This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, "How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. **Name of Property**
   - Historic name: Duran Historic District____________________________
   - Other names/site number: N/A___________________________________
   - Name of related multiple property listing:
     (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. **Location**
   - Street & number: Roughly bounded by NM 3, Vidal and East streets, and Park Avenue
   - City or town: Duran______ State: NM_____ County: Torrance____ Zip Code: 88301
   - Vicinity: ____________

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**
   - As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I
     recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
     level(s) of significance:
     ___national ___statewide X local
   - Applicable National Register Criteria:
     X__A ___B X__C ___D

   ___________________________  __________________
   Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

   ___________________________
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

   ___________________________  __________________
   Signature of commenting official: Date

   ___________________________
   Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Duran Historic District ____________________________ Torrance, New Mexico
Name of Property County and State

4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
  ___ entered in the National Register
  ___ determined eligible for the National Register
  ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
  ___ removed from the National Register
  ___ other (explain:) _________________________

__________________________________________  __________________________
Signature of the Keeper              Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)
Private:  ___
Public – Local  __
Public – State  ___
Public – Federal  ___

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)
Building(s)  ___
District  ___
Site  ___
Structure  ___
Object  ___
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico

Name of Property                   County and State

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic: single dwelling
Commerce/Trade: specialty store, department store
Education: school
Government: post office
Religion: church
Funerary: cemetery
Agriculture: animal facility
Transportation: rail related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic: single dwelling
Social: meeting hall
Religion: church
Funerary: cemetery
Government: fire station
Agriculture: animal facility
Transportation: rail-related
Vacant/ Not in Use
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:  Late Gothic Revival
Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements:  Bungalow/Craftsman
Other:  Spanish-Pueblo Revival style
Other:  Territorial Revival style
Other:  Hispano linear houses

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:  Adobe, Wood, Stone, Concrete, Brick, Metal

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property.  Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Duran Historic District is a small town located in southeast Torrance County on the eastern plains of New Mexico. The historic district, which lies at the base of Duran Mesa, includes most of the small town, including the gridiron plan of streets and residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. Duran comprises residential and commercial buildings that developed along the railroad. The historic district, which is bisected by the Southern Pacific Railroad line and the parallel U. S. Highway 54, includes areas to the northwest and southeast that feature a brick railroad freight depot and commercial buildings on both sides of the rail line. Most buildings were built between 1902, when the town was founded, and 1931, when the railroad closed its terminal in Duran. The three decades of prosperity in Duran are seen in the commercial buildings and houses designed in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival and Territorial Revival styles. Houses include Craftsman-style bungalows and traditional Hispanic linear houses that began as one or two rooms. Rooms added later formed square- and rectangular-shaped houses with gable roofs. Community landmark buildings and structures include San Juan Bautista Church, the Duran School and gymnasium, and the water tower. The historic district three cemeteries, including the discontinuous Marino Church and Cemetery, where Duran was first settled before residents migrated closer to the railroad at the beginning of the 20th century.
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico
Name of Property
County and State

Narrative Description

Duran was founded by Hispanic families in 1902 and maintains a population of thirty-two residents. The center of the Duran Historic District is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 54 and New Mexico State Highway 3. The latter becomes Church Street southeast of the rail line. U.S. Highway 54 bisects the town. The town was laid out in a gridiron plan of the streets oriented forty-five degrees from perpendicular. The historic district includes neighborhoods northwest and southeast of the railroad. The southeast section includes the original “Marino” settlement, which was historically part of Duran. Since 1915 this area housed the operations if the Hindi Sheep and Cattle Ranch. The historic district is densely developed on both sides of the railroad.

Commercial buildings are located on both sides of the rail line. Those on the southeast side front U.S. Highway 54. Prominent commercial buildings include the Coury Mercantile Building, Wm. Hindi Store, and Kasim’s Cash Store. The Coury Mercantile is a two-story stone building. Both the Wm. Hindi Store and Kasim’s Cash Store feature front façades in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, with stepped parapets and smooth stucco exteriors. Commercial buildings along the railroad were constructed between 1902 and 1920. Currently, all of the commercial buildings in Duran are vacant and not in use.

Residential buildings were built on both sides of the rail line in a variety of styles. Church Street includes two excellent examples of Craftsman-style bungalows, both built of stone and covered with hip roofs. Hispanic linear houses were built of adobe and appear as large square- or rectangular-shaped houses, but are composed of many rooms built over years. Most houses are set back from the street and include front porches. These houses have front, back, and side yards. Some houses have outbuildings to provide shelter for small livestock, such as chickens and goats.

Community landmark include the San Juan Bautista Church, which was finished c.1916. The church features a nave-type plan with an entrance tower and spire. The Duran School, which was built in 1936, is a large, stone building with a corner tower. The brick gymnasium was built by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), also in the 1930s. The two schools are located on Vidal Street. The high school now serves as the Duran Fire Department.

Descriptions of Selected Buildings

Coury Mercantile Company, 4 Coury Street, c.1917. The two-story Coury Mercantile is located at the corner of Coury and Church streets. In 1917, the original store was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt the same year. The store, which is constructed of coursed rubble with a stepped parapet, measures roughly 40 feet by 100 feet. The building rests on a concrete foundation and

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is covered with gable roof. The first floor housed commercial activity; the second floor included living quarters for the Coury family. The Courys rented thirteen rooms on the expansive second floor. The main façade includes four, large display windows with transoms above and a center entrance. On the second floor, three sash windows are present. Above these are two louvered windows. The painted wall sign on the main façade remains visible, with advertisements for dry goods, furniture, hardware, groceries, and feeds. The building is currently vacant. (Figure 3; Photo 7)

**Wm. Hindi Store, 19841 US 54, 1908.** This is the earliest mercantile building in town. It first housed the Duran Mercantile Company and later the Wm. Hindi Store. The store was built with mixed materials, including stone ashlar, wood, adobe, and concrete. The front façade was designed in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, which includes a stepped parapet, and smooth stucco finish. Soon after construction the building appeared with exposed stone, and vigas across the main façade (figure 4). The two front doors provide access to both the Hindi store and a second store on the northeast side of the building. The interior, which is divided by a partition wall built of wood and adobe, is illuminated by steel-frame casement windows. Signs painted on the façade remain legible and read: “Wm. HINDI STORE GENERAL MERCHADISE/“Duran N.M.”/“TOURISTS Welcome.” The building is currently vacant. (Figure 4; Photo 3)

**Kasim’s Cash Store, 18947 US 54, c.1920.** Kasim’s is an L-shaped building that rests on a concrete foundation and is covered with a gable roof. The Spanish-Pueblo-style main façade includes a smooth stucco finish and a stepped parapet. The main recessed entrance is framed by two, large commercial windows. Smaller windows are located along the sides. Another smaller wing, possibly an addition, is includes a door and window and located on the northeast side. A window and door are present on the west side of the front façade. The store was recently painted tan, although in the mid-1990s it was painted white with black signage. Kasim’s Cash Store operated until 1980. The building is now vacant. (Figures 5-8; Photos 4-5)

**Post Office, 19843 US 54, c.1910.** The Post Office is a small, one-room building, which measures less than 400 square feet. It is built of uncoursed stone, covered with a concrete foundation, and a front-facing gable roof. Adobes form the gable ends. The shed-roofed front porch is supported by thin, unworked posts. The wood-panel door includes bars across the single-pane window. A black and white sign on the door reads: “WINDOW HOURS, MON thru SAT ___-12:00pm, SUNDAY….CLOSED, HOLIDAYS…CLOSED.” The sides include louvered windows covered with metal screens. The Post Office operated until 1995. The building is now vacant. (Figure 2; Photo 6)

**San Juan Bautista Catholic Church, 12 Church Street, 1916.** The church, which began in 1910 and was completed in 1916, is thought to have been designed by a “Spaniard” and built by a French mason, who was hired by the Durans to construct multiple buildings throughout the town. The Gothic Revival-style church is built of coursed rock-faced stone with nave-type plan.

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4 Hoelscher; Chavez, Tranquilino. Personal Interview with Sanchez, G. and Dix, K. June 8, 2019.
and an entrance tower with a splay-foot spire. The entrance features Gothic-style doors and lancet windows illuminate the nave. The hip roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal. The church precinct is entered through a stone arch. An addition for the vestry was added to the rear, northeast corner, with matching lancet windows. The interior includes stained-glass windows, a cove ceiling, and a large, ornate altarpiece. The building is used by a fraternal church society that stewards the building and parish. (Figure 1; Photos 8-10)

Duran High School 19 Vidal Street, c.1916. The high school is a two-story building constructed of coursed rock-faced ashlar and pyramidal roofs cover the main block and tower. The three-story entrance tower includes an arched entrance. The remaining openings are trabeated. Two, large garage doors were added to the front of the building when the school was converted to a fire department in the 1980s. The second floor includes six two-over-two-light windows across the main façade. The high school building is currently used by the Duran Fire Department. (Photos 11-12)

Gymnasium, 17 Vidal Street, 1930s. The gymnasium, which located adjacent to the high school building, was built by the WPA in the 1930s. The long, narrow building was constructed of brick and covered with a gable roof. The doors and transom are set with an arched opening. The sides are lined with five one-over-one-light windows. The interior plan includes two classrooms near the entrance and a large gymnasium that includes a stage for student performances. The building is currently used for local events, including meetings, dances, wedding receptions, and the celebrations. (Photo 12)

Freight Depot, US 54, n.d. The depot, which is located along the rail line between US 54 and the railroad line, is located on the south side of Duran. It is long, rectangular building constructed of brick and covered with a shallow-pitched hip roof. The southwest side has both large openings for freight and pedestrian entrances and windows. The lintels and sills are cast concrete. (No photo)

House, 11 3rd Street, n.d. A one-story house constructed of coursed stone with earthen mortar. In places, the earth mortar has been replaced by concrete. Windows and doors are supported with wood lintels and sills. The building is covered by a hipped roof of corrugated sheet metal. The original house was expanded incrementally, evident by changes in material and masonry style and the presence of multiple doors. (No photo)

House, 1 Pine Street, n.d. A one-story L-shaped house set back from the street with concrete foundation, stucco-covered walls, and a full-width front porch. The Pine Street houses are plain and are mostly Hispanic linear houses. (No photo)

House, 15 Church Street, n.d. A one-and-a-half story Craftsman-style bungalow built of uncoursed ashlar with a stone foundation and full-width front porch. The hip roof includes a large front-facing dormer. (Photo 13)

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5 Hindi, Nasim. Personal Interview with Sanchez, G. and Dix, K. June, 8, 2019.
6 Sandoval, Abe. Personal Interview with Sanchez, G. and Dix, K. June, 8, 2019.
Duran Historic District                   Torrance, New Mexico
Name of Property                   County and State

Hindi Sheep and Cattle Ranch, 1915. The Hindi Sheep and Cattle Ranch is the largest single tax parcel in Dural. It includes the Old Marino House, living quarters, barn, windmill, well, and the Marino Church and Cemetery. The ranch is enclosed with fencing. (No photo)

Duran Cemetery is one of three historic cemeteries in the historic district. The three-acre cemetery and the adjacent Hindi Cemetery to the south are located in the southwest corner of the historic district. The larger Duran Cemetery is roughly square-shaped with an unpaved perimeter road. Most of the marked graves are located on the south side of the center road in rows aligned north to south amid the Juniper trees. The Duran Cemetery contains both early 20th-century historic markers and mid-to-late-20th-century manufactured headstones.

The Hindi Cemetery, 1940s was founded by Alex Hindi, the patriarch of a non-practicing Muslim family. When his brother, Amin Hindi was refused burial in the Duran Cemetery by local priest, Alex established the one-quarter-acre Hindi Cemetery south of the Duran Cemetery on the Hindi ranch. Markers in the Hindi Cemetery include plain homemade markers, ornate headstones, and markers written in the Arabic language. The cemetery is enclosed by an iron fence.

Marino Cemetery, c.1901. The cemetery, surrounded by a woven-wire fence, encloses the square 0.80 acre cemetery and the Marino Church. The earliest marker is dated to 1902. The does not appear to have a formal, designed landscape. Rather, the surrounding Juniper-piñon landscape appears to have spread across the cemetery. The cemetery is significant for its early, hand-carved markers, most written in Spanish (Photos 23-24), wood crosses, manufactured markers, and individual graves enclosed by fences constructed of either wood or metal (photo 25). Family plots are defined by cement curbing.

Marino Church, 1901-1906. The stone church, built of coursed ashlar, is located amid the Marino Cemetery roughly 1.5 miles southeast of downtown Duran (Photo 22). The windows and door are supported with wood lintels and sills. The architect is unknown but believed to be the same mason that was hired by the Durans to construct buildings in town, including San Juan Bautista Catholic Church. Members of the community have undertaken efforts to rehabilitate the church beginning in June 2018. The next year, the group added a corrugated metal roof.

Discontiguous Boundary
The Duran Historic District meets the National Register requirement 1: when visual continuity is not a factor of historic significance, when resources are geographically separate, and when the intervening space lacks significance. The Marino Church and Cemetery represent the original location of the Duran community before its residents relocated west along the newly laid railroad line. The Marino community, church and cemetery notwithstanding, exists only as uninvestigated archeological sites. The Marino site is significant because it represents the earliest settlement of Duran and because its church and cemetery are significant in the areas of

8 Ibid.
exploration/settlement. The significance of the Marino site, which is located 1.5 miles southeast of downtown Duran, is not predicated on visual continuity and the Juniper-piñon landscape between the Marino site and downtown is used for ranching and lacks significance.

**Historic Integrity**
Duran retains a high level of historic integrity. The plan of streets is intact and most historic buildings remain. The commercial buildings especially maintain historic integrity despite their deterioration and neglect. The vacant buildings (commercial and residential) are in need of stabilization, but retain historic integrity. Most vacant lots were never developed. Duran is a small town that prospered for only a few decades in the beginning of the 20th century, but includes important community landmark buildings in the church and schools. The houses convey a variety of styles and types popular during the historic period. The properties in Duran maintain location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations.

**Contributing and Noncontributing Resources**
Houses, commercial, and religious buildings are counted as 35 contributing buildings. The plan of streets is counted as one contributing structure. The rail bed is counted as one contributing structure. The corral on Coury Street counted as one contributing structure. The Duran Fire Department water tower is counted as one contributing structure. The Duran, Hindi, and Marino cemeteries are counted as three contributing sites.

Nonhistoric houses are counted as 9 noncontributing buildings. U.S. Highway 54 is counted as one noncontributing structure. The electrical substation at the corner of Vidal Street and U.S. Highway 54 is counted as one noncontributing structure. The ruins of windmills and steam boilers on Stable Street are counted as one noncontributing site.
8. **Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico

Name of Property

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Commerce


Period of Significance
1902-1945


Significant Dates
1902—Duran founded by El Paso & Southwestern Railroad
1908—Duran becomes as a division point for the Southern Pacific Railroad
1909—Fire destroys Duran Trust and Savings Bank, stores, and a rooming house
1916—San Juan Bautista Church completed
1910-1918—Lebanese immigrants become residents, merchants, and ranchers
1931—Southern Pacific Railroad moves terminal out of Duran
1945—Realignment of US 54 through Duran

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Duran is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of community planning and development because it is an exceptional example of town that developed around a railroad depot and shops, which is reflected in the plan of streets that oriented to the railroad line. Duran is eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture because of its excellent collection of vernacular architectural styles and types built from 1902 to 1945. Duran is eligible under National Register Criterion A at the local level in the area of commerce because stores and post office along the tracks represents the economic boom and decline among rural railroad towns. The period of significance begins in 1902 with the founding of Duran and ends in 1945 when the U.S. Highway 54 was realigned through the town.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Duran is eligible at the local level under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development because it is an excellent example of a planned railroad town established at the beginning of the 20th century in New Mexico. Duran developed as the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad was expanding north toward Santa Rosa, where it connected with the Rock Island & Chicago Railroad. Originally expected to develop further south, the Duran shifted with the development of the northeast-to-southwest railroad line. The new plan was established with roads parallel and perpendicular to the rail line. Commercial businesses were established along the rail corridor. Residential buildings were established southwest of the tracks in a gridiron plan of streets. Prominent public buildings, such as San Juan Bautista Church and school occupied an entire block.

Duran is eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture because the houses, commercial buildings, and community landmark buildings are excellent representative examples of architectural styles and types popular in New Mexico from 1900 to 1945. The historic district includes houses built in the Craftsman and Territorial Revival styles and in the bungalow and linear Hispanic house types. Many houses include fences and numerous outbuildings where livestock, such as chickens and goats, were kept. Commercial buildings were constructed in the Territorial or Spanish-Pueblo Revival styles. Many of these buildings were constructed of local sandstone masonry. San Juan Bautista Church, a Gothic Revival-style church, and Duran High School, were constructed of sandstone blocks. The gymnasium, constructed by the Works Progress Administration, is built of brick.

Duran Historic District  Torrance, New Mexico  
Name of Property  County and State  

Duran is eligible at the local level under Criterion A in the area of commerce because it represents the period of economic boom and decline in Duran. This cycle was common among small towns along the railroad in New Mexico. The town’s rise occurred in conjunction with the development of the railroad. General and specialty stores operated adjacent to the rail line and the population increased with available work. Duran was once home to twenty to thirty railroad crews. Between its founding in 1902 and 1920, businesses in Duran provided supplies and services for its residents and neighboring towns. Duran served as a water stop and depot for the railroad, and encourage the settlement of new residents. The railroad depot also made viable ranching and farming in Duran. Ranching contributed to the prosperity of Duran and other towns, including Encino. Duran received a boot when U.S. Highway 54 was constructed through town in the 1930s. This boom era lasted until Interstate 25 was constructed sixty miles west in the 1960s.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Duran was founded as a stop on the El Paso and Southern Railroad, which linked El Paso and Santa Rosa. In 1908 Southern Pacific, which purchased El Paso and Southern Railroad, established Duran as a division point for the maintenance and repair of locomotives and rolling stock. The railroad shops incudes a roundhouse and supply and maintenance buildings. During this period the population of Duran peaked with over one thousand persons because of the railroad, the increase in merchants and ranchers. The prosperity of the town was dependent on its role as a railroad stop. In 1909 a fire destroyed the Duran Trust and Savings Bank, the City Meat Market, the Mark Robinson Rooming House, and a vacant store. This compromised the town’s ability to serve travelers. By 1908, when the railroad moved the division point to Carrizozo, Duran began to decline and the population began to decrease. The roundhouse, located at the east edge of town, was demolished in 1921 and the railroad relocated the Duran depot in 1931. Duran established an oil rig, but oil was not found in sufficient amounts to continue drilling.

The town is named for the brothers Blas and Espiridon Duran, who owned the Moreno Wells. The Moreno Wells provided water to railroad workers and provided for the future settlement of

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11 Darr.  
12 Hoelscher.  
14 Darr.  
15 Ibid.; Sam Hindi, Interview with G. Sanchez, and K. Dix, June 8, 2019.  
16 Hoelscher; Darr.  
17 Hoelscher; Darr.  
18 Darr.  
19 Robert Julyan, Place Names of New Mexico. 1998.  
20 Darr.  
21 Flores.  
22 Ibid.  
23 Darr.
The name, “Moreno Wells,” is mentioned in Torrance County histories, but current residents refer to the area as “Marino.” The Marino area, located southeast of Duran, currently houses the operations of the Hindi Sheep and Cattle Ranch, which has operated since 1915. The largest ranches in Duran were owned by Blas and Espiridon Duran and by Cristobal Madril. Sheep ranching is the most important industry that remains in Duran.

The Duran family influenced the development of Torrance County. Blas Duran was one of the three persons appointed by the governor to serve on the first board of county commissioners for Torrance County. Blas Duran was also a stakeholder in the first banking institution in Torrance County, the Torrance County Savings Bank, which opened in 1906.

Ranching in Duran contributed to the prosperity of other towns, including Encino. Duran served as a shipping point for wool for several decades. Alex Hindi, founder of the Hindi Sheep and Cattle Ranch Company, moved from Lebanon to the United States between 1908 and 1910 following the migration of his brother, William. Alex Hindi settled in Duran in 1912 and married Clarita Duran in 1915. He used the Duran ranch (Moreno Wells) to raise Arabian horses in accordance with his family tradition. The ranch began to grow in land mass through the early 1920s, creating a sheep ranch of 120 sections. Clarita and Alex Hindi had five sons and two daughters; three children remained in Duran while the others moved to Albuquerque. Brahim Hindi was born in 1918 and later inherited the Hindi Ranch. Today the ranch is owned and managed by descendent Joseph Hindi.

J.A. and J.M. Dahlgish operated the Wm. Hindi Store, which opened in 1908. Owl Drug Company was operated in the same building and operated by Mr. Breen and Dr. Furnall. The Duran Mercantile Company, also called the “William Hindi and Brother” general store, was established in 1915. It provided goods for residents and travelers. William Hindi focused on the store while his brother, Alex, pursued and expanded ranching operations. The store, which was later called the Wm. Hindi Store, sold a variety of goods, including gasoline. For a period

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24 Ibid.; Hoelscher.
25 Ibid.
27 Darr.
28 Hoelscher.
31 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 Sam Hindi, Interview.
the post office was located in the store. The store was one of the last stores to operate in Duran; it closed between 1972 and 1973.

Sam Hindi operated the Duran Bar on the corner of U.S. Highway 54 and Church Street. The bar operated from 1950 to 1972. Bars, pool halls, and cafes were common in Duran before the railroad moved its operations in the 1930s.

Kasim Hindi, nephew of William and Alex Hindi, owned Kasim’s Cash Store. A photograph from the mid-1990s indicates that the store was a general mercantile, which sold dry goods, meats, and tourist supplies. A gas pump is also present in the photograph. Kasim Hindi operated the store until he died in 1976. His family ran the store for a brief period until the store closed before 1980.

In 1913 Anton J Coury purchased the Kilmer Mercantile Company, which he renamed the Coury Mercantile Store. Anton Coury, another prominent Lebanese immigrant, moved to Santa Rosa, New Mexico from Lebanon in 1897 with his brother. Anton Coury moved to Duran with his wife, Raffina, and three children in 1913. The Courys operated the store for four years before it was destroyed by a fire. The store was rebuilt as a two-story stone building and reopened in December 1917. In September 1921 the store was robbed by five men and Anton Coury was killed. The thieves were captured in Roswell. One escaped but four were hanged in Estancia for the crime; these hangings are considered the last legal hangings in New Mexico. The Courys continued to operate the store and it is unclear when it was closed.

The Post Office operated in Duran from 1902 until 1995. A wedding photo from December 1910 shows the post office with a painted sign that reads, “DRUG STORE” and “Post Office.” This photo indicates that the post office was located on the north side of the tracks. Current residents claim that the post office has always existed on south side of the tracks in several buildings, included the Wm. Hindi Store. The small stone post office building located on U.S. Highway 54 was originally used as storage for Kasim’s Cash Store.

Northwest of the post office is a large building constructed primarily of corrugated metal. It was moved from its original location in the early 1940s to accommodate the construction of U.S.

Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Nasim Hindi, Interview with Sanchez, G. and Dix, K. June 8, 2019.
Ibid.
Hoelscher.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Darr.
Nasim Hindi, Interview.
Highway 54. The building was owned by Kasim Hindi, who used the building for storage. The building was built by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, which used it to store firewood.

San Juan Bautista continues to serve Duran and each June it hosts a celebration on the feast day of San Juan Bautista. The fiesta is an annual homecoming of past residents, families, and members from the surrounding towns. After mass, a procession follows Church and Oak streets. Participants gather in the old school gymnasium for a potluck luncheon. In 2016 Duran hosted a centennial celebration for the parish. Although the mason (builder) of the church is unknown, Pablo Madril worked on the church. Residents believe that a Spaniard directed a French mason in the construction of the church. The San Jose Society was established in 1927. This fraternal church organization maintains the San Juan Bautista church and parish buildings.

The first school in Duran was established in 1905. Mrs. Joseph Caskey taught a three-month term in a one-room stone building and by 1908, the school reached fifth grade enrollment. This building is believed to be the stable located on Oak Street. As the population of Duran increased, a new four-room stone building (now occupied by the Duran Fire Department) A second building was constructed by the WPA in the late 1930s adjacent to the Duran School. Duran teachers included Etna McHan, Clara Tipton, and Emma Darr. Duran High School operated from 1936 to 1939. The Duran Aces played basketball against neighboring towns, including Encino. The lower level school closed in 1964 and school-aged children traveled to school in Encino. Later, the Duran Fire Department used the school building as a garage for their fire trucks. It was remodeled in the 1980s by the volunteer fire department. Nasim Hindi served as the Fire Chief for over 28 years.

U.S. Highway 54 was developed in 1945, but was not paved in the Duran area until 1974. Before it was paved, the intersection of U.S. Highway 54 and New Mexico State Highway 3 was used as a baseball field. In 1973 a water system was built to serve Duran. A pipeline from Bonito Lake to Vaughn also provided water to Duran. In 1974, the gymnasium was used for administration of the Water Users Associations, the group that managed the fourteen miles of water that provided water from

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52 Tranquilino Chavez, Interview with G. Sanchez, G. and K. Dix, June 8, 2019.
53 Ibid.
54 Abe Sandoval, Interview with G. Sanchez and K. Dix, K, June, 8, 2019.
55 Darr.
56 Ibid.
57 Gary Sanchez, Interview with Dix, K. June 8, 2019.
58 Darr.
59 Hoelscher; Darr.
60 Nasim Hindi, Interview.
61 Darr.
62 Nasim Hindi, Interview, K. June 8, 2019.
63 Ibid.
64 Nasim Hindi, Interview.
65 Tranquilino Chavez, Interview.
66 Sam Hindi, Interview.
Duran Historic District
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When the water line was abandoned, four wells were drilled in the area. The Marino well served Duran for approximately 15 years.

In the 1950s, regular dances were held in the gymnasium. In 1979, the gymnasium housed the Senior Citizens Center. The building is currently used for community meetings and events.

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67 Darr.
68 Ibid.
69 Sam Hindi, Interview.
70 Nasim Hindi, Interview.
71 Darr.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Chavez, Tranquilino. Interview with author. Also with G. Sanchez. Duran, NM, June 8, 2019.


______. Interview with author. Also with K. Davis and J. Frayre, Duran, NM, July 20, 2018.

Hindi, Nasim. Interview with author. Also with G. Sanchez. Duran, NM, June 8, 2019.

Hindi, Sam. Interview with author. Also with G. Sanchez. Duran, NM, June 8, 2019.

Hoelscher, Ada B. History of Torrance County New Mexico. Estancia, New Mexico, 1956.


Sanchez, Gary. Interview with author. Duran, NM, June 8, 2019.

Sandoval, Abe. Interview with author. Also with G. Sanchez. Duran, NM, June 8, 2019.
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico


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**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 #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: __________________________

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** __________

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** Approximately 1,211 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: __________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

**Downtown Duran**

1. Latitude: 34.471091   Longitude: -105.389343
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Duran Historic District
Name of Property

2. Latitude: 34.466491 Longitude: -105.389289
3. Latitude: 34.461949 Longitude: -105.390909
4. Latitude: 34.468158 Longitude: -105.400305
5. Latitude: 34.471153 Longitude: -105.398656

Marino Church and Cemetery
6. Latitude: 34.453388 Longitude: -105.371150

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is indicated by a heavy red line on an attached sketch map drawn to scale and corresponding to the points of latitude and longitude on the location in Section 10.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the intact properties historically associated with the town of Duran in Torrance County, New Mexico.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Katie Dix
organization: NA
street & number: 417 Princeton Drive SE
city or town: Albuquerque state: NM zip code: 87106
e-mail: kdix23@gmail.com
telephone: 410.218.2987
date: June 30, 2019

**State Historic Preservation Office**

name/title: Steven Moffson, State and National Register Coordinator
organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
street & number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
city or town: Santa Fe state: New Mexico zip: 87501
telephone: 505.476.0444
date: November 25, 2019
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

  Figure 1: Church under construction, c.1910. Courtesy of Tudy Sanchez

  Figure 2: Wedding photo of Mrs. Dan Kelly in front of the drug store/post office and Duran Eating House on the north side of the tracks, December 1910.

  Figure 3: New Coury Mercantile Co. Building with Anton Coury at right, 1918.

  Figure 4. WM Hindi & Bro. Store, c.1930. Courtesy Sam Hindi.

  Figure 5. Kasim’s Cash Store, c.1930. Courtesy Sam Hindi.

  Figure 6. Kasim’s Cash Store, n.d.

  Figure 7. Kasim’s Cash Store interior. Courtesy Nasim Hindi

  Figure 8. Kasim’s Cash Store interior with Kasim Hindi. Courtesy Nasim Hindi.

  Figure 9: Church Street from Church tower, June 2018. Courtesy Abe Sandoval.

  Figure 10: San Juan Bautista Fiesta Procession, June 2018.

  Figure 11: San Juan Bautista Fiesta Procession on Oak Street, June 2018.

  Figure 12: San Juan Bautista Fiesta potluck dinner in school building, June 2018.
Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Duran Historic District

City or Vicinity: Duran

County: Torrance
State: New Mexico

Photographer: Steven Moffson and Katie Dix, where indicated

Date Photographed: June 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 25. Intersection of New Mexico State Highway 3 and rail line, photographer facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 25. Rail line, photographer facing southeast

Photo 3 of 25. Wm. Hindi Store, photographer facing south (Katie Dix)

Photo 4 of 25. Commercial corridor along U.S. Highway 54 with Duran Bar, Kasim’s Cash Store, Post Office, photographer facing south (Katie Dix)

Photo 5 of 25. Kasim’s Cash Store, photographer facing south

Photo 6 of 25. Post Office, photographer facing southeast

Photo 7 of 25. Coury Mercantile Building, photographer facing northwest

Photo 8 of 25. San Juan Bautista Church, photographer facing northeast

Photo 9 of 25. San Juan Bautista Church, photographer facing west
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico
Name of Property
County and State

Photo 10 of 25. San Juan Bautista Church, interior, photographer facing northeast

Photo 11 of 25. Duran School (left) and Duran Gymnasium, photographer facing southwest

Photo 12 of 25. Duran School, photographer facing southwest

Photo 13 of 25. House at 15 Church Street, photographer facing south

Photo 14 of 25. House at 7 Church Street, photographer facing southwest

Photo 15 of 25. House and outbuildings at 18 Church Street, photographer facing west

Photo 16 of 25. House at 11 Vidal Street, photographer facing northwest (Katie Dix)

Photo 17 of 25. House at 9 Vidal Street, photographer facing west

Photo 18 of 25. House at 307 3rd Street, photographer facing north (Katie Dix)

Photo 19 of 25. Barns and corrals at 12 Coury Street, photographer facing south (Katie Dix)

Photo 20 of 25. Duran Fire Department water tank on Church Street, photographer facing north (Katie Dix)

Photo 21 of 25. Steam boilers and windmills on Cedar Street, photographer facing north.

Photo 22 of 25. Marino Church and Cemetery, photographer facing northwest

Photo 23 of 25. Marino Cemetery, photographer facing east

Photo 23 of 25. Marino Cemetery, photographer facing north

Photo 23 of 25. Marino Cemetery, photographer facing south

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Duran Historic District
Name of Property

Torrance, New Mexico
County and State
Duran Historic District
Torrance County
Location Map
Approximate scale: one inch = 1000 feet
National Register boundary
Duran Historic District
Torrance, New Mexico

Name of Property                   County and State

Sketch Map 1 of 3

Approximate scale:
One inch = 225 feet
Key to Sketch Maps

Contributing Resources

1. House at 25 3rd Street
2. House at 2 Sanchez Street
3. House at 2 Cedar Street
4. House at 307 3rd Street
5. House 11 3rd Street
6. House at 12 3rd Street
7. Coury Mercantile Building, 4 Coury Street
8. House at 3 Stable Street
9. Barns and corals at 12 Coury Street
10. Railroad freight depot, US 54
11. Plan of Streets
12. House at 10 West Avenue
13. Rail bed
14. House at 16 Pine Street
15. Wm. Hindi Store, 19841 US 54
16. Sam’s Bar, 18949 US 54
17. Kasim’s Cash Store, 18947 US 54
18. Post Office, 19843 US 54
19. Storage Building, 19841 US 54
20. House at 9 Vidal Street
21. House at 11 Vidal Street
22. School gymnasium, 17 Vidal Street
23. Duran School (Duran Fire Department), 19 Vidal Street
24. House at 1 Pine Street
25. House at 3 Pine Street
26. House at Church Street and Pine streets
27. Stable at Oak Street
28. House at 11 Church Street
29. San Juan Bautista Church, 12 Church Street
30. House at 15 Church Street
31. House at 15 Church Street
32. House at 18 Church Street
33. House at 22 Oak Street
34. House on Oak and East streets
35. House at 26 East Street
36. Duran Cemetery
37. Hindi Cemetery
38. Marino Church
39. Marino Cemetery
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