



Why was it called The Manhattan Project?

The Manhattan Project came about in a series of fits and starts in 1940. By 1942, the first dedicated office was on the 18th floor of a federal building on the corner of Broadway and Chambers Street in Manhattan, New York. The project had been called “the Laboratory for the Development of Substitute Materials,” but that was thought to be too transparent. At the time, Columbia University had a concentration of people working on the concept of atomic bombs, New York was a hub of work in the subject, and the bulk of America’s supply of uranium ore was stored in warehouses and on docks in New York Harbor.

The 18th floor of the building was occupied by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the location gave its name to the project. Headquarters was quickly moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee when it was felt New York was too crowded and too vulnerable to attack for such a secret and sensitive program.

The 18th floor of 270 Broadway has been converted into apartments.

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