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. From 1913 until 1945, the plateau was owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, who encouraged ranching on the plateau to prepare it for 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.

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.

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

Los Alamos Nature Center/PEEC

For more information:

Los Alamos Visitor Center
109 Central Park Square
(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

Mon – Sun: 8 – 6

Los Alamos History Museum
1050 Bathtub 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

During WWII, mail to Los Alamos residents was simply addressed to the house at the corner of Bathtub Row and Peach Street. This home is a private residence, and visitors are not allowed.

Post Office

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, he and his friends carved a half-moon in the door of the attached shed the night before they were to leave for a four-month assignment. 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.

Homestead Cabin

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.

Ashley Pond

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., a staff member at the Ranch School, it is made of stone from the nearby Ancestral Pueblo Site.

Central Avenue

Across the street from the Romero Cabin was the site of the original main building for the Los Alamos Ranch School. The Big House was built for the Ranch School as residences and classrooms. Having the only bathtubs in town, these homes quickly burned stoves. The building is made of stone from the nearby Ancestral Pueblo Site.

The Big House

Homesteading began on the Pajarito Plateau in the late 1800s. The Romero family built this cabin in 1913 on a nearby mesa. Like all local homesteader Severo Gonzales Sr. built this stone building in the 1920s for the Los Alamos Ranch School to house fire 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.

Central Avenue

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.

Memorial Rose Garden

The garden club actively maintains the Rose Garden. It also serves as a mini-museum for students and visitors alike.

Touch the Sky Sculpture

This sculpture was erected a year later, in 1948 on the site of the Ranch School Trading Post. Recently the Post Office and built as part of the Community Center, opened at this location in 1948.

Performing Arts Center

The group now in the Creative Discovery Museum occupies the site of the old Los Alamos Public Library.

New Mexico World Museum

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