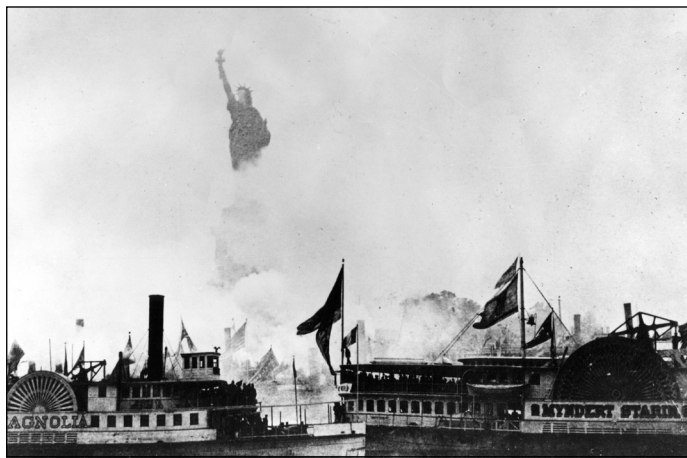


STATUE OF LIBERTY 135TH ANNIVERSARY: 1886-2021

LADY LIBERTY

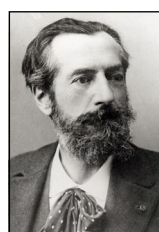


National Park Service

The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor during the dedication Oct. 28, 1886.

The Statue of Liberty is born

In 1865, seeking to commemorate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence, celebrate the close relationship between France and America and moved by the recent abolition of slavery in the U.S., Frenchman Deouard de Laboulaye proposed the idea of presenting a monumental gift to the U.S., according to the Ellis Island Foundation.



Frederic Auguste Bartholdi

In attendance when de Laboulaye made his proclamation was sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. Bartholdi designed the gift — Liberty Enlightening the World. The statue of a woman, “her crown representing light with its spikes evoking sun rays extending out to the world; the tablet, inscribed with July 4, 1776 in Roman numerals, noting American independence; to symbolize the end of slavery, Bartholdi placed a broken shackle and chains at the Statue’s foot,” according to the organization. The chains and shackle cannot be seen from below the statue.

Funding the monument

France used public fees, various forms of entertainment and a lottery to raise funds. To finance the pedestal in the U.S., theatrical events, art exhibitions, auctions and prize fights were held, according to the organization.



Joseph Pulitzer



Emma Lazarus

Poet Emma Lazarus wrote her famous sonnet “The New Colossus” in 1883 for an auction.

Joseph Pulitzer encouraged readers of his paper, The New York World, to donate and print each of their names. The effort saw 120,000 people donate \$100,000 to complete funding for the pedestal, the organization said.

Building Lady Liberty

Faced with construction of such a large copper structure, Bartholdi got a helping hand from Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, just prior to creating his famed French tower. Eiffel designed the iron pylon and framework that would keep the statue upright.

In 1884, Bartholdi completed the statue, which at 151 feet, 1 inch high, stood tall above the rooftops of Paris.

Voyage to the U.S.

To cross the Atlantic Ocean aboard the Isere, Lady Liberty was disassembled into 350 pieces and packed in 214 crates, arriving in New York Harbor on June 17, 1885.

The pedestal was completed in April of the following year and the statue was erected. It was dedicated on Oct. 28, 1886, by President Grover Cleveland in front of thousands of spectators.

Nearly 12 million immigrants passed through the 12-acre Ellis Island while it was in operation from 1892 to 1954.



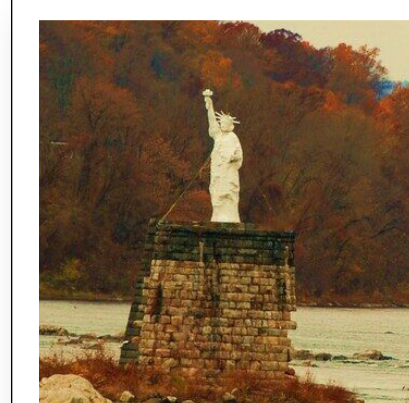
“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.”

— “The New Colossus,”
by Emma Lazarus

Lady Liberty Fast Facts

- **Height:** The statue is 151 feet, 1 inch but the pedestal adds an additional 154 more feet. Lady Liberty from heel to top of head is 111 feet, 1 inch.
- **Other measurements:** Lady Liberty’s index finger is 8 feet long, her hand is 16 feet, 5 inches long, her nose is 4 feet, 6 inches long and each eye is 2 feet, 6 inches wide.
- **Weight:** 62,000 pounds (31 tons) of copper; 250,000 pounds (125 tons) of framework, 54 million pounds of concrete in the foundation.
- **Copper thickness:** 3/32 of an inch, the thickness of two pennies placed together.
- **Wind sway:** 50 mph winds cause the statue to sway up to 3 inches and the torch up to 6 inches.
- **Direction:** The statue faces southeast in symmetry with the placement of Fort Wood and how people would see the statue while entering the harbor.
- **Crown:** 25 windows and seven rays make up the crown.
- **The tablet:** Reads in Roman numerals “July 4, 1776” — the date of American Independence. (JULY IV MDC-CLXXVI)
- **The torch:** The current torch was a replacement of the original and installed in 1986. At that time, the original torch was moved to the pedestal lobby and in 2018, it was relocated to the “Torch Gallery” in the Statue of Liberty Museum. The 1986 version is copper, covered in 24 karat gold leaf. Sunlight reflects off the gold during the daytime and floodlights light the torch by reflection at night.

SOURCE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Atlas Obscura

Lady Liberty does not stand alone

There are more than 100 replicas of the Statue of Liberty around the world, including more than 30 in France and five in Paris.

Several replicas also exist in the United States, including one at the corner of Mill and Grove streets in New

Castle, erected in 1951 by the Boy Scouts.

A naturalization reenactment ceremony was held at the statue on July 4, 1976, during the country’s bicentennial celebration.

The New Castle statue is 8-feet, 4-inches tall and known as a Little

Sister of Lady Liberty. It was refurbished in 2002.

Also in Pennsylvania is Lady Liberty on the Susquehanna River, shown at left, a 33.5-foot tall mixed media replica that can be spotted on an old bridge pier near Dauphin.

SOURCES: VISIT LAWRENCE COUNTY, SUSQUEHANNA LIFE MAGAZINE, NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, FRANCE