

Corps restores Lady Liberty's image

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Photo: Vince Elias

When millions of weary exiles reached the portal of the New World after weeks at sea, a tall, beautiful, and dignified lady – The Statue of Liberty, greeted them. Still today, she is a living symbol of political freedom and democracy. The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping to restore her image.

The district was asked by the National Park Service to repair the Liberty Island seawall, “in the shadow of the great statue,” said Anthony Ciorra, Project Manager, USACE, New York District.

Liberty Island is where the national monument stands. The 12.7-acre island sits in the Upper Bay portion of New York Harbor and is 1-5/8 land miles off of the southern tip of Manhattan Island.

History of Liberty Island

Liberty Island has a long history. Over the centuries it's been called different names including "Minnissais" by the Mohegan Indians, "Great Oyster," "Love Island," "Bedloo's Island," and today "Liberty Island" (just to name a few) and has had various owners such as Holland, England, France, and the United States.

The island has served different purposes – as defense fortification to protect New York Harbor in the 19th century, as a temporary quarantine station during the smallpox epidemic of 1756, as a refuge for Tory sympathizers during England's occupation of New York City, and also as a summer home by a private owner.

In the late 19th century the island was chosen to be the home for the Statue of Liberty, a gift of international friendship from the people of France.

The light green patina skinned lady stands 305 feet tall from the ground to the tip of her torch that she holds proudly in her right hand. The torch when lit has a brightness equivalent to 2,500 times the effect of full moonlight.

In her left arm, cradled against her 35-foot wide waist, she holds a tablet with the inscription July 4, 1776, the date of America's independence,.

On her head sits a crown with seven rays pointing upward and 25 windows. The windows symbolize the gemstones of Earth and the seven rays represent heaven's rays shining over the seven seas and continents of the world.

She stands on an 89-foot high granite pedestal that sits in the courtyard of the star-shaped walls of old Fort Wood, constructed earlier as part of the harbor's defense fortification.

Each year, millions from around the world come to visit her. Some go up into her crown, either by elevator or by climbing 354 steps, to experience the spectacular view of the New York Harbor.

Restoring Lady Liberty's seawall

The National Park Service (NPS) is the present caretaker for the Statue of Liberty and her island. On June 12, 2003, the NPS signed an agreement with the Corps New York District to have them repair 340 linear feet of the 3,119 foot granite-faced vertical concrete Liberty Island seawall that was originally constructed in the early 19th century and surrounds most of the island. The repairs took place at locations where granite stones had fallen out of the seawall.

On September 29, 2003, the construction contract for the seawall repair was awarded to Perello Inc. of Lake Hapatcong, New Jersey. Construction began in April 2004 and ended in June 2004. "We repaired the seawall on the north and south side of the Liberty Island NPS shuttle dock located in the Southeast section of the island," said Ciorra. "We did this by first hydro blasting the exposed concrete on the seawall, in areas where seawall blocks have dislodged, in order to remove algae, moss and dirt, and then manually removed old grout and loose disintegrated concrete. We also replaced the disintegrated concrete with Sulphate-Resistant Air Entrained Concrete that is resistant to the marine environment. We took the 36 existing large granite blocks that dislodged, cleaned them, and grouted and reset them back into the wall with mortar."

“In addition, the entire 340 linear feet of seawall was cleaned and repointed beyond where the actual stones were dislodged and reset,” said Brian Jackson, Project Engineer, USACE, New York District. “The stones that were dislodged and reset were actually only a small portion of the entire length of the wall.”

Ciorra said, “The project team was very enthusiastic about working on the Liberty Island seawall. There is an added motivation for delivering a high quality product because we are working on a national treasure.”



Photo: Brian Jackson, USACE [📖](#)

Revised Appendix D of ER 1105-2-100, Economic and Social Considerations

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The HQUSACE Planning Community of Practice has completed the revision of Appendix D, Economic and Social Considerations, of ER 1105-2-100 (Planning Guidance). The revision was undertaken to incorporate new policies and procedures issued after 2000. The [appendix](#) (pdf file) can be found at the HQUSACE [official publications page](#). [📖](#)