

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS MANHATTAN MONUMENT TRACT



Because the Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract is small, solely used for an historic monument, and is not contemplated to change under any of the alternatives, the discussions of transportation, infrastructure, noise, visual resources, socioeconomics, ecological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, water resources, air resources, human health, and environmental justice were rolled into the overall discussion where relevant, or otherwise, omitted entirely.

8.1 Affected Environment

The Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract contains no potential release sites (PRSs) within its boundaries, and the only structure on the tract is the monument itself.

The Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract is located on less than 0.5 acre (0.2 hectare) adjacent to Ashley Pond in the center of the Los Alamos townsite (see Figure 8.1-1) (DOE 1998b). Access to the site is available from Trinity Drive.

Although no longer associated with any LANL operations, the plaque within the monument structure commemorates the location of the Los Alamos Ranch School ice house where components for the atomic bomb

were inspected and assembled. Standard utilities, gas, water, electricity, and sewers are available to the site. The Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract is situated in an urbanized portion of the townsite and contains no sensitive habitat. The Manhattan Monument is, however, a contributing element of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark, which was created in 1966. Other contributing elements of the landmark in the vicinity include Fuller Lodge, the Historical Museum, private residences on “Bathtub Row,” and a stone powerhouse.

The site is one feature of the surrounding park used by local business people, families, and tourists. Adjacent land uses include County offices, banking, and retail businesses. Although the area is used as open space, no historic trails or other formal recreational opportunities exist at the site (LANL 1998c).

8.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no anticipated change in land use at the Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract, as currently described

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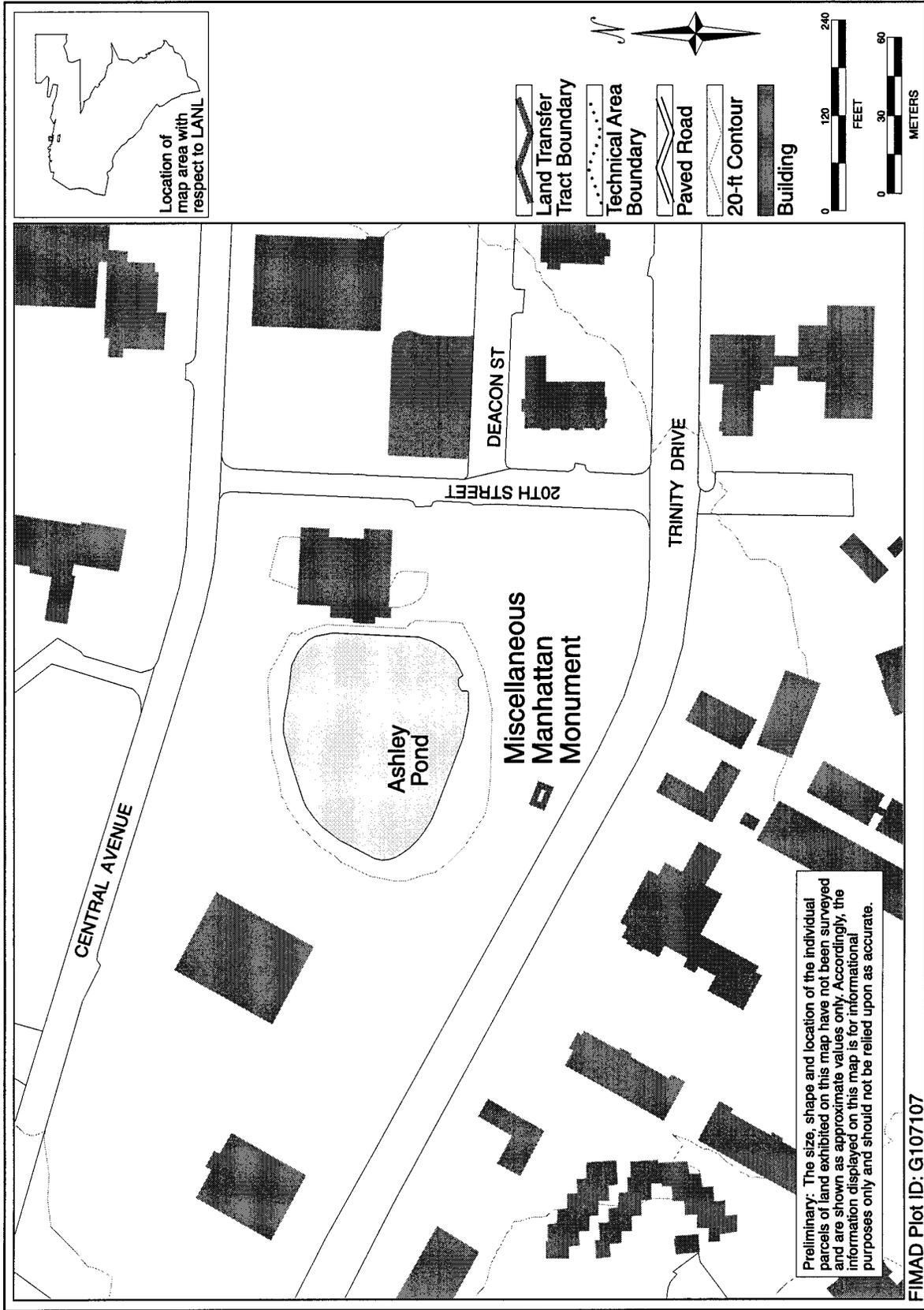


Figure 8.1-1. Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract Layout.

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under the No Action Alternative. For historic preservation purposes, the Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract would remain the responsibility of the DOE, and the treatment of this National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed resource would continue to be subject to Federal laws, regulations, guidelines, and executive orders.

8.3 Proposed Action Alternative

Direct impacts of the conveyance or transfer itself would be limited to the transfer of a contributing element of an NRHP-listed resource out of the responsibility and protection of the DOE. Under the Criteria of Adverse Effect (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800.5(a)(1)), the transfer, lease, or sale of NRHP-eligible resources is an adverse effect. Because the Manhattan Monument is a contributing element of a NRHP-listed resource, it would be directly impacted by the Federal action. In addition, Section 110f of the *National Historic Preservation Act* requires that Federal agencies exercise a higher standard of care when considering undertakings that may affect National Historic Landmarks.

Land use proposed for this site would result in the continued historic preservation of the tract (PC 1998e and PC 1998f). Stewardship of the site would require that landscaping and other routine maintenance activities be performed on an as-needed basis. The Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract would not be further developed, and the general public would have unrestricted access to the site and its surrounding area.

No change in land use is contemplated for the Miscellaneous Manhattan Monument Tract, and no indirect impacts would be anticipated. Neither environmental restoration nor decommissioning is anticipated.

8.3.1 Irreversible And Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Because there would be no change in the use of this land tract, neither the actual conveyance nor transfer nor the future use would cause any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

8.3.2 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts

Because there would be no change in the use of this land tract, neither the actual conveyance nor transfer nor the future use would cause any adverse environmental impacts.

8.3.3 Relationship Between Local Short-Term Use of the Environment and the Maintenance of Long-Term Productivity

Because there would be no change in the use of this land tract, neither the actual conveyance nor transfer nor the future use would cause any specific impacts on short-term uses of the environment. Similarly, because this tract is already developed, there would be no impact to the long-term ecological productivity of the area.