Salozar, Box 135,
Anton, Texas.

Status

No investigation is contemplated at this time.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRANCH OF PLANNING
EXTENSION DIVISION

100532

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 Indefinite 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.

Copy in Branch of Planning Files

100532

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: _____

100 " _____

200 " _____

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

100532

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.

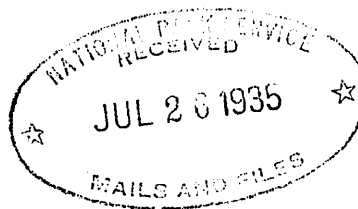
Power Resources: None.

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 themselves 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maier".

HERBERT MAIER
Regional Officer, ECW

LVR:MKL

Enc.

29

AUG 12 1935

File Hla

PROPOSED ROSWELL CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT

REVIEW:

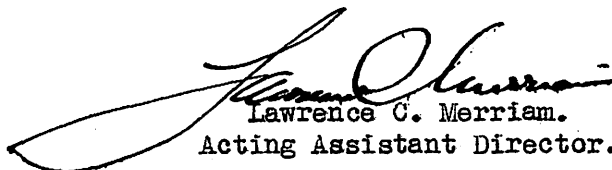
These caves are located in Chaves County, New Mexico, near Roswell. They were first proposed to the Service by Mr. Savino Alvarez of Anton, Texas, who explored the caves in 1919. In later explorations to the area he found the entrances caved in. He desired that this Service dig out the caves. Replies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

*0-35
Roswell*

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.


Lawrence C. Merriam.
Acting Assistant Director.

APPROVED:


Director.

Proposed Area

Roswell Caves National Monument, N. M.

General:

Location: In Chavez County, near Roswell.

Area:

Ownership: Privately owned.

General Characteristics:

(a) Scenic:

(b) Historical:

(c) Geological:

(d) Recreational:

(e) Biological:

Accessability:

**Interested Mr. Savino Alvarez.
Individuals:**

Reports Suggested by Mr. Savino Alvarez. On Jan. 6,
and Jan. 29, 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.

and

Action: Project apparently dead. Aug. 1, 1932.

NEW MEXICO.

ROSWELL CAVES

NATIONAL MONUMENT.