



THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

Manhattan Project Sites Special Resource Study Summary of Conclusions



MANHATTAN PROJECT SITES SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY

The Department of the Interior has completed the Manhattan Project Sites special resource study. The Secretary of the Interior has submitted a letter to Congress recommending the establishment of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington. The Secretary recommends that the park be managed as a partnership between the National Park Service and the Department of Energy.

The special resource study team undertook an extensive public involvement process, engaging state and local governments, private property owners, interested organizations, and citizens throughout the country. It was noted many times that the National Park Service is the appropriate organization to tell the full story of this highly complex project, which involved many sites and employed tens of thousands of workers. The Department of Energy was involved in the development of the study recommendations, and endorsed the outcome of the study.

THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

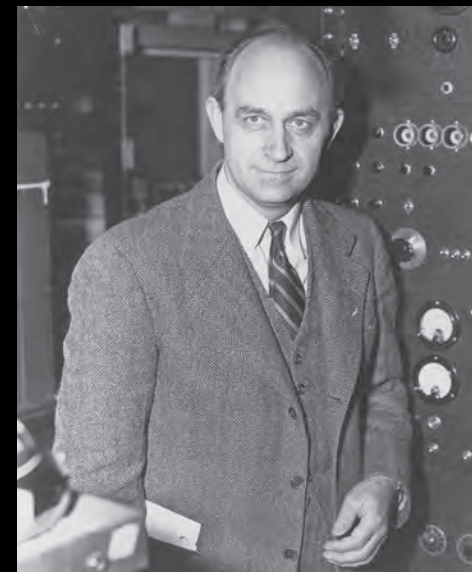
The Manhattan Project was an unprecedented, government-directed, top-secret program implemented in the United States during World War II to construct a nuclear weapon and to counter threats of similar



Y12 Calutron Operators

development by Nazi Germany. This focused effort, combining military and scientific resources and involving hundreds of thousands of workers at many sites across the country, was kept secret and out of public view for the duration of the project.

A series of events in 1942 marked the beginning of the Manhattan Project. Army Corps of Engineers Brigadier General Leslie Groves was selected to be military head of the project; then Groves selected Robert Oppenheimer as chief scientist for the project. Near the end of 1942, President Roosevelt gave the final authorization for the construction of the atomic bomb. This work ultimately produced two atomic bombs that were dropped on Japan in August 1945 ending World War II. On January 1, 1947, the project was taken over by the civilian Atomic Energy Commission, thus officially ending the Manhattan Project.



Enrico Fermi



J. Robert Oppenheimer and
Lieutenant General Leslie R. Groves

The Manhattan Project was a highly significant chapter in America's history that expanded scientific research, developed new technologies, and changed the role of the United States in the world. It also raised ethical and moral questions among scientists and citizens alike—questions that continue to this day.

THE PROPOSED PARK

If authorized by Congress, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park would include both publicly and privately owned facilities at the three main research and production facilities associated with the Manhattan Project: Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington. The actual boundaries of the national historical park would be defined by the park's enabling legislation and further refined by more specific planning for the park.

A PARTNERSHIP EFFORT

The Secretary of the Interior recommends that the National Park Service work with the Department of Energy to bring the Manhattan Project story to the public.

The National Park Service would have the overall responsibility for administration, interpretation, and education at the three sites and would provide technical assistance to resource preservation efforts. This could include developing interpretive films, exhibits, waysides, kiosks, brochures, webpages, and other media that will help tell the story of the Manhattan Project to the public.

The Department of Energy would continue to have total responsibility for operations, maintenance, and historic preservation of the historic Manhattan Project properties now under their jurisdiction; the Department of Energy would maintain total liability for any environmental hazards related to those properties.

Public access to Department of Energy sites would continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Energy. Public access to sites not owned by the Department of Energy would be coordinated by the National Park Service and the owners of the individual sites. Existing institutions—such as the Museum of Science and Energy at Oak Ridge, the Los Alamos Historical Society, and the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center—would be used to host public programming related to the interpretation of Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

This partnership would allow the Department of Energy and the National Park Service to each bring the strengths of their offices to the project. Other agencies and organizations may also become involved to tell the full story of the Manhattan Project.



¾ inch Bronze Commemorative Pin
made by Whitehead & Hoag Co. and
issued for service on the project.

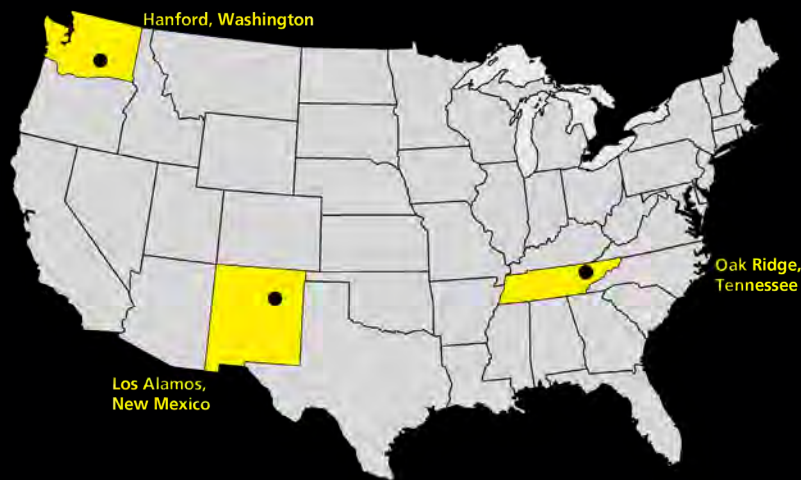
"The Atomic Age began at exactly 5:30 Mountain War Time on the morning of July 15, 1945, on a stretch of semi-desert land about 50 airline miles from Alamogordo, New Mexico. And just at that instance there rose from the bowels of the earth a light not of this world, the light of many suns in one."

Journalist William L. Laurence, New York Times, September 26, 1945



“The best weapon of a dictatorship is secrecy, but the best weapon of a democracy should be the weapon of openness.”

Physicist Niels Bohr



THE RECOMMENDATION AT A GLANCE

The proposed National Historical Park would comprise the following historic districts and historic sites at each of the three locations included in the park.

At Los Alamos, New Mexico

The National Park Service would have a presence at this location and would provide technical assistance to help preserve the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark District. Specific facilities include the following:

- Fuller Lodge
- Baker House
- Ranch School Guest House, Stone Powerhouse
- Oppenheimer House and four other private residences on Bathtub Row
- Memorial Shelter at Ashley Pond

The Department of Energy would continue to own and manage sites within Los Alamos National Laboratory:

- “Trinity Test” V Site (TA-16)
- “Little Boy” Gun Site (TA-8)

Los Alamos • New Mexico



- “Fat Man” Quonset Hut (TA-22)
- “Plutonium Recovery” Concrete Bowl (TA-6)
- “Criticality Accident” Slotin Building (TA-18)
- “Fission Research” Pond Cabin (TA-18-29)



Oppenheimer House



Fuller Lodge

At Oak Ridge, Tennessee

The National Park Service would have a presence at this location and would offer technical assistance for historic preservation within the Oak Ridge Historic District, including the original town site.

The Department of Energy would continue to own, manage, and preserve the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Historic District, including the X-10 Graphite Reactor National Historic Landmark, and the Y-12 Plant Historic District, including the Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks. The Department of Energy, in consultation with Oak Ridge community groups and other local and national historical interests, would determine the appropriate commemoration of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Process Building.

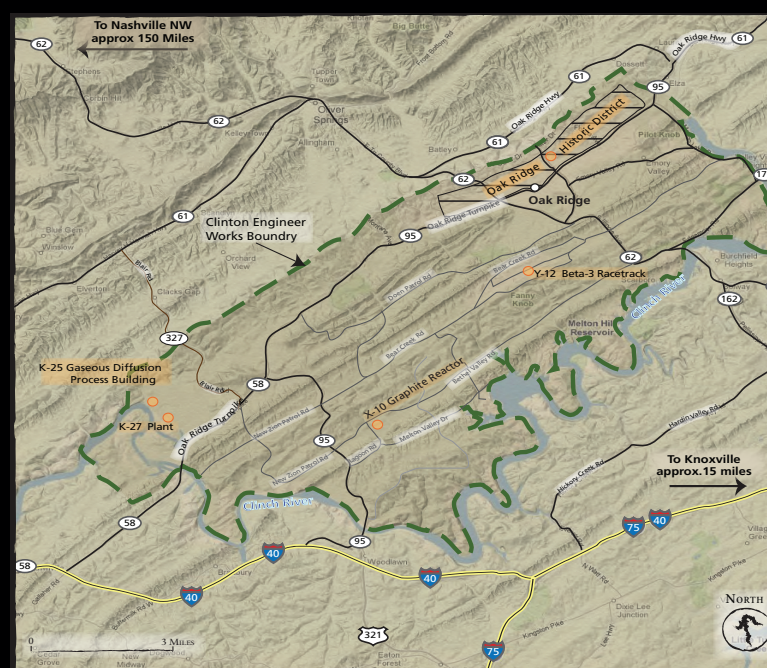


Oak Ridge Graphite Reactor



Oak Ridge Control Room

Oakridge • Tennessee



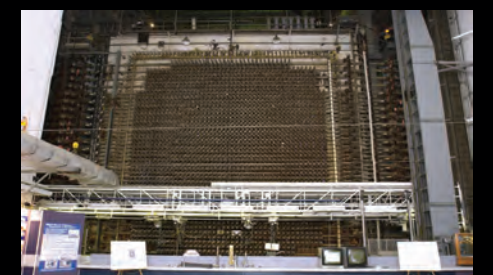
At Hanford, Washington

The National Park Service would have a presence at this location and would provide technical assistance for historic preservation to identified community-based historic resources in the Hanford/Tri-Cities area.

The Department of Energy would continue to own, manage, and preserve the Hanford Site Manhattan Project and Cold War Era Historic District, including the B Reactor National Historic Landmark (105-B Building).



B Reactor



Reactor Front Face

Other Potential Park Affiliations

There are many other sites associated with the Manhattan Project. These include such sites as the Metallurgical Laboratory at the University of Chicago; the Livermore Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California; research facilities in Dayton, Ohio; Tinian Island in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and the Trinity Test Site at White Sands, New Mexico. Contributing sites in other locations could be incorporated into the national historical park by agreements or affiliation in the future.

WHAT'S NEXT

The study process is concluded, and recommendations forwarded to Congress. It is now up to Congress and the President to decide to designate a new park or not. Until that time, the Department of Energy and various public and private owners will continue to manage their respective sites. If a national historical park is designated, the National Park Service would consult with the public, the Department of Energy and other stakeholders to produce a management plan for the park. The plan would provide more detail about public use of the sites, potential associations for other Manhattan Project sites, the role of the community-based programs, and other management issues.

Hanford • Washington

