

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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1. NAME: Los Duranes Chapel
2. LOCATION: 2601 Indian School Rd. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico
4. OWNER: Archbishop Robert Sanchez
Archdiocese of Santa Fe
c/o Mr. Emiliano Saiz
202 Morningside Drive SE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87108

7. DESCRIPTION:

Built around 1890, the Duranes Chapel is a modest two-room adobe and terron building sited on the old main road of Los Duranes, the southernmost of the north valley plazas. It is sited on a curve of this old road, just southwest of the Duranes Elementary School. Except for the loss of some elements due to recent neglect, the chapel remains as it was built. Recently a careful renovation has been begun by a local community group.

The church has a gabled corrugated metal pitched roof with an apsoidal hip at its western end. A small shed roof covers a small attached room to the north. The main roof includes a boxed soffit and plain wood friezeboard. An original brick chimney on the north side is no longer extant. The terron walls are two feet thick and include two 6/6 wood sash windows on each side with wood sills and wood lintels. The simple front facade faces east and includes a wood shingled gable end, a simple vent window, now empty, and a double door opening that originally included wood panel doors. A carved wooden cross is attached to the facade above the doorway. Centered atop the roof is a plain frame bell tower with a crude wooden cross on top.

The entire building, now in poor condition including serious cracking of its walls, sits on a recently added concrete slab foundation which is being relied upon for its reconstruction. Recent rehabilitation includes a new corrugated metal roof, installation of doors and windows similar to the originals and of a new wood plank floor.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Duranes Chapel is locally significant as one of the five little-altered late 19th-century chapels remaining in the city. It is presently being restored by the citizens of Los Duranes for use as a community chapel and when this restoration is completed it will be one of only two early chapels being used for religious purposes. The restoration plans will not alter the building, so the resultant chapel will look as it did when it was built in the late 1880's.

The chapel was probably built not long after María Jaramillo donated "una pieza de casa con un serco", to the parish in 1885. The house had two rooms furnished with doors and windows and was to be used "para el culto religioso de San José y beneficio de todo el comun de toda la vecindad de Los Duranes" (Archdiocese of Santa Fe records). Since the chapel is built in the traditional style of one large room with a much smaller room attached for use as a vestry, María Jaramillo's house was probably removed to build the chapel. The building served as the local chapel and many Duranes residents took communion and were married there and maintained the chapel. After a new church was built in the 1960's, the chapel was used by St. Jude Express, a medical and relief mission to scattered southwestern Indian communities. For the past five years, it has been vacant and was badly vandalized until the community put up a protective fence.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The chapel stands on a lot of less than one acre, Tract 95 on the MRGCD Map 35. There are no other buildings on the lot.

UTM References: Albuquerque West Quad.13/347400/3886430.