

The image shows the interior of a rustic log cabin. The walls and ceiling are made of thick, dark wood logs. The ceiling features a series of horizontal wooden beams. A green double door with glass panes is visible at the end of the hallway. Two decorative lanterns hang from the ceiling. Sunlight streams in from the right, casting long shadows on the floor. A metal railing is visible in the lower-left corner.

**ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY**

**FULLER LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Los Alamos, New Mexico

March 2013

**ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF FULLER LODGE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**March 1, 2013**

**County of Los Alamos**  
Spears Architects

# ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF FULLER LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This survey was carried out with the cooperation and assistance of many people including staff members of the Los Alamos County Community and Economic Development Department, as well as members of the Fuller Lodge Historic Districts Advisory Board and the Los Alamos Historical Society. Appreciation and recognition is also extended to the owners and residents of the structures within the district, all of who were very welcoming and helpful in the exploration and understanding of these important historic structures.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Los Alamos Ranch School was founded on the Pajarito Plateau by Ashley Pond in 1917. Buildings remaining today from the Los Alamos Ranch School date from the 1920's and the 1930's. In 1943 the United States Government took over the ranch school property to house the incipient Manhattan Project. During the next few years, the LARS buildings were typically given new purpose, reconfigured, and in some cases expanded, but they retained their original character to a remarkable extent. Most of the additions were done in the style and spirit of the original buildings. Of the row of LARS buildings from Fuller Lodge to Master Cottage #3, all remain intact and none has been demolished.

The Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (LASL) National Historic Landmark (NHL) District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1966. The Los Alamos Historical Society was founded in 1968 further marking a community interest in documenting and preserving historic resources within the community. The Los Alamos Ranch School was placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties in 1969.

The historic buildings included in this survey are what remains of the Los Alamos Ranch School. These buildings and grounds are historically significant based on their association with LARS, and more importantly, for their association with the Manhattan Project which has national and international importance. The era of the Manhattan Project (1943-1946) is the most significant historical period for these buildings although the preceding LARS years are noteworthy as is the period immediately after WWII when the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) furthered atomic research at Los Alamos and continued to use these buildings.

## **PURPOSE OF STUDY**

The purpose of this study is to update, revise and augment the data of surveyed structures included within the April 2008 Architectural Survey of Fuller Lodge Historic District. This revised and expanded material provides a more accurate basis for the creation and implementation of an ordinance for the protection of structures within the district as well as the general character of the district. Spears Architects was selected in September 2012 by the County of Los Alamos to carry out this work.

## METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork was begun in October 2012 and completed in January 2013. The data from the 2008 Architectural Survey of Fuller Lodge Historic District (by Mosaic Architectural Solutions) for the individual historic structures within the district was revised and augmented based on field observation, interviews and published materials. All of the owners and residents were interviewed by telephone or in person. All of the structures were examined inside and out by the architectural surveyor. The exteriors of all buildings were digitally photographed by the architectural surveyor. All color photos in this report were made by the surveyor during the fieldwork. The architectural surveyor for all aspects of the project was Beverley Spears, FAIA, architect and architectural historian, principal of Spears Architects.

In addition to the Mosaic Architectural Survey of April 2008, published sources of information used for this study include *Of Logs and Stone: The Buildings of the Los Alamos Ranch School and Bathtub Row* by Craig Martin and Heather McClenahan, published by All Seasons Publishing, Los Alamos, 2008. The study presented here can be considered as a companion to *Of Logs and Stone*. The unpublished Historic Structures Report for the Oppenheimer House prepared by the Los Alamos Historical Society in 2011 and the *Fuller Lodge and Museum Deficiency Study* (2011) by Kells and Craig were also consulted.

## ARCHITECTURAL NOTES

The stylistic continuity of these buildings is remarkable, particularly considering their abrupt change in ownership and purpose in 1943. The rustic log style was set from the school's inception as a suitable architectural expression for the camp-like rugged outdoor character of the school. The two-story hip-roofed Big House (built ca. 1917 and demolished ca. 1947) with its vertical chinked logs and shed dormer windows set the character for future building. Simple log cabins followed although the roof shapes were simple gables rather than hipped roofs. Meem's monumental Fuller Lodge built in 1928 reiterated the gable roof and vertical logs while including some panels of horizontal logs. He also introduced a stone building – the kitchen attached to the west side of the lodge - and he used log trusses expressed both inside the building and on the exterior. Both of these features would become leitmotifs in future LARS buildings. We see the truss pattern used in Master Cottages #2 and #3 and stone construction in the Power House, Master Cottage #2 and additions to the Guest Cottage, Spruce House, and Master Cottage #3. Even the Atomic Energy Commission used both stone and half timber/stucco veneer for their major additions to Fuller Lodge in 1948. Since then, other additions have been made to these structures, notably to the Chief Mechanic's House, Spruce Cottage, the Guest Cottage/Infirmary and all three Master Cottages, but in each case the addition was very compatible due to the use of log construction or at least benign as in the case of vertical board and batten construction.

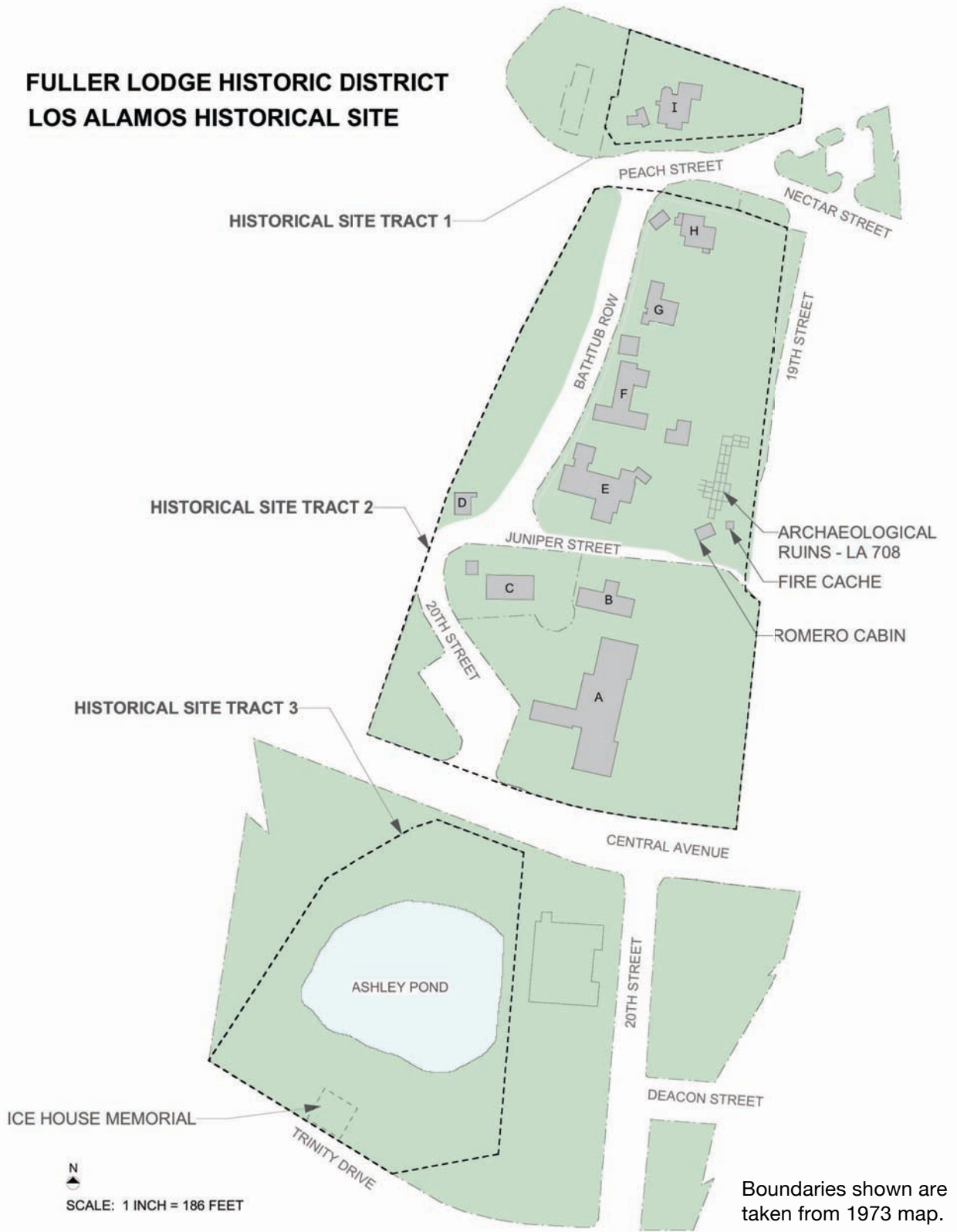
All of the original roofing has been lost except on the Arts and Crafts Building. Most of the replacement roofing material has been a reasonable choice from an aesthetic and historical

perspective with the notable exception of the Power House which needs a darker-colored metal or shingle roof.

There are a remarkable number of original doors and windows remaining in these structures. The owners and stewards of these structures over the years should be commended on their maintenance and adaptive strategies regarding these historic elements.

Also of note are the huge trees, which exist on most of these properties. These trees attest to the age and history of the sites and they add a sense of antiquity as well as significance. It would be interesting to identify the species of each of the major trees and to determine their approximate age. One can see from the historic photographs that the landscaping surrounding the buildings has grown and various walls and fences have been added since the Manhattan Project era. Given that most of these buildings are residential structures in private ownership, it is not surprising to see this change over time. In any case, the trees and grass surrounding these structures are important to their character and to the revelation of the site's history.

**FULLER LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
LOS ALAMOS HISTORICAL SITE**

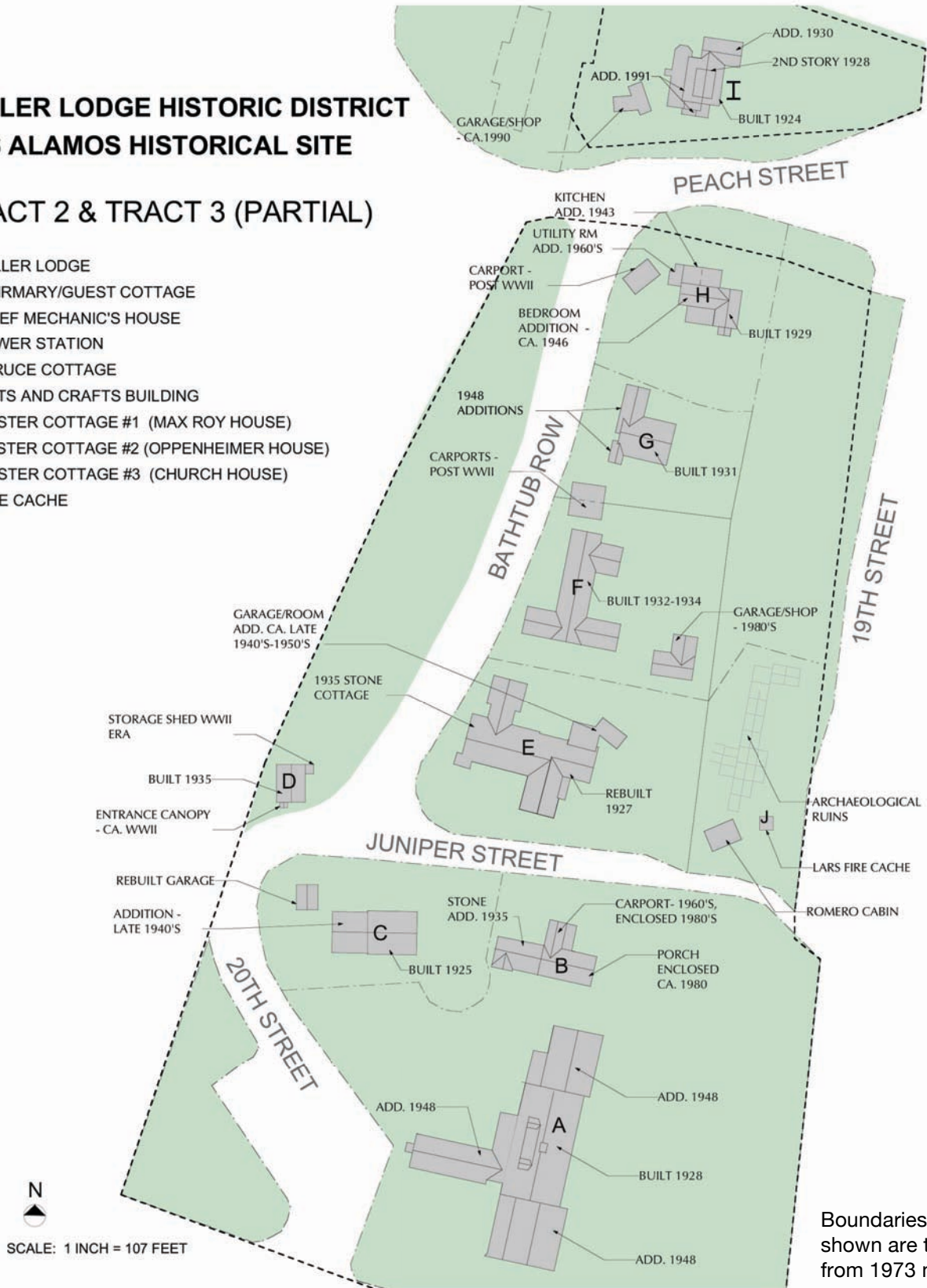


Boundaries shown are taken from 1973 map.

# FULLER LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT LOS ALAMOS HISTORICAL SITE

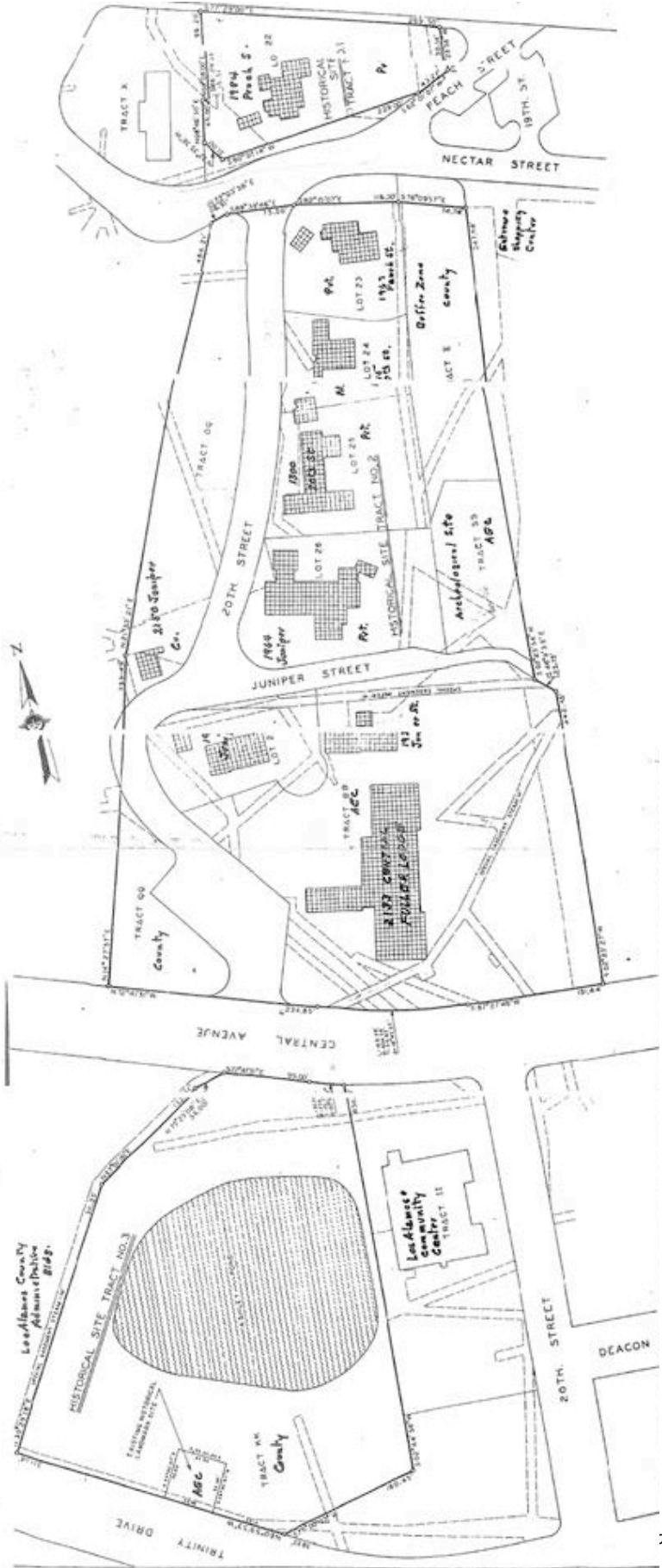
## TRACT 2 & TRACT 3 (PARTIAL)

- A FULLER LODGE
- B INFIRMARY/GUEST COTTAGE
- C CHIEF MECHANIC'S HOUSE
- D POWER STATION
- E SPRUCE COTTAGE
- F ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING
- G MASTER COTTAGE #1 (MAX ROY HOUSE)
- H MASTER COTTAGE #2 (OPPENHEIMER HOUSE)
- I MASTER COTTAGE #3 (CHURCH HOUSE)
- J FIRE CACHE



Boundaries shown are taken from 1973 map.





**1973 MAP**

Map dated 1973 and submitted to the National Registry for National Landmark Status. Map provided by County of Los Alamos.

## BUILDING INVENTORIES

### A LARS Fuller Lodge (1932 Central Avenue)

**Date of Construction:** 1928

**Architect:** John Gaw Meem for original log lodge. W. C. Kruger for 1947 wings.

**Architectural Style:** "Rustic" National Park Service style

**Number of Stories:** 3 and a partial basement

**Construction Materials:** Vertical logs with some horizontal log sections. Logs chosen by Meem and Connell and then milled at LARS in a saw mill set up for the chosen logs; pink chinking; hand-cut tuff for the fireplaces. 1947 wings are built of concrete masonry with stucco and half-timber veneer on the exterior. The north and south wings have a flagstone veneer on the first floor with slightly projecting stucco and half-timber façade above.

**Foundation:** Poured concrete walls form the basement. Hard tuff veneer from ground level to where logs begin. Concrete footing at transition between original lodge and new lobby. The wings added in 1947 are slab-on-grade.

**Roof:** Originally asbestos shingles, and later, Alaskan yellow cedar shingles. Cedar shingles replaced in 2011 with metal shingles providing approximately the same appearance as the original shingles.

**Windows:** True-divided-light 6-over-6 wood double-hung windows, essentially all original.

**Doors:** Double French doors, each leaf with 2-wide x 6-high glass lites, under east portal. Rear (west) doors are single wood doors with 6 lites over two vertical wood panels.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Hand cut tuff in main lodge. Double sided fireplace in lobby has machine-cut (saw-cut) tuff on lobby side of one of the 1947 wings. The building contains nine original fireplaces.

**Entrance/Porches:** Large pine columns create a two-story portal (porch) on east side, which used to be the Lodge's main entry. Flagstone embedded in concrete forms the floor of this portal. The current western main entry was part of the north wing.

**Landscaping:** The east, north and south sides of the building are surrounded by lawn and trees. The west side has grass plus concrete walkways, low masonry walls and parking.

**Historic Use:** Main school building, dining hall, hotel and recreation/ entertainment center.

**Present Use:** Multi-purpose public building containing offices and meeting rooms.

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- In 1947, the Atomic Energy Commission converted Fuller Lodge into a hotel and added wings on three sides of the original building. The walls of the additions suggest Tudor revival style used in Master Cottage #1 (Max Roy House) and Master Cottage #2 (Oppenheimer House) and popular in the United States between 1890 and 1940. The exterior walls of the north and south wings at the lower level are finished with irregularly sized uncoursed veneer stone with grouted joints while the upper level exterior finish is stucco with half-timber detailing. The upper level floor overhangs the lower level exterior walls.
- Roofs were replaced in 2011.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Designed by noted architect John Gaw Meem.
- Important building of the Los Alamos Ranch School.
- Important building during the Manhattan Project and later during the early years of Los Alamos.

**Significant Features:**

- Vertical logs and horizontal logs with chinking.
- Original wood doors and windows.
- Two story east-facing portal the length of the original building.
- Original masonry chimneys.
- Belfry at the roof ridge.
- Roof configuration including the west-facing dormers.
- Ironwork lanterns and lighting fixtures, designed by John Gaw Meem. The designs incorporate the LARS logo, which was designed by woodcut artist Gustave Baumann.



LARS Fuller Lodge in the 1930's. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society

**A FULLER LODGE**

EAST



SOUTH



SOUTHWEST



WEST



## **B LARS Infirmary / Guest Cottage (1921 Juniper Street)**

**Dates of Construction:** Begun ca. 1920 and expanded and remodeled in 1925 and remodeled again in 1928; two stone apartments added in 1935. Carport built in the 1960's, enclosed in the 1980's.

**Architect or Builder:** Log portion: Unknown. Stone addition: John Gaw Meem.

**Architectural Style:** "Rustic" National Park Service style.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Materials:** Early construction used split logs with the bark attached. The 1935 addition was constructed of hard tuff.

**Foundation Type:** Stone and probably concrete. The enclosed carport foundation is concrete.

**Roof:** Corrugated steel painted brown over stone section and wooden shingles over the remainder.

**Windows:** Single-glazed 8-lite steel casement windows of stone section appear to be original. 1920's wood building has 6-lite wood single-glazed sliding windows on south wall, double-hung 8 over 8 wood windows on east and north walls. Steel grillwork over windows matches the handrails for the steps on the wings to Fuller Lodge.

**Doors:** South-facing main entry has a wood door with four divided-lites in top half over three horizontal panels; the rest of the doors are flush plain recent doors.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Hard tuff chimney.

**Landscaping:** Concrete wall abutting west wall of stone addition is topped with an ironwork railing which matches handrails to the wings added to Fuller Lodge.

**Historic Uses:** Apartments, infirmary and temporary housing.

**Present Use:** Museum

### **Alterations and Modifications:**

- 1920's electrical wiring replaced in 1972.
- In 1977 half of the Guest House was raised 18 inches and enclosed with a new foundation. Downspouts, ramps, and railings were installed.
- The carport addition to the north was built in the 1960's and enclosed in 1981.
- East-facing wood porch dating from the 1920's was enclosed ca. 1980 with wood framing and horizontal bark-covered siding.

**Associated Buildings on-site:** Stone remnants of Mackwood Hopper's log cabin located north of stone addition and west of enclosed carport; was used as tack room by LARS. There is very little remaining and it was not included on the list of buildings for this survey.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- The infirmary and later guest quarters of LARS.
- Stone addition designed by John Gaw Meem.
- Used as guest quarters during the Manhattan Project and after WWII.

**Significant Features:**

- Steel casement windows and wood divided-lite windows.
- Wood panel door with four lights in top half
- Sawn log exterior of 1920's building
- Stone addition
- Roof configuration

**Non-historic Features:**

- Porch enclosure at east end of the building
- North addition (enclosed carport)
- Gutters and downspouts
- Modern doors



LARS Guest Cottage. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society

**LARS INFIRMARY / GUEST COTTAGE**

EAST



SOUTH



SOUTH



NORTH WING





## **C LARS Chief Mechanic's House (1999 Juniper St.) Baker House**

**Date of Construction:** 1925

**Builder:** Floyd Womelsduff

**Architectural Style:** Rustic National Park Service style.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Materials:** Horizontal logs using primitive hand-hewn construction methods, including chinking. Addition to the west has vertical log construction mixed with some panels of short horizontal logs. Low stonewalls support the ends of the north and south wall of the addition.

**Foundation Type:** Stone with crawl space in original house. Addition is on a concrete slab.

**Roof:** Pitched, corrugated steel, brown finish.

**Windows:** Wood single-glazed 6-lite sliding windows and 6-over-6 double hung windows in original house; casement windows in addition and enclosed porch. North wall of original house has a diamond pattern of true divided lites similar to the glazing in the east door. Wood casements, both 4-lite and 6-lite are original to 1940's addition. More recent windows in carport and west porch infill.

**Doors:** Wood door on west façade (9-lite over two vertical wood panels) is probably original to addition and may have been moved to the exterior wall of infilled porch. Wood door on east porch may be original. It is 2 ¼" thick with diamond pattern lites in top half with a panel of flush boards in bottom half.

**Chimney / Fireplaces:** Large brick chimney replaced original stone chimney or was built around it.

**Entrance / Porches:** Log ceiling at porch on east elevation may be an added feature. Spaces between the aspen seedlings allow viewing into the attic above the porch.

**Landscaping:** Stonewalls and planters define outdoor spaces.

**Historic Use:** Residence

**Present Use:** Residence

### **Alterations and Modifications:**

- Original chinking was pink. Now chinking is painted off-white.
- North part of the east-facing original porch was infilled with matching log construction probably within a year or two after the end of WWII.

- Addition to the west included a west-facing carport on the north and apparently a porch at the southwest corner which was later infilled and appears to have been built at the same time as the partial infill of the east porch (probably ca. 1946-1947 and before the early 1950's). The addition incorporated low stonewalls on the sides, and small aspen logs were used for the walls. The carport's north wall had vertical aspen poles without chinking.
- The carport was later converted into living space and the walls infilled (ca. 1960).

**Associated Buildings on-site:** Freestanding garage similar in appearance to the house was built ca. 2009 on footprint of old AEC garage, which was reportedly dilapidated beyond repair.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Cabin built by Jim Womelsduff, Chief Mechanic at LARS; first staff residence.
- WWII residence of Lord James Chadwick and then the residence of Robert and Jean Bacher.
- Beginning in 1957, the house was occupied by Richard and Bonnie Baker who purchased it in 1969 and continued to own it until 1995.

**Significant Features:**

- Logs with chinking
- Wood sliding, double-hung, casement windows and wood doors
- Roof configuration
- Bungalow detail of diagonal brace at each corner of porch roof and west addition



LARS Chief Mechanic's House in 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.

**C LARS CHIEF MECHANIC'S HOUSE (BAKER HOUSE)**

SOUTH



NORTHEAST



**C LARS CHIEF MECHANIC'S HOUSE (BAKER HOUSE)**

EAST



WEST



## **D LARS Stone Power House (475 Bathtub Row)**

**Date of Construction:** Built in 1935 to contain LARS electrical generator and then remodeled into a small house in 1945.

**Architect or Builder:** Unknown

**Architectural Style:** Simple stone utilitarian structure.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Material:** Hard tuff masonry.

**Foundation Type:** Stone and probably concrete.

**Roof:** New white rubberized membrane on building. Entrance canopy has asphalt shingles.

**Windows:** Single-glazed steel divided-lite windows. Bottom sash is fixed. Upper sash is awning type. Windows appear to be original.

**Door:** Wooden panel door with 4-lite glazing in top half and three horizontal panels below. Hardware may be from the 1930's or 1940's.

**Chimney:** Brick, not original to Power House; may have been added during WWII.

**Entrance / Porches:** Entry porch has been added - probably in the 1940's.

**Historic Use:** Power House and then a residence

**Present Use:** Office/classroom

### **Alterations and Modifications:**

- Converted into a small house for a Manhattan Project scientist in 1944-45.
- Sloped-roof, frame storage shed attached to east side during WWII.
- Converted into an office for the local Red Cross Chapter in 1950.

**Associated Buildings on-site:** The adjacent storage shed appears to be sitting on the ground and the wood walls are deteriorating. The siding is similar to that used to enclose the Guest House Carport. The wooden door appears old and has 1930's to 1940's hardware. Photos indicate that this storage unit was probably the one that was built by George Kistiakowski when he moved into this building in 1944.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Power House for LARS.
- Home for G. Kistiakowski, a scientist for the Manhattan Project.

**Significant Features:**

- Stone exterior appears almost as it did during LARS years. Only a small projecting pitched roof canopy has been added to protect the front door and a storage shed to the east.
- Original windows with stone windowsills.
- Roof configuration.
- Wooden panel door with true divided lites in top half of door.



LARS Power House 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society

**D LARS STONE POWER HOUSE**



## **E LARS Spruce Cottage (1964 Juniper and 1152 Bathtub Row)**

**Dates of Construction:** Date of original construction unknown, but predates LARS. After purchase by LARS in 1918, it was extensively remodeled and known as the “Pyramid”. Expanded by LARS into the current gable-roofed configuration in 1927. In 1935, a stone cottage was attached (but without interior connection) to the west. This stone addition was designed by John Gaw Meem and served as a residence for LARS master Cecil Wirth and his wife. Remodeling of part of the wooden structure contiguous with the stone residence may have been done during the Manhattan Project or just after the war ended. Garage and attached room were added to the northeast corner of the building after World War II but prior to 1997.

### **Architect or Builder:**

Original frame building: Unknown. Stone addition: John Gaw Meem.

**Architectural Style:** “Rustic” National Park Service style.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Materials:** Vertical sawn logs with chinking and some sawn log siding. AEC (probably addition of a garage and attached room on the northeast is board and batten (12” on center) over plywood substrate. Stone residence has hard tuff stonework (similar to Arts & Crafts Building next door).

**Roof:** Recent corrugated steel with factory-applied brown finish. Originally probably 5 V-crimp steel that was replaced with wooden shingles during the Manhattan project, which was later replaced with asphalt shingles.

**Foundation:** Concrete. Garage foundation has beveled perimeter for moisture drainage.

**Windows:** Single glazed, true divided light, wood casement with storm panels. These appear to be late 1940s to mid-1950s. Stone addition has original steel casement windows. Windows are painted blue.

**Doors:** Two French doors with divided lights (3 wide, 5 high) on east side of house added in 2009. One similar door facing east in northwest wing of house. Wood vertical board door with true-divided-lite glazing in the top half (2 wide, 2 high) facing west at stone residence entry. One Dutch door with glazed upper leaf (3 wide, 4 high) facing south. Doors are painted blue.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Brick chimney on original frame building. Stone chimney on 1935 stone addition. Brick chimney for double fireplace added between the stone residence and wooden part of Spruce Cottage. When this area was expanded, the chimney was extended to make it taller.



**Historic Uses:** Frame building was a dormitory for boys. Stone addition was built as a residence for a LARS master and his wife. The building later served as a dormitory for WACS and a residence for AEC employees including James Lilienthal and his family. See *Of Logs and Stone* for a more complete listing of uses and residents.

**Current Use:** Residence

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- Core constructed as home of H. H. Brook at Los Alamos Ranch homestead.
- LARS remodeled into “pyramid” building after purchase in 1917.
- Further expanded and remodeled into Spruce Cottage in 1927.
- Some remodeling in 1929.
- Garage was added probably in the late 1940s to mid-1950s. Board and batten siding differs from other places on the building.
- Original front entry on east side removed.
- Asphalt shingle roof installed in 1977, metal roof in 1999.
- Sleeping porch of LARS boys’ dormitory was later enclosed with wood casement windows to create a sunroom prior to 1997.
- Mid-section of east side of house pushed out, probably when kitchen was added during the Manhattan Project.
- Section between stone master residence and cottage expanded and roof raised, providing room for attic windows which look like clerestories from outside; overhanging rafters cut off to improve sunlight into attic windows.
- Bathtub added after WWII.
- Structure was remodeled during WWII to create three apartments and then remodeled again to reduce the number to two. A kitchen for the second apartment in the wooden side appears to have been removed when the building was remodeled into a single residence after the war.

**Associated Buildings on-site:** Collapsed root cellar has inscribed date of 1925.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Boys’ dormitory for LARS.
- Stone residence designed by John Gaw Meem for Cecil Wirth family.
- WAC Headquarters / Dormitory.
- Home of Kenneth Bainbridge.
- Home of Fermor Church and Peggy Pond Church.

**Significant Features:**

- Portions of the building made of split vertical logs dating from LARS period.
- Portion of the house made of sawn-log siding thought to date to the Manhattan Project period or just afterward.
- Stone residence addition designed by John Gaw Meem.

- Remodeled clerestory windows into attic at east end of the wooden structure contiguous with the stone residence possibly dating to the Manhattan Project period or just after the war ended.
- Gable roof configuration including overhanging eaves painted brown.
- Wood single-glazed casement windows.
- Steel casement windows on south side of stone residence.
- Ironwork handrails similar to handrails at Fuller Lodge.
- Original French doors, Dutch door and vertical board doors with 4 lites in upper part.
- Manhattan Project “T-115” building designation painted at entry to stone residence.
- West-facing entry of stone cottage with a rustic wood bench under an eave beside front door.
- Exterior dark metal wall light sconces.
- Small concrete stoops at entrances.

**Non-historic features:**

- Pergola (ramada) at the east side of the structure.
- Corrugated steel roofing material.
- Steel weathervane on top of stone residence roof.

**Note:** The stone residence faces Bathtub Row and has a Bathtub Row address. The attached residence to the east has a Juniper Street address. These two separate but attached residences are on a common parcel of land with a single owner.



LARS Spruce Cottage 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.

**E SPRUCE COTTAGE**

SOUTH



SOUTH



EAST



**E SPRUCE COTTAGE**

EAST



NORTH



NORTH



## **F LARS Arts & Crafts Building (1300 Bathtub Row)**

**Date of Construction:** 1932 – 1934 (designed in 1931).

**Architect:** John Gaw Meem

**Architectural Style:** Rustic National Park Service style.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Materials:** Most of the building is constructed of hard tuff stonework. The ends on both the northeast and southeast wings are constructed of half logs with chinking, allowing for more windows, which are groupings of casement windows.

**Foundation Type:** Concrete and stone.

**Roof:** Original 5 V-crimp steel panel roofing.

**Windows:** Original single-glazed divided-lite steel casement windows are still present in some of the building, notably the two east wings. Historic single-glazed, divided lite casement windows were installed in south porch enclosure and double-hung wood windows were installed in enlarged openings in kitchen remodel at an early date. Recently but prior to 2006, aluminum double-glazed double-hung single-lite windows were installed by a previous owner along the west façade facing Bathtub Row. Newer aluminum-clad 8-lite wood casement windows were installed in center portion of the building in east-facing wall.

**Doors:** Old wood doors, some with true-divided-light glazing in top half (4-lites) and three horizontal panels below. Some have glazed storm doors.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Hard tuff stonework.

**Other Features:** Partial basement for boiler. Boiler appears to vent through chimney.

**Entrance/Porches:** Door (no longer used) on the west façade from the kitchen has a small overhanging eyebrow roof. The main entrance of the building faces south. This inset porch has been enclosed.

**Historic Use:** Library and classrooms for physics, music, woodworking and other crafts.

**Current Use:** Residence

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- Structure altered to comprise two apartments during Manhattan Project. Remodeled into single residence by AEC for the use of the LASL director. During this era, the original east-facing entry porch was enclosed with a wood door and wood casement windows.
- A wooden pergola structure was added to the south-facing entry in the 1980's.
- Prior to 2006, some west-facing and north-facing windows were replaced with double-glazed, single-lite double-hung aluminum windows.
- In 2008, some steel windows facing east were replaced with wood double-glazed, divided-lite casement windows approximating the appearance of the original steel windows.
- In 2008, a new pair of French doors was installed in the center east-facing wall, replacing original steel casement windows.
- Skylight added in kitchen pre-2006.

**Associated Buildings on-site:**

Garage with board-and-batten siding at the north lot line connected to and mirroring a garage on the adjacent property appears to date from WWII or shortly thereafter.

Freestanding garage and shop / office was built in the late 1980's at the southeast corner of the property at the same time as the pergola that is located off the main entry.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Designed by John Gaw Meem.
- Important classroom building for LARS.
- Home of Lt. Col. Whitney Ashbridge, Enrico Fermi (during summer visits after the Manhattan Project), Capt. Gerald Tyler, and A.L. Hughes during the Manhattan Project.
- Home of Dr. Norris Bradbury (LASL Director) immediately after the Manhattan Project.

**Significant Features:**

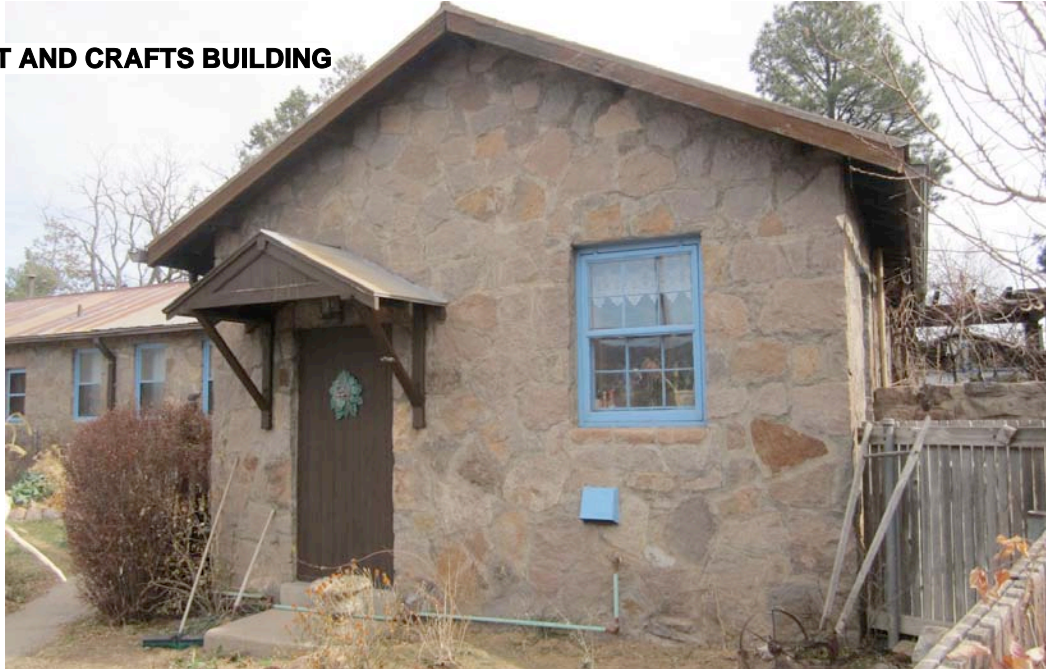
- Hard tuff stonework except for the ends of the wings that form the east courtyard.
- Bands of original steel casement windows.
- Vertical and horizontal half-timber wall construction with chinking.
- Roof configuration and original 5 V-crimp steel roofing.
- Wood doors with three horizontal panels below and four lites in top half.
- Wood double hung and casement windows.
- Original low stonewall with stone cap defining the east-facing courtyard.



LARS Arts and Crafts Building. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society

**F ART AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

WEST



WEST



NORTH





**F ART AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

SOUTHWEST



SOUTH



EAST



**F ART AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

EAST



EAST



## **G LARS Master Cottage #1 (1350 Bathtub Row) Max Roy House**

**Date of Construction:** Center stone portion built in 1931 by LARS to replace an earlier wooden residence that burned down in January of 1931. Wings in Tudor-influenced style appear to be frame construction and were probably added during Manhattan Project. The original house burned in 1920 and was rebuilt to an unknown extent.

**Architect or Builder:** Unknown

**Architectural Style:** Rustic National Park Service style that was popular through 1938.

**Construction Materials:** Elizabethan post-and-beam style with wood members painted brown and stucco infill detailing on exterior gables; random pattern hard tuff stone; stone walls are double thick with an air space in between; unpainted stone interior walls; original stonework and plaster work. Wings appear to be frame construction. Kitchen and main bedroom were added.

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Foundation Type:** Concrete below stonework.

**Roof:** Gable roof. Brown Pro-Panel roofing material dating from 2011.

**Windows:** Wood casement windows with true divided lites (2 wide, 4 high), single glazed, stone sills in original stone cottage. Windows in original stone cottage curiously have surface applied hinges, presumably original. Wood casement windows with true divided lites, single glazing in added wings. Windows are painted brown.

**Doors:** Pair of French doors each with 5 horizontal lites with concrete threshold, wood doors with true-divided-lites in top half. Doors painted brown.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Stone chimney and stone fireplace appear to be original.

**Entrance/Porches:** Floor of the east porch (originally the front porch) is flagstone. South porch from the kitchen is wood frame with a flagstone floor.

**Historic Use:** Residence

**Present Use:** Residence

**Other Noteworthy Features:** Woodwork is hand adzed; two porch lanterns; logs from Romero Cabin are under the porch roof. Has original boiler. Gas meter is located in front of the original coal chute. Stonework is similar to WPA work at Bandelier NM.

**Landscaping:** Historic locust trees on east side of building. Hard landscaping includes a walkway to the carport. Approximately three-foot-tall capped flagstone wall aligns with building, and defines the stairs to the basement.

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- According to Helene Suydam, Edwin and Elsie McMillan had to wait to move in until interior remodeling was done, just after the war ended.
- The wings were added in 1948 for Max Roy.
- Reroofed in 2011.

**Associated Buildings on-site:** Two connecting carports share a property line with the Arts and Crafts property to the south. The stall on the Arts and Crafts side has been enclosed. One carport belongs to Master Cottage #1 and the other to the Arts and Crafts house.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Original stone house was LARS Master Cottage #1.
- House with added wings served as a residence for Manhattan Project era and later AEC personnel.

**Significant Features:**

- Entire house has excellent integrity and has no significant modifications since the mid-20th century other than new roofing material.
- Tudor post and beam styling
- Roof configuration
- Porches
- Double-walled hard tuff stonewalls
- Windows and doors throughout
- Steel sconce lights at the east porch and the south porch

**Non-historic Features:**

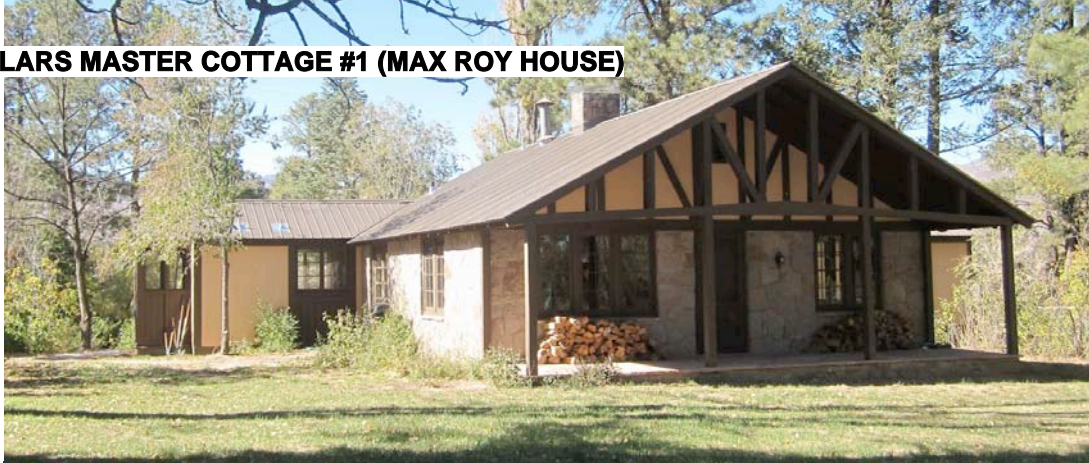
- Pro-Panel steel roofing.



LARS Master Cottage #1 (Max Roy House) 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society

**G LARS MASTER COTTAGE #1 (MAX ROY HOUSE)**

EAST



WEST



SOUTH



## **H LARS Master Cottage #2 (1967 Peach St.) Oppenheimer House**

**Date of Construction:** 1929

**Architect or Builder:** A. J. Connell, LARS Headmaster

**Architectural Style:** Rustic National Park Service style

**Number of Stories:** 1 and partial basement.

**Construction Materials:** Stone with half-timbered post and beam detailing, horizontal ponderosa pine sawn-log siding with bark still on, stucco with inset boards to mimic post and beam construction, and board and batten wall system on utility room addition.

**Foundation Type:** Concrete and stone; basement walls are stone.

**Roof:** Brown asphalt shingles and light grey membrane on house, entry porch has gabled roof with corrugated galvanized steel roofing.

**Windows:** Original 8-lite wood single-glazed casement with later aluminum storm panels painted brown in stone part of house. Six-lite wood single-glazed casement windows in southwest shed roof portion. Eight-lite steel casement windows at west side plus one 8-over-8 double-hung window.

**Doors:** Pair of recent 15-lite wood French doors covered by painted metal storm doors at south entrance. Recent wood door with 3-horizontal lites over 2 vertical panels at west entry.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Stone fireplace and chimneys with clay flue pots, the larger one is for the boiler.

**Other Features:** Original boiler is still in operation and was converted from wood, to coal, to oil, and then to natural gas. Original radiators are still in use, however one appears to be missing underneath the north window in the living room. Iron lantern on the front porch appears to be original and seems to match ironwork lanterns at Fuller Lodge. Ironwork boot scraper is embedded in a concrete patio that may have been added by Oppenheimer.

**Landscaping:** Flagstone and concrete patios; raised sidewalk with small hollow cylindrical opening for drainage swale that crosses sidewalk from house to carport. Mature pine trees and cedar tree at front porch are historic. The younger pine trees were seedlings planted in the 1950s.

**Historic Use:** Residence

**Present Use:** Residence. Suydams moved into house in 1956. Helene Suydam still lives in the house.

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- Some interior reconfiguration happened for the Oppenheims during the Manhattan Project.
- Bedroom and bath in the center of the west facade of the house were added after Manhattan Project ended.
- Utility Room and back porch were added during 1964 and 1965 for the Suydams. The room and porch are on the northwest corner of the house attached to the kitchen and have a board and batten exterior.
- Kitchen skylight added at time utility room was added.
- Air vents to crawl space were added.
- Structural foundation work was done around 2005.

**Building's Condition:** Good

**Associated Buildings on-site:** Carport was built at the same time neighboring carports were built.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Built for May Connell, LARS Headmaster's sister, an artist.
- WWII home of J. R. Oppenheimer who hosted many social gatherings here during the Manhattan Project.

**Significant Features:**

- Details referencing Colonial English half-timbered construction.
- Two large windows facing north for resident painter's studio.
- Exterior stonewalls.
- Fireplaces and flues in one long chimney with clay pot chimney tops.
- Original windows.
- Original front porch, and roof.
- Dog shaped boot scraper near front porch.
- T-111 sign painted at south entry.

**Non-historic Features:**

- Kitchen skylight.
- Utility room addition.
- Gutters and downspouts.





LARS Master Cottage #2 (Oppenheimer House) 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.



LARS Master Cottage #2 (Oppenheimer House) 1942. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.

**G LARS MASTER COTTAGE #2 (OPPENHEIMER HOUSE)**

SOUTH



SOUTH



SOUTHWEST



**G LARS MASTER COTTAGE #2 (OPPENHEIMER HOUSE)**

NORTH



EAST



WEST



## I LARS Master Cottage #3 (1984 Peach St.) Church House

**Date of Construction:** 1924

**Architect or Builder:** Fermor Church (owner) in 1924 and in 1928 when second story and dormers were added. John Gaw Meem added the stone addition in 1932.

**Architectural Style:** Rustic National Park Service style.

**Number of Stories:** 2

**Construction Materials:** Logs and half-logs with chinking, dormer walls are covered by vertical boards.

**Foundation Type:** Concrete partial basement. Concrete foundation for stone addition. Later, what appears to be concrete was added under the bottom logs that were sagging enough to be in contact with the ground.

**Roof:** Original metal roof has been replaced with asbestos shingles.

**Windows:** Wood casement. Original windows are single glazed with added storm glazing panels.

**Doors:** Varied. 1940's wood French door with sidelights facing north; in stone addition a wood door with vertical boards and ironwork over small square window in upper half.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** Stone fireplaces and chimneys.

**Entrance / Porches:** One original porch remains. It appears to have been the front porch and opens into the stone portion of the house. The porch is set back inside the building footprint and is covered by the roof of the house. Just around the corner is another entry that opens to the dining room and is only covered by the roof overhang.

**Soft/Hard Landscaping:** A very large lot surrounds the building. The only original stonework is a low garden wall along Peach Street.

**Historic Use:** Residence

**Present Use:** Residence

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- House built in 1924.
- Second floor added in 1928.
- Stone addition built in 1932.

- Wood siding replaced logs on dormers.
- Addition with half-logs and chinking, added in 1991, which wraps around the house on three sides. At that time, the utility room, sunroom and sleeping porch were removed. The original walls of the house on three sides are now entirely or partially obscured by the addition.

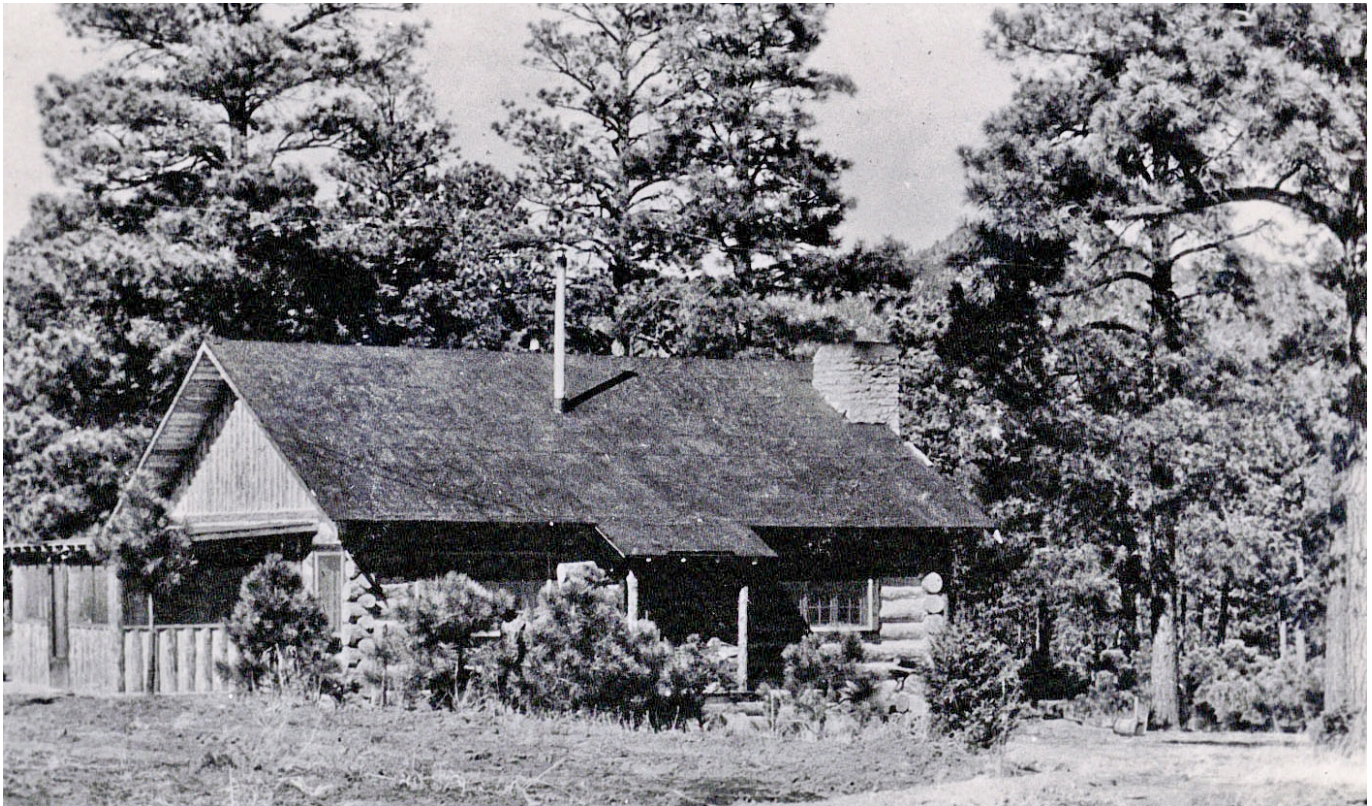
**Associated Buildings on-site:** Freestanding garage and carport were added in mid 80's to early 90's.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- House built by Fermor Church for Peggy Pond Church and family.
- Stone addition designed by John Gaw Meem.
- WWII Home of Navy Commander Deke Parsons.

**Significant Features:**

- Second floor with dormers.
- Roof and dormer configuration.
- Vertical board entry door with ironwork over window in door.
- Wood French door with sidelights.
- Wood casement windows.
- Logs with chinking.



LARS Master Cottage #3 (Church House) Early photograph. Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.

I LARS MASTER COTTAGE #3 (CHURCH HOUSE)

EAST



EAST



SOUTH



I LARS MASTER COTTAGE #3 (CHURCH HOUSE)

SOUTHWEST



WEST



NORTH



## **J LARS Fire Cache**

**Date of Construction:** Prior to 1937

**Architect or Builder:** Unknown

**Architectural Style:** "Rustic"

**Number of Stories:** 1

**Construction Materials:** Tuff masonry from nearby Puebloan dwelling ruin, with cementitious grout.

**Foundation Type:** Poured concrete.

**Roof:** Flat, sloping to the north, with one canale on north side. Currently mineralized felt roofing.

**Windows:** None.

**Doors:** One 5' 4" x 6'-0" double wood door in south wall.

**Chimneys/Fireplaces:** None.

**Historic Use:** Reportedly built by LARS to store firefighting equipment

**Present Use:** None

**Alterations and Modifications:**

- Roof structure rebuilt circa 2005. Old roll roofing replaced with new 90# roll roofing. Minor rockwork repair at that time.

**Building's Historic Significance:**

- Built of reused Puebloan ruin stones. Present during Ranch School and Manhattan Project eras.
- Use during WWII is unknown.

**Significant Features:**

- Carefully crafted masonry construction, reusing materials gathered by Pueblos.
- Roof configuration.



**J Fire Cache**

SOUTHWEST



NORTH



SOUTHEAST



## Archaeological Ruins (NM Laboratory of Anthropology # LA-708)

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1100 CE

**Architectural Style:** Typical Puebloan floor plan of a grid of small rectilinear rooms.

**Construction Materials:** Tuff masonry with earthen grout.

**Number of Stories:** Originally probably multistoried. Only the low outline of walls now remains.

**Historic Use:** Source of building material and for education during historic times.

**Present Use:** Education.

### Alterations and Modifications:

- Ruin of Keresan Indians (ancestors to the modern day Cochiti's) Pueblo site probably a summer hunting site on the Pajarito Plateau. Originally excavated in 1900 by the Smithsonian; during the 1920's through 1940's by the Los Alamos Ranch School boys; fenced during the 1940's to the mid 60's by the AEC and excavated and opened to the public in 1968 by Dr. F.C V.Worman.

### Building's Historic Significance:

- Artifact representative of prehistoric occupation of the site by Puebloan people.

### Significant Features:

- Tuff masonry construction.
- Typical floor plan of Puebloan architecture.



## Ashley Pond

The pond is a natural depression in the mesa top that accumulated water when precipitation was sufficient. Functioned as a game and stock-watering pond before and during the homestead era. After 1923 it was enlarged with excess water flowing in the LARS pipeline from the dam in Los Alamos Canyon and became a year-round feature. Named by irrepressible LARS students for the school's founder, Ashley Pond, it was subsequently used for recreation as well as stock watering during the Ranch School era. During the Manhattan Project it was largely untended, but was kept full and available for fire fighting.



Photograph courtesy of the Los Alamos Historical Society.



Photograph courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society.

## Ice House Memorial

The LARS Ice House - located at the south edge of Ashley Pond - served the needs of the school and used as storage for perishables. In the 1930's the wooden Ice House was replaced by a stone structure. The new structure was used by the Manhattan Project to assemble weapons components. In 1954, when LASL moved to the South Mesa, it became a museum. In 1958, four men bought the Ice House and used the materials to built their homes on the Barranca Mesa. The Ice House Memorial was built in 1966. The open-sided structure shelters Manhattan Project commemorative plaques. The shelter was built in the style of LARS, that is to say that it is a rustic log construction with some diagonal truss-like members. The structure is approaching the 50-year test for historic resources.



Ice House Memorial from the southeast.

## Victor Romero Cabin

A circa-1913 homestead cabin, this log structure was built by Victor Romero for his family including his wife Refugio Sanchez and their six children. It was used during the summer season when livestock was grazing in the high country. In 1985, the cabin was dismantled and brought 1.5 miles north to its current location and reconstructed. In 2009, it was repaired extensively and given a new roof. This cabin, although rebuilt, is a typical homesteader cabin and is representative of the scattered homesteads on the plateau within the area taken by the Federal Government for use by the Manhattan Project. Victor Romero was the Father-in-law of Bences Gonzales who ran the LARS Trading Post, was a jack-of-all-trades for LARS, and is fondly remembered as the cook on summer camp pack trips.

