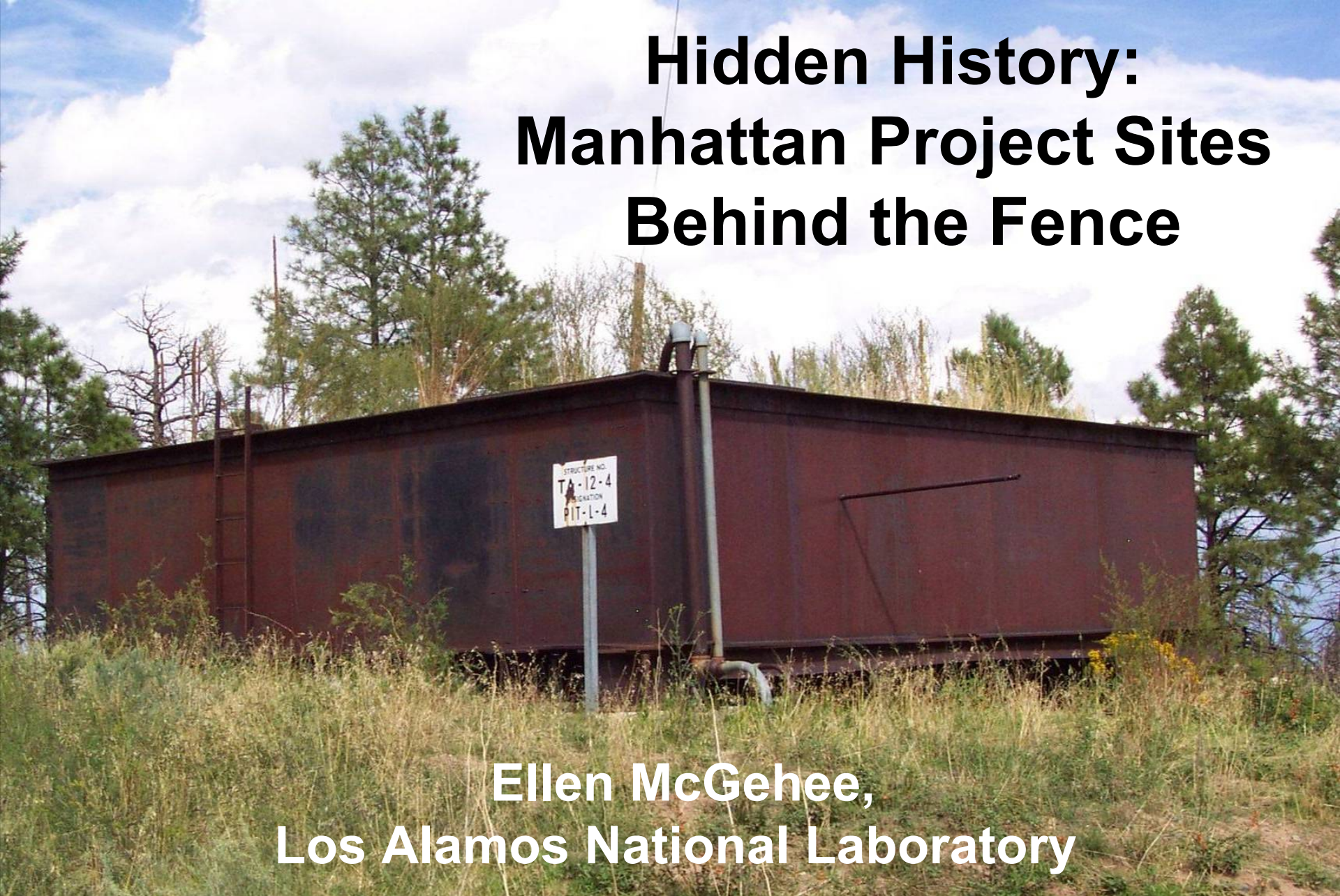


# Hidden History: Manhattan Project Sites Behind the Fence



Ellen McGehee,  
Los Alamos National Laboratory



# *This Presentation is Dedicated to Kari L. M. Garcia, Friend and Colleague*

*Get Well Soon!*



# The Townsite: Fuller Lodge, Bath Tub Row, and the Pond





# Wartime Technical Areas “Behind the Fence”



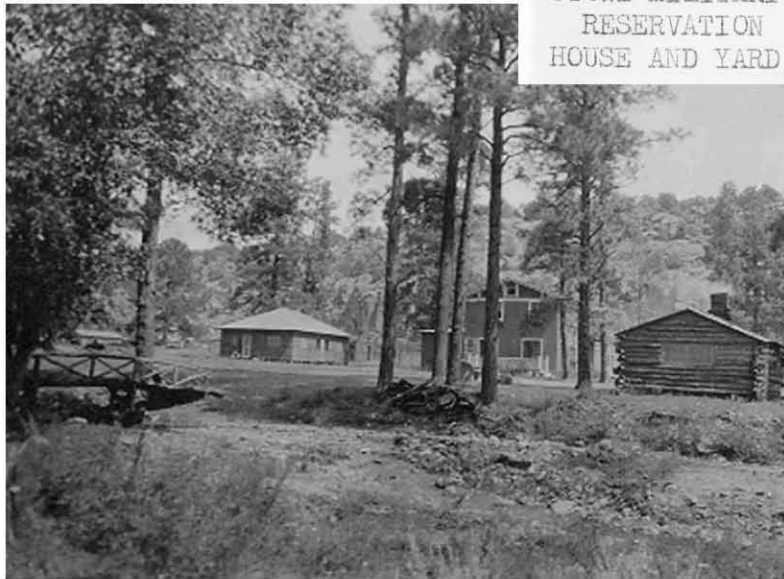


# Making Use of Existing Facilities



OTOWI MILITARY  
RESERVATION  
HOUSE AND YARD, TRACT 16

LOS ALAMOS, N.M.  
VIEW SOUTHEAST  
5/26/43  
TM-0-05665





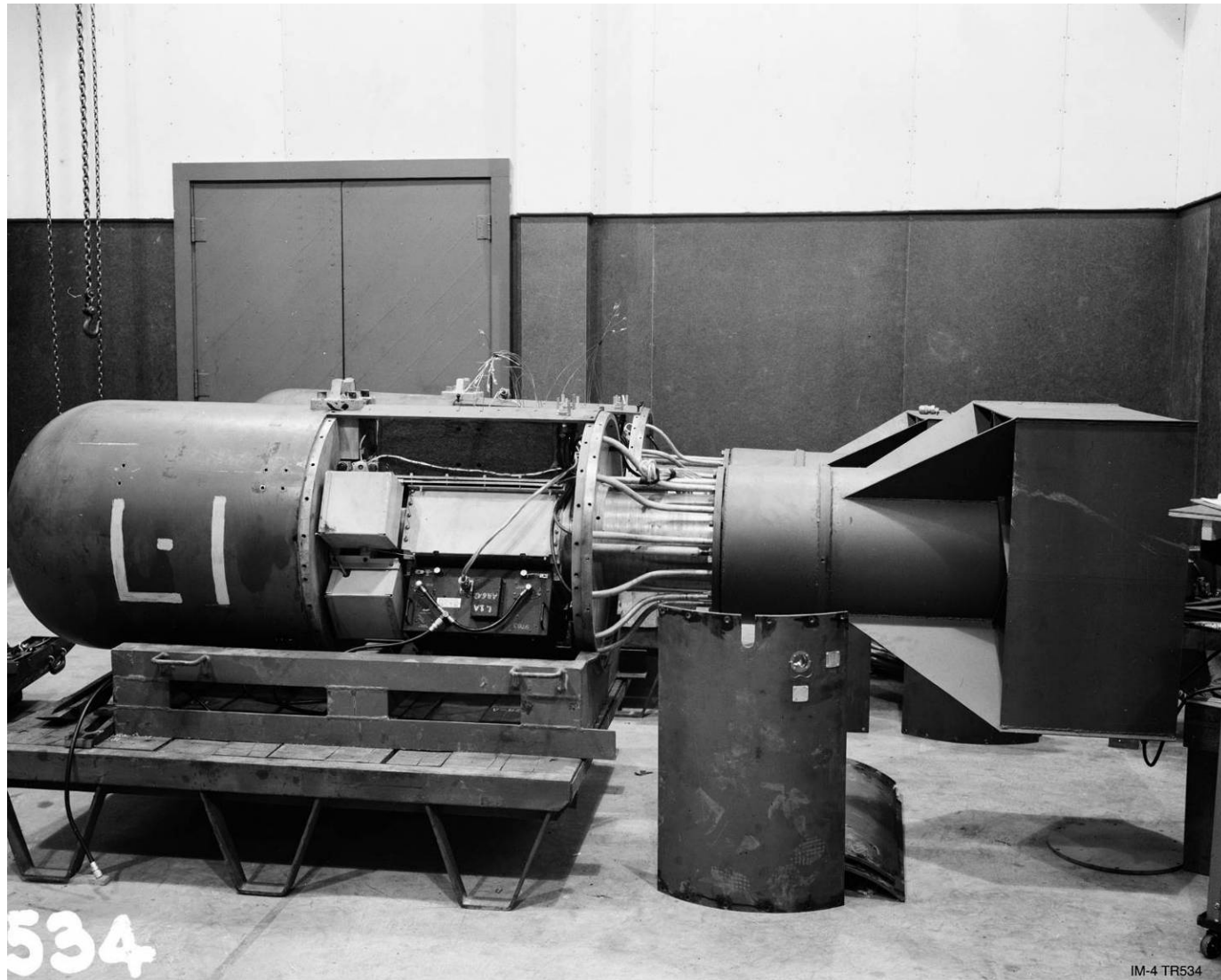


# The Gun Assembly Method – The “Little Boy” Gun Site, TA-8

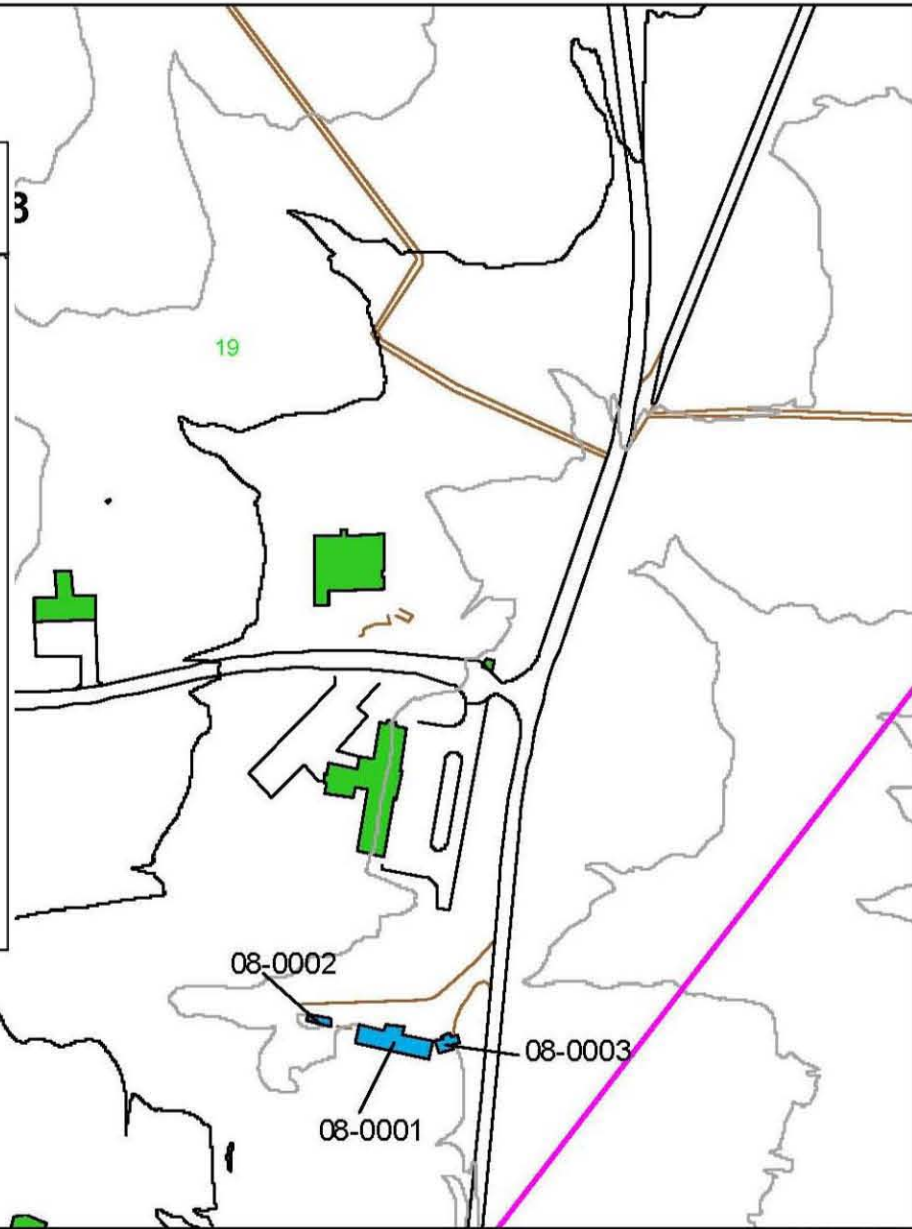
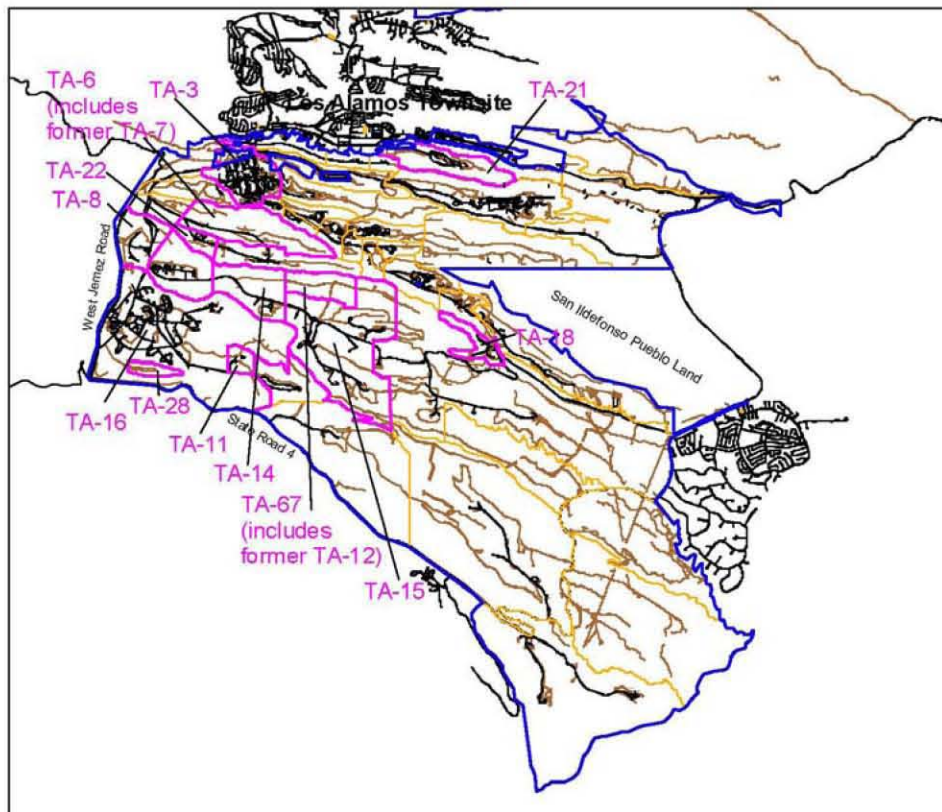




# “Little Boy” (Gun Assembly Method)



LITTLE BOY AT TINIAN



Frijoles Quad

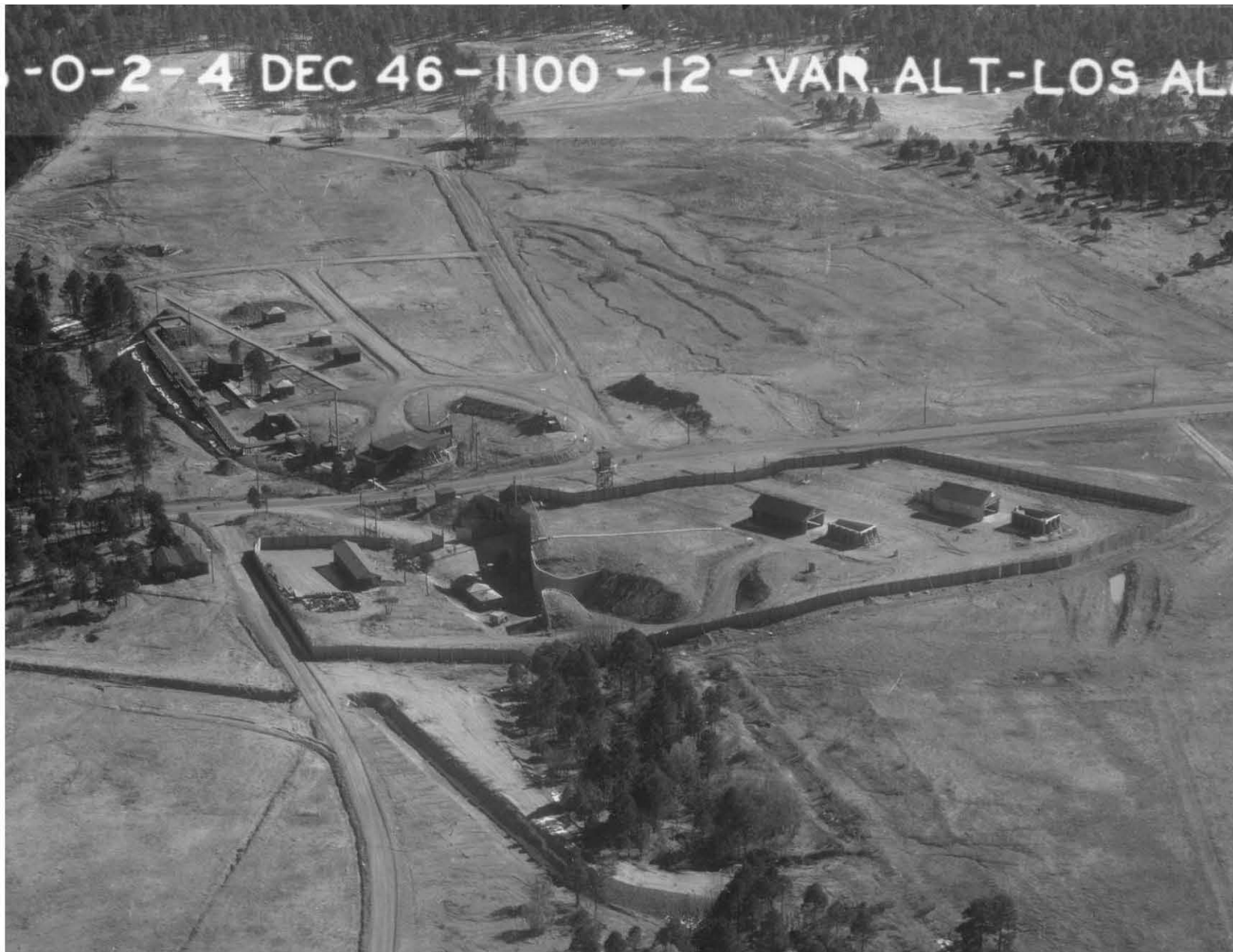
## Technical Area 8

LA-UR-09-01405

UNCLASSIFIED



-O-2-4 DEC 46-1100-12-VAR. ALT.-LOS ALA







**TA-8, Building 1 (entrance at center right);  
TA-8, Building 3 (entrance at left) - 1943**





# TA-8, Building 1 - 1943





# TA-8, Building 2 - 1943

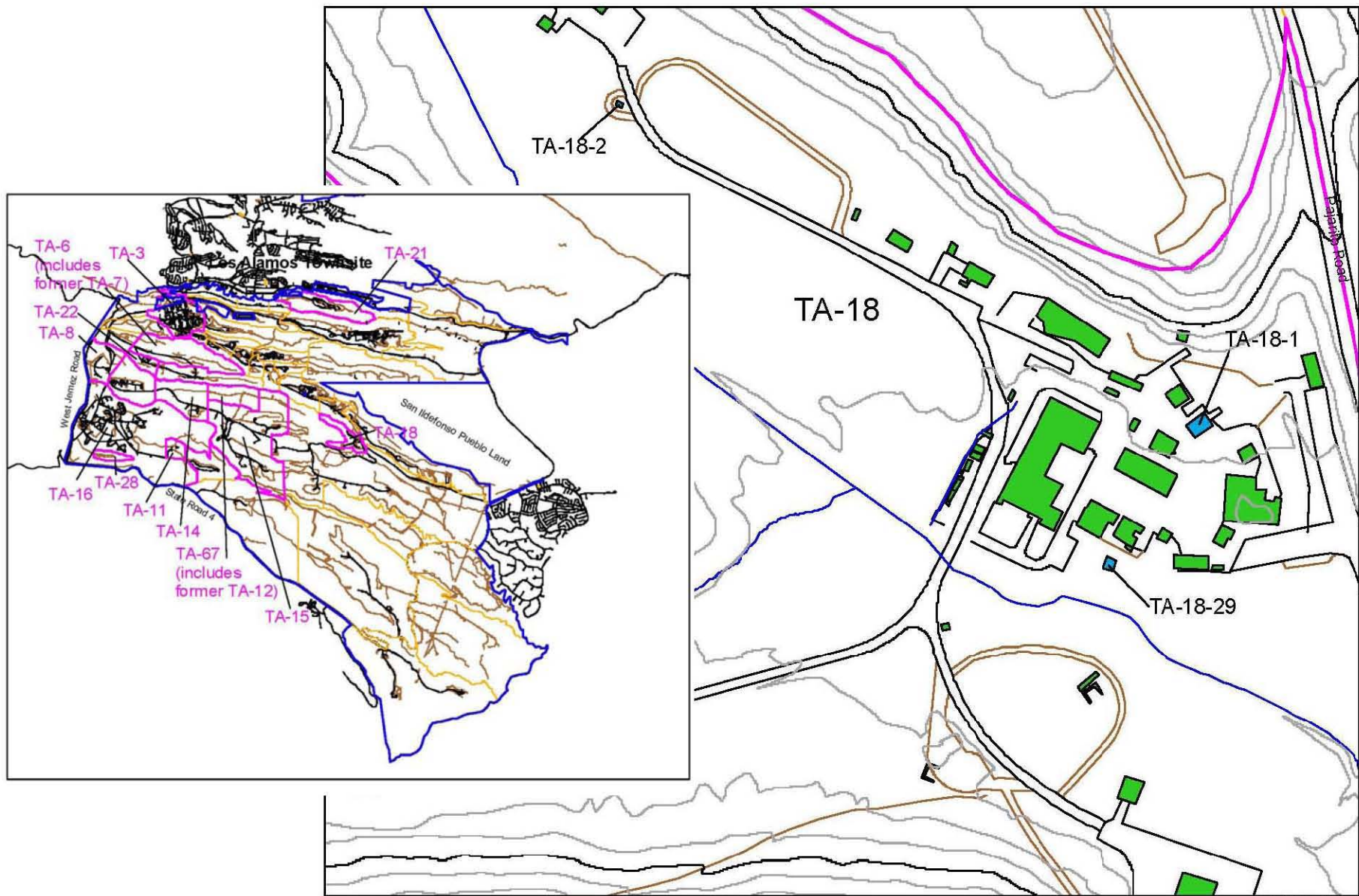




# The Plutonium Crisis







## Technical Area 18

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IM-9:1193





IM-9:1192



IM-9:1186



# Pond Cabin, Pajarito Canyon – 1914

## Plutonium Research – 1944



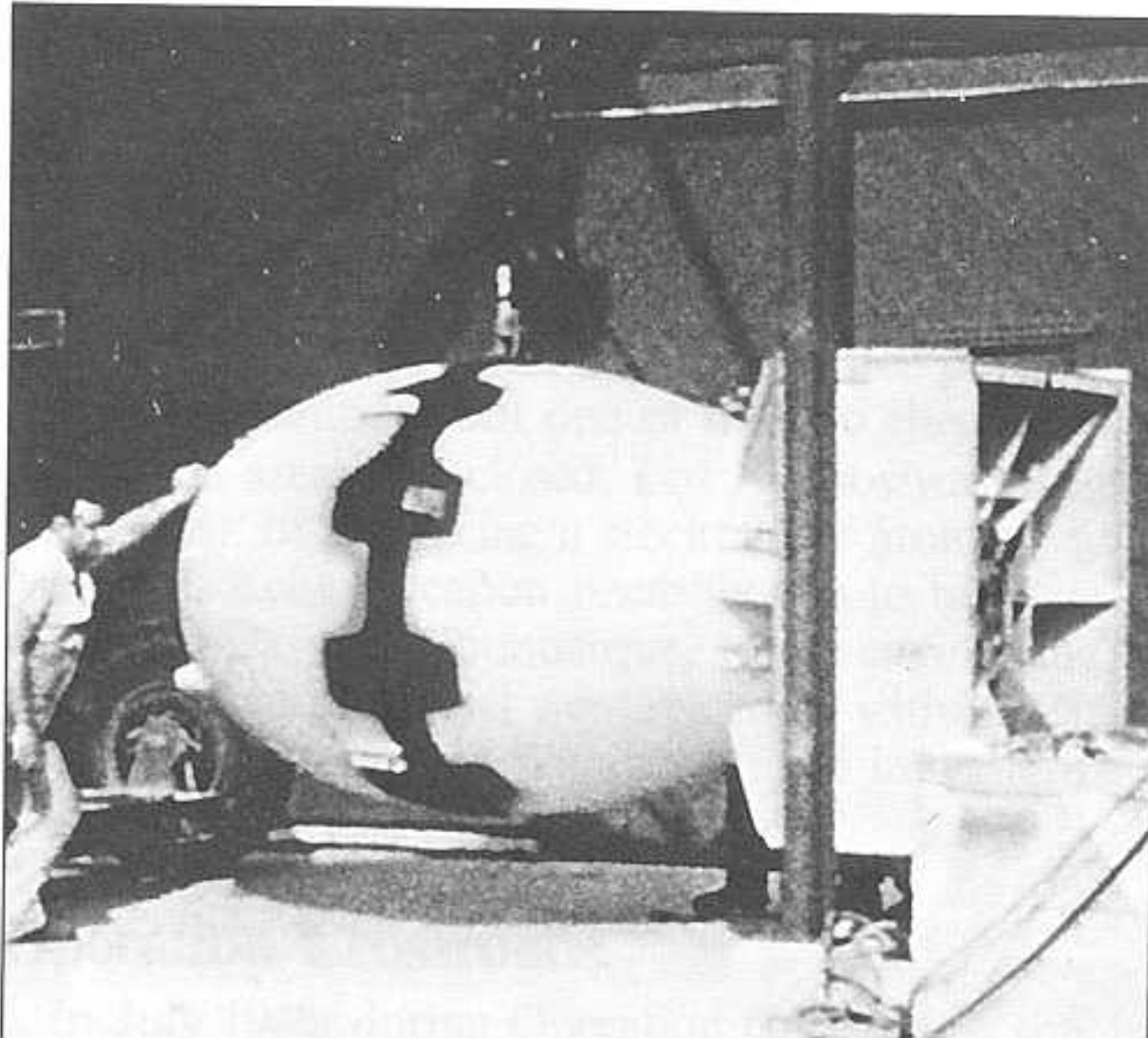


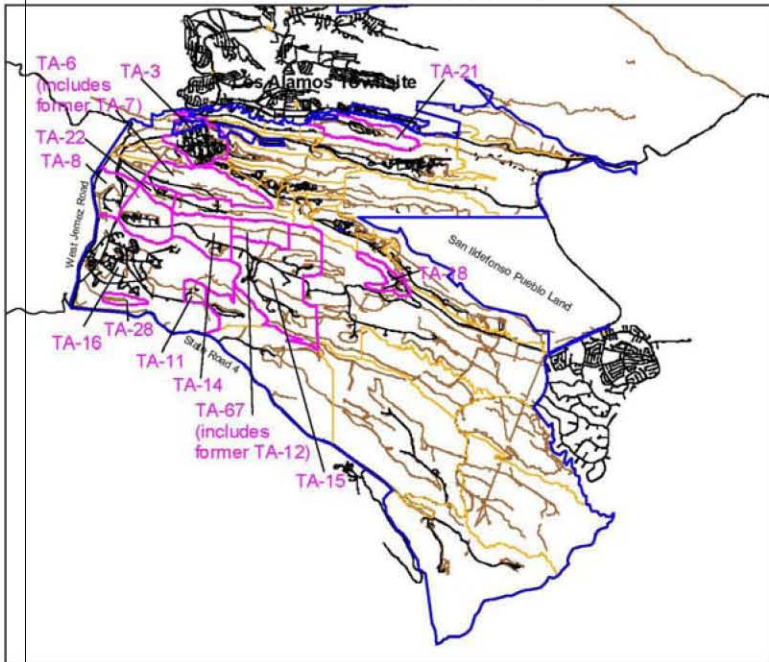
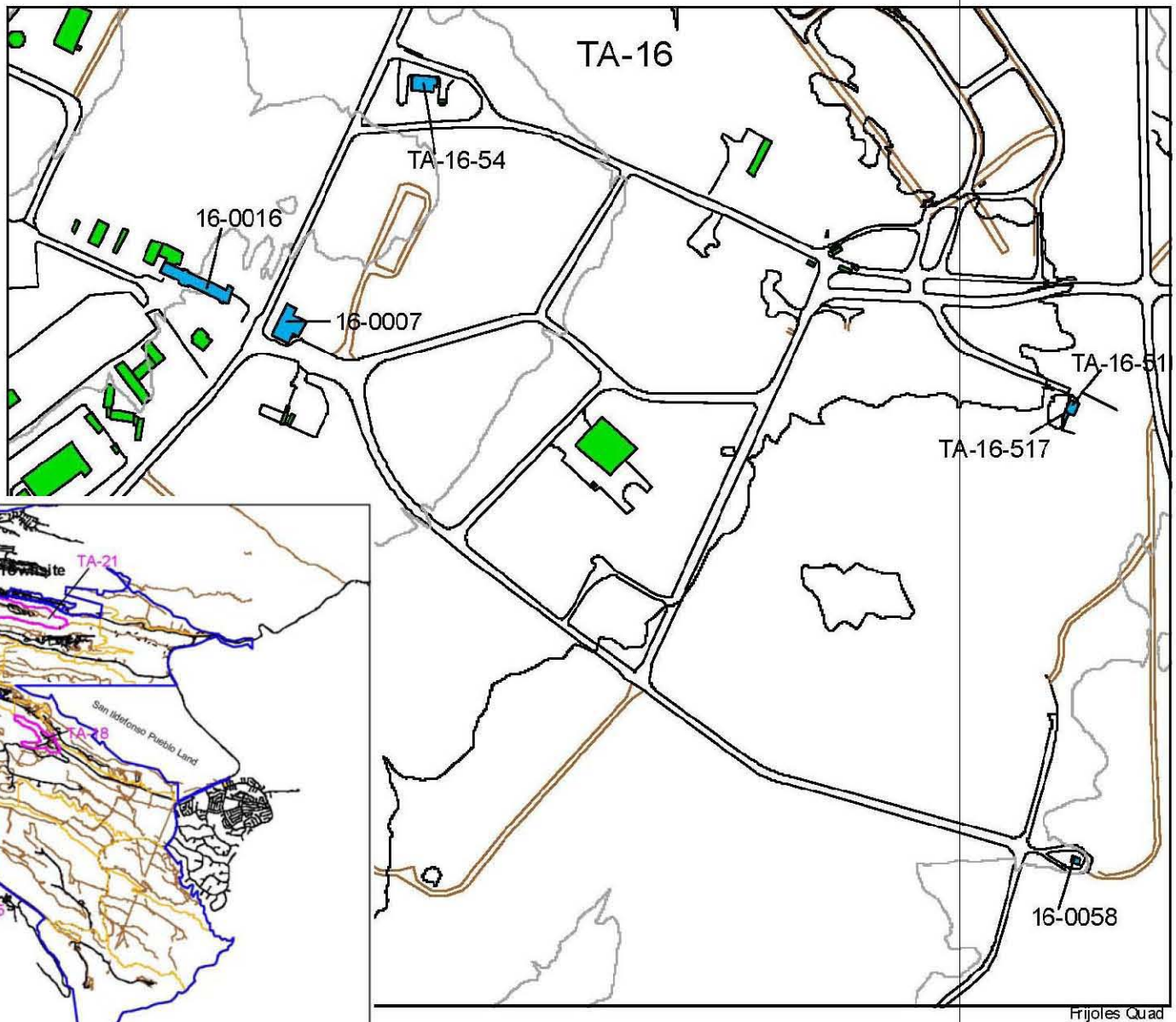
# The Implosion Method: TA-16 (High Explosives R&D)





# “Fat Man” (Implosion Method)





## Technical Area 16

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# TA-16, Building 58 (High Explosives Magazine) – 1944





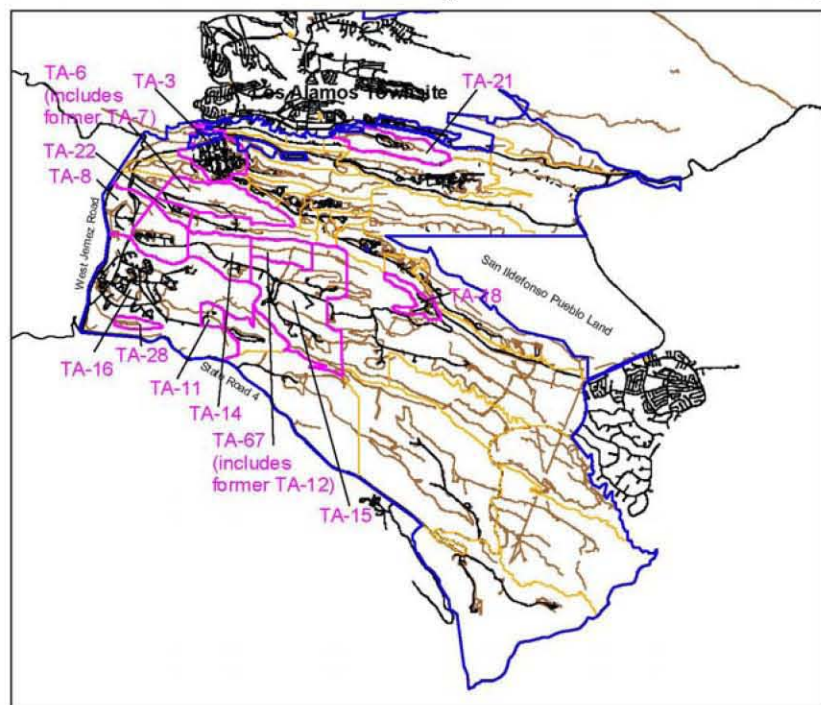
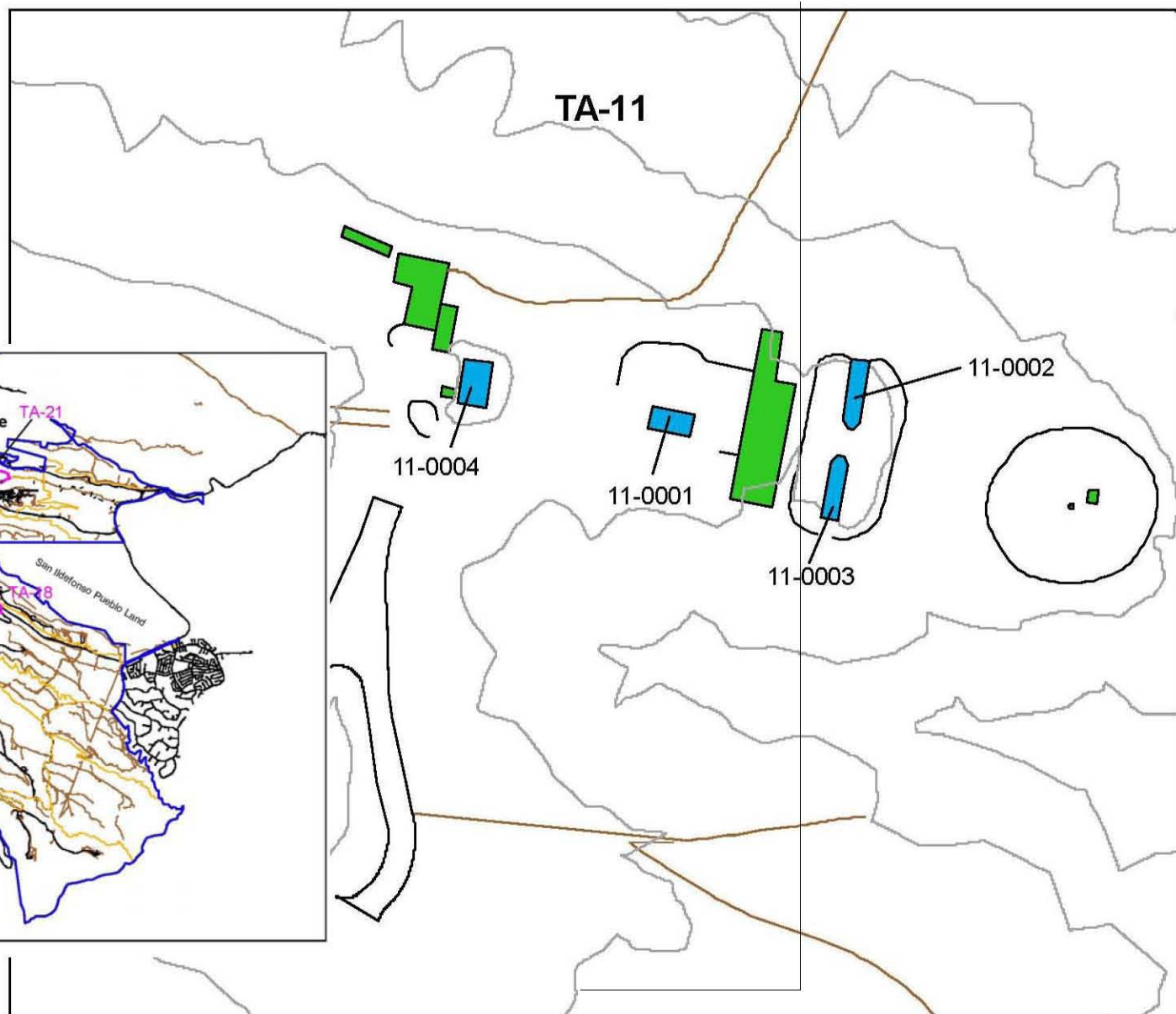
# TA-16, Building 54 – 1946 (High Explosives Grinding Operations)





# The Implosion Method: Other Technical Areas (Testing and Observation)





## Technical Area 11

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# TA-11, Building 1 (Control Laboratory) – 1944



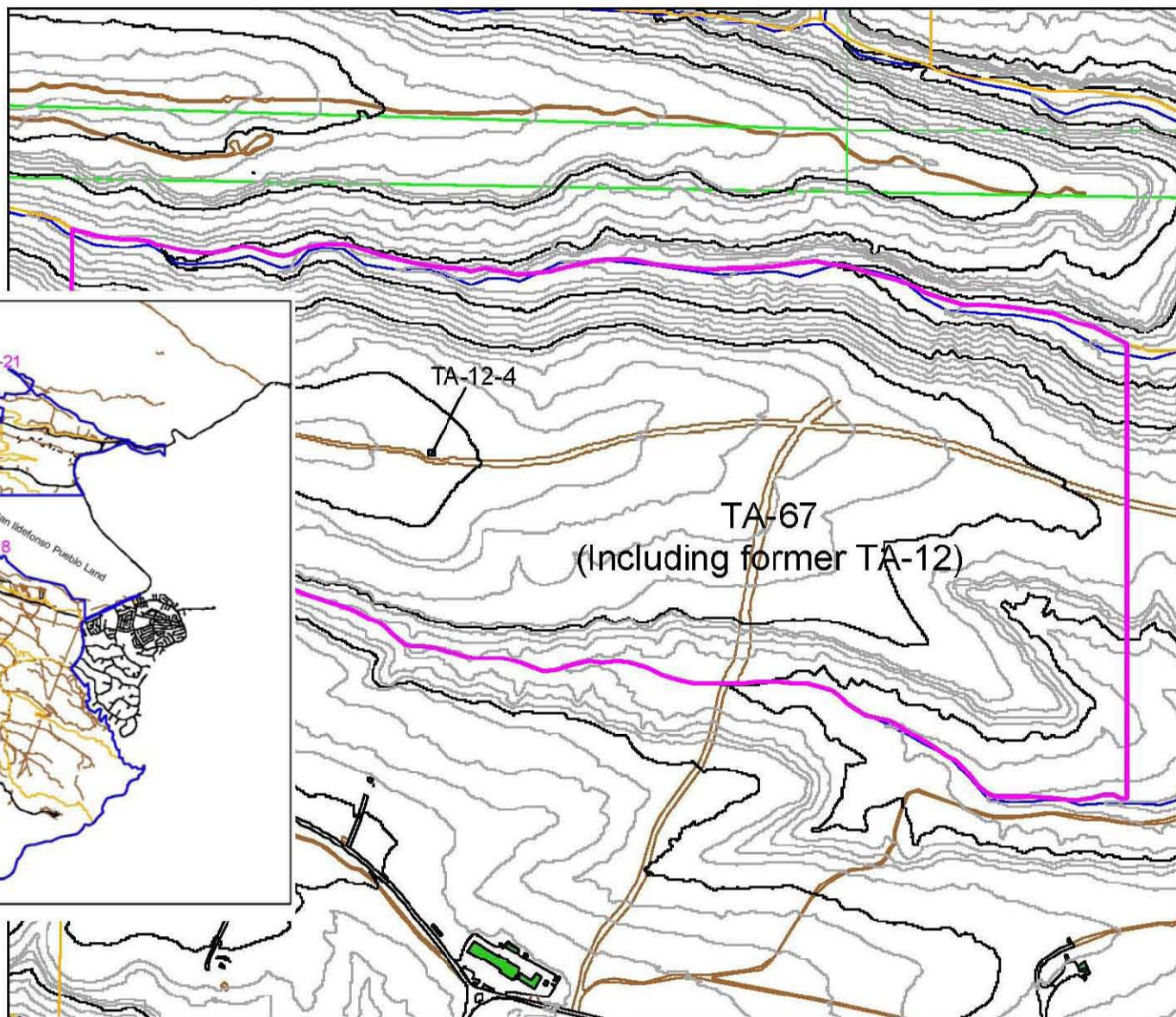
# TA-11, Building 2 (Betatron Building) – 1944





# TA-11, Building 3 (Cloud Chamber) – 1944





Frijoles Quad

## Technical Area 12

LA-UR-09-01405

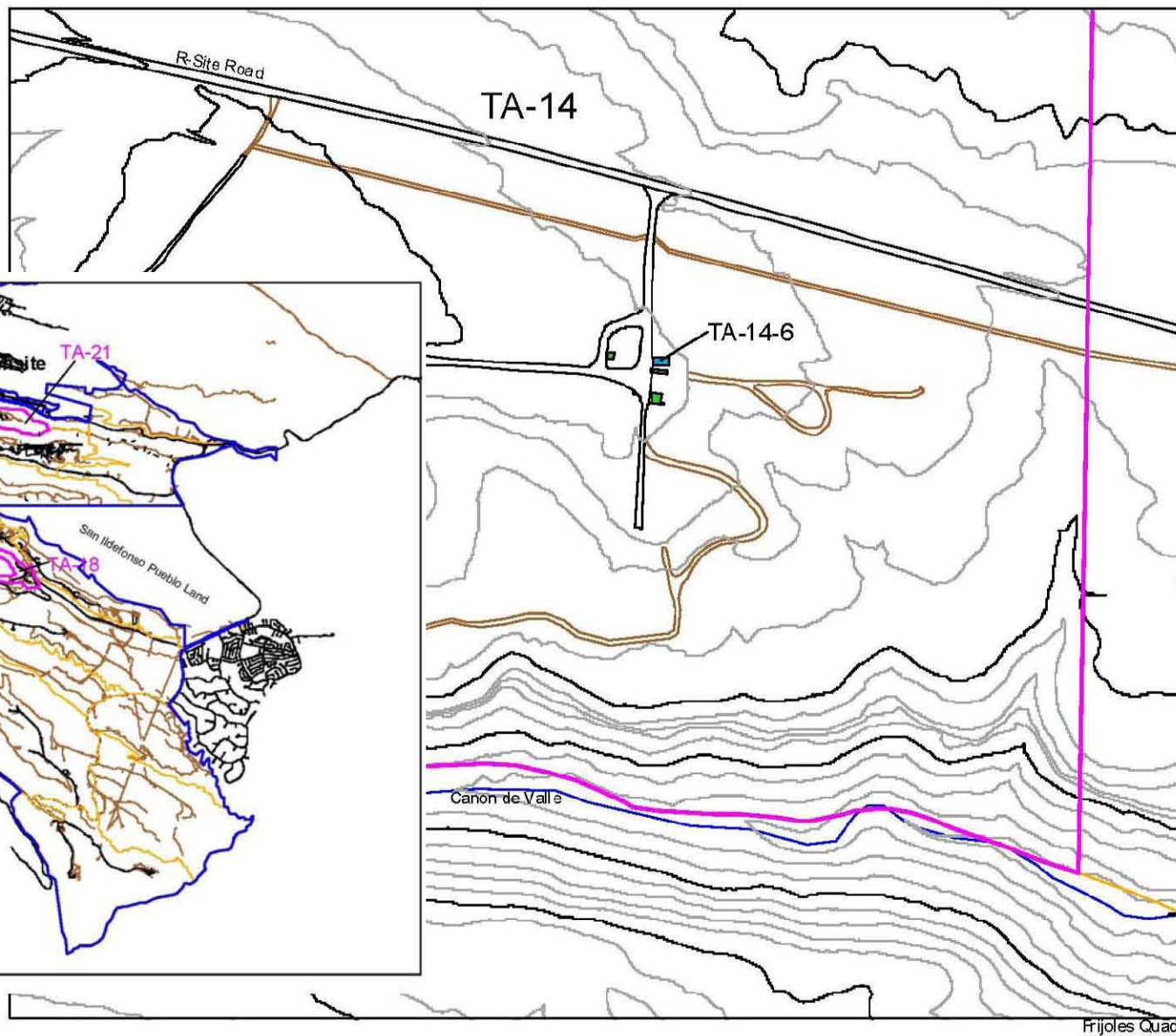
UNCLASSIFIED



# TA-12, Structure 4, “Firing Pit” – 1945 (Implosion Testing and Recovery Experiments)





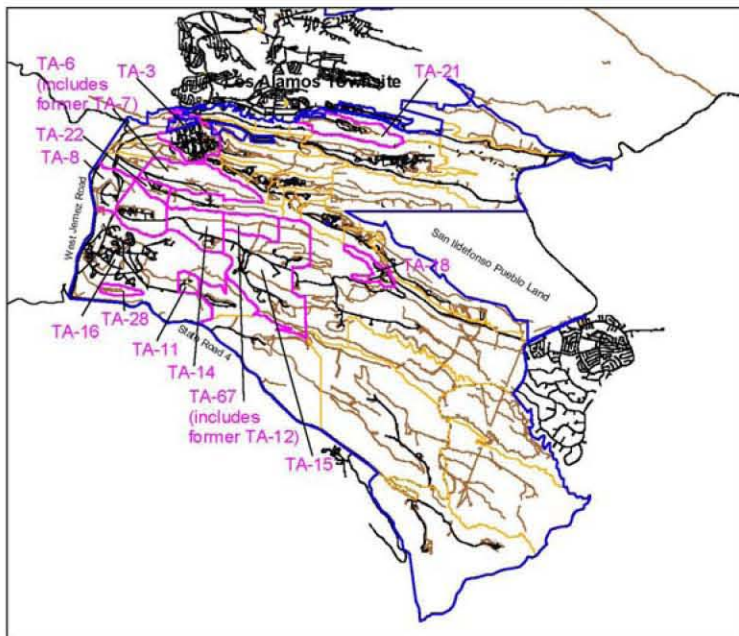
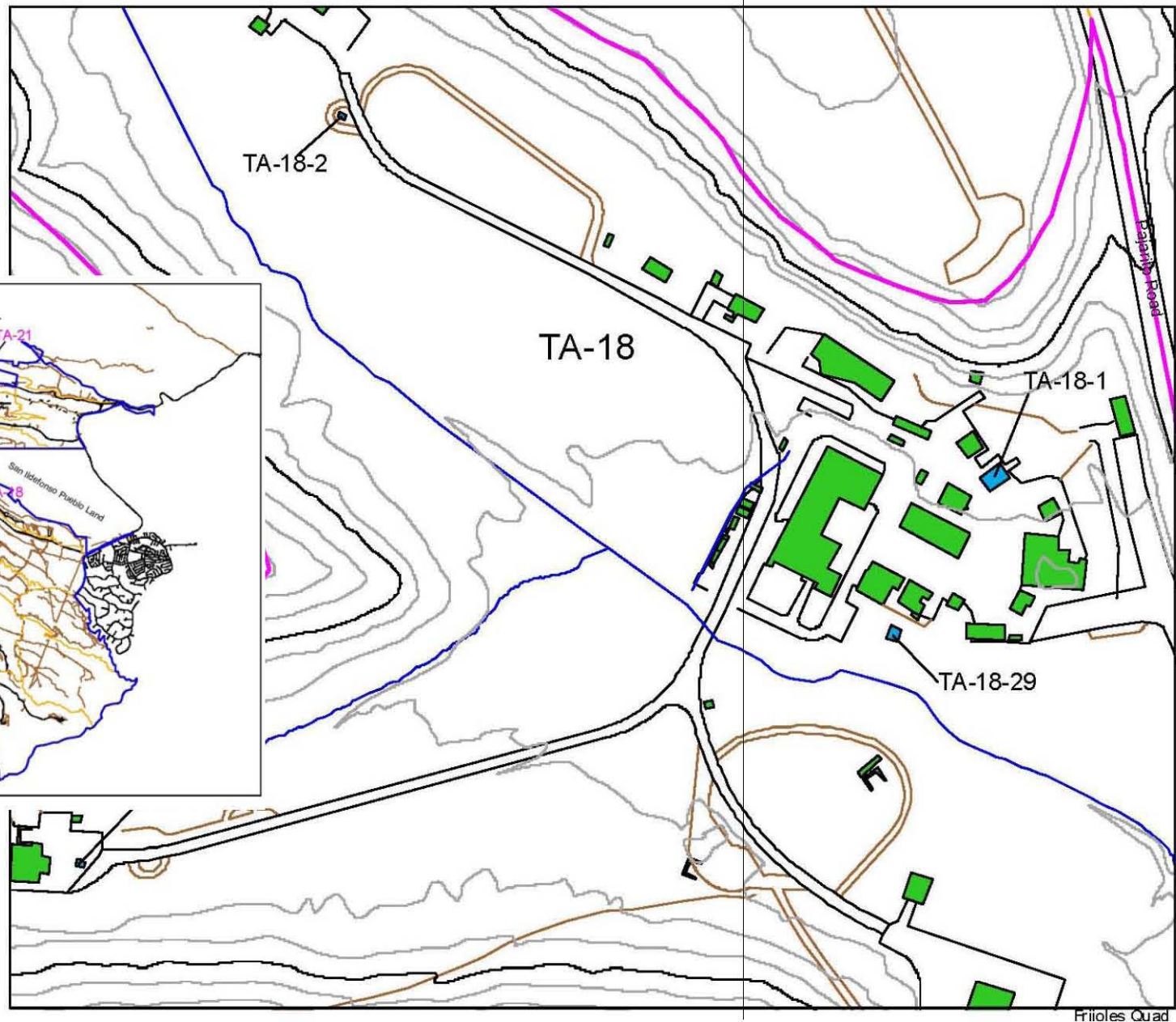


## Technical Area 14



# TA-14, Building 6 (Shop and Darkroom) – 1944 (Small-Scale Tests; Rotating Prism Camera)





## Technical Area 18

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# TA-18, Building 2, “Battleship Building” – 1944 (The Magnetic Method)



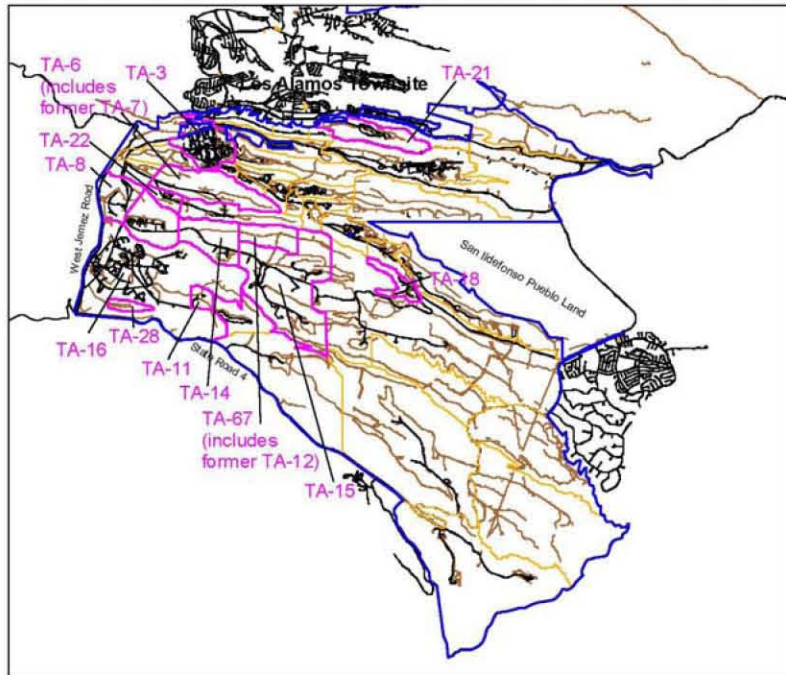
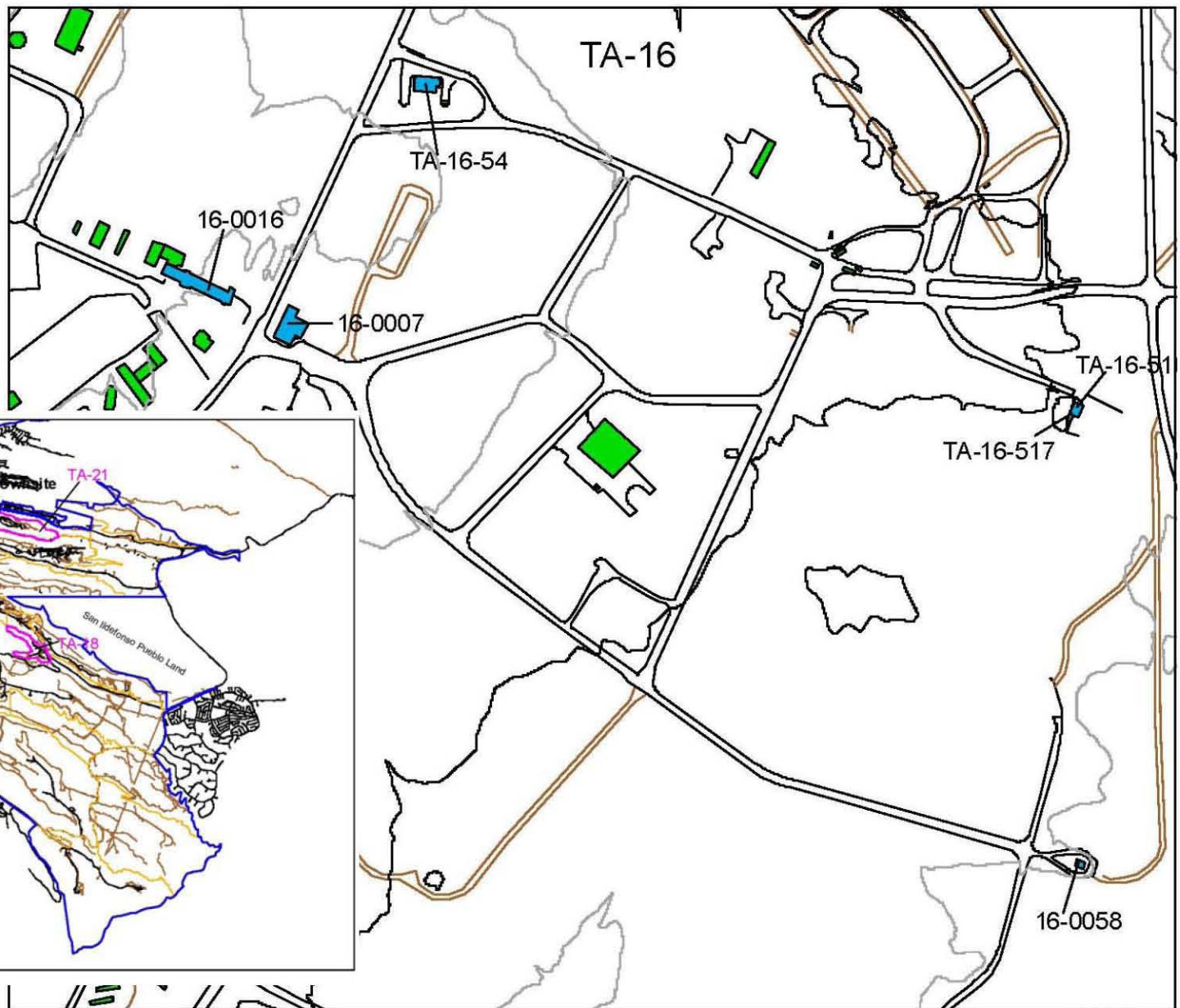
# TA-18, Building 5, “Battleship Building” – 1944





# Trinity Device (“Gadget”) Assembly



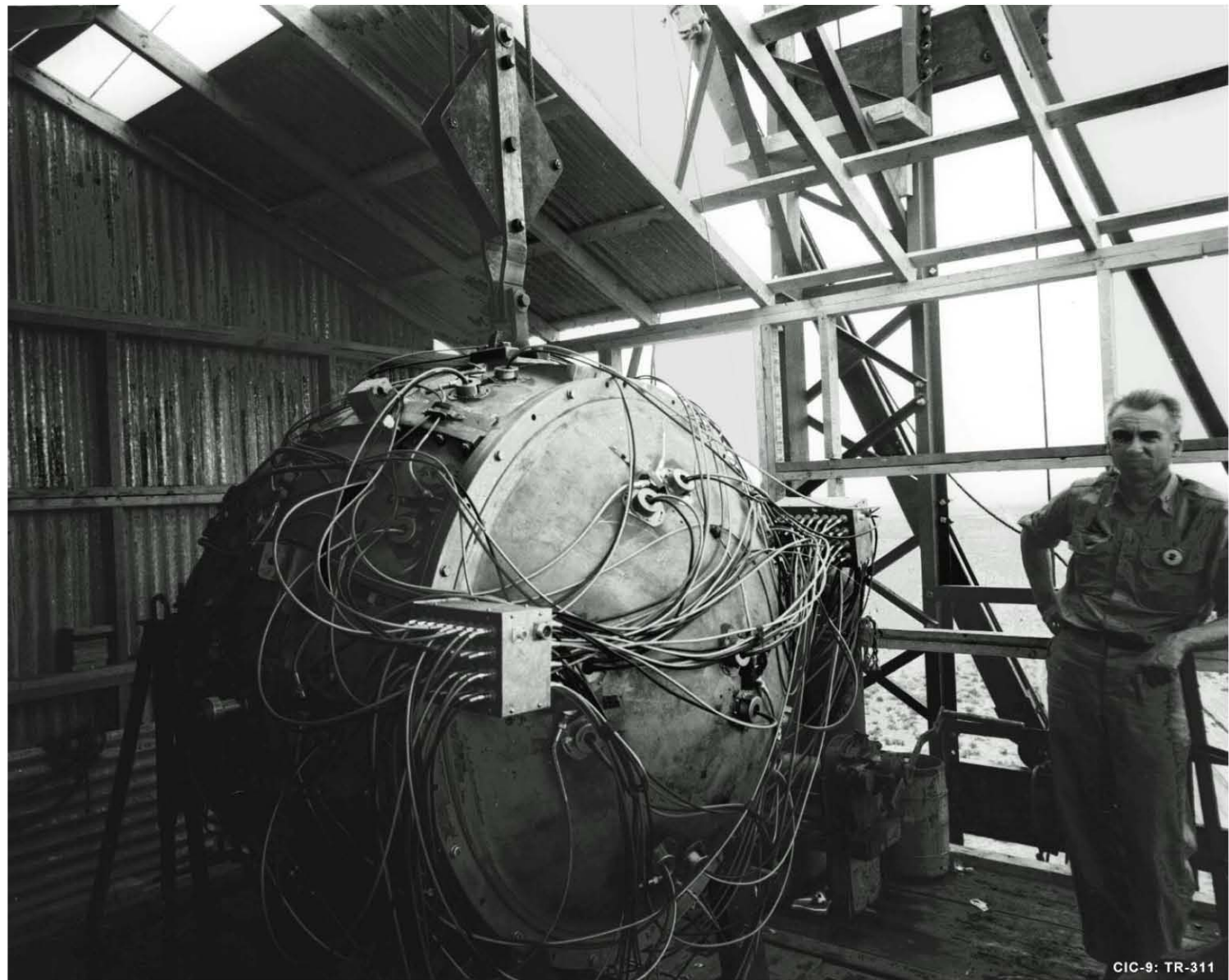


# Technical Area 16

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GADGET AND N. BRADBURY

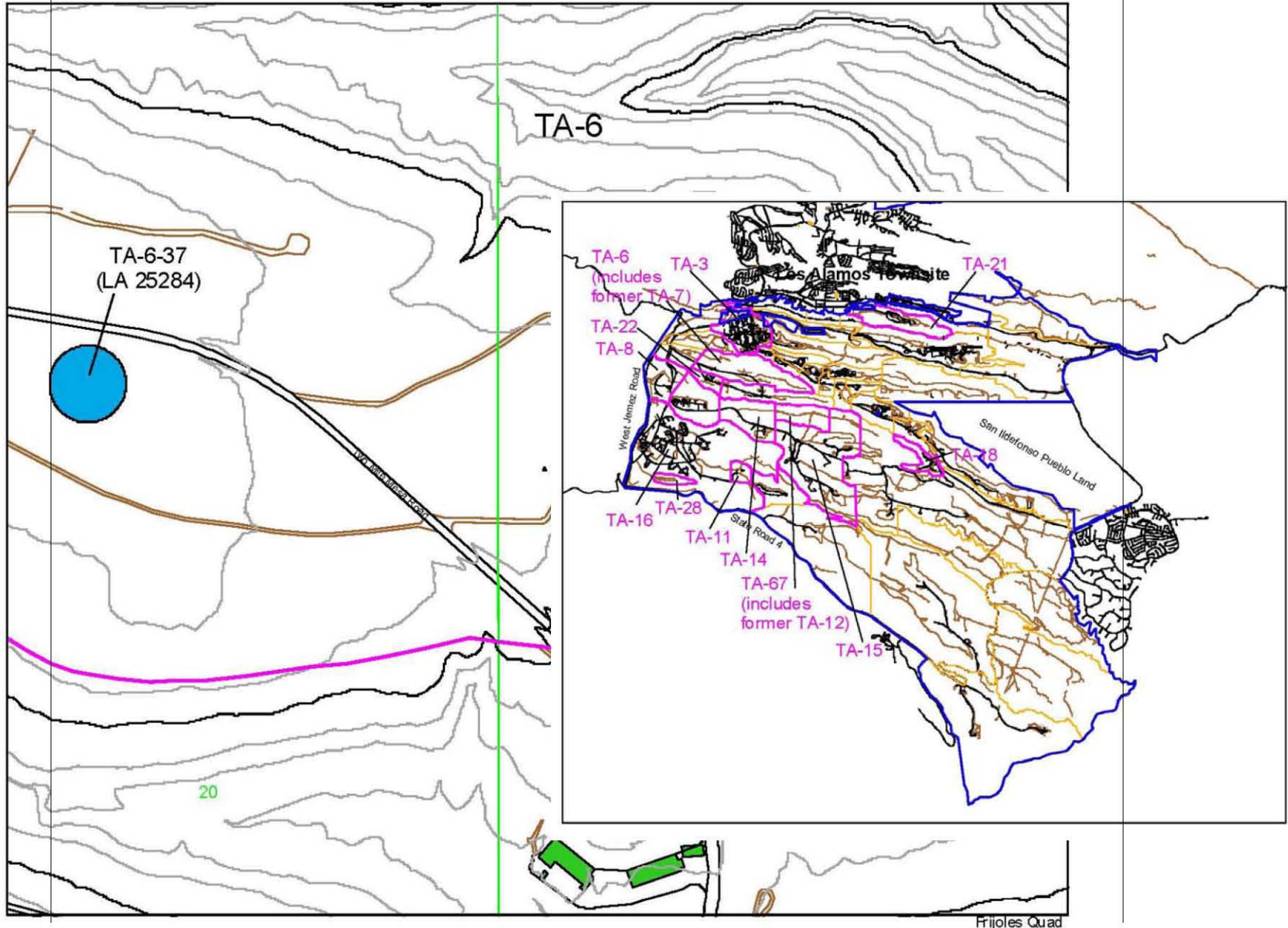
# TA-16, Buildings 516 (right) and 517 (left) – 1944





# Plutonium Recovery





## Technical Area 6

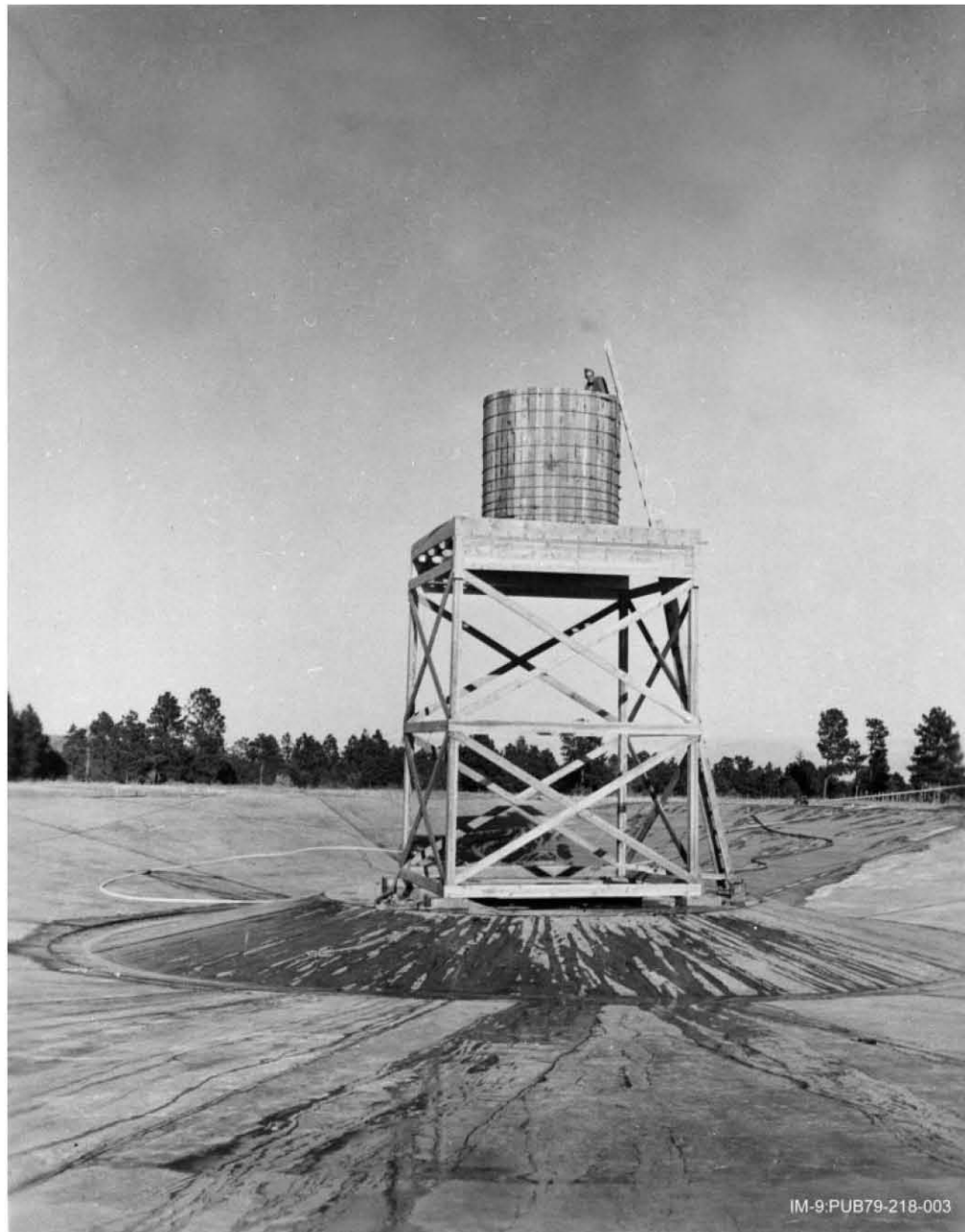
LA-UR-09-01405

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TR-179



IM-9:PUB79-218-003



# TA-6-37 (Concrete Bowl) – 1944





# “Fat Man” Assembly at Trap Door (TD) Site







# TA-22, Building 1 (Quonset Hut) – 1945







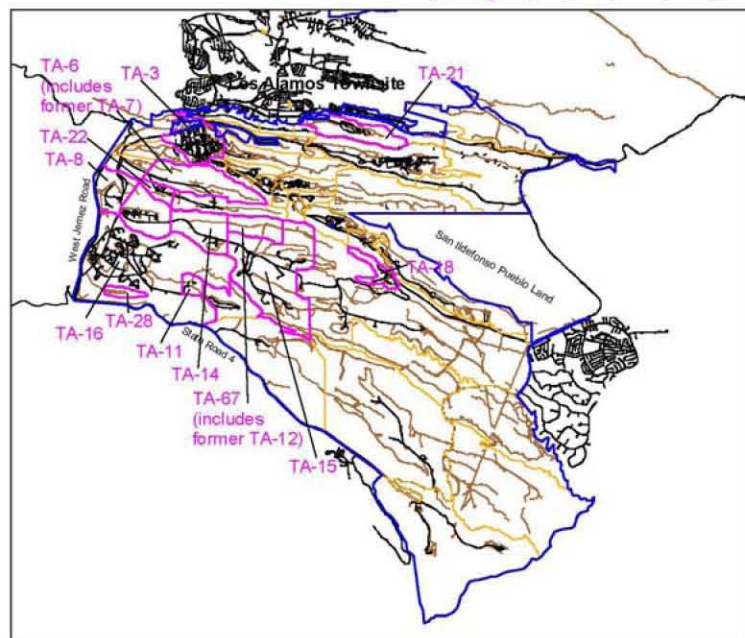
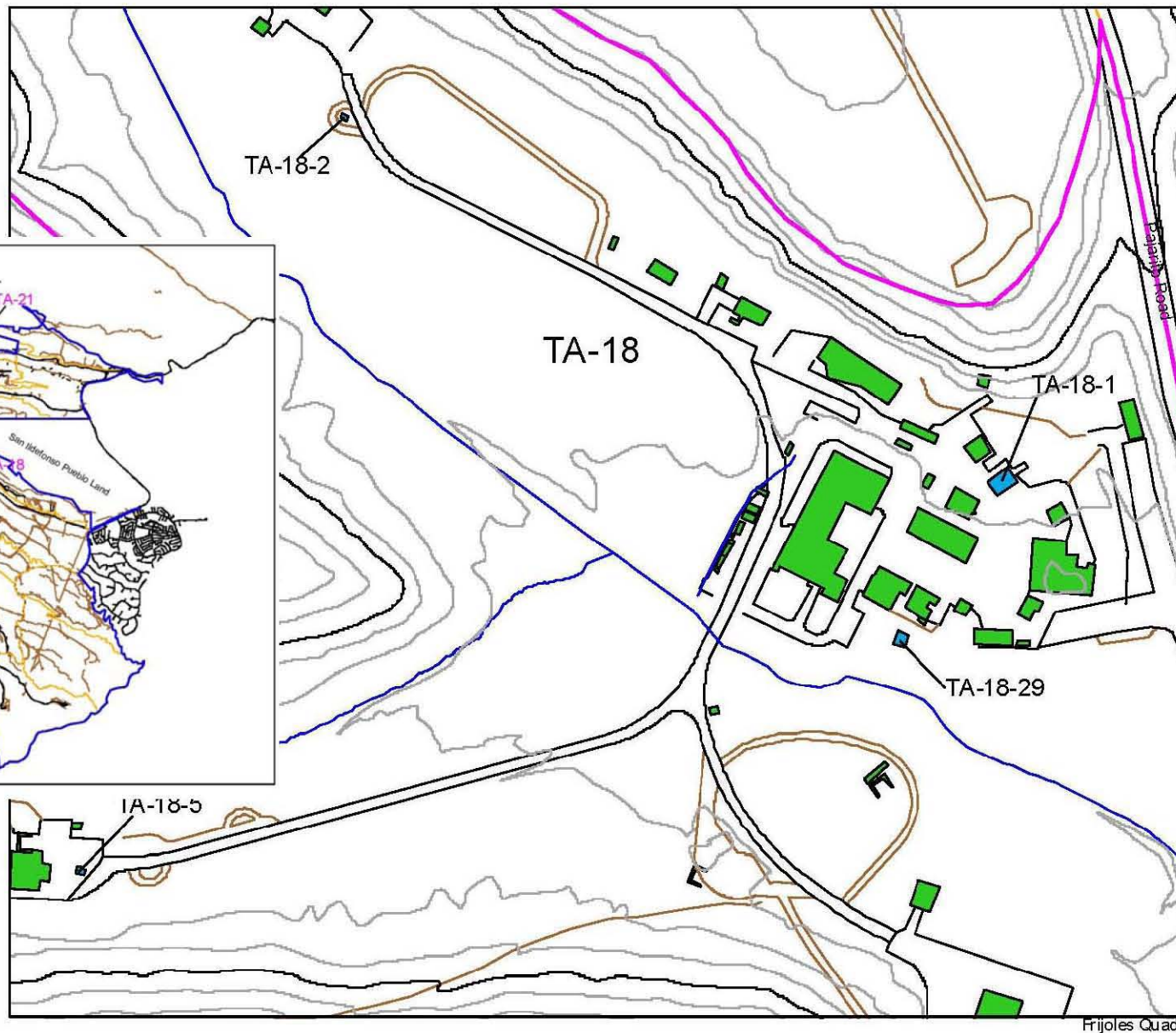


# Post-War Criticality Research at Pajarito Site



IM-4: 15953





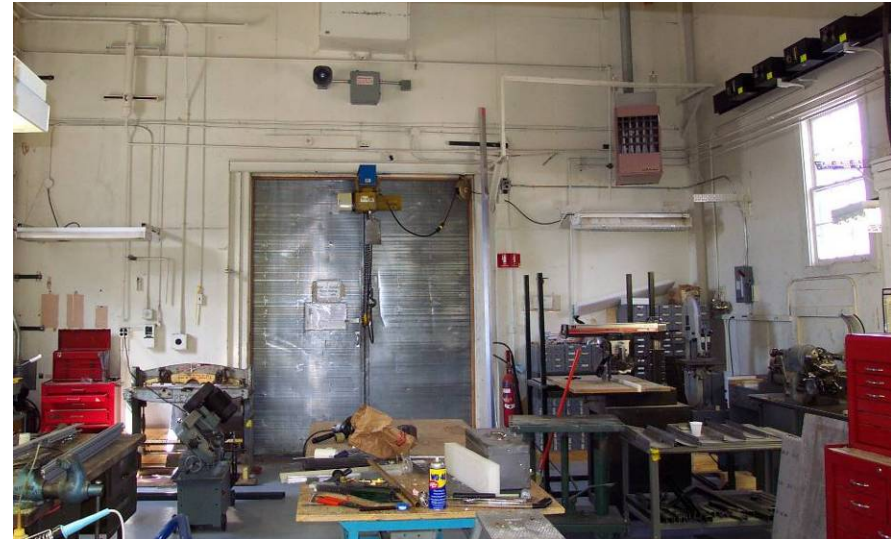
## Technical Area 18

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# TA-18, Building 1 – 1944

## May 21, 1946 Criticality Accident





# Key Facilities: Maintenance and Long Term Preservation



Quonset Hut



Concrete Bowl



Slotin Building



V-Site



Pond Cabin



Gun Site

# V Site Restoration Project:

- **Significance: Trinity Test Final Assembly**
- **Save America's Treasures Grant (January 2000)**



May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire





# V-Site: Three Restoration Phases

- 1) Berm and Back Walls (also asbestos abatement and dirt removal)
- 2) Roof Repairs
- 3) Cosmetic (doors, windows, and shingles)



















# Next Priority: Gun Site Restoration – TA-8





# Gun Site Phased Restoration Project

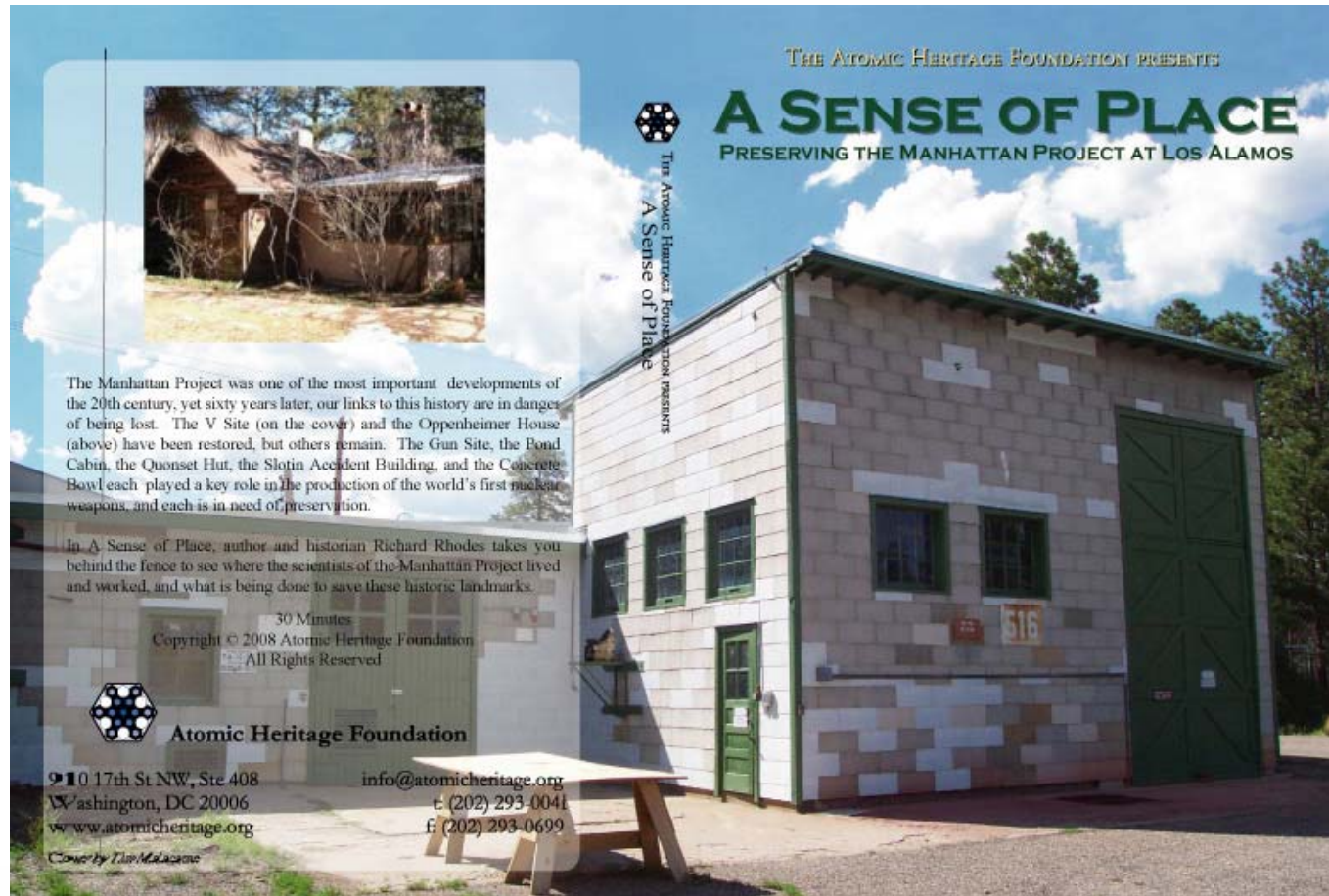
## Priorities:

- Restoration plan
- Clean up phase



# Film Presentation

**"A Sense of Place - Preserving the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos," produced by the Atomic Heritage Foundation. Historical material and additional financial support provided by the Los Alamos Historical Society.**



THE ATOMIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

## A SENSE OF PLACE

PRESERVING THE MANHATTAN PROJECT AT LOS ALAMOS

The Atomic Heritage Foundation presents  
A Sense of Place

The Manhattan Project was one of the most important developments of the 20th century, yet sixty years later, our links to this history are in danger of being lost. The V Site (on the cover) and the Oppenheimer House (above) have been restored, but others remain. The Gun Site, the Pond Cabin, the Quonset Hut, the Slotin Accident Building, and the Concrete Bowl each played a key role in the production of the world's first nuclear weapons, and each is in need of preservation.

In *A Sense of Place*, author and historian Richard Rhodes takes you behind the fence to see where the scientists of the Manhattan Project lived and worked, and what is being done to save these historic landmarks.

30 Minutes  
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*Cover by Tim Malachuk*