

Mello Aff #2, Par 12I

“Criticality Accident” Slotin Building [TA-18]: In August 1945, because of a fatal criticality accident suffered by Harry Daghlian at the Omega Site in TA-2, critical assembly work was transferred to the Pajarito Site [TA-18]. In May 1946, a similar fatal accident occurred in Building 18-1 (Figure 15.9), leading to the death of Louis Slotin. His death prompted the discontinuance of hand assembly for criticality experiments and the use of remote assembly techniques, as well as accentuating the role that health physics eventually came to play in weapons research.



Figure 15.9. Building 18-1, site of a fatal criticality accident.

Potential Los Alamos National Laboratory Ancestral Pueblo National Historic Landmark

There are more than 1600 known Ancestral Pueblo archaeological sites at LANL, among the highest densities of such sites in the American Southwest. While all are considered important by the modern Pueblo descendants of the people who made these sites, there is a small percentage of sites that, due to integrity of location and the nature of the resource, best serve to tell the story of the Ancestral Pueblo use of the Pajarito Plateau during the period of around AD 1250 to 1700.

These Ancestral Pueblo resources can be grouped into two general levels of significance: NHL potential status and National Register Historic District potential status. A general description of these resources is provided below, followed by a specific listing of sites recommended for the landmark.

Late Coalition Period and Classic Period Complex Plaza Pueblos: During the period of around AD 1150 to 1250, large numbers of small single-story roomblock pueblos, each averaging around two to three habitation rooms and four to five storerooms, were constructed on the Pajarito Plateau. This represented the first time in the archaeological record that large numbers of people were living part or all of the year on the Plateau. Subsequently, during the period of AD 1250 to 1300, population began amalgamating into larger-sized pueblos. These pueblos appear to run from about 40 to more than 200 rooms and are characterized by two or more roomblocks being linked together around one or more partially or completely enclosed plazas. Most of these complex plaza pueblos contain one or more sections of roomblocks that were originally two