Walk with Oppenheimer...

For the 2023 film “Oppenheimer,” director Christopher Nolan chose to film many scenes on site, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the true stories depicted in the movie actually played out in history. Nolan found inspiration from the same mountain setting and log and stone homes built to support the Los Alamos Ranch School that Oppenheimer himself and his team of scientists found when creating something seemingly impossible. Scenes were created in places that were in Oppenheimer’s real day-to-day life. Take a turn walking in the footsteps of scientific and creative giants and find inspiration of your own.

Los Alamos National Laboratory “The Secret City: Project Y” App

This app lets you explore Los Alamos, New Mexico as it looked during the Manhattan Project. Los Alamos National Laboratory built this virtual experience with something for everyone! In story mode, discover how Project Y transformed this quiet mesa top into a top-secret laboratory. Test your 1940s computing skills on the Marchant calculator—a mechanical desk calculator used by the human computers during the project. Or take your mobile device to downtown Los Alamos and see how much has changed in the last 75 years. With “The Secret City: Project Y,” you can even virtually roam around “behind the fence” at the Laboratory and see two of the most significant historic sites, Gun Site and V-Site, as they were in 1945.

The app is available today on the Apple App Store and Google Play!

Go “Behind the Fence” at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Los Alamos National Laboratory created a virtual tour of Manhattan Project National Historical Park sites that are “behind the fence” at the Laboratory.

Visit the Oppenheimer Resources Host Page

Learn about Oppenheimer. The Man! The Movie | The Manhattan project, and get connected to a wide variety of resources to plan your visit - all on one page!

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park App

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park section on the National Park Service (NPS) App was created by NPS staff—people who know national parks—to help you make the most of your visit. The NPS App takes authoritative information from park rangers and combines it with a great suite of features. Each park unit—Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee—has a detailed map that includes points of interest, roads, trails, and other information to plan your trip. Self-guided tours take you to various places in Discover popular destinations as well as places off the beaten track. It’s like having a ranger by your side to guide your trip, giving you suggestions for places to go, directions to get there, and things to do once you arrive.

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Oppenheimer House on Bathhtub Row

This row of cottages was built in the early 1900s for the Ranch School as residences and classrooms. Having the only bathubs in town, these homes became known as "Bathubs Row" during the Manhattan Project. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and his family lived in the house at the corner of Bathubs Row and Peach Street. Today, this home is on its way to becoming a new addition to the Los Alamos History Museum, as it undergoes historic preservation, renovation, and exhibit development.

Below: The Oppenheimer House exterior includes a unique copper smoke stack on the chimney, as well as the Manhattan Project stamp of T-111, meaning Technical Area 111. The interior includes the "Oppenheimer" set furniture, donated by NBC Universal once the filming concluded.

The United Church

In 1946, General Groves ordered the relocation of The Chapel from the U.S. Army Bruns General Hospital in Santa Fe to Los Alamos to provide a structure for Jews, Catholics, and Protestants to use to practice their faiths. In 1947, the Army chapel was reassembled, and two wings and a side chapel were added to the structure by the Atomic Energy Commission, with contributions from Los Alamos town residents. In 1955, The Chapel and its property were sold to The United Church of Los Alamos to continue to serve as a place of worship and gathering for the community. The meeting room in this historic church served as "the lab" set for the scene where the scientists carefully constructed the "Gadget."

Historic Dot Grant Trail

Grant Road (known as Dot Grant Trail) was named after homesteader Ottie Oman (Dot) Grant. Appearing on the U.S. Forest Service maps as early as 1913, it was the principle connecting road between two canyons that led up from the Rio Grande Valley to homesteads on the mesa. It is steep, averages about eight feet wide, and is distinguished by stabilized rock embankments and sections of deeply worn ruts. This recreational trail can be accessed via the Bayo Canyon Trailhead.

Manhattan Project Era Women’s Dorm

During the Manhattan Project, several dormitories were built to house men, women and the Women’s Army Corps (WAC), including this women’s dorm. Although not currently open to the public, the County is currently in the process of preservation and renovation for this historical building to be utilized as a visitor center for the National Park Service.

Left: Manhattan Project era women’s dormitory during filming.