

- **Project Title**

Fuller Lodge Interpretive Plan

- **Location and name of NHL that will benefit from the project**

Los Alamos, NM. Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark district

- **Contact Information**

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- **Project Summary**

- **What is the critical problem that needs to be addressed and how does the project fit into HPP's application criteria?**

The newly established Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MAPR) faces a number of challenges, not the least of which is—for the Los Alamos location—the World War II-era sites where much of the work was done on the world's first atomic bombs is not accessible to the public. Those sites are near active laboratory mission areas, and plans for making them accessible stretch far into the future. However, what the public can see right now is the downtown National Historic Landmark district, the buildings where the top-level scientists and military personnel of the Manhattan Project lived and played. Central to the district is the Edward P. Fuller Lodge, an upright, 3-story log building designed by famed Santa Fe architect John Gaw Meem. Originally built in 1928 as the dining hall and community center for the prestigious Los Alamos Ranch School, the Lodge served as a cafeteria and community center during the Manhattan Project. Along with dances and parties, it was the site of concerts, town hall meetings, and world-changing scientific discussions. Imagine six current and future Nobel Prize winners sitting together at lunch and what they may have written on their napkins! After the war, the Lodge was owned by the Atomic Energy Commission and served as the only hotel in Los Alamos through 1966.

Today, the building is owned by the local municipality, Los Alamos County. It still serves as a community center, with weddings, concerts, meetings, and parties of all types taking place in it throughout the year. While it is open to the public to admire the gorgeous architecture, visitors do not have an opportunity to realize the historic significance of the building and all that has happened there throughout the years. There is a great need to interpret the building—without making into a museum with “books on the wall”—so that visitors learn more but the building can still be the “heart and soul” of the community of Los Alamos.

The project fits into the criteria for the HPP because it will provide significant public education about the NHL and will increase public understanding of the NHL through new research and documentation.

- **What is the desired outcome of the project?**

The outcome of the project would be a plan for Fuller Lodge that will spell out creative interpretive opportunities to help visitors understand the building's historic importance. The interpretive plan is Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 will be exhibit design, fabrication, and installation. Phase 1 will direct and inform Phase 2, including costs. (Phase 2 is not part of the funding request.)

- **How specifically would HPP funding be used to contribute to this outcome?**

HPP funding would allow for the hiring of professional interpretive consultants.

Why is the project urgent or compelling and/or why is your organization the only one that can complete this task?

The compelling case for the project, as stated above, is to allow visitors understand the historic significance of this magnificent building. The Los Alamos Historical Society, which contracts with Los Alamos County to provide museum and archival services, would partner with the county and with MAPR to complete the plan. Additionally, the Historical Society owns a significant number of the resources, including photos, documents, and oral histories, that will be used for the full project.

- **How will the project be effectively managed and completed?**

- The Los Alamos Historical Society has just completed a \$2 million renovation and expansion of its museum facilities. As part of that process, it produced a 134-page Strategic Interpretation and Program Plan, so the staff, board, volunteers, and stakeholders are familiar with the interpretive planning process. We worked with two nationally respected interpretive consultants, who are now also experts in Los Alamos history, and we would propose using the same consultants for this project. The consultants would hold a series of public meetings and solicit community input electronically, as well. (Everyone in Los Alamos will want to have a say in this project!) The community input of personal meaning as well as historically significant stories will be brought together to determine what stories need to be told in the building as well as how they should be told. The Historical Society and Los Alamos County would jointly manage the project through our already existing contract agreement.

- **Timeline:**

June 2017	Initial consultations with consultants
Summer 2017	Public meetings/data gathering and historical research
Aug.-Oct.	Consultants consolidate data and draft interpretive themes
November 2017	Initial draft of interpretive plan
January 2018	Final public input gathered on draft
March 2018	Interpretive plan complete

- **Budget Breakdown and Total**

○ Interpretive plan consultants	\$10,000 (HPP request)
▪ Please see document “Ideas for Fuller Lodge Interpretive Planning w estimated costs”	
○ Travel for consultants	\$2,500
○ Supplies for public input meetings	\$150
○ Refreshments for public input meetings	\$300
○ In-kind services from LAHS	
▪ Staff hours: Research	\$850
▪ Staff hours: Facilitation & Administration	\$2,500
▪ Historic photographs & documents	\$750
○ In-kind services from LAC	
▪ Staff hours: Facilitation & Administration	\$2,400
▪ Custodial time for public meetings	\$550

Total Project Cost: \$20,000

HPP percentage: 50 percent

- **Supplemental Material** (Please see attached)

- Photos, maps, and letters of support
- Documentation of owner consent (required if the applicant is not the owner).