

Statue of Liberty
Liberty Island
Manhattan
New York County
New York

HAER No. NY-138

HAER
NY
31-NE40
89-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20243

Addendum to:
Statue of Liberty (Statue of Liberty National Monument)
Liberty Island
New York City
New York County
New York

HAER No. NY-138

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HAER
NY,
31-NE40,
89-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Addendum to:
STATUE OF LIBERTY
(Statue of Liberty National Monument) HAER No. NY-138

Location: Liberty Island, New York, New York County, New York

Date of Construction:

Pedestal: April 1883 to October 1886; American Museum of Immigration constructed within pedestal, 1962-1972

Statue: Prefabricated in France between 1875 and 1884
Arrived in U.S. on June 17, 1885; dedicated
October 28, 1886. Renovated 1984 through 1986.

Present Owner: National Park Service

Present Use: Museum

Significance: Donated by citizens of France to celebrate Franco-American friendship, the Statue of Liberty is significant for its physical and symbolic characteristics.

Richard Morris Hunt prepared the plans for the 89 foot high pedestal; French engineer Alexandre Gustav Eiffel designed the iron framework which supports the copper sheathing. Many consider this frame noteworthy in itself, because its ability to support an irregularly-shaped structure subject to high winds.

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi conceived the idea of the Statue, whose construction also represents a significant technical achievement. Bartholdi and his assistants progressively enlarged over 300 plaster sections of the Statue until reaching the desired size. Latticed wooden molds were then made for each section, and copper sheets three-eighths of an inch thick were hammered over the mold. At the time, the Statue was the tallest figure ever to be sculpted and the largest copper statue in history. The Statue rises 152 feet above the pedestal. The width of the statue's face is 10 feet; that of the eyes, 2 feet, 6 inches. The torch-carrying arm is 42 feet long and 12 feet in diameter at the point of greatest thickness.

Symbolically, the Statue of Liberty reflects the political ideals of the late nineteenth century. It commemorates America's founding principles of liberty, freedom, and opportunity in America for all. More than sixteen million immigrants passed by the Statue of Liberty on the way to the Ellis Island Immigration Station.

Project Statement:

When architects, engineers, and historians began planning the renovation of the Statue of Liberty in 1984, they discovered that insufficient photographic information existed documenting the original statue as constructed one hundred years ago. To insure a permanent record for future curators, approximately two hundred large format photographs, both black and white as well as color, were taken by the Historic American Engineering Record. The Historic Preservation Center, North-Atlantic Region, National Park Service sponsored the documentation. The photographs document the Statue before, during, and after the renovation process. In addition, the engineering firm of Burns and Roe, Oradell, New Jersey, donated five ink-on-mylar sheets of computer-generated drawings, through the auspices of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), to the Historic American Engineering Record.

Sources: National Register Nomination Form, compiled by Amy Millman, August 9, 1980

Historian: Robert Buerglener, HABS, July 13, 1988

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Washington, D.C. 20013-1727

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PHOTOGRAPHS

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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FIELD RECORDS

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U.S. Department of the Interior
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