

➤ **WALK INTO THE ATOMIC AGE**

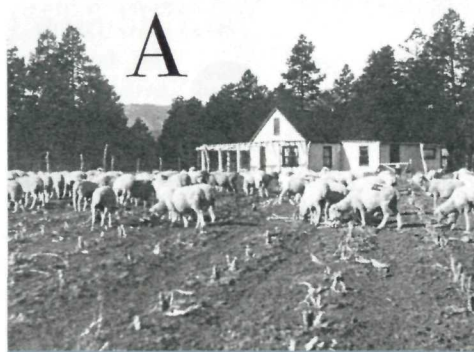
First inhabited by the ancestors of Northern New Mexico's pueblos, Los Alamos is located on the Pajarito Plateau of the Jemez Mountains, formed by eruptions of a super volcano more than a million years ago. Pueblo ancestors and later homesteaders used the plateau for seasonal farming and grazing. In 1917, H.H. Brook's Los Alamos\* Ranch was purchased by Ashley Pond Jr. to start Los Alamos Ranch School, a prep school which combined academics and a physical curriculum. During World War II, the Army Corps of Engineers took over the plateau and sealed it for a secret mission to end the war: the Manhattan Project.

**A.** Sheep graze contentedly at the H.H. Brook homestead in 1915 on the site of today's History Museum and Fuller Lodge.

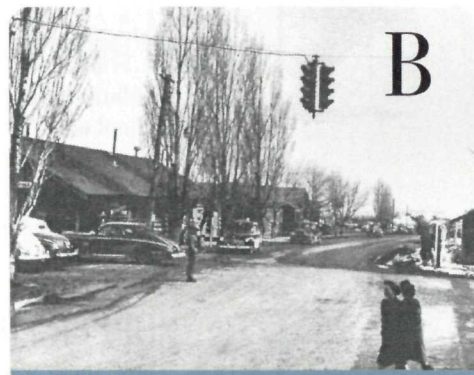
**B.** A mid-1940's view (to the east on Central at 20th Street).

**C.** The Big House, built in 1917 as the dormitory for the Los Alamos Ranch School, was the largest building on the plateau at the time, thus earning the name. It was torn down by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1948 to make way for the Community Center.

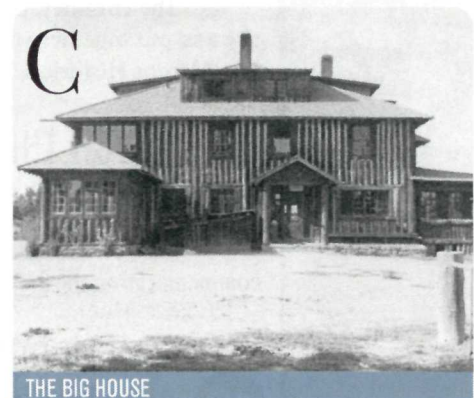
\* Spanish for cottonwood/poplar/aspen trees.



**A**  
HOMESTEAD



**B**  
CENTRAL AVE.



**C**  
THE BIG HOUSE

# Los Alamos

HISTORICAL  
ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

➤ **MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Originally located in government surplus buildings and then in a former cafeteria, the library is an important institution in this highly educated community. The 1993 award-winning design is by architect Antoine Predock. To the west of the library stood Central School, 1943-1965. It was the most elaborate building constructed in Los Alamos during WWII, in spite of the utilitarian and temporary nature of this secret army base. The curriculum was planned by Dr. Walter W. Cook of the University of Minnesota, hired to develop the perfect school for the children of Manhattan Project personnel.

➤ **BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM**

Named for Norris E. Bradbury, second director of the Los Alamos Laboratory, the Science Museum features films and interactive exhibits interpreting Los Alamos National Laboratory's contributions to modern science, research and technology, including its role in the Manhattan Project and current mission in national security. First opened in 1963, it made a couple of moves within the Lab complex before being located at this site in 1993.

➤ **SCULPTURES OF OPPENHEIMER AND GROVES**

Life-sized sculptures of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and Gen. Leslie R. Groves are located south of Fuller Lodge. The sculptures were dedicated in 2011.

➤ **MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

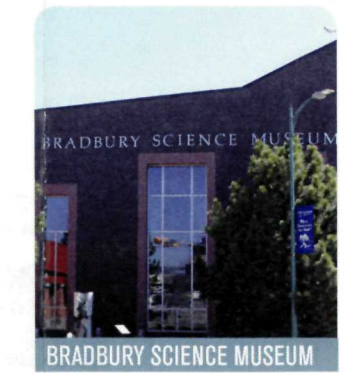
The Manhattan Project National Historical Park was created by congress in 2014. It is distributed among three locations, Hanford, WA, Oak Ridge, TN, and Los Alamos. The Los Alamos visitor center is located in the building just east of Ashley Pond.

➤ **HISTORY MUSEUM**

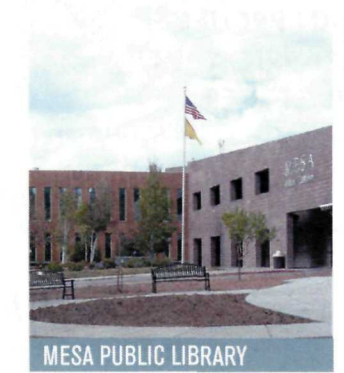
Built as an infirmary in 1918 and later used as the guest cottage for Los Alamos Ranch School, the museum is in the oldest continually occupied structure in town. During the Manhattan Project (1943 - 1947), the cottage continued to serve as guest quarters, notably for General Leslie R. Groves, commander of the Manhattan Engineer District, whose office and residence were in Washington, D.C. Now it serves as an award-winning, comprehensive historical museum which presents our world-changing and varied history. A book and gift shop greets visitors.



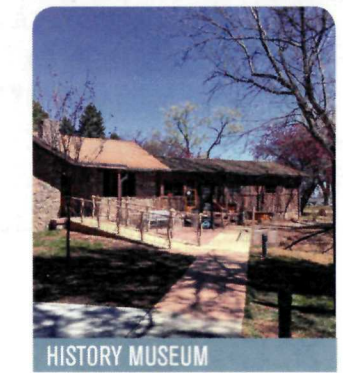
SCULPTURES OF OPPENHEIMER AND GROVES



BRADBURY SCIENCE MUSEUM



MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY



HISTORY MUSEUM

# Los Alamos

HISTORICAL  
WALKING TOUR MAP



**WELCOME TO LOS ALAMOS!**

Experience 800-year-old Ancestral Pueblo dwellings, early 20th century architecture, a homesteader's cabin, and the very spot where the first atomic bomb components were designed and assembled.

Move at your own pace, enjoy the museums, shopping, and restaurants along your way.

**LOS ALAMOS**  
where discoveries are made



DISCOVER  
LOS ALAMOS

Los Alamos is  
NEW MEXICO *True*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Discover Los Alamos Visitor Center**  
475 20th St, Suite A  
(505) 662-8105  
visitlosalamos.org  
Mon - Fri: 9 - 5  
Sat: 9 - 4, Sun: 10 - 3

**Bradbury Science Museum**  
1350 Central Avenue  
(505) 667-4444  
lanl.gov/museum  
Sun - Mon: 1 - 5  
Tues - Sat: 10 - 5

**Manhattan Project National Historical Park**  
475 20th St  
(505) 661-6277  
Mon - Sun: 9 - 4

**White Rock Visitor Center**  
109 Central Park Square  
(505) 672-3183  
visitlosalamos.org  
Mid May - Mid October | Mon-Sun 8-6  
Mid October - Mid May | Mon-Sun 10-2

**Los Alamos History Museum**  
1050 Bathub Row  
(505) 662-6272  
losalamoshistory.org  
Mon - Fri: 9 - 5  
Sat & Sun: 10 - 4

**Los Alamos Nature Center/PEEC**  
2600 Canyon Road  
(505) 662-0460  
peecnature.org  
M,W,F,Sat 10 - 4, Tues 10 - 8,  
Th CLOSED, Sun 1 - 4



# Los Alamos

## FULLER LODGE

**1** This grand building was built in 1928 as the Ranch School dining hall. It also served as nurses, staff, and guest quarters. Named for Edward P. Fuller, a staff member at the Ranch School, it is made of 771 massive pine logs, personally selected by architect John Gaw Meem and Ranch School director A.J. Connell. Fuller Lodge still serves as a public cultural event center.

## MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

**2** In 1947, the rose garden was started here by members of the Los Alamos Garden Club. At that time there was no cemetery, so rose bushes were planted in memory of those who died in Los Alamos. The garden club actively maintains the Rose Garden. It also serves as a popular place for weddings and other ceremonies. A Blue Star Memorial Byway site, and a Los Alamos National Laboratory memorial to those killed in the line of duty are located here.

## ROMERO CABIN

**3** Homesteading began on the Pajarito Plateau in the late 1800s. The Romero family built this cabin in 1913 on a nearby mesa. Like all homesteads on the plateau, it was acquired by the U.S. government for the Manhattan Project. In 1984, the cabin was moved downtown and rebuilt in 2010. It is open to the public on select days and during guided tours.

## FIRE CACHE

**4** Local homesteader Severo Gonzales Sr. built this stone building in the 1920s for the Los Alamos Ranch School to house firefighting equipment. Fires have always been a danger on the Pajarito Plateau due to droughts, log construction, and even wood burning stoves. The building is made of stone from the nearby Ancestral Pueblo Site.

## THE BIG HOUSE

**5** Across the street from the Romero Cabin was the site of the original main building for the Los Alamos Ranch School. The Big House design inspired the style of Fuller Lodge and other Ranch School structures. Students slept there year-round on screened porches as part of a physically, as well as academically, challenging education. The Big House contained a library and, during the war years, the non-broadcast radio station, KRS. In 1943, it also housed some of the first scientists who shared its one bathroom.

## ANCESTRAL PUEBLO SITE

**6** In roughly 1225 CE, this site was home to a group of Tewa-speaking people, ancestors of Pueblo groups now living along the Rio Grande. They built with blocks of tuff, the welded volcanic ash common in this area. Some rooms were for cooking and sleeping, while others were for storage.

## BATHTUB ROW

**7** These cottages were built for the Ranch School as residences and classrooms. Having the only bathtubs in town, these homes quickly acquired the name "Bathtub Row." J. Robert Oppenheimer lived in the house at the corner of Bathtub Row and Peach Street. This home is a private residence, and visitors are not allowed.

## BATHTUB ROW (CONTD.)

**7** The house next to the Oppenheimer house, now known as the Hans Bethe House, displays Cold War exhibits as part of the History Museum campus.

## PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**8** The building near the corner of 15th and Nectar Streets was built as the Manhattan Project East Cafeteria. It is one of the few GI buildings left from WWII. Used by the growing post-war community as a recreation hall, it started serving as a playhouse in 1971, operated by the Los Alamos Little Theatre, a non-profit drama troupe.

## POWER HOUSE

**9** The building housing the diesel generators for the Los Alamos Ranch School was built in the early 1930s. In 1944, George Kistiakowsky, an explosives expert, and his new bride moved into it. As a joke, his friends carved a half-moon in the door of the attached shed the Army built. It is now used as administrative office space for the National Park Service.

## HOPPER FIREPLACE

**10** These rocks were part of the fireplace in the homestead cabin of William Mackwood "Mack" Hopper, who settled here in 1908. The chimney, probably made of stone from an Ancestral Pueblo site and put together with a mud/clay mortar, was rebuilt in 2016 for the Los Alamos Historical Society as an Eagle Scout project.

## TOUCH THE SKY SCULPTURE

**11** In May 2000, the county and adjacent lands were devastated by the 48,000-acre Cerro Grande wildfire. Nearly 400 Los Alamos homes were destroyed. This sculpture was erected a year later, commemorating the fire and community re-building.

## ASHLEY POND

**12** Ashley Pond began as a natural depression in the landscape. The Ranch School ensured its water supply by constructing a pipeline from a dam in Los Alamos Canyon. It was named for Ashley Pond Jr., the founder of the Los Alamos Ranch School, whose students could not resist the geographical pun. The boys used it for summer and winter sports. Blocks of ice were cut from the pond in the winter and stored in the Ice House. Ashley Pond Park contains a number of sculptures that are part of the county art collection curated by the Art in Public Places Board.

## ICE HOUSE MEMORIAL

**13** Today a memorial stands at the site of the Ranch School Ice House. During WWII, the nuclear core of the "Gadget" (the prototype atomic bomb) was assembled here and then transported to Trinity Site, 220 miles south near Socorro, NM. It was successfully detonated on July 16, 1945. During the Manhattan Project and for twenty years after, the technical area laboratories surrounded Ashley Pond (see cover photo). These buildings were removed by the mid-1960s.

## POST OFFICE

**14** During WWII, mail to Los Alamos residents was simply addressed to P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This Post Office, designed and built as part of the Community Center, opened at this location in 1948 on the site of the Ranch School Trading Post. Recently the Post Office was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

