

# Official Scenic Historic Marker Program Application Form



**CPRC meeting:** October 13, 2017

**FINAL APPROVED TEXT**

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**Name of Marker:** Dorothy McKibbin

**County:** Los Alamos or Santa Fe County

**Review:**  Original Text/Replacement Marker  
 Move of Existing Marker

Revised Text  
 New Marker

**NMDOT District:** 5

**NMDOT Highway:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Suggested Site for Installation:** Santa Fe or Los Alamos

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**Final Text:**

## **SIDE ONE**

Dorothy Scarritt McKibbin  
1897-1985

Dorothy McKibbin was the first person to greet newly arriving scientists, workers, and their families on their way to “The Hill,” the top-secret headquarters for the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos. Hired by Robert Oppenheimer as a secretary in 1943, her office at 109 East Palace Avenue in Santa Fe was the entrance and departure point for scientists, military personnel, Project employees, and their families who worked and lived at Los Alamos.

**Word Count: 72**

## **SIDE TWO**

McKibbin operated a welcoming central office by providing assistance, directions, reservations, or just a kind word. She played an indispensable role during the war, and afterward remained the head of the Santa Fe office until she retired in 1963. Remembered for her warmth and generous spirit, Dorothy McKibbin was aptly given the sobriquet “Gatekeeper of Los Alamos.”

**Word Count: 57**

**Run the following text set off and beneath the Side 2 text:**

This is an official women’s history marker established under the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative.

**Total Word Count for Side Two: 63**

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**Previous Title and Text:** N/A

**Researcher/author:** Beverly Duran and David Pike, revisions by Gretchen Brock

**Source(s):**

Atomic Heritage Foundation. "Manhattan Project Spotlight: Dorothy McKibbin." Online at: <http://www.atomicheritage.org/article/manhattan-project-spotlight-dorothy-mckibbin>. Accessed November 29, 2016.

Atomic Heritage Foundation. "Dorothy McKibbin Oral History." Online at: <http://manhattanprojectvoices.org/oral-histories/dorothy-mckibbins-interview-1965> Accessed November 29, 2016.

Atomic Heritage Foundation. "Haskell Sheinberg Oral History." Online at: <http://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/oral-histories/haskell-sheinbergs-interview> Accessed November 29, 2016.

Atomic Heritage Foundation. "Rebecca Bradford Diven Oral History." Online at: <http://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/oral-histories/rebecca-bradford-divens-interview>. Accessed November 29, 2016.

Jones, Vincent C. *Manhattan: The Army and the Atomic Bomb*. Washington, DC: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1985.

Manley, Kathleen E. B. "Women of Los Alamos During World War II: Some of Their Views." New Mexico Historical Review. Volume 65, Number 2, April 1990.

Melnick, aj (sic). *They Changed the World: People of the Manhattan Project*. Santa Fe, NM: Sunstone Press, 2006.

National Park Service. "Otowí Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form. July 15, 1975.

Santa Fe Living Treasures. "Dorothy McKibbin, 'Gatekeeper' of Los Alamos, Honored September 1984." Online at: <http://www.sflivingtreasures.org>. Accessed November 29, 2016.

Wilson, Jane S. and Charlotte Serber, eds. *Standing By and Making Do: Women of Wartime Los Alamos*. Los Alamos, NM: Los Alamos Historical Society, 1988.

**Text Approved by CPRC on Date: October 13, 2017.**

**CPRC/Staff Comments:**

**CPRC Meeting notes:** Originally proposed as one side of a two-sided marker "Women of the Manhattan Project / Dorothy McKibbin," the CPRC recommended that Dorothy McKibbin be given her own marker. Location is to be determined—either in Santa Fe in coordination with the city or in Los Alamos.

**For Referral to:** Andrew Gallegos, NMDOT; William Montoya, Asst. Traffic Engineer; District 5 NMDOT