Los Alamos

**ADDITONAL ATTRACTIONS**

**MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Originated in government surplus buildings and then in a former cafeteria, the library is an important institution in this highly educated community. The 1991 award-winning design is by architect Antoine Predock.

**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**

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.

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

Bradbury Science Museum
1550 Central Avenue
(505) 662-0460
peecnature.org
Mon – Fri: 9 – 5 | Sat & Sun: 10 – 4

Los Alamos History Museum
1030 Bathtub Row
(505) 662-6272
losalamoshistory.org
Mon – Fri: 9 – 5 | Sat & Sun: 10 – 4

Manhattan Project National Historical Park
475 20th St
(505) 662-6277
lanl.gov/museum
Mon – Sun: 9 – 6
Mid-May – Mid-Oct
Mid-Oct – Mid-May
Mon – Sun: 10 – 2

FOR MORE INFORMATION
FULLER LODGE
This grand building was built in 1926 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 772 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
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 still actively maintains the Rose Garden. It also serves as a popular place for weddings and other ceremonies. A Blue Star Memorial Blyway site, and a Los Alamos National Laboratory memorial to those killed in the line of duty are located here.

ROMERO CABIN
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 1941, the cabin was moved downtown and rebuilt in 2010. It is open to the public on select days and during guided tours.

FIRE CACHE
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, logging, construction, and even wood burning stoves. The building is made of stone from the nearby Ancestral Pueblo Site.

THE BIG HOUSE
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 1947, it also housed some of the first scientists who shared its one bathroom.

ANCESTRAL PUEBLO SITE
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
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.

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

ASHLEY POND
Ashley Pond began as a natural depression in the landscape. The Ranch School needed water supply by constructing a dam 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
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
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.