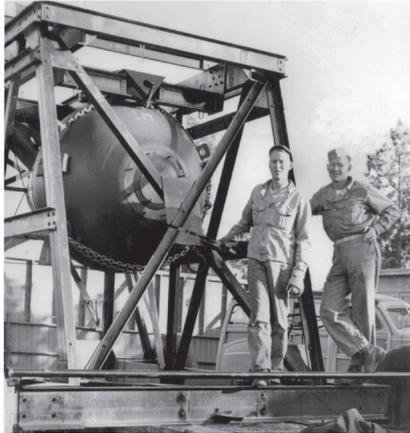


# V-Site

## Birthplace of the Gadget

V-Site is located inside the current high explosives (HE) research and development area at Los Alamos National Laboratory. This site is significant because the activities that took place at V-Site supported events that transformed the world and ushered in the Atomic Age.



*"Fat Man" shake testing at V-Site*

The Army Corps of Engineers constructed V-Site as a new facility to support the final design of the implosion or "Fat Man" weapon and the assembly of the Trinity device or "Gadget." The site consisted of six buildings. The first building at V-Site, built in early 1944, was a small triangular-shaped shop surrounded by an earthen berm and was used for diagnostic testing of the "Fat Man" weapon. Additional shop buildings and a covered storage area were constructed in late 1944 to support the assembly of the Trinity device. Several of the buildings at V-Site were surrounded by earthen berms as a precaution against HE accidents. A no-peek fence also surrounded the area.

### Historical Significance

During the week of July 9, 1945, the "Gadget" was assembled in building TA-16-516 at V-Site. The shaped pieces of HE were fitted together and readied for transport on a flatbed truck to Trinity Site for the test. At Trinity Site, the HE was assembled with the plutonium core. On July 16, 1945, the U.S. successfully detonated the world's first atomic device. The weaponized version of the implosion device, "Fat Man," received diagnostic testing at V-Site, including testing components to ensure that they could withstand cold temperatures and vibration (shake testing).

"Little Boy," the untested uranium gun weapon, was exploded over Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945. "Fat Man" was exploded over Nagasaki three days later on August 9.

After World War II, V-Site was used for HE work until it was abandoned in the early 1960s. The six buildings stood empty until four of the six were burned during the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire. Fortunately, the fire spared the most significant building, TA-16-516, where the Trinity device was assembled.

### Restoration of V-Site

In 1999, the Department of Energy (DOE) committed to restore V-Site, acknowledging it as one of the most significant historic building sites in the DOE Complex. Plans for restoration were developed from the original 1944 drawings. Phases 1 and 2 addressed structural deterioration and phase 3 addressed cosmetic restoration. Major restoration work was completed in 2006. A section of no-peek fence, including the reconstructed entrance gate, was added in 2007.



*Interpretive panel and the section of no-peek fence constructed at V-Site in 2007.*