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LA-UR-95-617

**Decontamination and Decommissioning  
of 28 "S Site" Properties:  
Technical Area 16**

Historic Building Survey Report - Vol. 1

**Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Cultural Resource Management Team  
Report No. 84**



**January 31, 1995  
Survey No. 592**



ELEVATION 'A'



ELEVATION 'B'

prepared by

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**Use History:** This building was probably used solely as a guard station until its abandonment.

**Present Use:** This building is currently abandoned.

**Present Condition:** TA-16-1451 is deteriorating. Vandals have broken a window and written graffiti on the some of the exterior walls. The roof appears to be slightly damaged.

**Building Description:** TA-16-1451 is a concrete building with a flat wooden roof. It is small, about 169 square feet in size, and has a possible underground sump (Morrison Knudsen Corporation 1994). Boarded-up windows are located on all four sides of the building. Exterior hanging lights are located on the north and south sides of building TA-16-1451.

**Remodeling History:** No known modifications.

**Associated Buildings:** Building TA-16-1451 is located on the outside perimeter of TA-16. There are no other buildings located nearby.

**District Potential:** TA-16-1451 is located on the southern edge of TA-16 and was originally a part of TA-0. Furthermore, the original function of the guard station was not directly related to the HE processing activities at S Site. For these reasons, there is poor potential for this building to be part of the proposed historic district at TA-16.

**Contamination Information:** Known contaminants at TA-16-1451 include asbestos (in the form of ACM pipe insulation and roofing) and rodent droppings (potential for exposure to Hantavirus) (Morrison Knudsen Corporation 1994).

## NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

Based on the information gathered during this building survey, all 28 properties are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Seven buildings discussed in this report are fifty-years old this year: TA-16-63,-73,-515,-516,-517,-519, and -520. These buildings are associated with the development of the first atomic bombs and are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, "properties associated with important historical events" (U.S. Department of the Interior 1991).

The other twenty-one properties are less than fifty-years old and, as such, must be associated with an event of exceptional importance in order to be eligible for the National Register (criteria consideration G) (U. S. Department of the Interior 1991).

While all of the buildings discussed in this report were constructed during the Manhattan Project and early Cold War eras at Los Alamos, not all of the activities conducted inside the buildings were of exceptional importance. The bunkers (TA-16-75,-76,-77,-78,-79, and -80), larger magazine storage buildings (TA-16-59 and -61), storage platform (TA-16-13), storage shed (TA-16-164), warehouse (TA-16-10), and the small guard station inside the controlled area at TA-16 (TA-16-101) functioned as support buildings or ancillary structures and were only indirectly involved in the

important scientific work at TA-16. These buildings are eligible under Criterion A and Criterion C as contributing elements to a TA-16 historic district that encompasses more than the 28 properties discussed in this report. This proposed district is discussed in Appendix B.

Other buildings at TA-16, although less than fifty-years old, were definitely associated with events of exceptional importance in the history of the nation and the world. Activities conducted in the "casting" building (TA-16-27) played an integral role in the development and assembly of the first atomic bombs. Activities conducted in processing buildings built after WWII were also integral in the continued development and testing of implosion bombs associated with the early stages of the Cold War (TA-16-89,-90,-91,-92,-93,-99, and -518.). These buildings are considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (criteria consideration G).

The "back gate" guard station, TA-16-1451, is considered to be eligible under Criterion A (criteria consideration G) because it serves as a symbol of the "closed" city of Los Alamos (circa 1943 to 1957). The "back gate" guard station together with the "front" or "east" gate guard tower are visible reminders of the secrecy and security necessary during the initial WWII years and the later post-WWII Cold War era at Los Alamos.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is requested to concur with the eligibility determinations contained in this report. A subsequent submittal to the SHPO will discuss proposed effects and treatment of effects for each property. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SHPO and the Department of Energy (DOE) will be prepared prior to the decontamination and decommissioning of the above listed properties.

As a result of this survey, this project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and with Executive Order 11593.

## REFERENCES CITED

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