

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. The view of Ashley Pond Park is enhanced by a number of sculptures that are a part of the County art collection curated by the Art in Public Places Board.

Touch the Sky Sculpture

In May of 2000, the County and adjacent lands were devastated by the 48,000 acre Cerro Grande wildfire. Nearly 400 homes were destroyed. This sculpture was erected a year later commemorating the fire and community rebuilding.

Pierotti's Clowns Mosaic

On the north side of Central Avenue is a memorial to this popular and unbeatable 5-man softball team. It is marked with an interpretive plaque.

Mesa Public Library

was originally located in government surplus buildings and then in a defunct cafeteria. The 1993 award-winning design is by architect Antoine Predock and is one of the highest circulation public libraries in the U.S.

Central School, 1943-1955.

It was the most elaborate building constructed in Los Alamos during WWII. Its cost enraged the military head of the Manhattan Engineering District, General Leslie R. Groves, who intended that the wartime community be temporary. Its curriculum was planned by Dr. Walter W. Cook of the University of Minnesota who was hired to develop the perfect school for the children of Manhattan Project personnel.

Ranch School Power House

The power house of the Los Alamos Ranch School was built in the early 1930s. In 1945 George Kistiakowsky,

the laboratory's explosives expert, and his new bride moved into the house. As a joke his friends built him a tool shed closely resembling an outhouse; they even carved a half-moon in the door! On and off the building has served as the Red Cross Chapter House.

6 The Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden

The land northeast of Fuller Lodge was originally open fields. In 1956 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 deceased were buried elsewhere. The Garden Club still actively maintains the Rose Garden.

7 Romero Cabin

Homesteading began on the Pajarito plateau in the late 1800s. The Romero and Gonzales families built this cabin in 1913 on their land on a nearby mesa. Like all homesteads on the Plateau, it was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1942; in 1984 it was moved to this site. Bences Gonzales, a Pajarito Plateau native who first farmed at Los Alamos and later worked, in succession, for the Ranch School, army, and Laboratory, helped his father-in-law, Victor Romero, build this cabin.

8 The Big House Site

Across the street from the Ancestral Pueblo Dwelling and Romero Cabin was the site of the original main building for the Los Alamos Ranch School. It was a building somewhat similar in style to Fuller Lodge. Students slept here year-round on screened porches as part of a physically as well as mentally challenging education. The Big House contained a library and, during the war years, the radio station, KRS. In 1943 it also housed some of the first scientists who shared its one bathroom.



Ranch School Big House

Central Park Square

formerly known as The Community Center, was planned by architect Lawrence Sheridan and built by W.C. Kruger in the New Mexico Territorial Style. Built in 1949 under contract to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, it was a predecessor of modern enclosed shopping malls with perimeter parking. Among businesses housed here were a soda bar, theater, bowling alley, post office, bakery and grocery store.

9 Ancestral Pueblo Dwelling

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. The block structure to your left was the Ranch School firehouse. Built of stones scavenged from the ancient dwelling, it housed a man-powered pump truck.

10 "Bathtub Row"

These homes were originally built for the Ranch School as faculty housing and for special classes such as arts and crafts. Plush by comparison with typical Army housing, and having the only bath-tubs in town, they quickly acquired the name "Bathtub Row." Manhattan Project director J. Robert Oppenheimer's former home still stands at the corner of Bathtub Row and Peach Streets. The homes are private property and are therefore closed to the public.



Ranch School Faculty Housing

11 The Performing Arts Center

The Little Theater near the corner of 15th and Peach Streets was originally the East Cafeteria. It is one of the few "GI" buildings left from World War II days. Later it became a recreation hall before becoming a playhouse, operated by the Los Alamos Little Theater since 1971.

12 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 to this site in 1993.

13 Post Office

During World War II, mail to Los Alamos residents was simply addressed to P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, New Mexico. When the Manhattan Project's existence was made known to the outside world in 1945, the "Secret City" could again use its Los Alamos postmark. The Post Office opened in its present location in November, 1948 on the site of the Ranch School Trading Post.

