

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

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

For NPS use only

received MAR 11 1985

date entered AUG 1 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mesquite Street Original Townsite Historic District \* \*(registration name)

and/or common Mesquite; Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number East side of Las Cruces, New Mexico; roughly bounded by  
E. Texas, Campo, Tornillo and E. Court n/a not for publication

city, town Las Cruces N/A vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Doña Ana code 013

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Various; more than 50

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Doña Ana County Courthouse

street & number Lohman Avenue

city, town Las Cruces state New Mexico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Building Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979-80  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Division, 228 East Palace Avenue

city, town Santa Fe state New Mexico

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District is composed of 159 buildings or groups of associated buildings. Of these, 74 structures are architecturally significant for their expression of the Spanish/Mexican/American vernacular tradition of the region: one-story adobe buildings, many flat-roofed, reflecting New Mexico's Territorial Style and the later Spanish Colonial Revival Style. Most of the historic buildings are residential and date from about 1870 to about 1930. Centering around a public square, the district retains the character of Spanish/Mexican architectural influence. It represents the largest surviving grouping of historic structures in the original townsite area, comprising all or part of 22 of the original 84 blocks of the townsite laid out in 1849. The rest of the most heavily developed area of the historic townsite was demolished (43 blocks) in a 1968 urban renewal project.

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Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District

Located in the high desert country of New Mexico's lower Rio Grande Valley, at an altitude of about 4000 feet, Las Cruces was founded in 1849 on low, sandy hills overlooking the fertile flood plain of the river. It was laid out in a grid pattern of 84 blocks, each 100 varas square (a vara is about 33 inches). Each block was quartered into house lots, called solares de casa, and terrenos de labor (farm plots) were laid out on the plain below.

The major streets were those running north-south, perhaps because the route of travel and commerce (Camino Real or Chihuahua Trail) passed through the area in that direction. These streets were wider than the cross streets and were named Water (it fronted the irrigation ditch), Main (the business street), Church (location of the Catholic church and its plaza), Campo (for the camposanto or cemetery -- in the block bounded by Campo, San Pedro, E. Court and E. Las Cruces), San Pedro, Mesquite (for the desert shrub that covers the hills), and Tornillo (at the back of town and not named in the original platting).

Most major structures faced these major north-south oriented streets with their back yards opening to the side streets and containing stables, chicken houses, sheds and other ancillary buildings. However, larger houses and stores, with adobe walls flush against the street, occupied entire quarter blocks, with a square of rooms around a central patio or with L-shaped or U-shaped wings. In the medieval tradition brought to the New World by the Spanish, family life centered around the inner open spaces, blocked from the street by massive, continuous walls. This pattern of construction is still evident in the district, especially along Campo and San Pedro Streets.

With passing generations, the quarter-block house lots were often divided among heirs, or portions were sold. There is no pattern to the subdivision of the lots, but the divisions allowed additional houses to be built facing the side streets, and some in the center of the blocks.

Early structures in Las Cruces were constructed of adobe, as are most in the district today. Some brick stores were built in the commercial area at the turn of the century, and one wood frame cottage of that period remains in the district today. Nearly all the early buildings were one-storied and flat-roofed, as are most today. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings listed in the district are of one story. The low, heavy-walled, defensive character of the buildings lining the streets recalls the historic character of the streetscapes.

The early appearance of Las Cruces is described, as recalled, as about 1895:

"The main street of Las Cruces was not much to look at. It was a

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wide, sandy thoroughfare, sun-soaked and treeless, and not very long. In front of the business houses were hitching racks where cow ponies and carriage horses dozed while their owners loafed in the dim interiors of stores and saloons -- one-story adobe structures that would have been skyscrapers if they had been set on end. The red-brick convent of the Sisters of Loretto blocked off the southern end, and the El Paso road wheeled sharply to the right along the bank of the acequia. Just off the northern end, the Catholic church crouched in battered serenity in its barren courtyard. Las Cruces seemed a sleepy place ..." (Sonnichsen, C. L., Tularosa: Last of the Frontier West).

In 1968, an urban renewal program destroyed all but a few of the historic buildings in half of the original townsite. Blocks one through forty-three were razed, from Water Street to Campo. The commercial buildings along Main Street, the Catholic church and convent, and many of the oldest and largest residences were destroyed. In place of these buildings are a shopping mall and parking lots.

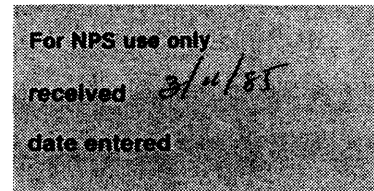
Nonetheless, the remaining half of the original townsite retains the character of its historic buildings and many buildings of notable architectural significance. Most of these structures are residential, since the back streets of the town served as the residential district. Klein Park, which was not deeded as a park to the city until 1939, but which had always functioned as an open space, assumed the role of the public plaza formerly played by the church plaza between Main and Church Streets.

The Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District is comprised of an area in the southeast corner of the originally platted townsite. This area is composed of the largest concentration of surviving historic structures, and was historically a well-populated residential section of the townsite.

The selection of structures and boundaries was made by Betsy Swanson, architectural historian, 2/1984 - 4/1984, from field examination, archival research, old fire insurance maps, and old aerial photographs. The nomination is also based on an historic building inventory conducted in 1979-80 for the Planning Department of the City of Las Cruces and the State Historic Preservation Office by Mary Steeb, Mike Taylor, and Anthony Pennock. In this survey, each historic building was photographed and its location and description were recorded on forms.

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- \* most significant
- (S) significant
- (C) contributing
- (Sup) supporting
- (NC) non-contributing

Klein Park, bounded by Organ, Mesquite, Griggs and San Pedro, open square occupying an entire block, deeded for a park to City of Las Cruces 6/24/1939 by M. B. Clark, Mrs. O. W. Manney and Roy Bean for \$10. Buildings had never been erected on the block and it was traditionally used as an open space, treeless until 1939 when it was lined on 4 sides with a row of trees; these were cut down and the park re-landscaped in 1953 when a concrete block bandstand (Sup) was erected in the northwest corner and a bronze plaque erected to Mayor Samuel Klein (1897-1953) behind bandstand. Play equipment and picnic tables have also been placed in the square (S).

405 E. Amador, commercial building, stuccoed, flat roof, small, narrow plate glass windows, wooden Mission Style hoods over doors, wrought iron grilles over windows, c. 1980 (NC).

418 E. Amador, house, stuccoed, front gabled roof, metal casement windows, c. 1930, recent stuccoed shed roof addition to front (Sup).

421 E. Amador, house, stuccoed, low hipped roof, metal double-hung windows, c. 1980 (NC).

308 E. Bowman, house, Spanish Revival, stuccoed, flat roof with crenelated parapet, mission tiled roof over porch, metal casement windows, wooden windows at rear, perhaps a house of c. 1920, enlarged at the front c. 1940 (Sup).

315 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed adobe, low pitched front gabled roof with decorative bargeboard and gabled porch with same decoration and lattice-work supports both added c. 1950-60, windows double-hung wooden 1/1, house built c. 1910 or earlier (S).

317 E. Bowman, house, small front gabled "shotgun", stuccoed adobe, gabled porch with decorative woodwork, c. 1950 (NC).

320 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, c. 1940 (Sup).

321 E. Bowman, house, Spanish Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, wooden hood over door, c. 1930 (S).

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324 E. Bowman, house, Spanish Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with Mission Style parapet, c. 1925 (S).

327 - 331 E. Bowman, double house; 327 is a stuccoed adobe, parapeted flat roof, metal casement window, attached to 331 at east side, unplastered adobe with metal canales. A concrete block wing is attached to this section. The long adobe house in middle of block dates from 1910 or earlier, the front section with metal casement window was added c. 1940. The house is situated at an angle in the center of the block and property lines in the block conform to this angle, indicating that the building may have been the earliest erected in the block (C). A small, low-gabled, stuccoed adobe with metal casement windows, c. 1940, situated just west of the structure is an associated building on a property that includes the west wing at 327 W. Bowman (Sup).

330 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed, low front gabled, metal casement window, c. 1940 (NC).

339 - 343 E. Bowman, double house, stuccoed adobe, flat roofed with vigas, section on east side (#343) recently renovated with metal windows, low gabled roof section on west side (#339) retains wooden windows, building said to date from 1881, does not retain original appearance but is (Sup).

405 - 407 E. Bowman (see 233 S. San Pedro).

409 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed, plate glass picture windows, flat roof, contemporary (NC).

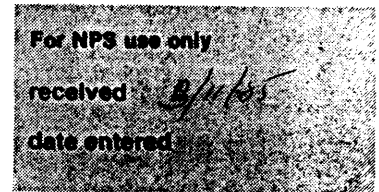
418 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed, low hipped roof, metal windows, c. 1960-70 (Sup).

422 E. Bowman, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, metal casement windows, c. 1930 (S).

- \* 545 E. Bowman, Jeff Isaacks House, Territorial Style, square with rear wing, hipped corrugated metal roof, stuccoed adobe, wooden double-hung windows 1/1, door retains moulded pedimented lintel, 2 aluminum windows have been placed in rear wing, c. 1900 or earlier (S). Wooden shed at rear (NC). To the west on the same property is an associated house (545-A E. Bowman), a flat-roofed stuccoed adobe with wooden double-hung windows 2/2, c. 1920 (C).

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108 N. Campo, apartment building, Spanish Revival, stuccoed adobe, crenelated parapet, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, wooden Mission Style hoods over doors, c. 1940 (Sup).

114 N. Campo "Victory Chapel," contemporary metal structure with glass front (NC).

- \* 128 N. Campo, law offices of Parr and Valentine (originally a house), square, hipped roof with hip-roofed dormer, stuccoed adobe, porch supported by stuccoed piers, windows wooden, double-hung 1/1, c. 1915 (S). Rock garage at rear of house with flat roof and Mission Style parapet (C).
- \* 204 N. Campo and 309 E. Organ, L-shaped house, Territorial Style, long, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with serrated brick coping, metal canales, double-hung wooden windows 2/2 and 4/4, c. 1890 (S). Adobe remains of a building at rear (C) may have been part of a continuous square house with patio occupying quarter of block including part of neighboring building at 218 N. Campo.

218 - 220 - 224 - 230 - 232 N. Campo, row of offices and small businesses, formerly three long rectangular dwelling units joined by party walls, flat roof stuccoed adobe, renovated in the Spanish-Pueblo Style c. 1930, with vigas, exposed lintels, zapata corbels. Original metal canales remain on south end unit, row built c. late 19th century (S). Behind units 218 and 220 are adobe ruins and rock foundations of wings that once enclosed a courtyard (C). The south end of this building may have once been attached to the building at 204 N. Campo - 309 E. Organ.

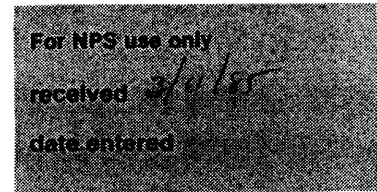
- \* 119 S. Campo, "Valencia Apartments," vacant, originally Otto Bombeck House, stuccoed adobe, Mission Revival, flat parapeted roof, arched central entry, mission tile hoods over facade windows, shallow relief sculpture of urns on either side of door. Built as a house with a central patio by German-born merchant Bombeck in 1887, converted into Mission design apartment building 1927-28 by his son-in-law Manuel Chavez, openings boarded up (S). Long row of one-story, flat-roofed, stuccoed apartments and garages in rear, c. 1920s (C), remodeled apartment at north end (see 310 E. Griggs) (Sup).

125 S. Campo, Doña Ana Cafe, small, slump-block building, c. 1960 (NC).

215 - 221 S. Campo, law offices of Gallegos and Privette (originally a house), L-shaped stuccoed adobe with corrugated metal hipped roof and recessed entry, original paired double-hung windows have been replaced with plate glass, new doors in original openings. The south side of facade remodeled c. 1925 with a door and a metal casement window. To this side at about the same time was attached a small flat-roofed stuccoed addition in the

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Spanish Revival Style with undulating parapet, a central door is now flanked by two large plate glass windows that probably originally contained metal casement windows. North end of building was L-shaped hip-roofed house dating from c. 1900, south end additions c. 1925 (C).

229 S. Campo, house, stuccoed adobe, very low side gabled roof and aluminum windows and new doors recent updating, c. 1925 (C).

233 - 237 - 239 S. Campo, multiple dwelling, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, wooden double-hung windows 6/6, most of front windows recently altered, recent porch attached to front with large V-shaped supports, built c. 1900 or earlier (S).

317 - 319 S. Campo, double house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, L-shaped, metal canales, stuccoed chimney rises from center of roof, metal casement windows, south end of house dates from c. 1900 or earlier, north side with metal windows added c. 1930 (S). Two small service buildings at rear (NC).

- \* 329 S. Campo, Jesus F. ("Chino") Nevarez House (now Valentine and Martinez Law Offices), rectangular stuccoed adobe with hipped corrugated metal roof. Windows wooden, paired double-hung 1/1 on facade, other windows 6/6 and 6/1, entrance door recent addition, street half of building c. 1900 or earlier, rear half and metal hipped roof added c. 1920 (S). Small service building at rear (NC).

635 S. Campo, José Gonzales House, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, parapeted, c. 1900 or earlier, was "old" when purchased by Gonzales in 1921, metal casement windows added c. 1970 (S). Metal shed in rear (NC).

737 S. Campo, house, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, stuccoed adobe, vigas, portal, heavy wooden lintels, wooden double-hung windows 2/2 and 1/1, addition at northeast rear corner has aluminum windows, c. 1950 remodeling of a c. 1910 or earlier structure (Sup). Shed in rear (NC).

- \* 300 - 302 E. Griggs, Manuel and Margarita (Bombach) Chavez House, now "Law Offices of Saenz and Gonzales", Spanish Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, arched openings with fanlites and wooden casement windows and doors, pressed-metal mission tile roofed arched entry, 1925 (S).

310 E. Griggs, house, flat roof, shed-roofed room recently added on west side, stuccoed adobe, Mission Style wooden hoods over openings, original window replaced with aluminum, c. 1940 addition to a 1920s row of apartment rooms and garages attached and extending at rear, and associated with vacant apartment building at 119 S. Campo (Sup).

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321 E. Griggs, apartment building, 4 units, stuccoed adobe, originally flat roofed, Spanish Revival Style, c. 1940, gabled roof added and fenestration altered c. 1980, a small house of c. 1900 incorporated on west end (Sup).

410 E. Griggs, house, Spanish Colonial Revival, flat roof with crenelated parapet, stuccoed adobe, double-hung, paired wooden windows 1/1, c. 1930 (S).

426 E. Griggs, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, canales, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, c. 1925 (S), stuccoed adobe service building in rear (C).

428 E. Griggs, house, flat roof, concrete block, metal casement windows, c. 1950 (Sup).

442 E. Griggs, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, c. 1930, perhaps incorporating a small house existing on the lot c. 1910 or earlier (S).

444 E. Griggs, house, front gabled, stuccoed, c. 1950 (Sup). Concrete block building at rear facing Mesquite (NC). Stuccoed garage and shed at rear (NC).

501 - 509 E. Griggs (see 108 N. Mesquite).

\* 506 E. Griggs and 101 S. Mesquite, Francisco Sierra House, now a double house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, T-shaped, metal canales, windows double-hung, wooden, 2/2, two windows aluminum replacements, property acquired by Sierra in 1869, a house was on property by 1886 when record of deed recorded by County Clerk (S).

\* 516 E. Griggs, cottage, wood frame, L-shaped, hipped roof with gablets, shingles in gablets, flush siding, wooden double-hung windows 1/1, shed roof clapboard addition made in ell and window brought forward to facade perhaps soon after construction of house, c. 1900 or earlier (S).

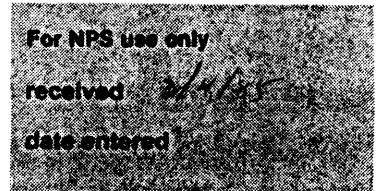
518 E. Griggs, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, c. 1920, original windows replaced with aluminum windows (Sup).

519 E. Griggs, house, Spanish Revival, fieldstone, flat roof, L-shaped, large concrete lintels and window sills, windows wooden, double-hung, 6/6, multi-paned wooden picture window in facade, c. 1940 (Sup). Garage at rear (NC).

520 E. Griggs, automobile repair shop, wooden, flat roof, contemporary (NC).

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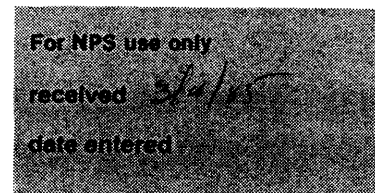
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- 525 E. Griggs, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, original windows replaced with aluminum windows, c. 1940 (Sup).
- \* 544 E. Griggs, Maximo S. and Maria R. Franco House, square stuccoed adobe, hipped corrugated metal roof, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, c. 1920 (S). Garage in side yard (NC).
- 549 E. Griggs, house, stuccoed adobe, aluminum windows and gabled roof added, c. 1930 (Sup).
- 408 E. Kansas, house, stuccoed, flat roof, contemporary, (Sup.)
- 340 E. Las Cruces, house, Spanish Revival, flat parapeted roof, arched mission tiled hood over door, metal windows, connected by a stuccoed arch to 344 Las Cruces, c. 1980 (Sup).
- \* 344 E. Las Cruces (see 223 - 225 - 227 S. San Pedro).
- 425 E. Las Cruces, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with crenelated parapet, wooden double-hung windows, some paired, 4/4 and 3 vertical lites over single pane sash, metal canales, c. 1920 (S).
- 426 E. Las Cruces, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, c. 1940 (Sup).
- \* 428 E. Las Cruces, house, stuccoed adobe, hipped roof with gablets, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, c. 1900 or earlier (S).
- \* 340 E. Lohman (see 502 - 208 - 512 S. San Pedro).
- 403 and 407 E. Lohman, 403 E. Lohman is "Argyle Welding and Medical Supply", stuccoed concrete block, flat roof, c. 1970 (NC). At rear of property, facing E. Lohman, is another concrete block flat-roofed commercial structure, "Monterey Tile Co.", (407 E. Lohman) (NC).
- 408 E. Lohman, La Jo's Beauty Salon, stuccoed, wood, aluminum picture windows, flat roof, c. 1970 (NC).
- 410 E. Lohman, commercial building, concrete block, flat roof, c. 1970 (NC).
- 325 E. May, apartment buiding, stuccoed, gabled roof, metal casement windows, c. 1950 (NC).

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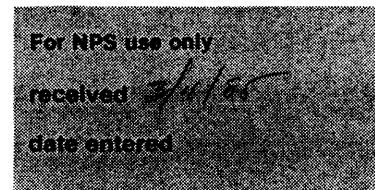
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- 327 - 327½ - 329 E. May, apartment building, built as a single dwelling, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal stovepipe canales, evidence of vigas inside under plaster, recent aluminum windows, west half of house dates from c. 1910 or earlier, east half added c. 1925 (S).
- 328 E. May, house, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, portal, vigas, canales, metal casement windows, c. 1940 (Sup). Small service building at rear (NC).
- 330 E. May, "Medico-Psychological Services", formerly a house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, recently renovated with metal windows, c. 1930 (Sup).
- 333 E. May, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, rectangular, one-room, c. 1925 (S).
- 336 E. May, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, c. 1940, facade altered with iron decoration and imitation brick siding (NC).
- \* 339 E. May, Santa Rosa Rico House, Territorial Style, L-shaped, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, brick coping, vigas, metal canales, wooden double-hung windows 2/2 and 6/6, c. 1880 (S).
- 342 E. May, duplex, Spanish Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with concrete coping, porch, double-hung wooden windows, 1/1, c. 1930 (S).
- \* 410 - 412 - 414 - 420 - 422 E. May, multiple dwelling; 420 - 422 is a separate property, buildings joined by party wall, long, rectangular, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales on 420 - 422, roof of 420 - 422 is at lower level than adjoining structure, this portion has metal casement window, rest of structure has wooden double-hung windows 6/6, built c. 1915 (S). Concrete block shed in rear (NC).
- 415 E. May, house, Spanish Revival with flat roof and Mission Style parapet, stuccoed adobe, double-hung wooden windows, 1/1, c. 1925 (S).
- \* 421 E. May, house, Spanish Revival, flat roof with Mission Style parapet, stuccoed adobe, double-hung wooden windows with 5 vertical lites over a single lite sash, c. 1925 (S).
- \* 429 E. May, José Ruiz House, square, hipped roof with corrugated metal, stuccoed adobe, porch with jigsaw trim and chamfered posts, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, 1908, José Ruiz, carpenter, builder (S).
- 431 E. May, house, long, stuccoed adobe, in middle of block, flat roof, wooden double-hung windows, c. 1920 (S).

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440 E. May, house, square, low hipped roof, stuccoed adobe, small metal casement windows, c. 1925 (S). Metal storage shed in yard (NC).

- \* 443 E. May, Primitivo Gonzales House, stuccoed adobe, Mission Style, flat roof, curved parapet with brick coping on front and sides, colored tile image of Virgin of Guadalupe in center of parapet, mission tiled gate to garden, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, c. 1910 (S). Stuccoed shed in yard (NC).

506 E. May, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, metal casement windows, c. 1930 (S). Concrete block garage at rear (NC).

510 E. May, house, stuccoed adobe, flat parapeted roof, original wooden windows recently replaced with aluminum 6/6, c. 1930 (C). (NOTE: Street addresses 510 and 520 are out of sequence on the buildings.)

520 E. May, apartment building, 5 units, long, rectangular with narrow end facing street, concrete block, metal casement windows, c. 1950 (Sup). (NOTE: Street addresses 510 and 520 are out of sequence on the buildings.)

540 E. May, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with stepped parapet, wooden double-hung windows 6/6, c. 1930 (S). Metal shed at rear (NC).

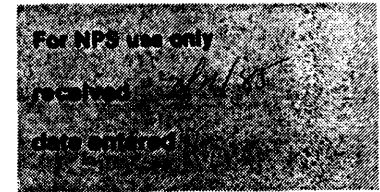
108 N. Mesquite and 501 - 509 E. Griggs, José and Guadalupe Gonzales House, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement and various types of wooden windows, irregular plan, portions of house built at different times, a house on this site c. 1910 (S).

118 N. Mesquite, house, two-story, fieldstone with hipped and gabled roofs, Spanish Revival, arched window in gabled projection of facade repeated by adjacent arch to side yard, metal casement windows, fronted by decorative fieldstone wall with cast-iron railing, c. 1940 (Sup). Two fieldstone service structures at rear of property are also (Sup).

130 N. Mesquite, small adobe house, sided c. 1940 with fieldstone and enlarged with a shed-roofed room at south corner of facade, double-hung wooden windows 6/6 paired (Sup).

195 N. Mesquite, "La Casita Cafe", stuccoed concrete block, plate glass windows, wrought-iron portal across front, c. 1948 (Sup).

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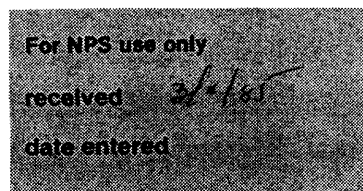
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Doña Ana County, Las Cruces  
Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District

- \* 101 S. Mesquite (see 506 E. Griggs).
- \* 114 S. Mesquite, house, stuccoed adobe, square with hipped corrugated metal roof, paired double-hung wooden windows 1/1, small gabled front porch, c. 1915 (S). Adobe shed at rear (NC).  
  
118 S. Mesquite, house, stuccoed adobe, L-shaped, very low gabled roof perhaps recent addition, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, c. 1910 (S).
- \* 121 S. Mesquite, John Carbonniere House, Spanish Colonial Revival, stuccoed adobe, Mission Style parapet and pressed-metal tile-covered porch, paired double-hung wooden windows 1/1, 1924 (S).
- \* 127 S. Mesquite, Antonio Barncastle House and Store, stuccoed adobe, hipped corrugated metal roof, wooden double-hung windows 2/2, 4/1, and fixed windows of 4 lites, large U-shaped building, c. 1905 (S). Corrugated metal garage at rear (NC).  
  
216 S. Mesquite, house, small stuccoed adobe, flat roof, aluminum windows replace original wooden windows, c. 1920 (C).  
  
308 E. Organ, house, small, flat-roofed stuccoed adobe, double-hung windows 2/2, c. 1930, small concrete block room added to rear (C). Metal shed at rear (NC).
- \* 309 E. Organ (see 204 N. Campo).  
  
316 E. Organ, "Casa de Garcia", apartment building, formerly a house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, wooden double-hung windows 6/6, built c. 1930, renovated c. 1980 (C).  
  
328 E. Organ, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, paired double-hung windows 1/1, metal canales along side, c. 1915, a portion of the building may be of earlier date (S).  
  
331 E. Organ, house, Territorial Style, exposed and deteriorated adobe brick, red fired brick has been recently installed on either side of doors and one window to support openings, originally part of 333-335-339 E. Organ, exposed hewn vigas at rear, house on lot in 1880 (S).
- \* 333 - 335 - 339 E. Organ, house, now several dwelling units, Territorial Style, stuccoed adobe, stuccoed coping, Mission Style parapet added to west end, some windows wooden double-hung 1/1, others metal casement, originally connected to house at 331 E. Organ, house on lot in 1880 (S).

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405 - 409 - 413 - 421 E. Organ, multiple dwelling, long flat-roofed stuccoed adobe, parapeted with concrete coping, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, c. 1915, 2 units on west end added c. 1940 in same style with same windows, wooden Spanish-Pueblo Style portal across facade added c. 1950 (S).

433 E. Organ, house, stuccoed, metal casement windows, flat roof, c. 1950 (Sup).

439 E. Organ, Apt. 1, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement window, c. 1930 (S).

439 E. Organ, Apt. 2, house, stuccoed, flat roof, c. 1950 (Sup).

100 N. San Pedro, house, small, L-shaped, stuccoed adobe with flat roof, original section facing San Pedro c. 1900 with double-hung wooden windows 1/1, section facing Griggs added c. 1930, double-hung wooden windows 6/6 (S).

119 N. San Pedro, house, Spanish Colonial Revival, flat roof with undulating parapet, stuccoed, small multi-pane windows and doors, pressed-metal mission tile hoods over facade openings, c. 1930 (S).

129 N. San Pedro, house, Spanish Colonial Revival, stuccoed, flat parapeted roof, arched front porch has been glassed in, original windows have been replaced with aluminum windows, c. 1930 (C).

131 N. San Pedro, house, stuccoed, flat roof, metal casement windows and new aluminum windows, c. 1940 (Sup).

143 N. San Pedro, house, flat roof with stepped parapet, stuccoed adobe, double-hung wooden windows 2/2 set low in walls, c. 1900 (S). Metal shed at rear (NC).

202 - 204 N. San Pedro, duplex, stuccoed adobe, Spanish Colonial Revival, flat roof with stepped parapet with concrete coping, shed roofed porch enclosed and stuccoed, original windows double-hung, 4/1, c. 1920 (C).

217 N. San Pedro, apartment building, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, L-shaped, flat roof, mission tiled portal, vigas, contemporary (Sup).

218 N. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, hipped roof, paired double-hung wooden windows, 1/1, with pedimented Territorial Style trim, corner front porch enclosed with grouped multi-lite windows, c. 1920s or 1930s, house built c. 1890-1910 (S). Stuccoed adobe service structure at rear attached to long, narrow service structure of 222 N. San Pedro (Sup).

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222 N. San Pedro, house, stuccoed, low hipped roof, metal casement windows, c. 1940 (Sup). Long narrow building at rear formerly containing apartments, garage and storage and now vacant and deteriorated, stuccoed adobe with flat roof, c. 1940 (Sup).

- \* 226 - 226½ N. San Pedro, double house, built as single house, square, stuccoed adobe, hipped roof, double-hung wooden windows, 2/2, c. 1915 (S).
- \* 223 - 225 - 227 N. San Pedro, and 344 E. Las Cruces, multiple dwelling built as a single dwelling, Territorial Style, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, door with 2 arched lites in upper half and arched side lites, vigas, double-hung wooden windows, 2/2, south end of building added c. 1915 and again in c. 1925 when this wing was remodeled in Spanish Colonial Style with metal casement windows and mission tiles, earliest part of house c. last quarter of 19th century (S).

304 N. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, front gabled roof, paired double-hung windows with 3 vertical lites over a single lite sash, gabled front porch with metal casement windows added c. 1940, house built c. 1925 (C). Two sheds at rear (NC).

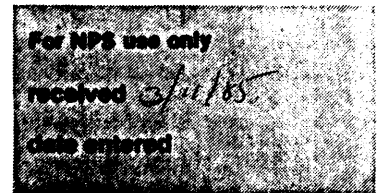
- \* 326 N. San Pedro, house, long, narrow, stuccoed adobe with low hipped roof of corrugated metal, wooden double-hung windows 6/6 and 4/4, two windows facing street are metal casement replacements, long, exposed hewn lintel on facade indicates an early date, building appears in present form on 1921 Sanborn Insurance map, built c. 1900 or earlier (S).
- \* 330 N. San Pedro, Iglesia Adventista del Septimo Dia, church, Gothic vernacular, stuccoed adobe, gabled square corner tower with hipped roof, arched entrance door in tower, lancet arched windows in pedimented facade which is topped with concrete coping, original side windows double-hung wooden 4/4, some replaced with aluminum windows, built c. 1930 (S).

334 N. San Pedro, house, Spanish Colonial Revival, flat roof with pedimented parapets, stuccoed adobe, original windows replaced with aluminum windows, perhaps a remodeling of c. 1930 of a house on this site as early as c. 1910 (C). Small service structure at rear (NC).

100 S. San Pedro, Francisco and Delfina C. Cruz House, square stuccoed adobe with hipped roof, originally an L-shaped building, the ell has been filled, recent aluminum windows, building dates from 1910 or earlier (C). Concrete block garage attached to stuccoed adobe shed at rear (NC). (NOTE: The address should be 101 S. San Pedro as the house is located on the odd number side of street, but the number 100 appears on the building.)

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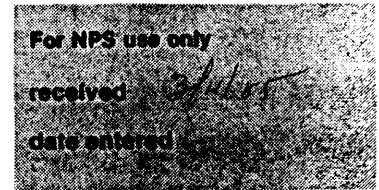
Dona Ana County, Las Cruces  
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- 104 S. San Pedro, house, Spanish Revival stuccoed adobe, flat parapeted roof, paired wooden double-hung windows, one pair replaced with aluminum window, c.1940 (Sup).
- 113 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, wooden double-hung windows, 1/1, c.1940 (Sup).
- 116 S. San Pedro, commercial garage, concrete block, low gabled roof, metal garage doors, contemporary (NC).
- 119 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, wooden and metal casement windows, pressed-metal mission tiled roof over porch, c.1940 (Sup).
- 122 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, stepped parapet with concrete coping, metal casement windows, c.1940 (Sup).
- \* 135 S. San Pedro, Pedro Gonzales House, Territorial Style, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with brick coping and metal canales, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, c.1900 or earlier (S).
- 214 S. San Pedro, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, aluminum windows, c.1940 (Sup).
- \* 215 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, square with hipped roof and small hipped wing on north side, windows double-hung wooden 1/1, paired on facade and surmounted by moulded lintels, c.1915 (S).
- 225 S. San Pedro, house, fieldstone, cast concrete lintels, terra cotta pipe canales, flat roof, double-hung wooden windows 6/6, c.1930 (S).
- 226 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, new aluminum windows, c.1925 (C).
- 233 S. San Pedro, Magdaleno Baca House, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, built c.1920 by Magdaleno Baca, Jr., altered by plate glass windows and brick, glassed-in porch on south side (Sup). Contemporary stuccoed houses are attached to the rear, facing Bowman Street at 233½ S. San Pedro and 405-407 E. Bowman (NC). In front of these attached houses is a stuccoed garage (NC).
- \* 305 S. San Pedro, Jesus Heredia Medina House, T-shaped, stuccoed adobe, arcade with three arches stretches across most of facade, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, originally had flat roof with canales, very low gabled roof recently added, designed and built in 1907 by Medina, an artist and sign painter born in Chihuahua (S).
- \* 306 S. San Pedro, house, square stuccoed adobe with hipped roof, double-hung wooden windows 1/1, moulded cornice at roof line, c.1910 or earlier (S). Metal garage at rear (NC).



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309 S. San Pedro, house, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, vigas, metal canales, one metal casement window, one recent aluminum window, c. 1930 Spanish-Pueblo renovation of an earlier structure, attached at north end to 305 S. San Pedro (C).

320 S. San Pedro, apartment complex, Spanish-Pueblo Revival, stuccoed adobe, vigas, c. 1975 (Sup).

321 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, small house of c. 1920 with small wooden double-hung windows to which a section was added with metal casement windows on north side and west side, c. 1950 (Sup).

329 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, c. 1930 (S). Concrete block garage and adobe and rock shed in rear (NC).

- \* 342 S. San Pedro, Cacique Felipe Roybal and Cacique Francisca Avalos, his wife (Cacique [chief] of Tortugas Indians) House, stuccoed adobe, hewn vigas, metal canales, Territorial Style pedimented lintel over one door, vertical board doors, small double-hung wooden window 2/2 at rear, said to have been part of a larger house, most of house is 2 or 3 feet below ground level, c. 1870 (S). To the south on the same property is part of another adobe house, stuccoed, flat roof, house cut lengthwise in half by the widening of Amador Avenue, side facing Amador was then rebuilt with a concrete block wall with aluminum windows, c. 1970 (NC).

- \* 408 - 412 - 414 - 416 S. San Pedro, Vicente Roybal House, now apartments, stuccoed adobe, long rectangular, hipped corrugated metal roof, facade contains seven regular alterations of a door with 3-lite transom and a small double-hung wooden window 2/2, c. 1880s (S). Concrete block privy in rear (NC).

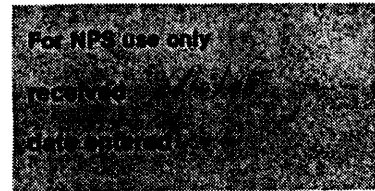
417 S. San Pedro, Silverio Gonazlez House, Territorial Style, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, brick coping under stucco, central door with adobe wall cut back for side lites at 3/4 the height of the door, original windows wooden double-hung with small single pane sash over large single pane sash, facade windows replaced with aluminum, lot and house purchased by Gonzalez 1887 from Hilario Morales, "a second and larger house built on lot" by Gonzalez 1889, according to deed (C). To rear of house are a shed and a stuccoed aviary (NC).

- \* 428 S. San Pedro, house, Territorial style, stuccoed adobe, square, corrugated metal hipped roof, moulded pedimented openings, windows wooden double-hung 1/1, and 6/6, mission tile bracketed wooden hood added over front door c. 1930, house built c. 1890 (S). Wooden shed at rear (NC).

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Doña Ana County, Las Cruces  
Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District

- \* 429 - 429½ S. San Pedro, house, Territorial Style, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with brick cornice, wooden double-hung windows 2/2, original entrance door is low set, adobe wall on either side is cut back at 3/4 height of door to form side lites, c. 1890 (S).

436 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, low hipped roof, metal casement windows, brick skirt, wrought-iron supported porch, probably an old adobe house recently renovated (Sup).

- \* 446 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, L-shaped, hipped corrugated metal roof with gablets, paired double-hung wooden windows 1/1, c. 1900 (S).
- \* 502 - 508 - 512 S. San Pedro and 340 E. Lohman, apartment building, originally a house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, double-hung wooden windows 2/2 and 6/6, c. 1910 or earlier (S).

515 S. San Pedro, house, flat roof, stuccoed adobe, one metal casement window, 2 aluminum windows (Sup).

528 - 530 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, 2 replaced with aluminum, a building on this site c. 1910 or earlier, this is probably it (C).

538 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with concrete coping, openings altered, a building on this site c. 1910 or earlier, this is probably it (C).

- \* 543 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, Spanish Colonial Revival, U-shaped with arched arcade in U covered with mission tiles, windows wooden double-hung 1/1, large plate glass windows flank door on south side, c. 1930 (S).

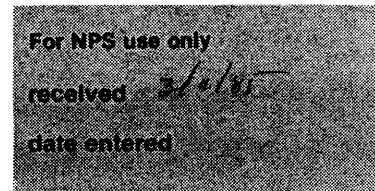
600 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, wooden hoods over doors, a building on this site c. 1910 or earlier, this could be a 1930s remodeling (S).

603 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, two stuccoed brick buttresses on northwest corner, metal casement windows, built c. 1910 or earlier, windows and doors altered (C). At the south side of the house, on the same property and perhaps connected to the house at the rear is a small concrete block, flat-roofed stuccoed house (603½ S. San Pedro) (NC).

617 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement window, joins 623 S. San Pedro with party wall, part of a large house c. 1910 or earlier (S).

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618 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed, low gabled roof, picture window (NC).

- \* 623 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof with serrated brick coping, adobe brick is exposed on entire south side, metal casement and wooden windows 6/6, joins with party wall 617 S. San Pedro, metal stovepipe canales, a painted sign on south side of facade indicates this portion was once a bakery, c. 1900 or earlier (S). Adobe shed at rear (NC).

638 - 640 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, U-shaped toward rear, flat roof, metal canales, openings altered, aluminum and metal casement windows, a house on this lot on tax rolls in 1897 (C). Stuccoed garage in rear (NC).

- \* 639 S. San Pedro, Uritiago - Van Patten House, stuccoed adobe, Mission Style parapet with brick coping, double-hung wooden windows 2/2, Spanish-Pueblo Style portal added at one corner of facade and rear, a house on this lot c. 1910, Eugene Van Patten purchased 1911 from Juana Uritiago and Ignacio Gujalva (S).

700 - 706 S. San Pedro, duplex, originally a house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, wooden double-hung windows 6/6, c. 1910 or earlier (S).

710 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, crenelated flat roof, double-hung wooden windows 6/6, c. 1920 (S). Shed at rear (NC).

730 S. San Pedro, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal casement windows, wrought-iron grilles over windows and supporting porch, c. 1940 (Sup).

- \* 314 - 316 E. Soledad, James N. and Florence Isaacs House (now a double house), U-shaped at rear, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, metal canales, double-hung wooden windows 2/2 and 4/4, west side of building original, c. 1900 or earlier, the Isaacs sold the house and lot to James Sewell in 1907, east side of building added c. 1925 (S). Adobe shed at rear (NC).

320 E. Soledad, José-Angel Henriques House, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, vigas partially exposed in stucco (at least one is hewn), metal casement windows added, built 1890 when Henriques obtained lot, or soon thereafter (S). Shed at rear (NC).

- \* 327 E. Soledad, house, stuccoed adobe, square, low hipped roof, double-hung wooden window 2/2, and two top-glazed panelled doors in facade, east side contains one window with 3 vertical lites over a single-pane sash, recent aluminum windows in west side, c. 1915 (S). Stuccoed garage in rear (NC).

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188 S. Tornillo, house, stuccoed, hipped roof, metal casement windows,  
c. 1940 (Sup). Wooden shed and adobe shed at rear (NC). 74

190 S. Tornillo, house, stuccoed adobe, flat roof, some original wooden  
double-hung windows recently replaced with metal picture windows, c. 1940  
(Sup). Stuccoed shed at rear (NC). 7

312 S. Tornillo, house, stuccoed adobe, low gabled roof, vacant, gutted,  
c. 1950 (NC). 6

314 S. Tornillo, house, stuccoed adobe, flat parapeted roof, original windows  
and door recently replaced with aluminum, c. 1925 (C). 1

\* 326 - 330 S. Tornillo, Julian Lara House, stuccoed adobe, square, corrugated  
metal hipped roof, wooden double-hung windows 2/2, brick chimneys, hipped  
wing projects on south side, built as a single house, 1907 (S). 1

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## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1930s	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1848 - c.1930s      **Builder/Architect** Various

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Las Cruces Original Townsite Historic District represents the largest concentration of the traditional regional architecture of the Mesilla Valley, along New Mexico's lower Rio Grande. The architectural types and styles show a homogeneous and continuous pattern of evolution and adaptation of vernacular Spanish/Mexican/American building traditions in the valley, from the Territorial Style of the settlement period following the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo at the end of the Mexican War, to the Spanish Colonial Revival Styles still popular a century later.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 22

Quadrangle name Las Cruces

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

A 

13	333030	3576320
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

13	333240	3575390
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

13	332960	3575320
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

13	332740	3576270
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Swanson, Architectural Historian

organization Las Cruces Planning Department date April, 1984

street & number P.O. Drawer CLC telephone 505-526-0320

city or town Las Cruces state New Mexico

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Thomas W. Helmer

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 1, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grovono date 8/1/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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As a provision of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico gave up all claim to territory east of the Rio Grande. The influx of Americans that followed General Stephen W. Kearny's conquest of New Mexico in 1846, soon spread to southern New Mexico and the Mesilla Valley. Many came from Texas which laid claim to the lands east of the Rio Grande until Congress established the Territory of New Mexico in 1850. Some American settlers had served as soldiers in the U.S. Army garrisons in the valley.

The newcomers encountered a small number of Mexican farmers who had been settled in the valley since the early 1840s. In 1840, the Doña Ana Bend Colony Land Grant was awarded to José María Costales and his followers from the area of El Paso del Norte. The grant stretched for about twelve miles along the eastern bank of the Rio Grande. When U.S. Army troops were garrisoned in the Village of Doña Ana following the Mexican War, the residents requested that a new town be laid out some miles away. In 1848-49, the Pueblo de las Cruces and its farm plots were laid out.

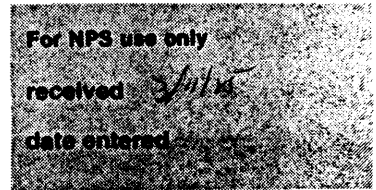
The village of Las Cruces was surveyed in 1849 by U.S. Army Lieutenant Delos Bennett Sackett of the Doña Ana Garrison. It was laid out on low hills at the edge of the river's flood plain, near the Chihuahua Trail and south of the grave markers of a party of Mexican traders killed by Apaches -- the crosses that gave the area its name. It was platted to contain 84 blocks, each 100 varas square (a vara is approximately 33 inches). Bordering an acequia (irrigation ditch) at the base of the hills were garden plots 50 varas wide. To the west, toward the river, were farm plots that measured 780 by 390 varas each. The settlers were each granted a town lot, small garden plot, and large farm plot. It is said that when Lieutenant Sackett arrived to lay out the town he found about 120 people camped in brush shelters on the site.

From the time of the laying out of the town, the population of Las Cruces was a Spanish/Anglo mixture. Records of the earliest grantees of town lots and farm plots include such names as Sanchez, Jones, Lucero, Valencia, Reed, Perea, Serna, Gallegos, Armijo, Zoeller, Torres, Daguerre, Flores, Ortiz, Calderson, Barrio, Avalos, Lara, Lujan, Montoya, Bean, Madrid, Chuston, Medina, Bernal, Duran, Bull, Barela, Cochran, Trujillo, Campbell, Baca, Colman, Tucker, Apodaca, Cuniffe, Benavides, Davis, Bernadette, Dexter, Cordova, Woodhouse, Miller, Lucas, Gould, Marshall, and Van Patten.

Las Cruces prospered both as an agricultural center and as a way-stop for freighters and drovers on the Chihuahua Trail. Taverns, stores and hotels were erected, while wagon yards and corrals guarded loaded wagons and their teams. Mercantile companies were established in the town to take advantage of the trade of the Chihuahua and Santa Fe Trails.

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Indians periodically raided the villages and farms in the Mesilla Valley, and the architecture of Las Cruces was built for defense against attack. Thick adobe walls with few openings ran continuously along the streets. The earliest buildings were primitive; many were jacales (structures composed of mud-plastered vertical poles inserted in the ground and roofed with mud-covered beams). Local rancher Horace Stephenson wrote of the nearby town of Mesilla in 1853: "I do not think there were twelve [adobe] houses in La Mesilla then. It was a very large heavily populated town, but the houses were all jacales, even the church was only a jacal...." Las Cruces probably had much the same appearance.

As Las Cruces grew, more buildings were erected of sun-dried adobe brick. Some architectural refinements and conveniences such as window glass, milled wood trim, and hardware were imported by freight wagons along with furniture, clothing, farm equipment, printing presses and other amenities of civilization. By 1861, milled lumber could be hauled by wagon from Tularosa, 70 miles to the northeast below the Sierra Blanca Mountains, or Piños Altos, 100 miles to the northwest in the Mogollon Mountains. There was little wood to be had for construction purposes in the Mesilla Valley or nearby mountains. Vigas (ceiling beams) were often made from the crooked limbs of cottonwood trees that grew in the bosques near the river.

The best description of the crude architecture of Las Cruces' early years is an account given in 1901 by Mrs. M. B. Aguirre who traveled by wagon train from Arizona to Las Cruces in 1863:

"...We went to Las Cruces, New Mexico; it was wonderfully interesting in those times. It always reminded me of Bible lands, and the customs were certainly of Bible times. For instance they plowed with a steel or iron shod pointed stick, the oxen were tied by the horns (they always used oxen). The furrows were deepened by one yoke of oxen following the other to the number of twelve in the same furrow till the required depth was reached. The strongest man and oxen led the furrow.... There were no board floors or unnecessary woodwork. The rafters of the houses were unhewn logs; the windows had wooden bars up and down and shutters outside rough hewn; there were no glass windows...some small openings were filled with isin-glass. I had the first glass window of any size in Las Cruces. The panes were very small and there were a great many to each and the window cost \$60.00. It was the comfort of my life and the admiration of the town. The natives would stand two rows deep outside looking in at me sitting on the broad adobe sill.... Furniture was home made and very scarce and high. Books were impossible unless we had brought them with us. Newspapers and letters came once a month in winter and every two weeks in summer."



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Stylistically, the early architecture of Las Cruces and the Mesilla Valley reflected a combination of Spanish/Mexican building traditions in the southwest, and the Greek Revival Style -- the most popular architectural style in the United States from the 1820s to the 1860s. The style was brought to New Mexico by the U.S. Army and was employed in the construction of forts throughout the territory. Manifestations of the Greek Revival in New Mexico's adobe architecture included symmetrical plan and fenestration, large doors with transoms and sidelights, moulded and pedimented lintels over openings, portales supported by box columns with Doric caps, and denticulated cornices in the brick coping of the parapets of flat roofs. Throughout the state, the standard designs of military quarters exhibiting these features were borrowed unchanged for widespread domestic use. Meanwhile, the Army borrowed indigenous New Mexico building materials and techniques.

The architecture of Las Cruces was influenced by that of Fort Selden, established in 1865 about 20 miles north of the original townsite. The flat-roofed, adobe brick buildings at the fort followed the standard design for military architecture described above. They had pedimented double-hung windows with 9/6 lites, and wooden canales (drip spouts) projecting near the roofline. An 1866 description of the buildings sent with plans to the War Department in Washington could describe the buildings erected in Las Cruces:

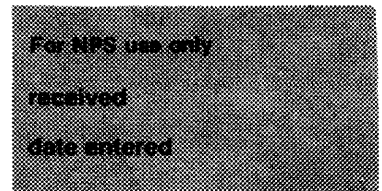
"All outer walls...2 ft. thick. Partition walls on which no Vigas rest 12 inches thick. And all 10 ft. from floor to ceiling, with 2 ft. parapet walls above roof. Corral walls, and walls connecting Quarters 7½ ft. high and 2 ft. thick. Doors of...ordinary batten, and of good pine lumber. Vigas of straight Cottonwood logs, suitable size and neatly peeled. Roof of small cottonwood poles and neatly peeled placed together on Vigas, and on these a layer of willows crosswise, and on the willows a thick layer of hay or dry grass, a 3½ in. coating of mud mixed with cut Straw, on this when dry a layer of dry earth 3 inches thick well tamped down, and on this a second layer of 3½ inches of mud."

The Greek Revival Style in New Mexico is called the Territorial Style and its vernacular use persisted well into the 20th century, long after the demise of the style in other parts of the nation. By the late 19th century, the streets of Las Cruces were characterized by this style, with the occasional additional use of decorative "gingerbread" jigsaw trim.

The arrival of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in Las Cruces in 1881 brought growth and progress to the town but little changed the character of most of the original townsite, which soon became surrounded by new suburbs. The railroad made possible the use of larger window glass, factory-made doors and pitched metal roofs. But through the 1920s, the

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old townsite district, often called the Mesquite District for the desert shrub that abounds on the hillside, retained its 19th century appearance. Most roofs remained flat, most walls were of unplastered adobe brick, and most windows contained wooden double-hung sashes. Beginning in the early years of the 20th century, Spanish Colonial Revival styles appeared in the old townsite district. The earliest of these revival buildings are in the Mission Style with undulating parapets and arches. Later revival style buildings combined various Spanish Colonial features, including the Spanish-Pueblo Style motifs of exposed vigas and portales with zapatás (corbels) on the supports. Metal casement windows are associated with these Spanish Colonial Revival buildings, and their use probably began in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Many buildings erected in the old townsite area during the first quarter of the 20th century were simple adobe structures that continued the Territorial Style vernacular in general appearance, but added Spanish Colonial Revival features, such as decorative parapets (crenelated, stepped, etc.) or an arched entry porch. These buildings contribute to the "Spanish" feeling of the district which is a conscious identity that the residents maintain in their architecture to the present day. Buildings in the district erected in the late 1930s and 1940s in the above-described styles have been given the rating of "supporting" since they continue the vernacular and add to the streetscape. They are not considered to contribute to the significance of the district by National Register definition. Most buildings in the block of Mesquite facing the east side of Klein Park are examples of such "supporting" structures which, in this block, enclose one vista from the park in the architectural vernacular.

The buildings rated as "most significant" architecturally range in date from about 1870 to about 1930. In architectural form and design, they largely fall into four groups, described below with listings of the buildings rated "most significant" for reasons of their integrity and superior design features.

Territorial Style, rectangular, square with central patio (sometimes since enclosed), L-, T- or U-shaped adobe buildings with flat roofs, some with brick coping, metal canales and/or vigas, and double-hung wooden windows of various numbers of lites:

- 204 N. Campo and 309 E. Organ (c. 1890)
- 506 E. Griggs and 101 S. Mesquite (between 1869 and 1886)
- 339 E. May (c. 1880)
- 410-412-414-420-422 E. May (c. 1915)
- 333-335-339 E. Organ (1880 or earlier)

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- 223-225-227 N. San Pedro and 344 E. Las Cruces (last quarter 19th c.)
- 135 S. San Pedro (c. 1900 or earlier)
- 342 S. San Pedro (c. 1870)
- 429-429½ S. San Pedro (c. 1890)
- 502-508-512 S. San Pedro and 340 E. Lohman (c. 1910 or earlier)
- 623 S. San Pedro (c. 1900 or earlier)
- 314-316 E. Soledad (c. 1900 or earlier, and c. 1925)

The building at 342 S. San Pedro is of special significance as it may be the oldest structure surviving in the original townsite area, retaining its original or early appearance (see "Description" listing). It also has historical significance for association with the Tortugas Indians, having been the home of Indian chiefs.

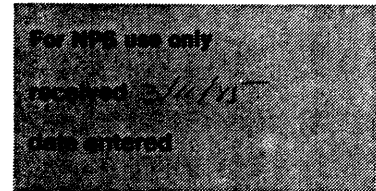
Rectangular, L-shaped, T-shaped or U-shaped adobe buildings in the Territorial vernacular, with hipped or gabled roofs (usually covered with corrugated metal). Some of these structures were built with the pitched roofs, others received pitched roofs subsequent to their construction:

- 329 S. Campo (c. 1900; roof added c. 1920)
- 428 E. Las Cruces (c. 1900 or earlier)
- 127 S. Mesquite (c. 1905)
- 326 N. San Pedro (c. 1900 or earlier)
- 408-412-414-416 S. San Pedro (c. 1880s)
- 446 S. San Pedro (c. 1900)

Square, hipped-roofed, adobe houses, some with porches inset under the roof or attached to the front, and some with rear or side wings. Such houses also appeared as farm houses in the rural environs of Las Cruces at about the turn of the century:

- 545 E. Bowman (c. 1900)
- 128 N. Campo (c. 1915)
- 544 E. Griggs (c. 1920)
- 429 E. May (1908)
- 114 S. Mesquite (1915)
- 226-226½ N. San Pedro (c. 1915)
- 215 S. San Pedro (c. 1915)
- 306 S. San Pedro (c. 1910 or earlier)
- 428 S. San Pedro (c. 1890)
- 327 E. Soledad (c. 1915)
- 326-330 S. Tornillo (1907)

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Spanish Colonial Revival buildings, erected in the various expressions of the style, or appearing as earlier structures renovated in the style, from 1907 to about 1930, with decorative parapets, mission tile trim and hoods, arches, and other characteristic motifs. The earliest structures built or remodeled in the Mission Style were immediately influenced by the construction in 1907 of the Mission Style convent and school of the Catholic Sisters of Loretto (demolished), and in 1909 of the Mission Style depot at Las Cruces of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad (see Las Cruces Depot - Alameda Historic District National Register nomination). The convent was erected by F. H. Bascom Company of Las Cruces, Elias E. Day, vice-president, manager, and building contractor. George B. Anderson, in his 1907 History of New Mexico (Vol. II, p.573), claimed that F. H. Bascom Company "introduced the typical mission architecture with modern improvements" to Las Cruces. The sinuous character of the undulating parapets of Las Cruces' earliest Mission Style residences, especially 443 E. May and 639 S. San Pedro, resemble the Loretto Convent parapets.

The design of the depot was used by the Santa Fe Railroad for other depots in the state. Its Mission Styling is simplified and angular in emphasis, in what has been called "Utilitarian Mission Style" (Kathleen A. Brooker, "Railroad Depots in New Mexico: Southwestern Styles and the Masonry Tradition," unpublished thesis, University of New Mexico). Like the convent, this large-scale public building undoubtedly also had an influence on the early residences of simplified Mission Style design.

119 S. Campo (1887, remodeled 1927-28)  
300-302 E. Griggs (1925)  
421 E. May (c.1925)  
443 E. May (c.1910)  
121 S. Mesquite (1924)  
305 S. San Pedro (1907)  
543 S. San Pedro (c.1930)  
639 S. San Pedro (c.1910)

In addition to the above architectural types, two other structures have been rated as "most significant": the only surviving early wood frame house in the district, dating from about 1900, at 516 E. Griggs; and a Gothic Vernacular adobe church dating from about 1930, at 330 N. San Pedro.

Buildings rated "significant" date from the late 19th century to the mid-1930s, and retain their historic architectural character.

Buildings rated "contributing" are structures which are more than 50 years old, have been somewhat altered, but maintain their general historic appearance and form.

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Buildings rated "supporting" are not yet 50 years old but continue the vernacular types and styles, as explained above on page 4. Because they do not contribute to the historic period, they are considered non-contributing for National Register purposes.

Buildings rated "non-contributing" are intrusions which do not add to the character of the district. They are usually of recent construction.

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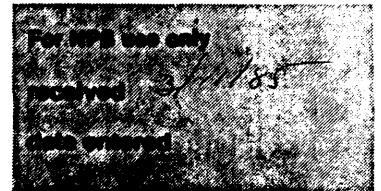
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Patrick Gonzales, Las Cruces  
Max Sanchez, Las Cruces  
Chala Sanchez, Las Cruces

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The boundary of the Mesquite Street Original Townsite Historic District is shown as the heavy broken line on the accompanying map entitled "Las Cruces Original Townsite (Mesquite) Historic District" and dated 1984.

The boundary line is drawn along the borders of streets and property divisions and includes those buildings eligible for National Register status because of their age and architectural integrity. The boundary line defines the area of the original townsite containing the largest number of historic buildings retaining their historic character.