**O range Keystone Tour Facts:** *Old Frick/JRR*

* Now, we arrive at the **Julis-Romo-Rabinowitz Building.** This building, with a modernized, sleek appearance hybridized by its older gothic remnants, is now home to the **Department of Economics** and houses an array of international and regional initiatives.
* However, this once housed Princeton’s **Department of Chemistry,** then referred to as **Frick Laboratory or ‘Old Frick.’** Until the turn of the 21st century when it was deemed too broken down and outdated to support current initiatives (leading to the relocation of Frick Chemistry), **it once supported cutting-edge scientific research, especially in the nuclear field.** 
  + This department was a **major influence in nuclear research**, due to its responsibility in investigations of the atom leading to the eventual discovery of the atomic bomb and the department’s participation in the Manhattan Project.
    - A letter sent to **university president Harold W. Dodds** by **Columbia University’s president, Frank D. Fackenthal,** helps to anchor this involvement by notifying President Dodds of a **commendation by the War Department** and **inviting him to share in the award.**
  + This also involved the **Analytical Group under N.H. Furman**, who wished to develop methods of extracting uranium for the **fabrication of nuclear weapons** while also **accounting for the detection of trace contaminants.**
    - The Analytical Group worked under a direct contract between Princeton Chemistry and the United States Army, organized under the Manhattan Project.
  + Members of the Department of Chemistry - including N. H. Furman - **maintained direct correspondence with several other major players** in the nuclear weapons research field at the time, including **Argonne National Laboratory** and **Oak Ridge Laboratory.**
    - In fact, **there exists direct communication** between N. H. Furman and Oak Ridge researchers **stationed at Bikini Atoll during Operation Crossroads.**
    - **Sources of uranium extracted and analyzed** here were retrieved **directly from mining and ore companies** that had a hand in the **exploitative labour of Native Americans,** which *continues to have profound effects on the communities and health of these First Nations to this day.*
* The building’s construction was officially confirmed to begin in a **press release on May 18th, 1920**, and was completed on **September 26th, 1926**. It was planned to provide adequate chemical facilities to a campus which was severely lacking in a facility planned for the purpose of harboring the chemistry department.
  + This press release also includes **mention of radiation-based research** that would be an *indicator of later atomic discoveries.*
* *What about today?* 
  + The renovation of ‘Old Frick’ and the subsequent development of the Julis Romo Rabinowitz (JRR) Building is prided on their adherence to new **sustainability standards.**
  + **Proposed clean-energy, efficiency, and green applications** are part of **a trend in Princeton’s institutional efforts to adopt sustainability as a core tenet** of its functions
  + Nevertheless, we should continue to think critically about the *relationality of this structure for students today,* alongside the role that this structure played in the past *regarding nuclear contamination, nuclear weapons,* and its *intersection with Native involvement.* What does it mean to renovate and reimagine a space that was once associated with the use of science to perpetuate violence?

