

The Historic Trilogy

The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island Immigration Station and the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal each have their own tales to tell. Together, they offer a wondrous three-part story of the immigrants' first glimpses of, and experiences in, the new world.

Pulling into New York Harbor must have been an awesome experience for immigrants. After the trauma of leaving homes and families, spending weeks on the Atlantic Ocean, the last leg of the journey was finally near!

The sight of the **Statue of Liberty** welcoming them was the ultimate confirmation that their ship had entered New York Harbor. So powerful is her presence, one immigrant exclaimed he "... thought she was one of the seven wonders of the world!" Fittingly, the bronze plaque at the base of the statue reads:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*
Emma Lazarus

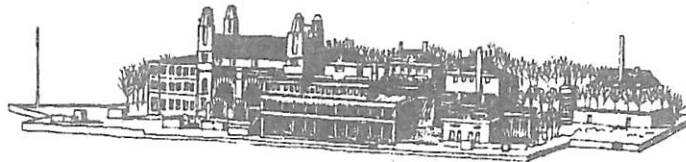
The **Statue of Liberty** was a gift from the people of France, given as a symbol of admiration of the American democratic ideal. **Edouard de Laboulaye**, a French historian, proposed the presentation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of American independence. The sculptor, **Auguste Bartholdi**, traveled to America to submit the idea to **President Ulysses S. Grant** and to choose a site. As he sailed into the New York Harbor, he knew he had found the perfect place.

In 1876, with the assistance of **Gustave Eiffel**, construction of the bronze lady began. The United State's task was to provide the statue's foundation and pedestal.

Hungarian immigrant and newspaper publisher, **Joseph Pulitzer**, helped raise the final \$100,000. In response to his editorial, adults and children across the country sent nickels, dimes and quarters.

The statue was officially unveiled on **October 28, 1886** by **President Grover Cleveland**.

After passing the **Statue of Liberty**, the end of the immigrant's journey was in sight with only one more major obstacle to overcome. Half a mile beyond the **Statue of Liberty** lay the **Ellis Island Immigration Station**. It was here that their fate would be decided. Would they or would they not be allowed to enter the **United States of America**?



Ellis Island Immigration Station was the principal immigration station in the United States from 1892 until 1954. Between 1900 and 1914, immigration was at a flood tide. **Ellis Island** staff processed 5,000-7,000 people per day. It is estimated that over 12 million immigrants entered the **United States** through **Ellis Island**.

Ships bringing immigrants to the **United States** offered first class, second class, and steerage accommodations. With a few exceptions, only steerage passengers were processed on **Ellis Island**.

Here, the new immigrant endured a thorough questioning, medical examinations and a final checking of their papers. Failure at any step could lead to detention or deportation.

Once declared "clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to land," the immigrants could embark on the last leg of their journey. With American currency and admittance papers in hand and, for many, train tickets pinned to their clothes, immigrants boarded barges waiting to take them to the mainland.

Two-thirds of those passengers processed at **Ellis Island** landed at the **Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal** in **Jersey City**. Here they were led to the trains that would take them to their new homes.

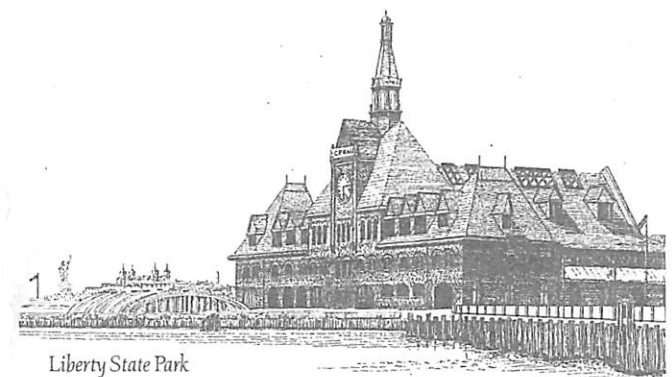
The **Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal**, which stands at the north end of **Liberty State Park**, was built in 1889. Between 1912 and 1914, a double-decked ferry shed and the present **Busch-type** train sheds were added. It was the greatest concentration of freight and commuter rail facilities in the **New York Harbor** area.

From 1890 - 1915, tens of thousands of daily commuters were transported on more than a hundred ferry boat crossings to and from the **CRRNJ Terminal**. **Ellis Island** immigrants increased this traffic by several thousands each day. For them, the **CRRNJ Terminal** was the **Gateway to America**.

In the 1950's, the opening of the **Hudson River** tunnels and bridges and the decline of immigration hastened the end of many of **New Jersey's** railroads. The **CRRNJ** declared bankruptcy in 1967 and the **Terminal** closed its doors. In 1968, the **Terminal** and adjacent waterfront land were purchased with state and federal funds. Restoration work began in 1976.

Now partially restored and the cornerstone of **Liberty State Park**, the **CRRNJ Terminal** is the focus of many community and statewide special events. Interpretive exhibits and programs assist the visitor in understanding the rich history of the area.

And . . . as if reliving history, ferries once again transport passengers between the **Statue of Liberty**, **Ellis Island** and the **CRRNJ Terminal**.



Liberty State Park

1661	Jensen's Ferry (Communipaw-Manhattan)
1700	
1776	British capture the American fort at Paulus Hook
1783	British relinquish Fort
1800	
1836	Morris Canal completed
1800-1840	American Industrial Revolution
1849	CRRNJ formed
1864	First Terminal built
1860-1865	Civil War
1886	Statue of Liberty dedicated
1889	Present Terminal built
1892	Ellis Island Immigration Station opened
1900	
1912-1914	Terminal expanded
1914-1918	World War I
1929	Depression begins
1940-1945	World War II
1954	Ellis Island Immigration Station closed
1967	CRRNJ declares bankruptcy
1975	Terminal added to State & National Registers of Historic Places
1976	Restoration of Terminal begun/Liberty State Park officially opens
1986	Centennial of Statue of Liberty
1989	Centennial of CRRNJ Terminal
1992	Centennial of Ellis Island Immigration Station
2000	

Visitor Information

Liberty State Park

New Jersey's first and largest urban state park. Open year round. Facilities and services include a Visitor's Center, Interpretive Center, the historic CRRNJ Terminal, education programs, exhibits, special events, ferry service to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Liberty Walk, Liberty Landing Marina, Liberty Science Center, walking trails and picnic areas. Tel: (201) 915-3440.

Statue of Liberty

Open daily (except December 25). Hours seasonal. Call for information. Tel: (212) 363-3200.

Ellis Island

Open daily (except December 25). Hours seasonal. Offers Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Immigrant Wall of Honor, tours, café, and gift shop. General Information: (212) 363-3206.

Ferry Service

Ellis and Liberty Islands are accessible only by boat. Ferries run from Liberty State Park, New Jersey and Battery Park, Manhattan. For information and schedules: (877) 523-9849.

Fees

There is no admission fee to Liberty State Park, Ellis Island or the Statue of Liberty. There is a fee for the ferry and ferry parking. Call (877) 523-9849 for current rates.

Interpretive Programs

Liberty State Park offers environmental and historical education programs for all age groups, teacher workshops and public programs.

Tel: (201) 915-3409 - Environmental
(201) 915-3412 - Historical

Directions

Located in Jersey City, NJ. Take Exit 14B off the NJ Turnpike and follow signs into the park.



Liberty State Park
200 Morris Pesin Drive
Jersey City, NJ 07305
(201) 915-3440



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The Statue of Liberty

Ellis Island

The CRRNJ Terminal

