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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Named for its last 18th century owner, Ellis Island came first into federal possession in 1800 as the site of gun batteries previously erected by the State of New York, batteries shortly superseded by the Fort Gibson of the War of 1812 period. When Fort Gibson was dismantled in 1861, a naval magazine was developed on the 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-acre island, which remained until 1890 when the island was given to the new Federal Bureau of Immigration for development as an Immigration Station. Ellis Island has a present area of 27.5 acres, most of it filled land within a Federally-owned area of approximately 48 acres, including both filled and submerged lands. There is a complex of about 32 brick and stucco buildings one, two and three stories high, located on two island that are separated by a Ferry Slip. There were at one time three separate islands numbered 1, 2, 3, but No. 2 (1899) and No. 3 built in 1906) were joined by fill in the 1920's. The largest complex of buildings is located on islands No. 3 and No. 2, and formed the contagious Disease Hospital Group. Ellis Island buildings contain approximately 513,000 square feet of floor space. S m

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RUCTION

The first depot buildings (of frame) were completed in 1892 - only to be destroyed in a disastrous fire five years later. Congressional Acts of 1897 and 1898 authorized the construction of the three brick, stone and ironwork structures that with the Power House are the nucleus of the Station complex that remains today on Island No. 1

On Island No. One, which is the original Ellis Island greatly enlarged, is the main immigration building, an impressive structure completed in 1900 but much modified in later years and enlarged by the addition of a third story to each wing. The great examination hall on the second floor is the most notable architectural feature on the island, with its handsome terra-cotta ceiling added in 1917. This hall also has the maximum historical interest, as it was the place where millions of future Americans were admitted to their new homeland. Attached to the main building by passageways are the kitchen and laundry building, part of the original group but also much modified, and the baggage and dormitory building built in 1908 with a third story added in 1913. Also on Island No. One are smaller structures, including a power house, a bakery and carpenter shop, crematory, and greenhouse.

From the main group of buildings on Island No. One a corridor leads to the ferry house, at the head of the slip between Islands No. One and Two. Behind the ferry house, which was rebuilt in 1935, is another immigrant building erected at the same time on recently filled land. Corridors lead from these buildings to the connected hospital structures on Islands Nos. Two and Three. At the head of the filled area between these islands is a recreation hall also built in 1935.

The Immigration Law of 1924 not only cut immigration sharply but also

	Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	🔀 20th Century
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Ellis Island was the New York Harbor gateway to the new world for more than 16 million immigrants between 1892 and 1954. By

Presidential proclamation of 1965 Ellis Island became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

With Castle Garden, the first Immigration Depot in the United States "preserved" as Castle Clinton National Monument, Ellis Island Immigration Station remains the most important (if not the only) such station left standing. As the immigrant control point for the Nation's largest port, the Ellis Island Station was host to 70% or more - upwards of 16 millions - of all those entering this country between 1892 and 1954. The peak year was 1907 when close to one million people were processed on the island.

EE INSTRUCTIONS

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE New York County New York FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

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Ellis Island - Statue of Liberty National Monument Page #2.

7. Description

called for the examination of prospective immigrants at American consulates overseas. Ellis Island thus lost the principle function for which it had been established. It became primarily a center for the assembly and deportation of aliens who had entered the United States illegally or had violated the terms of their admittance. Fewer and fewer new immigrants, all of whom now received their final inspection on the ships coming up the bay, were sent to Ellis Island because their papers were not in order or because they needed medical treatment. The great assemblage of buildings, once overcrowded sometimes almost beyond endurance, came to be half-empty. The station, increasingly expensive to operate in the light of its reduced functions, was finally closed in 1954.

After a long period of indecision as to its fate, during which a great variety of plans were presented, interest in Ellis Island because of its associations with the great drama of immigration grew. In 1965, by Presidential proclamation, it became a part of Statue of Liberty National Monument and was placed under the administration of the National Park Service.

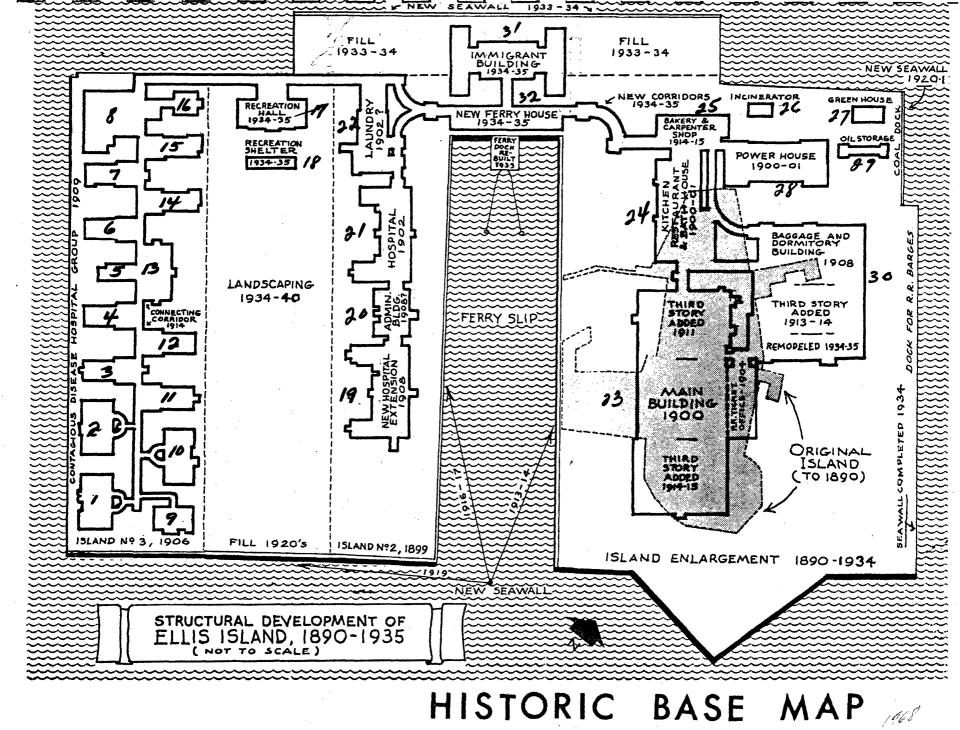
Ellis Island buildings have been without heat since 1954 and are rapidly becoming a mass of ruins. They also are being subjected to considerable vandalism. The open spaces of the Island, extensively landscaped in the late 1930's, have been untended, and are rapidly approaching jungle conditions. The seawall surrounding the Island, substantially constructed at intervals between 1913 and 1934, is generally in fair condition. Some superficial disintegration is apparent, particularly along the ferry slip.

For the LCS, the buildings will be listed below by islands, and keyed to the enclosed Historic Base Map (1968) which contains the buildings listed by their general use as of 1913.

- Island No. 3 (1906) 1 - Isolation Ward K
- 2 Isolation Ward J
- 3 Measles Ward F
- 4 Measles Ward B
- 5 Kitchen
- 6 Measles Ward A
- 7 Measles Ward E
- 8 Power House Supply Building
- 9 Staff House
- 10 Isolation Ward L



STATE Form 10-300a UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (July 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE New York COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES New York **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM** FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Continuation Sheet) (Number all entries) Ellis Island - Statue of Liberty National Monument Page #3 Description 7. d 11 - Measles Ward H 12 - Measles Ward D APR 1 5 1976 13 - Administration Building 14 - Measles Ward C 15 - Measles Ward G NATIONAL 16 - Mortuary REGISTER 17 - Recreation Hall (1934-35) 18 - Recreation Shelter (1934-35) Island No. 2 (1899) 19 - New Hospital Extension (1908) 20 - Administration Building (1908) 21 - Hospital (1902) 22 - Phychopathic Ward - Power House - Laundry Building Island No. 3 (1890-1934) 23 - Main Building (1900-1915) 24 - Kitchen - Restaurant - Bath House (1900-1901) 25 - Bakery & Carpenter Shop (1914-1915) 26 - Incinerator 27 - Green House 28 - Power House (1900 - 1901) 29 - Oil Storage 30 - Baggage & Dormitory Building (1908 - 1935) 31 - Immigrant Building (1934-1935) 32 - New Ferry House (1934-1935) Significance: 1st Order Acreage: 27.5 Recommended Treatment of Above: Preservation/Restoration Preliminary Cost Estimate: 20-50 million dollars Photograph enclosed



MP-ELIS-2

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Statue of Liberty National Monument encompasses Liberty (until 1956 Bedloe's) Island and Ellis Island\* (just north of Liberty) in upper New York Harbor about two miles southwest of Battery Park on Manhattan Island. Both are flat, sea-level islands located close to the Jersey City Shore in New Jersey, in that part of the channel known as the Jersey Flats. Liberty Island covers 12.7 acres above mean low water while Ellis Island covers 27.5 acres.

The Statue of Liberty, conceived and designed by sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi in the shape of a goddess upholding the torch of liberty, was constructed in France between 1875 and 1884 and is the principal historic resource on Liberty Island. The copper statue arrived in New York on June 17, 1885, in 214 specially constructed wooden cases and was dedicated on October 28, 1886. It rises 152 feet above a massive pedestal of concrete faced with granite which is located in the center of the eleven-point starshaped Fort Wood, built on the island in 1811 and rebuilt in 1844. 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.

Ground was broken for the statue's pedestal foundation in April, 1883, under the supervision of General Charles P. Stone, U.S. Army Engineers. The 65-foot concrete foundation was constructed in the center of Fort Wood. The pedestal, which was designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt, rises 89 feet above the foundation and is 42 feet 8 inches, tapering as it rises. It is constructed of 45 courses of granite backed by a concrete pillar. Within the walls of the pedestal there are six floor levels connected by a series of stairs. An observation platform surrounds the pedestal at the sixth level. When the pedestal was built, provisions were made for an elevator, although the first one was not installed until 1909. Now housed in structural additions at the base of the pedestal within the walls of Fort Wood is the American Museum of Immigration which opened in 1972.

The steel framework of the statue was designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. As the pedestal was constructed, four large horizontal iron girders were built into the walls at the 29-foot level. Extending upward were tie beams that connected to another set of four horizontal girders that formed a pylon bearing the weight of the whole structure. From this central pylon extended a maze of smaller angle iron beams which supported the over 300 copper sheets (3/32" thick) of which the statue was formed. Each sheet was backed by iron strips which were fastened to the angle irons so that each series was supported independently.

Inside the central pylon starting at the sixth level a double spiral stairway, coupled with a nonspiral portion, contains 171 steps providing access to and from the crown. The crown has 25 windows and a platform from which visitors can view the harbor. Access to the arm and torch is by a 42-foot ladder adjacent to the crown area. The arm is presently closed to the public.

\*The National Register nomination form for Ellis Island was approved by The Keeper of the National Register on October 22, 1976.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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### SPECIFIC DATES 1875-1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederic Auguste Bartholdi

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It is both the physical and symbolic characteristics of the Statue of Liberty that have made it universally significant. Overlooking the waters of upper New York Harbor at the main gateway to America, the Statue of Liberty was the tallest figure ever to be sculptured by man at that time as well as the largest piece of copper statuary in history. It is also unique among the world's monuments for its commemoration of the human ideal of liberty and has served as a constant symbol of freedom and opportunity in America for newcomers to the United States.

French historian Edward de Laboulaye in 1865 suggested that a joint memorial to the French and American friendship and alliance be built and presented to the United States on the first centennial of American independence in 1876. Sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi conceived of the memorial as a colossal statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" and specified that it should stand on Bedloe's (now Liberty) Island in New York Harbor.

The techniques of construction used by Bartholdi and his associates to give the statue its unprecedented colossal proportions are enough to give it a significant place in the history of art. Bartholdi progressively enlarged over 300 plaster of Paris sections of the statue until they reached the desired size. Latticed wooden moulds were then made for each section. The 3/32" copper sheets were hand hammered over each mould before being fitted together to form the statue. The iron framework, designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel who later designed and built the Eiffel Tower, also represents a noteworthy engineering accomplishment.

The statue was to be erected through the joint efforts of the two nations; the French to give the statue proper and the people of the United States to provide the pedestal. When Bartholdi's cost estimate for the statue proved too low, Laboulaye organized the Franco-American Union which made the first public appeal for funds. When the fund proved inadequate to finish the entire statue, a lottery was organized for the benefit of the fund. The statue was completed and sent to the United States in 1885.

While the response of the people of France had been enthusiastic, apathy characterized the American reaction. By the end of 1876, no money had been collected to build the pedestal. Although ground was broken on Bedloe's Island in April 1883, the excavating was delayed due to a lack of funds. The pedestal had already been designed by the distinguished American architect Richard Morris Hunt, but only 15 feet of the 89-foot pedestal had been built by December, 1884.

It was through the efforts of Joseph Pulitzer and the New York <u>World</u> that needed funds were finally raised through public subscription. On October 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty

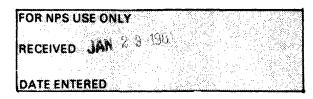
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In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this pro		ate
Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to be	sent the nomination to the State Review Board and	tto
evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National Provide State in the second state is the second sta	opman State Doct	110
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	and a start	
Assistant Diractor	a server pi	
TITLE Cultural Resources	DATE 1-15-81	
R NPS USE ONLY		
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NA	TIONAL REGISTER Documentation	
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Uni Di Deebe Jor Motila Leeper 1 Nat 1.	Jalisty DATE 5 1.9 1041	
DIRECTOR. OFFICE OF ARCHBOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVAT		
TEST:	DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Statue of Liberty ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Fort Wood, with stone walls averaging 24 feet high and rougly 30 feet thick, was chosen as the site of the Statue of Liberty in 1877. It was originally constructed in 1811 as a part of the defense of New York Harbor. In 1844, major repairs and alterations to the eleven-point-star-shaped fort consisted of a new granite face to the scarp (fhree feet in depth), musketry slots, and deep parapet coping.

Work to accommodate the American Museum of Immigration was begun in 1962. This work, finished in 1972, resulted in the remodeling of the entrance to the pedestal through Fort Wood and the building of an additional three levels around the base of the pedestal. The statue entrance lobby, stairs, public restrooms, statue story exhibits, and the American Museum of Immigration situated above mechanical rooms, heating and cooling plants, offices, and staff work rooms are now part of Fort Wood and the pedestal.

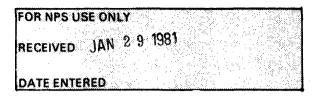
Liberty Island is a developed area with a landscaped mall, trees, hedges, and broad, concrete, slate and asphalt walks including a perimeter walk encircling the public area of the islandslow the public area includes roughly the southern two-thirds of the island. Primary improvements were completed in the mid-1950's after the removal of World War II military structures.

#### MANAGEMENT EXCLUSIONS:

Within the Statue of Liberty National Monument there are several structures which do not meet National Register criteria. These buildings are of more recent construction and bear no relationship to the reasons for which the statue was included in the National Park System. These exclusions include several modern administration and concession buildings, living quarters for park personnel, and docking facilities. It is recognized that these structures cerve a management purpose and occasionally require alterations necessitated by a change in their function. Modifications of these supportive buildings will reflect a compatible architectural style and will not intrude on the historic resources of the site. In addition, the recently remodeled administrative and exhibit areas in the base of the statue do not contribute to the significance of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. They include but are not limited to: the entrance, office, storage, and National Park Service exhibit areas, and the American Museum of Immigration.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



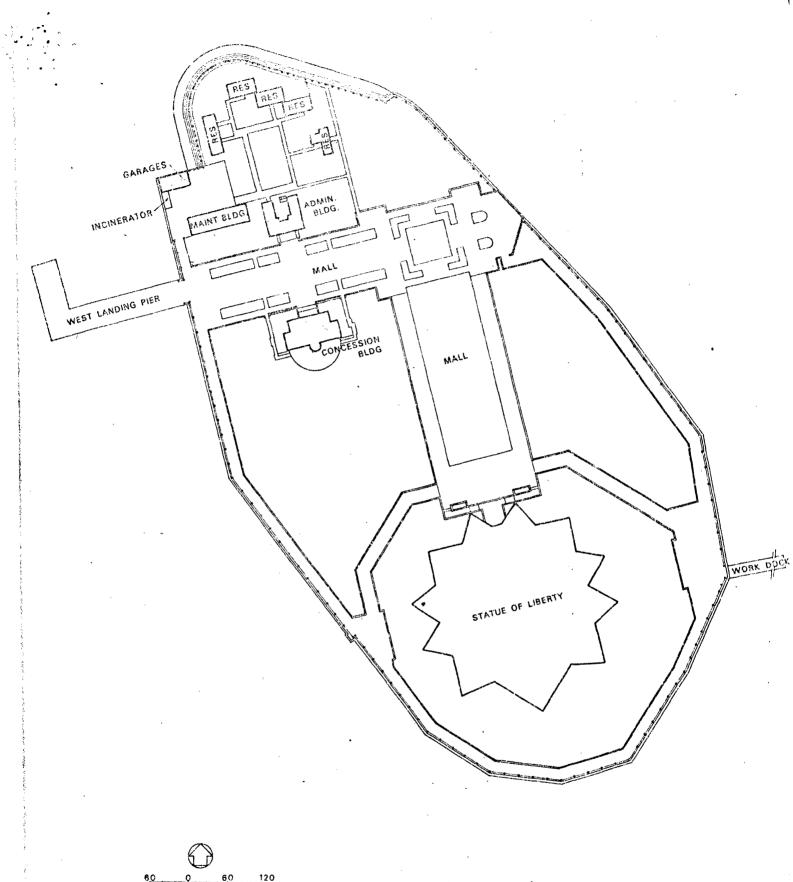
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

was dedicated. President Grover Cleveland, accepting the monument on behalf of the American people, promised, "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected."

Though of secondary importance in comparison with the statue, the old structure of Fort Wood which now serves as its outer base is significant in its own right. Fort Wood was named after Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, a hero of the defense of Fort Erie in the War of 1812. Built between 1806 and 1811, it was one of a series of harbor fortifications, including Castle Clinton in Battery Park and Castle Williams on Governor's Island, that were planned and built by Colonel Jonathan Williams for the defense of New York. Today's Fort Wood remains as one of the outstanding examples of the non-bastioned star forts of the post-Revolutionary Period.



SCALE 1''=60'

EXISTING CONDITIONS LIBERTY ISLAND STATUE OF LIBERTY NATIONAL MONUMENT NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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