

= Statue of Liberty =

The Statue of Liberty ( Liberty Enlightening the World ; French : La Liberté éclairant le monde ) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York City , in the United States . The copper statue , designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi , a French sculptor , was built by Gustave Eiffel and dedicated on October 28 , 1886 . It was a gift to the United States from the people of France . The statue is of a robed female figure representing Libertas , the Roman goddess , who bears a torch and a tabula ansata ( a tablet evoking the law ) upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence , July 4 , 1776 . A broken chain lies at her feet . The statue is an icon of freedom and of the United States , and was a welcoming sight to immigrants arriving from abroad .

Bartholdi was inspired by French law professor and politician Édouard René de Laboulaye , who is said to have commented in 1865 that any monument raised to American independence would properly be a joint project of the French and American peoples . He may have been minded to honor the Union victory in the American Civil War and the end of slavery . Due to the post @-@ war instability in France , work on the statue did not commence until the early 1870s . In 1875 , Laboulaye proposed that the French finance the statue and the Americans provide the site and build the pedestal . Bartholdi completed the head and the torch @-@ bearing arm before the statue was fully designed , and these pieces were exhibited for publicity at international expositions .

The torch @-@ bearing arm was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 , and in Madison Square Park in Manhattan from 1876 to 1882 . Fundraising proved difficult , especially for the Americans , and by 1885 work on the pedestal was threatened due to lack of funds . Publisher Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World started a drive for donations to complete the project that attracted more than 120 @,@ 000 contributors , most of whom gave less than a dollar . The statue was constructed in France , shipped overseas in crates , and assembled on the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe 's Island . The statue 's completion was marked by New York 's first ticker @-@ tape parade and a dedication ceremony presided over by President Grover Cleveland .

The statue was administered by the United States Lighthouse Board until 1901 and then by the Department of War ; since 1933 it has been maintained by the National Park Service . The statue was closed for renovation for much of 1938 . In the early 1980s , it was found to have deteriorated to such an extent that a major restoration was required . While the statue was closed from 1984 to 1986 , the torch and a large part of the internal structure were replaced . After the September 11 attacks in 2001 , it was closed for reasons of safety and security ; the pedestal reopened in 2004 and the statue in 2009 , with limits on the number of visitors allowed to ascend to the crown . The statue , including the pedestal and base , was closed for a year until October 28 , 2012 , so that a secondary staircase and other safety features could be installed ; Liberty Island remained open . However , one day after the reopening , Liberty Island closed due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy in New York ; the statue and island opened again on July 4 , 2013 . Public access to the balcony surrounding the torch has been barred for safety reasons since 1916 .

= = Design and construction process = =

= = = Origin = = =

According to the National Park Service , the idea for the Statue of Liberty was first proposed by Édouard René de Laboulaye the president of the French Anti @-@ Slavery Society and a prominent and important political thinker of his time . The project is traced to a conversation between Édouard René de Laboulaye , a staunch abolitionist and Frédéric Bartholdi , a sculptor in mid @-@ 1865 . In after @-@ dinner conversation at his home near Versailles , Laboulaye , an ardent supporter of the Union in the American Civil War , is supposed to have said : " If a monument should rise in the United States , as a memorial to their independence , I should think it only natural if it were built by

united effort ? a common work of both our nations . " The National Park Service , in a 2000 report , however , deemed this a legend traced to an 1885 fundraising pamphlet , and that the statue was most likely conceived in 1870 . In another essay on their website , the Park Service suggested that Laboulaye was minded to honor the Union victory and its consequences , " With the abolition of slavery and the Union 's victory in the Civil War in 1865 , Laboulaye 's wishes of freedom and democracy were turning into a reality in the United States . In order to honor these achievements , Laboulaye proposed that a gift be built for the United States on behalf of France . Laboulaye hoped that by calling attention to the recent achievements of the United States , the French people would be inspired to call for their own democracy in the face of a repressive monarchy . "

According to sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi , who later recounted the story , Laboulaye 's comment was not intended as a proposal , but it inspired Bartholdi . Given the repressive nature of the regime of Napoleon III , Bartholdi took no immediate action on the idea except to discuss it with Laboulaye . Bartholdi was in any event busy with other possible projects ; in the late 1860s , he approached Isma 'il Pasha , Khedive of Egypt , with a plan to build a huge lighthouse in the form of an ancient Egyptian female fellah or peasant , robed and holding a torch aloft , at the northern entrance to the Suez Canal in Port Said . Sketches and models were made of the proposed work , though it was never erected . There was a classical precedent for the Suez proposal , the Colossus of Rhodes : an ancient bronze statue of the Greek god of the sun , Helios . This statue is believed to have been over 100 feet ( 30 m ) high , and it similarly stood at a harbor entrance and carried a light to guide ships .

Any large project was further delayed by the Franco - Prussian War , in which Bartholdi served as a major of militia . In the war , Napoleon III was captured and deposed . Bartholdi 's home province of Alsace was lost to the Prussians , and a more liberal republic was installed in France . As Bartholdi had been planning a trip to the United States , he and Laboulaye decided the time was right to discuss the idea with influential Americans . In June 1871 , Bartholdi crossed the Atlantic , with letters of introduction signed by Laboulaye .

Arriving at New York Harbor , Bartholdi focused on Bedloe 's Island as a site for the statue , struck by the fact that vessels arriving in New York had to sail past it . He was delighted to learn that the island was owned by the United States government ? it had been ceded by the New York State Legislature in 1800 for harbor defense . It was thus , as he put it in a letter to Laboulaye : " land common to all the states . " As well as meeting many influential New Yorkers , Bartholdi visited President Ulysses S. Grant , who assured him that it would not be difficult to obtain the site for the statue . Bartholdi crossed the United States twice by rail , and met many Americans who he thought would be sympathetic to the project . But he remained concerned that popular opinion on both sides of the Atlantic was insufficiently supportive of the proposal , and he and Laboulaye decided to wait before mounting a public campaign .

Bartholdi had made a first model of his concept in 1870 . The son of a friend of Bartholdi 's , American artist John LaFarge , later maintained that Bartholdi made the first sketches for the statue during his U.S. visit at La Farge 's Rhode Island studio . Bartholdi continued to develop the concept following his return to France . He also worked on a number of sculptures designed to bolster French patriotism after the defeat by the Prussians . One of these was the Lion of Belfort , a monumental sculpture carved in sandstone below the fortress of Belfort , which during the war had resisted a Prussian siege for over three months . The defiant lion , 73 feet ( 22 m ) long and half that in height , displays an emotional quality characteristic of Romanticism , which Bartholdi would later bring to the Statue of Liberty .

= = = Design , style , and symbolism = = =

Bartholdi and Laboulaye considered how best to express the idea of American liberty . In early American history , two female figures were frequently used as cultural symbols of the nation . One of these symbols , the personified Columbia , was seen as an embodiment of the United States in the manner that Britannia was identified with the United Kingdom and Marianne came to represent France . Columbia had supplanted the earlier figure of an Indian princess , which had come to be

regarded as uncivilized and derogatory toward Americans . The other significant female icon in American culture was a representation of Liberty , derived from Libertas , the goddess of freedom widely worshipped in ancient Rome , especially among emancipated slaves . A Liberty figure adorned most American coins of the time , and representations of Liberty appeared in popular and civic art , including Thomas Crawford 's Statue of Freedom ( 1863 ) atop the dome of the United States Capitol Building .

Artists of the 18th and 19th centuries striving to evoke republican ideals commonly used representations of Libertas as an allegorical symbol . A figure of Liberty was also depicted on the Great Seal of France . However , Bartholdi and Laboulaye avoided an image of revolutionary liberty such as that depicted in Eugène Delacroix 's famed Liberty Leading the People ( 1830 ) . In this painting , which commemorates France 's Revolution of 1830 , a half - clothed Liberty leads an armed mob over the bodies of the fallen . Laboulaye had no sympathy for revolution , and so Bartholdi 's figure would be fully dressed in flowing robes . Instead of the impression of violence in the Delacroix work , Bartholdi wished to give the statue a peaceful appearance and chose a torch , representing progress , for the figure to hold .

Crawford 's statue was designed in the early 1850s . It was originally to be crowned with a pileus , the cap given to emancipated slaves in ancient Rome . Secretary of War Jefferson Davis , a Southerner who would later serve as President of the Confederate States of America , was concerned that the pileus would be taken as an abolitionist symbol . He ordered that it be changed to a helmet . Delacroix 's figure wears a pileus , and Bartholdi at first considered placing one on his figure as well . Instead , he used a diadem , or crown , to top its head . In so doing , he avoided a reference to Marianne , who invariably wears a pileus . The seven rays form a halo or aureole . They evoke the sun , the seven seas , and the seven continents , and represent another means , besides the torch , whereby Liberty enlightens the world .

Bartholdi 's early models were all similar in concept : a female figure in neoclassical style representing liberty , wearing a stola and palla ( gown and cloak , common in depictions of Roman goddesses ) and holding a torch aloft . According to popular accounts , the face was modeled after that of Charlotte Beysser Bartholdi , the sculptor 's mother , but Regis Huber , the curator of the Bartholdi Museum is on record as saying that this , as well as other similar speculations , have no basis in fact . He designed the figure with a strong , uncomplicated silhouette , which would be set off well by its dramatic harbor placement and allow passengers on vessels entering New York Bay to experience a changing perspective on the statue as they proceeded toward Manhattan . He gave it bold classical contours and applied simplified modeling , reflecting the huge scale of the project and its solemn purpose . Bartholdi wrote of his technique :

The surfaces should be broad and simple , defined by a bold and clear design , accentuated in the important places . The enlargement of the details or their multiplicity is to be feared . By exaggerating the forms , in order to render them more clearly visible , or by enriching them with details , we would destroy the proportion of the work . Finally , the model , like the design , should have a summarized character , such as one would give to a rapid sketch . Only it is necessary that this character should be the product of volition and study , and that the artist , concentrating his knowledge , should find the form and the line in its greatest simplicity .

Bartholdi made alterations in the design as the project evolved . Bartholdi considered having Liberty hold a broken chain , but decided this would be too divisive in the days after the Civil War . The erected statue does rise over a broken chain , half - hidden by her robes and difficult to see from the ground . Bartholdi was initially uncertain of what to place in Liberty 's left hand ; he settled on a tabula ansata , a keystone - shaped tablet used to evoke the concept of law . Though Bartholdi greatly admired the United States Constitution , he chose to inscribe " JULY IV MDCCLXXVI " on the tablet , thus associating the date of the country 's Declaration of Independence with the concept of liberty .

Bartholdi interested his friend and mentor , architect Eugène Viollet - le Duc , in the project . As chief engineer , Viollet - le Duc designed a brick pier within the statue , to which the skin would be anchored . After consultations with the metalwork foundry Gaget , Gauthier & Co . , Viollet - le Duc chose the metal which would be used for the skin , copper sheets

, and the method used to shape it , repoussé , in which the sheets were heated and then struck with wooden hammers . An advantage of this choice was that the entire statue would be light for its volume , as the copper need be only 0 @. @ 094 inches ( 2 @. @ 4 mm ) thick . Bartholdi had decided on a height of just over 151 feet ( 46 m ) for the statue , double that of Italy 's Sancarlone and the German statue of Arminius , both made with the same method .

= = = Announcement and early work = = =

By 1875 , France was enjoying improved political stability and a recovering postwar economy . Growing interest in the upcoming Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia led Laboulaye to decide it was time to seek public support . In September 1875 , he announced the project and the formation of the Franco @-@ American Union as its fundraising arm . With the announcement , the statue was given a name , Liberty Enlightening the World . The French would finance the statue ; Americans would be expected to pay for the pedestal . The announcement provoked a generally favorable reaction in France , though many Frenchmen resented the United States for not coming to their aid during the war with Prussia . French monarchists opposed the statue , if for no other reason than it was proposed by the liberal Laboulaye , who had recently been elected a senator for life . Laboulaye arranged events designed to appeal to the rich and powerful , including a special performance at the Paris Opera on April 25 , 1876 , that featured a new cantata by composer Charles Gounod . The piece was titled *La Liberté éclairant le monde* , the French version of the statue 's announced name .

Despite its initial focus on the elites , the Union was successful in raising funds from across French society . Schoolchildren and ordinary citizens gave , as did 181 French municipalities . Laboulaye 's political allies supported the call , as did descendants of the French contingent in the American Revolutionary War . Less idealistically , contributions came from those who hoped for American support in the French attempt to build the Panama Canal . The copper may have come from multiple sources and some of it is said to have come from a mine in Visnes , Norway , though this has not been conclusively determined after testing samples . According to Cara Sutherland in her book on the statue for the Museum of the City of New York , 90 @, @ 800 kilos ( 200 @, @ 000 pounds ) was needed to build the statue , and the French copper industrialist Eugène Secrétan donated 58 @, @ 100 kilos ( 128 @, @ 000 pounds ) of copper . Historian Yasmin Khan , in her 2010 book about the statue , states that the firm of Japy Frères , copper merchants , donated copper valued at 64 @, @ 000 francs ( about \$ 16 @, @ 000 at the time or the equivalent of US \$ 356 @, @ 000 in 2016 ) .

Although plans for the statue had not been finalized , Bartholdi moved forward with fabrication of the right arm , bearing the torch , and the head . Work began at the Gaget , Gauthier & Co. workshop . In May 1876 , Bartholdi traveled to the United States as a member of a French delegation to the Centennial Exhibition , and arranged for a huge painting of the statue to be shown in New York as part of the Centennial festivities . The arm did not arrive in Philadelphia until August ; because of its late arrival , it was not listed in the exhibition catalogue , and while some reports correctly identified the work , others called it the " Colossal Arm " or " Bartholdi Electric Light " . The exhibition grounds contained a number of monumental artworks to compete for fairgoers ' interest , including an outsized fountain designed by Bartholdi . Nevertheless , the arm proved popular in the exhibition 's waning days , and visitors would climb up to the balcony of the torch to view the fairgrounds . After the exhibition closed , the arm was transported to New York , where it remained on display in Madison Square Park for several years before it was returned to France to join the rest of the statue .

During his second trip to the United States , Bartholdi addressed a number of groups about the project , and urged the formation of American committees of the Franco @-@ American Union . Committees to raise money to pay for the foundation and pedestal were formed in New York , Boston , and Philadelphia . The New York group eventually took on most of the responsibility for American fundraising and is often referred to as the " American Committee " . One of its members was 19 @-@ year @-@ old Theodore Roosevelt , the future governor of New York and president of the United States . On March 3 , 1877 , on his final full day in office , President Grant signed a joint

resolution that authorized the President to accept the statue when it was presented by France and to select a site for it . President Rutherford B. Hayes , who took office the following day , selected the Bedloe 's Island site that Bartholdi had proposed .

= = = Construction in France = = =

On his return to Paris in 1877 , Bartholdi concentrated on completing the head , which was exhibited at the 1878 Paris World 's Fair . Fundraising continued , with models of the statue put on sale . Tickets to view the construction activity at the Gaget , Gauthier & Co. workshop were also offered . The French government authorized a lottery ; among the prizes were valuable silver plate and a terracotta model of the statue . By the end of 1879 , about 250 @, @ 000 francs had been raised .

The head and arm had been built with assistance from Viollet @-@ le @-@ Duc , who fell ill in 1879 . He soon died , leaving no indication of how he intended to transition from the copper skin to his proposed masonry pier . The following year , Bartholdi was able to obtain the services of the innovative designer and builder Gustave Eiffel . Eiffel and his structural engineer , Maurice Koechlin , decided to abandon the pier and instead build an iron truss tower . Eiffel opted not to use a completely rigid structure , which would force stresses to accumulate in the skin and lead eventually to cracking . A secondary skeleton was attached to the center pylon , then , to enable the statue to move slightly in the winds of New York Harbor and as the metal expanded on hot summer days , he loosely connected the support structure to the skin using flat iron bars which culminated in a mesh of metal straps , known as " saddles " , that were riveted to the skin , providing firm support . In a labor @-@ intensive process , each saddle had to be crafted individually . To prevent galvanic corrosion between the copper skin and the iron support structure , Eiffel insulated the skin with asbestos impregnated with shellac .

Eiffel 's design made the statue one of the earliest examples of curtain wall construction , in which the exterior of the structure is not load bearing , but is instead supported by an interior framework . He included two interior spiral staircases , to make it easier for visitors to reach the observation point in the crown . Access to an observation platform surrounding the torch was also provided , but the narrowness of the arm allowed for only a single ladder , 40 feet ( 12 m ) long . As the pylon tower arose , Eiffel and Bartholdi coordinated their work carefully so that completed segments of skin would fit exactly on the support structure . The components of the pylon tower were built in the Eiffel factory in the nearby Parisian suburb of Levallois @-@ Perret .

The change in structural material from masonry to iron allowed Bartholdi to change his plans for the statue 's assembly . He had originally expected to assemble the skin on @-@ site as the masonry pier was built ; instead he decided to build the statue in France and have it disassembled and transported to the United States for reassembly in place on Bedloe 's Island .

In a symbolic act , the first rivet placed into the skin , fixing a copper plate onto the statue 's big toe , was driven by United States Ambassador to France Levi P. Morton . The skin was not , however , crafted in exact sequence from low to high ; work proceeded on a number of segments simultaneously in a manner often confusing to visitors . Some work was performed by contractors ? one of the fingers was made to Bartholdi 's exacting specifications by a coppersmith in the southern French town of Montauban . By 1882 , the statue was complete up to the waist , an event Barthodi celebrated by inviting reporters to lunch on a platform built within the statue . Laboulaye died in 1883 . He was succeeded as chairman of the French committee by Ferdinand de Lesseps , builder of the Suez Canal . The completed statue was formally presented to Ambassador Morton at a ceremony in Paris on July 4 , 1884 , and de Lesseps announced that the French government had agreed to pay for its transport to New York . The statue remained intact in Paris pending sufficient progress on the pedestal ; by January 1885 , this had occurred and the statue was disassembled and crated for its ocean voyage .

The committees in the United States faced great difficulties in obtaining funds for the construction of the pedestal . The Panic of 1873 had led to an economic depression that persisted through much of the decade . The Liberty statue project was not the only such undertaking that had difficulty raising

money : construction of the obelisk later known as the Washington Monument sometimes stalled for years ; it would ultimately take over three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half decades to complete . There was criticism both of Bartholdi 's statue and of the fact that the gift required Americans to foot the bill for the pedestal . In the years following the Civil War , most Americans preferred realistic artworks depicting heroes and events from the nation 's history , rather than allegorical works like the Liberty statue . There was also a feeling that Americans should design American public works ? the selection of Italian @-@ born Constantino Brumidi to decorate the Capitol had provoked intense criticism , even though he was a naturalized U.S. citizen . Harper 's Weekly declared its wish that " M. Bartholdi and our French cousins had ' gone the whole figure ' while they were about it , and given us statue and pedestal at once . " The New York Times stated that " no true patriot can countenance any such expenditures for bronze females in the present state of our finances . " Faced with these criticisms , the American committees took little action for several years .

= = = = Design = = = =

The foundation of Bartholdi 's statue was to be laid inside Fort Wood , a disused army base on Bedloe 's Island constructed between 1807 and 1811 . Since 1823 , it had rarely been used , though during the Civil War , it had served as a recruiting station . The fortifications of the structure were in the shape of an eleven @-@ point star . The statue 's foundation and pedestal were aligned so that it would face southeast , greeting ships entering the harbor from the Atlantic Ocean . In 1881 , the New York committee commissioned Richard Morris Hunt to design the pedestal . Within months , Hunt submitted a detailed plan , indicating that he expected construction to take about nine months . He proposed a pedestal 114 feet ( 35 m ) in height ; faced with money problems , the committee reduced that to 89 feet ( 27 m ) .

Hunt 's pedestal design contains elements of classical architecture , including Doric portals , as well as some elements influenced by Aztec architecture . The large mass is fragmented with architectural detail , in order to focus attention on the statue . In form , it is a truncated pyramid , 62 feet ( 19 m ) square at the base and 39 @.@ 4 feet ( 12 @.@ 0 m ) at the top . The four sides are identical in appearance . Above the door on each side , there are ten disks upon which Bartholdi proposed to place the coats of arms of the states ( between 1876 and 1889 , there were 38 U.S. states ) , although this was not done . Above that , a balcony was placed on each side , framed by pillars . Bartholdi placed an observation platform near the top of the pedestal , above which the statue itself rises . According to author Louis Auchincloss , the pedestal " craggily evokes the power of an ancient Europe over which rises the dominating figure of the Statue of Liberty " . The committee hired former army General Charles Pomeroy Stone to oversee the construction work . Construction on the 15 @-@ foot @-@ deep ( 4 @.@ 6 m ) foundation began in 1883 , and the pedestal 's cornerstone was laid in 1884 . In Hunt 's original conception , the pedestal was to have been made of solid granite . Financial concerns again forced him to revise his plans ; the final design called for poured concrete walls , up to 20 feet ( 6 @.@ 1 m ) thick , faced with granite blocks . This Stony Creek granite came from the Beattie Quarry in Branford , Connecticut . The concrete mass was the largest poured to that time .

Norwegian immigrant civil engineer Joachim Goschen Giæver designed the structural framework for the Statue of Liberty . His work involved design computations , detailed fabrication and construction drawings , and oversight of construction . In completing his engineering for the statue 's frame , Giæver worked from drawings and sketches produced by Gustave Eiffel .

= = = = Fundraising = = = =

Fundraising for the statue had begun in 1882 . The committee organized a large number of money @-@ raising events . As part of one such effort , an auction of art and manuscripts , poet Emma Lazarus was asked to donate an original work . She initially declined , stating she could not write a poem about a statue . At the time , she was also involved in aiding refugees to New York who had fled anti @-@ Semitic pogroms in eastern Europe . These refugees were forced to live in conditions

that the wealthy Lazarus had never experienced . She saw a way to express her empathy for these refugees in terms of the statue . The resulting sonnet , " The New Colossus " , including the iconic lines " Give me your tired , your poor / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free " , is uniquely identified with the Statue of Liberty and is inscribed on a plaque in the museum in its base .

Even with these efforts , fundraising lagged . Grover Cleveland , the governor of New York , vetoed a bill to provide \$ 50 @, @ 000 for the statue project in 1884 . An attempt the next year to have Congress provide \$ 100 @, @ 000 , sufficient to complete the project , also failed . The New York committee , with only \$ 3 @, @ 000 in the bank , suspended work on the pedestal . With the project in jeopardy , groups from other American cities , including Boston and Philadelphia , offered to pay the full cost of erecting the statue in return for relocating it .

Joseph Pulitzer , publisher of the New York World , a New York newspaper , announced a drive to raise \$ 100 @, @ 000 ? the equivalent of \$ 2 @. @ 3 million today . Pulitzer pledged to print the name of every contributor , no matter how small the amount given . The drive captured the imagination of New Yorkers , especially when Pulitzer began publishing the notes he received from contributors . " A young girl alone in the world " donated " 60 cents , the result of self denial . " One donor gave " five cents as a poor office boy 's mite toward the Pedestal Fund . " A group of children sent a dollar as " the money we saved to go to the circus with . " Another dollar was given by a " lonely and very aged woman . " Residents of a home for alcoholics in New York 's rival city of Brooklyn ? the cities would not merge until 1898 ? donated \$ 15 ; other drinkers helped out through donation boxes in bars and saloons . A kindergarten class in Davenport , Iowa , mailed the World a gift of \$ 1 @. @ 35 . As the donations flooded in , the committee resumed work on the pedestal .

= = = = Construction = = = =

On June 17 , 1885 , the French steamer Isère , laden with the Statue of Liberty , reached the New York port safely . New Yorkers displayed their new @-@ found enthusiasm for the statue , as the French vessel arrived with the crates holding the disassembled statue on board . Two hundred thousand people lined the docks and hundreds of boats put to sea to welcome the Isère . After five months of daily calls to donate to the statue fund , on August 11 , 1885 , the World announced that \$ 102 @, @ 000 had been raised from 120 @, @ 000 donors , and that 80 percent of the total had been received in sums of less than one dollar .

Even with the success of the fund drive , the pedestal was not completed until April 1886 . Immediately thereafter , reassembly of the statue began . Eiffel 's iron framework was anchored to steel I @-@ beams within the concrete pedestal and assembled . Once this was done , the sections of skin were carefully attached . Due to the width of the pedestal , it was not possible to erect scaffolding , and workers dangled from ropes while installing the skin sections . Nevertheless , no one died during the construction . Bartholdi had planned to put floodlights on the torch 's balcony to illuminate it ; a week before the dedication , the Army Corps of Engineers vetoed the proposal , fearing that ships ' pilots passing the statue would be blinded . Instead , Bartholdi cut portholes in the torch ? which was covered with gold leaf ? and placed the lights inside them . A power plant was installed on the island to light the torch and for other electrical needs . After the skin was completed , renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted , co @-@ designer of New York 's Central Park and Brooklyn 's Prospect Park , supervised a cleanup of Bedloe 's Island in anticipation of the dedication .

= = = Dedication = = =

A ceremony of dedication was held on the afternoon of October 28 , 1886 . President Grover Cleveland , the former New York governor , presided over the event . On the morning of the dedication , a parade was held in New York City ; estimates of the number of people who watched it ranged from several hundred thousand to a million . President Cleveland headed the procession , then stood in the reviewing stand to see bands and marchers from across America . General Stone was the grand marshal of the parade . The route began at Madison Square , once the venue for the

arm , and proceeded to Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan by way of Fifth Avenue and Broadway , with a slight detour so the parade could pass in front of the World building on Park Row . As the parade passed the New York Stock Exchange , traders threw ticker tape from the windows , beginning the New York tradition of the ticker @-@ tape parade .

A nautical parade began at 12 : 45 p.m. , and President Cleveland embarked on a yacht that took him across the harbor to Bedloe 's Island for the dedication . De Lesseps made the first speech , on behalf of the French committee , followed by the chairman of the New York committee , Senator William M. Evarts . A French flag draped across the statue 's face was to be lowered to unveil the statue at the close of Evarts 's speech , but Bartholdi mistook a pause as the conclusion and let the flag fall prematurely . The ensuing cheers put an end to Evarts 's address . President Cleveland spoke next , stating that the statue 's " stream of light shall pierce the darkness of ignorance and man 's oppression until Liberty enlightens the world " . Bartholdi , observed near the dais , was called upon to speak , but he refused . Orator Chauncey M. Depew concluded the speechmaking with a lengthy address .

No members of the general public were permitted on the island during the ceremonies , which were reserved entirely for dignitaries . The only females granted access were Bartholdi 's wife and de Lesseps 's granddaughter ; officials stated that they feared women might be injured in the crush of people . The restriction offended area suffragists , who chartered a boat and got as close as they could to the island . The group 's leaders made speeches applauding the embodiment of Liberty as a woman and advocating women 's right to vote . A scheduled fireworks display was postponed until November 1 because of poor weather .

Shortly after the dedication , The Cleveland Gazette , an African American newspaper , suggested that the statue 's torch not be lit until the United States became a free nation " in reality " :

" Liberty enlightening the world , " indeed ! The expression makes us sick . This government is a howling farce . It can not or rather does not protect its citizens within its own borders . Shove the Bartholdi statue , torch and all , into the ocean until the " liberty " of this country is such as to make it possible for an inoffensive and industrious colored man to earn a respectable living for himself and family , without being ku @-@ kluxed , perhaps murdered , his daughter and wife outraged , and his property destroyed . The idea of the " liberty " of this country " enlightening the world , " or even Patagonia , is ridiculous in the extreme .

= = After dedication = =

= = = Lighthouse Board and War Department ( 1886 ? 1933 ) = = =

When the torch was illuminated on the evening of the statue 's dedication , it produced only a faint gleam , barely visible from Manhattan . The World characterized it as " more like a glowworm than a beacon . " Bartholdi suggested gilding the statue to increase its ability to reflect light , but this proved too expensive . The United States Lighthouse Board took over the Statue of Liberty in 1887 and pledged to install equipment to enhance the torch 's effect ; in spite of its efforts , the statue remained virtually invisible at night . When Bartholdi returned to the United States in 1893 , he made additional suggestions , all of which proved ineffective . He did successfully lobby for improved lighting within the statue , allowing visitors to better appreciate Eiffel 's design . In 1901 , President Theodore Roosevelt , once a member of the New York committee , ordered the statue 's transfer to the War Department , as it had proved useless as a lighthouse . A unit of the Army Signal Corps was stationed on Bedloe 's Island until 1923 , after which military police remained there while the island was under military jurisdiction .

The statue rapidly became a landmark . Many immigrants who entered through New York saw it as a welcoming sight . Oral histories of immigrants record their feelings of exhilaration on first viewing the Statue of Liberty . One immigrant who arrived from Greece recalled ,

I saw the Statue of Liberty . And I said to myself , " Lady , you 're such a beautiful ! [ sic ] You opened your arms and you get all the foreigners here . Give me a chance to prove that I am worth it



, to do something , to be someone in America . " And always that statue was on my mind .

Originally , the statue was a dull copper color , but shortly after 1900 a green patina , also called verdigris , caused by the oxidation of the copper skin , began to spread . As early as 1902 it was mentioned in the press ; by 1906 it had entirely covered the statue . Believing that the patina was evidence of corrosion , Congress authorized \$ 62 @, @ 800 for various repairs , and to paint the statue both inside and out . There was considerable public protest against the proposed exterior painting . The Army Corps of Engineers studied the patina for any ill effects to the statue and concluded that it protected the skin , " softened the outlines of the Statue and made it beautiful . " The statue was painted only on the inside . The Corps of Engineers also installed an elevator to take visitors from the base to the top of the pedestal .

On July 30 , 1916 , during World War I , German saboteurs set off a disastrous explosion on the Black Tom peninsula in Jersey City , New Jersey , in what is now part of Liberty State Park , close to Bedloe 's Island . Carloads of dynamite and other explosives that were being sent to Britain and France for their war efforts were detonated , and seven people were killed . The statue sustained minor damage , mostly to the torch @-@ bearing right arm , and was closed for ten days . The cost to repair the statue and buildings on the island was about \$ 100 @, @ 000 . The narrow ascent to the torch was closed for public safety reasons , and it has remained closed ever since .

That same year , Ralph Pulitzer , who had succeeded his father Joseph as publisher of the World , began a drive to raise \$ 30 @, @ 000 for an exterior lighting system to illuminate the statue at night . He claimed over 80 @, @ 000 contributors but failed to reach the goal . The difference was quietly made up by a gift from a wealthy donor ? a fact that was not revealed until 1936 . An underwater power cable brought electricity from the mainland and floodlights were placed along the walls of Fort Wood . Gutzon Borglum , who later sculpted Mount Rushmore , redesigned the torch , replacing much of the original copper with stained glass . On December 2 , 1916 , President Woodrow Wilson pressed the telegraph key that turned on the lights , successfully illuminating the statue .

After the United States entered World War I in 1917 , images of the statue were heavily used in both recruitment posters and the Liberty Bond drives that urged American citizens to support the war financially . This impressed upon the public the war 's stated purpose ? to secure liberty ? and served as a reminder that embattled France had given the United States the statue .

In 1924 , President Calvin Coolidge used his authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the statue a National Monument . The only successful suicide in the statue 's history occurred five years later , when a man climbed out of one of the windows in the crown and jumped to his death , glancing off the statue 's breast and landing on the base .

= = = Early National Park Service years ( 1933 ? 1982 ) = = =

In 1933 , President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the statue transferred to the National Park Service ( NPS ) . In 1937 , the NPS gained jurisdiction over the rest of Bedloe 's Island . With the Army 's departure , the NPS began to transform the island into a park . The Works Progress Administration ( WPA ) demolished most of the old buildings , regraded and reseeded the eastern end of the island , and built granite steps for a new public entrance to the statue from its rear . The WPA also carried out restoration work within the statue , temporarily removing the rays from the statue 's halo so their rusted supports could be replaced . Rusted cast @-@ iron steps in the pedestal were replaced with new ones made of reinforced concrete ; the upper parts of the stairways within the statue were replaced , as well . Copper sheathing was installed to prevent further damage from rainwater that had been seeping into the pedestal . The statue was closed to the public from May until December 1938 .

During World War II , the statue remained open to visitors , although it was not illuminated at night due to wartime blackouts . It was lit briefly on December 31 , 1943 , and on D @-@ Day , June 6 , 1944 , when its lights flashed " dot @-@ dot @-@ dot @-@ dash " , the Morse code for V , for victory . New , powerful lighting was installed in 1944 ? 1945 , and beginning on V @-@ E Day , the statue was once again illuminated after sunset . The lighting was for only a few hours each evening , and it was not until 1957 that the statue was illuminated every night , all night . In 1946 , the interior

of the statue within reach of visitors was coated with a special plastic so that graffiti could be washed away .

In 1956 , an Act of Congress officially renamed Bedloe 's Island as Liberty Island , a change advocated by Bartholdi generations earlier . The act also mentioned the efforts to found an American Museum of Immigration on the island , which backers took as federal approval of the project , though the government was slow to grant funds for it . Nearby Ellis Island was made part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument by proclamation of President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 . In 1972 , the immigration museum , in the statue 's base , was finally opened in a ceremony led by President Richard Nixon . The museum 's backers never provided it with an endowment to secure its future and it closed in 1991 after the opening of an immigration museum on Ellis Island .

Beginning December 26 , 1971 , 15 anti @-@ Vietnam War veterans occupied the statue , flying a US flag upside down from her crown . They left December 28 following a Federal Court order . The statue was also several times taken over briefly by demonstrators publicizing causes such as Puerto Rican independence , opposition to abortion , and opposition to US intervention in Grenada . Demonstrations with the permission of the Park Service included a Gay Pride Parade rally and the annual Captive Baltic Nations rally .

A powerful new lighting system was installed in advance of the American Bicentennial in 1976 . The statue was the focal point for Operation Sail , a regatta of tall ships from all over the world that entered New York Harbor on July 4 , 1976 , and sailed around Liberty Island . The day concluded with a spectacular display of fireworks near the statue .

= = = Renovation and rededication ( 1982 ? 2000 ) = = =

The statue was examined in great detail by French and American engineers as part of the planning for its centennial in 1986 . In 1982 , it was announced that the statue was in need of considerable restoration . Careful study had revealed that the right arm had been improperly attached to the main structure . It was swaying more and more when strong winds blew and there was a significant risk of structural failure . In addition , the head had been installed 2 feet ( 0 @.@ 61 m ) off center , and one of the rays was wearing a hole in the right arm when the statue moved in the wind . The armature structure was badly corroded , and about two percent of the exterior plates needed to be replaced . Although problems with the armature had been recognized as early as 1936 , when cast iron replacements for some of the bars had been installed , much of the corrosion had been hidden by layers of paint applied over the years .

In May 1982 , President Ronald Reagan announced the formation of the Statue of Liberty ? Ellis Island Centennial Commission , led by Chrysler Corporation chair Lee Iacocca , to raise the funds needed to complete the work . Through its fundraising arm , the Statue of Liberty ? Ellis Island Foundation , Inc . , the group raised more than \$ 350 million in donations . The Statue of Liberty was one of the earliest beneficiaries of a cause marketing campaign . A 1983 promotion advertised that for each purchase made with an American Express card , the company would contribute one cent to the renovation of the statue . The campaign generated contributions of \$ 1 @.@ 7 million to the restoration project .

In 1984 , the statue was closed to the public for the duration of the renovation . Workers erected the world 's largest free @-@ standing scaffold , which obscured the statue from view . Liquid nitrogen was used to remove layers of paint that had been applied to the interior of the copper skin over decades , leaving two layers of coal tar , originally applied to plug leaks and prevent corrosion . Blasting with baking soda powder removed the tar without further damaging the copper . The restorers ' work was hampered by the asbestos @-@ based substance that Bartholdi had used ? ineffectively , as inspections showed ? to prevent galvanic corrosion . Workers within the statue had to wear protective gear , dubbed " moon suits " , with self @-@ contained breathing circuits . Larger holes in the copper skin were repaired , and new copper was added where necessary . The replacement skin was taken from a copper rooftop at Bell Labs , which had a patina that closely resembled the statue 's ; in exchange , the laboratory was provided some of the old copper skin for testing . The torch , found to have been leaking water since the 1916 alterations , was replaced with

an exact replica of Bartholdi 's unaltered torch . Consideration was given to replacing the arm and shoulder ; the National Park Service insisted that they be repaired instead . The original torch was removed and replaced in 1986 with the current one , whose flame is covered in 24 @-@ carat gold . The torch reflects the sun 's rays in daytime and lighted by floodlights at night .

The entire puddled iron armature designed by Gustave Eiffel was replaced . Low @-@ carbon corrosion @-@ resistant stainless steel bars that now hold the staples next to the skin are made of Ferralium , an alloy that bends slightly and returns to its original shape as the statue moves . To prevent the ray and arm making contact , the ray was realigned by several degrees . The lighting was again replaced ? night @-@ time illumination subsequently came from metal @-@ halide lamps that send beams of light to particular parts of the pedestal or statue , showing off various details . Access to the pedestal , which had been through a nondescript entrance built in the 1960s , was renovated to create a wide opening framed by a set of monumental bronze doors with designs symbolic of the renovation . A modern elevator was installed , allowing handicapped access to the observation area of the pedestal . An emergency elevator was installed within the statue , reaching up to the level of the shoulder .

July 3 ? 6 , 1986 , was designated " Liberty Weekend " , marking the centennial of the statue and its reopening . President Reagan presided over the rededication , with French President François Mitterrand in attendance . July 4 saw a reprise of Operation Sail , and the statue was reopened to the public on July 5 . In Reagan 's dedication speech , he stated , " We are the keepers of the flame of liberty ; we hold it high for the world to see . "

= = = Closures and reopening ( 2001 ? present ) = = =

Following the September 11 attacks , the statue and Liberty Island were immediately closed to the public . The island reopened at the end of 2001 , while the pedestal and statue remained off @-@ limits . The pedestal reopened in August 2004 , but the National Park Service announced that visitors could not safely be given access to the statue due to the difficulty of evacuation in an emergency . The Park Service adhered to that position through the remainder of the Bush administration . New York Congressman Anthony Weiner made the statue 's reopening a personal crusade . On May 17 , 2009 , President Barack Obama 's Secretary of the Interior , Ken Salazar , announced that as a " special gift " to America , the statue would be reopened to the public as of July 4 , but that only a limited number of people would be permitted to ascend to the crown each day .

The statue , including the pedestal and base , closed on October 29 , 2011 for installation of new elevators and staircases and to bring other facilities , such as restrooms , up to code . The statue was closed to the public until October 28 , 2012 . A day after the reopening , the statue closed again due to Hurricane Sandy . Although the storm did not harm the statue , it destroyed some of the infrastructure on both Liberty Island and Ellis Island , severely damaging the dock used by the ferries bearing visitors to the statue . On November 8 , 2012 , a Park Service spokesperson announced that both islands would remain closed for an indefinite period for repairs to be done . Due to lack of electricity on Liberty Island , a generator was installed to power temporary floodlights to illuminate the statue at night . The superintendent of Statue of Liberty National Monument , David Luchsinger , whose home on the island was severely damaged , stated that it would be " optimistically ... months " before the island was reopened to the public . The statue and Liberty Island reopened to the public on July 4 , 2013 . Ellis Island remained closed for repairs for several more months but reopened in late October 2013 . For part of October 2013 , Liberty Island was closed to the public due to the United States federal government shutdown of 2013 , along with other federally funded museums , parks , monuments , construction projects and buildings .

= = Access and attributes = =

= = = Location and tourism = = =

The statue is situated in Upper New York Bay on Liberty Island south of Ellis Island , which together comprise the Statue of Liberty National Monument . Both islands were ceded by New York to the federal government in 1800 . As agreed in an 1834 compact between New York and New Jersey that set the state border at the bay 's midpoint , the original islands remain New York territory despite their location on the New Jersey side of the state line . Liberty Island is one of the islands that are part of the borough of Manhattan in New York . Land created by reclamation added to the 2 @. @ 3 acres ( 0 @. @ 93 ha ) original island at Ellis Island is New Jersey territory .

No charge is made for entrance to the national monument , but there is a cost for the ferry service that all visitors must use , as private boats may not dock at the island . A concession was granted in 2007 to Statue Cruises to operate the transportation and ticketing facilities , replacing Circle Line , which had operated the service since 1953 . The ferries , which depart from Liberty State Park in Jersey City and Battery Park in Lower Manhattan , also stop at Ellis Island when it is open to the public , making a combined trip possible . All ferry riders are subject to security screening , similar to airport procedures , prior to boarding . Visitors intending to enter the statue 's base and pedestal must obtain a complimentary museum / pedestal ticket along with their ferry ticket . Those wishing to climb the staircase within the statue to the crown purchase a special ticket , which may be reserved up to a year in advance . A total of 240 people per day are permitted to ascend : ten per group , three groups per hour . Climbers may bring only medication and cameras ? lockers are provided for other items ? and must undergo a second security screening .

= = = Inscriptions , plaques , and dedications = = =

There are several plaques and dedicatory tablets on or near the Statue of Liberty .

A plaque on the copper just under the figure in front declares that it is a colossal statue representing Liberty , designed by Bartholdi and built by the Paris firm of Gaget , Gauthier et Cie ( Cie is the French abbreviation analogous to Co . ) .

A presentation tablet , also bearing Bartholdi 's name , declares the statue is a gift from the people of the Republic of France that honors " the Alliance of the two Nations in achieving the Independence of the United States of America and attests their abiding friendship . "

A tablet placed by the New York committee commemorates the fundraising done to build the pedestal .

The cornerstone bears a plaque placed by the Freemasons .

In 1903 , a bronze tablet that bears the text of Emma Lazarus 's sonnet , " The New Colossus " ( 1883 ) , was presented by friends of the poet . Until the 1986 renovation , it was mounted inside the pedestal ; today it resides in the Statue of Liberty Museum , in the base .

" The New Colossus " tablet is accompanied by a tablet given by the Emma Lazarus Commemorative Committee in 1977 , celebrating the poet 's life .

A group of statues stands at the western end of the island , honoring those closely associated with the Statue of Liberty . Two Americans ? Pulitzer and Lazarus ? and three Frenchmen ? Bartholdi , Eiffel , and Laboulaye ? are depicted . They are the work of Maryland sculptor Phillip Ratner .

= = = UNESCO World Heritage Site = = =

In 1984 , the Statue of Liberty was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site . The UNESCO " Statement of Significance " describes the statue as a " masterpiece of the human spirit " that " endures as a highly potent symbol ? inspiring contemplation , debate and protest ? of ideals such as liberty , peace , human rights , abolition of slavery , democracy and opportunity . "

= = = Physical characteristics = = =

= = = Depictions = = =

Hundreds of replicas of the Statue of Liberty are displayed worldwide . A smaller version of the statue , one @-@ fourth the height of the original , was given by the American community in Paris to that city . It now stands on the Île aux Cygnes , facing west toward her larger sister . A replica 30 feet ( 9 @. @ 1 m ) tall stood atop the Liberty Warehouse on West 64th Street in Manhattan for many years ; it now resides at the Brooklyn Museum . In a patriotic tribute , the Boy Scouts of America , as part of their Strengthen the Arm of Liberty campaign in 1949 ? 1952 , donated about two hundred replicas of the statue , made of stamped copper and 100 inches ( 2 @, @ 500 mm ) in height , to states and municipalities across the United States . Though not a true replica , the statue known as the Goddess of Democracy temporarily erected during the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 was similarly inspired by French democratic traditions ? the sculptors took care to avoid a direct imitation of the Statue of Liberty . Among other recreations of New York City structures , a replica of the statue is part of the exterior of the New York @-@ New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas .

As an American icon , the Statue of Liberty has been depicted on the country 's coinage and stamps . It appeared on commemorative coins issued to mark its 1986 centennial , and on New York 's 2001 entry in the state quarters series . An image of the statue was chosen for the American Eagle platinum bullion coins in 1997 , and it was placed on the reverse , or tails , side of the Presidential Dollar series of circulating coins . Two images of the statue 's torch appear on the current ten @-@ dollar bill . The statue 's intended photographic depiction on a 2010 forever stamp proved instead to be of the replica at the Las Vegas casino .

Depictions of the statue have been used by many regional institutions . Between 1986 and 2000 , New York State issued license plates featuring the statue . The Women 's National Basketball Association 's New York Liberty use both the statue 's name and its image in their logo , in which the torch 's flame doubles as a basketball . The New York Rangers of the National Hockey League depicted the statue 's head on their third jersey , beginning in 1997 . The National Collegiate Athletic Association 's 1996 Men 's Basketball Final Four , played at New Jersey 's Meadowlands Sports Complex , featured the statue in its logo . The Libertarian Party of the United States uses the statue in its emblem .

The statue is a frequent subject in popular culture . In music , it has been evoked to indicate support for American policies , as in Toby Keith 's song " Courtesy of the Red , White and Blue ( The Angry American ) " , and in opposition , appearing on the cover of the Dead Kennedys ' album *Bedtime for Democracy* , which protested the Reagan administration . In film , the torch is the setting for the climax of director Alfred Hitchcock 's 1942 movie *Saboteur* . The statue makes one of its most famous cinematic appearances in the 1968 picture *Planet of the Apes* , in which it is seen half @-@ buried in sand . It is knocked over in the science @-@ fiction film *Independence Day* and in *Cloverfield* the head is ripped off . In Jack Finney 's time @-@ travel novel *Time and Again* , the right arm of the statue , on display in the early 1880s in Madison Square Park , plays a crucial role . Robert Holdstock , consulting editor of *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* , wondered in 1979 @, @

Where would science fiction be without the Statue of Liberty ? For decades it has towered or crumbled above the wastelands of deserted [ E ] arth ? giants have uprooted it , aliens have found it curious ... the symbol of Liberty , of optimism , has become a symbol of science fiction 's pessimistic view of the future . "