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Save America's Treasures

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SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES



WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SAVE ELLIS ISLAND!
AND THE
STATUE OF LIBERTY/ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION

JULY 17, 2000

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FAX (202) 362-6121

Inc.

Harold Gray

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18" deep is too much

(cabs = 24" - faucet
needs 2")

30" wide okay

depth up to 12" okay
10" better for disposal



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STATUE OF LIBERTY / ELLIS ISLAND
NATIONAL MONUMENT

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS AT ELLIS ISLAND

JULY 17, 2000

Thank you very much. I remember well when I was here last spring at the Ellis Island awards ceremony. It was so moving and I learned so much from my tour. You know, in 1997 the National Trust for Historic Preservation put Ellis Island on its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Today we are taking another step forward in making this Island of history one of the best cared for places in America. And I want to thank all of you for making that possible.

All of us owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dick Moe, Bobbie Greene, and everyone at the Trust for saving these pieces of our heritage and inspiring all Americans to do the same. I'd like to thank Bob Stanton, Diane Dayson, Cynthia Garrett, and all the extraordinary staff at the National Park Service for their stewardship of our most cherished national treasures.

I'm glad City Council Member Kathryn Freed, whose district includes Ellis Island, could join us here today. And I want to thank Senator Graham for his dedication to this site and to the National Park Service. I am delighted that Adele Graham is with us as well. Her own commitment to preservation earned her an award from the National Trust, and I'm sure has helped inspire her husband to keep up his work in this area!

Senator Lautenberg, long known as a key legislator, fought hard in Congress for the money to begin saving these historic structures. And Congresswoman Lowey, as a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, worked effectively with him for those stabilization funds. We are all grateful to them.

I also want to thank Joe Moran and Circle Line, for helping to bring us here this afternoon – and Jesse Green and Neil Braunstein [Brawn-steen] for entertaining us so well with their music. I know there are members of the Save America's Treasures Committee who are here with us today, and I want to thank you for helping preserve this historic site and so many others across the country. I am delighted that we have some students from the Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens with us today who are working with the Park everyday to make sure Ellis Island is here for all young people in the future. [Would you all please stand?]

Now, many of you received some information about the My History is America's History Project. And I want to thank the National Endowment for the Humanities and Genealogy.Com for encouraging us all to learn about our own family heritage as a millennium project.

Certainly all of us come here thinking about the paths our relatives took to get here. My great-grandmother Isabella came to America with seven children, eager to be reunited with my great grandfather, Jonathan, who a year before, had left their poor coal-mining village in England and arrived through Castle Clinton in the Port of New York on July 8, 1881.

When the ferry pulled into the harbor and I walked through these hallowed grounds, I could not help but imagine what it was like for the millions and millions of people who made that long journey over the Atlantic, often with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, a few crumpled up bills, and pockets full of hopes and dreams. I imagine what it was like for young people like 15 year-old Annie Moore, who was the first person to pass through Ellis Island on January 1, 1892. In honor of her place in history, the New York authorities at the immigration station gave her a 10-dollar gold piece.

Almost a hundred years later, her daughter, then in her 80's, came from Arizona for the opening of the genealogical center, and presented a symbolic \$10 bill to kick off the fundraising campaign. I am very pleased that Annie Moore's great grandson, Ed Wood is here today, along with his wife Barbara. Ed, please stand in honor of your brave great grandmother who led the long line of immigrants who have passed through this island on the road to freedom and citizenship.

This is my 41st Save America's Treasure's visit in the last two years. As Dick said, this is a public-private partnership that we started back in 1998 as part of the White House Millennium Council. We were looking for ways to honor the past and imagine the future as we entered this new century. And we knew there were so many places that define us, and yet are in danger of being forgotten or falling into disrepair.

In the last few years, many of us here have literally traveled the country by bus, train, plane, and foot to save the stories of America, which live on today in such diverse places as the pueblo of Acoma [Ah-ca-ma] in New Mexico. The Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles. The home of Irish immigrant Kate Mullany in Troy. The Star Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian Museum. The Chess Records Office and Studio in Chicago. Louis Armstrong's Archives in Queens. And the site of the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls.

Through Save America's Treasures, we already have dedicated \$60 million in federal grants and almost \$50 million in private donations to historic sites and collections. And I am pleased that our latest round of federal grants honors our immigrant past by working to save Angel Island Immigration Station in California, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City, and, of course, Ellis Island.

When the two million people come through the museum here each year, I'm told that many just stare with tears in their eyes, as they think about their family members who arrived in the great hall, scared and excited, hearing languages they had never heard before and seeing foods they had never eaten. 355 babies were born here. Many immigrants were cared for in these hospitals by the health care professionals of the Marine Hospital Service, the precursor to the Public Health Service. Most eventually left through the Ferry Building to my right, ending one journey, and beginning another in their new country.

Bob Hope explained what it was like to arrive here with his mother and brothers at the age of five. He said, "It was early morning. I was wearing knickers and a cap, and it was cold. My nose was running. And I remember looking up at my mother after we passed through inspection. We smiled and hugged each other because we had achieved this great thing, this rite of passage."

When we save Ellis Island, we save the memories of all the immigrants throughout history who have built America with their hearts, minds, and hands. I know that there are some here today who came through Ellis Island themselves. Bridget McMenamin [Mic-men-a-min] came from Ireland in 1952 – sponsored by her aunt. George Nestor was a ten-year-old from Greece when he came and he later served our country with medal-winning distinction in World War II – helping to liberate Europe. His sacrifices enabled Alex Falk to come from Kiev at the age of 16 with his mother and step-father; Fred Cannizzaro [Can-niz-zere-oh] to come from Italy at age five with his father and younger sister; and Nella Jaffee to come here as a young mother with her husband and six-week old son. Could Bridget, George, Alex, Fred and Nella all please stand?

Now, when Nella's family arrived, her husband just happened to cough. So he was placed in the hospital for observation, and they stayed two weeks. Nella still has what's left of the blanket they gave her to protect her baby son, and she has generously agreed to donate it to the museum.

When we save Ellis Island, we save more than a place. We save a powerful idea that from our diversity comes our greatest strength. We save a symbol of freedom that beckons to people the world over who are willing to risk their lives to breathe free, to worship as they choose, and build a better future for their children.

We are a nation of immigrants, many of whom trace their heritage to this very spot. But whether we entered at Ellis Island or Angel Island, whether we came by choice or coercion or necessity, and whether we are first generation or 12th generation Americans, all of us are connected by a thread of history that we must preserve and pass on. Ellis Island is being restored today because so many of you understood that. There was a time when this historic Island looked like it would be abandoned for the ages.

But, in 1965, President Johnson took the first steps to protect Ellis Island by placing it under the care of the National Park Service. In 1982, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation was created and began to raise \$500 million to start preserving Ellis Island and to restore the Statue of Liberty in time for its 100th anniversary in 1986. This effort is the largest private historic restoration in U.S. history. After the Main Building was restored, the Immigration Museum opened in 1990. I want to thank Foundation president Steve Briganti, chairman William May and the other trustees who are here today for continuing their work.

Last year, we gave a Save America's Treasures grant of almost \$1.2 million to restore the Ferry Building, where immigrants who had passed their inspection waited to catch a ferry to Manhattan and begin life in America. I want to thank Governor Whitman, the New Jersey State Legislature, and the Save Ellis Island! Foundation, chaired by Finn Casperson, for providing all the funds to match the federal grant.

But, as work got under way, it was clear that more money was needed. And so I am very pleased to announce today that the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures not only met, but exceeded our goal, by raising an additional \$430,000 to save the inside of the Ferry Building. And I want to thank everyone whose generosity made that possible, including major gifts from Sven Lindblad and the Traveler's Conservation Foundation, and the Discovery Channel and its president Judith McHale. Important contributions also came from Ruth Usem [You-sem], Iris Martin, Claudine Bacher [Baker], Patti Kenner, Betsy Cohn [Cone], Hannah Kamin [Kay-min], Rosalind Robbins, and Keith Ferrazzi. Could all of these individuals and organizations please stand? Thank you!

I am also pleased to announce a new Save America's Treasures grant of \$500,000 to help restore the Hospital Laundry and Outbuilding, where many of the support services for the large hospital complex were housed. Once again, New Jersey and the Save Ellis Island! Foundation are demonstrating their strong commitment, providing matching funds to preserve the entire building.

Now, when you walk around Ellis Island, it is painfully obvious that far more buildings need a lot of help – including the 29 buildings here on the South Side. And so I want to thank the members of Congress here, as well as the state and private funders, for ensuring that these historic buildings will finally be stabilized and, hopefully, one day, restored to their full glory.

With the commitments we make today, we are promising the American people that Ellis Island will never become a casualty of our indifference or inaction. We cannot afford to lose Ellis Island, for if we do, we will lose part of our collective memory, and forget the lessons that must still guide us today.

When I was here last spring we were engaged in the war in Kosovo and I had recently been to Fort Dix to welcome the first group of Kosovar refugees from Macedonia. The Army general in charge told me that when he saw all these old women coming off the plane with scarves on their heads, he was reminded of his grandmother who came from Ukraine. He thought to himself, "This is their Ellis Island."

Because like the men and women who came here seeking a better life, we are not alone in time. We have a responsibility to our children to teach them about the struggles and sacrifices made by their grandparents, great grandparents, and all those who came before them. We have a responsibility to encourage them to be caretakers of their family history – and our shared history.

I'm told that American students have already raised \$7 million to restore the Island by holding bake sales, car washes, walk-a-thons, jog-a-thons, read-a-thons and one group even sold a quilt it made. One student from Rhode Island said it best: "If you feel strongly about your country, you should support anything that represents it."

After all, if one stops and thinks about the gifts we have to give to our children, the greatest ones are not the tangible items, but the intangible values that define us as a people. So, I hope we pass on our commitment to respect each other, and treasure the diversity that has made America such a unique civilization. I hope we will pass on our values of freedom and justice. I hope we learn from the mistakes of the past and forever resist those who would scapegoat immigrants, demonize those who are different, or deny the rights and responsibilities of America to those who continue to come to our shores legally. And I hope we pass on the fundamental belief that all our families had when they arrived in this country, the belief that every generation can do better than the last.

And if we do that, we will not only honor the past. We will not only imagine the future. We will create a future worthy of the men, women, and children who made that courageous journey through this "Golden Door," risking their lives to create the country we are proud to call our own today.

Thank you, and God bless you all.



WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

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67805

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FROM: Ellen LovellDATE: 7/7/00Number of Pages (Including Cover): 2

MESSAGE:

WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

708 JACKSON PLACE, NW

WASHINGTON, DC 20503

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CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PO Box 001
TRENTON NJ 08625-0001

Memorandum

To: Lisa Singleton *Mada Fielman*
From: Maribeth Inverso
Date: 07/07/00
Re: Ellis Island Check Presentation

Tues. July 11,
Governor Whitman will be presenting a check to Ellis Island next ~~Thursday, July 13, 2000~~. Due to Senator Lautenberg's interest in the restoration of Ellis Island, the Governor requests his presence at the event.

If Senator Lautenberg is able to attend, I would like to include him in the speaking program. However, I will need to know by the end of the day in order to make the necessary adjustments. The program will begin at 1:45 p.m. on Ellis Island in front of the flagpole.

Please contact my office as soon as possible with a response. If I am not available, feel free to ask for Brett Kendig who is assisting me with this event. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Ellen - check is for \$1 mil in NJ state budget for renovation of the baggage + dormitory building on the North side (not southside - hospital complex) of Ellis Island - appear to be a done deal - did you want us to wear in? Mada

Ellis Island 6/29/00

Whitman = "Save Ellis Island" → state match grant

Don't talk abt North/South

Refer to "abandoned buildings"

3 of 33 have been restored
30 still in need — \$8 each for
1st steps for all 30

Bestech — sound company
necessary for sound
\$1800

Inspection desk for podium

~~dispute about the building~~

Issue: Transporting press to and from

Thank you note to Joe Moran (boat operator
who may donate boat for funds/MRC)

ELLIS ISLAND NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island)

Description

33 brick buildings in various states of restoration and disrepair on a 27.5-acre island. The island is divided into northern and southern parts by the ferry slip. The southern half and parts of the northern half belong to the state of New Jersey (2/3 of the total, including the hospital, ferry and baggage and dormitory buildings). The remaining third belongs to the state of New York (including the restored Main Building and Wall of Honor).

Historical Significance

Ellis Island was incorporated as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument on May 11, 1965.

An estimated 40% of Americans trace their roots to ancestors arriving through Ellis Island. Between 1892 and 1954, when under federal immigration control, approximately 12 million steerage and third class steamship passengers who entered the United States through the port of New York were legally and medically inspected at Ellis Island. 20% were detained for medical or legal reasons and 3,500 people died before leaving the Island. First and second class passengers were cursorily examined while still on the boat, the idea being that if they could afford those rates, they were less likely to become a burden to the state.

Attention paid to the ill and autopsies performed on the relatively few who died provided an opportunity for medical students and doctors to learn about and develop diagnosis techniques and treatments for diseases rarely seen in the United States. 2% of the total hopefuls who arrived were shipped back to their point of origin, speaking to the state-of-the-art care they received at the time by the Public Health Service, then known as the Marine Hospital Service.

Over the course of the Island's use as an immigration station, 33 buildings were erected and the Island was expanded from 3.3 acres to 27.5. The second Main Building for immigration inspection was opened in 1900. Reopened on September 10, 1990 after a massive restoration, the Main Building on Ellis Island is now a museum dedicated to the history of immigration and the important role this island claimed during the mass migration of humanity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It receives 2 million visitors a year.

Before its use as a federal immigration station, the Native Americans called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island and the Dutch and English later called it Oyster Island for its abundant oyster beds. Samuel Ellis was the last private owner in the 1770's and since then it has been a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, an ammunition and ordinance depot and finally an immigration station. The federal government bought the Island from New York State in 1808 in order to fortify New York Harbor. Prior to 1890, the individual states regulated immigration into the United States. With the intensification of immigration in the latter half of the 19th century it became apparent that New York State's facility, Castle Garden, was unprepared to handle the growing numbers.

The first facility at Ellis Island opened its doors on January 1, 1892. Fifteen year old Irish girl, Annie Moore, accompanied by her two brothers, was the first immigrant to be processed there.

On June 14, 1897 a fire on Ellis Island burned the immigration station to the ground and many years of Federal and State immigration records dating back to 1855. The new Main Building was opened on December 17, 1900.

1907 saw the record number of immigrants received in one year (approximately 1.25 million) and in one day (11,747 on April 17, 1907).

The 1921 Quota Laws and the 1924 National Origins Act strongly curbed immigration to the United States to percentages based on the ethnic groups already present in the United States. After WWI, as the United States had a growing presence abroad, much of the paperwork and health exams were conducted at American consulates in an immigrant's country of origin. During WWII, enemy merchant seamen were detained there and later the Coast Guard trained about 60,000 servicemen there. It was closed in 1954.

Preservation History and Needs

Most of the Island's northern half has been restored over the past 15-20 years but little on the southern half has been. That work is now beginning with recently committed resources. The southern buildings consist mostly of the 24 hospital and isolation wards.

Focus for the south side, as referenced in the application for an SAT 2000 grant, is currently on the first two buildings that were built there: the Laundry Building and adjoining Hospital Outbuilding. A 1997 congressionally-mandated assessment of the buildings found that the Laundry and Hospital Outbuilding were found to be among the most deteriorated with evidence of major structural damage and roof collapse. The report called for \$6.6 million for stabilization and that has been secured through federal and New Jersey State funds. By the fall of 2000 the removal of hazardous materials from these buildings will be completed.

The SAT 2000 grant application identified a need for \$2.1 million (requesting the \$1 million come from the federal grant and the rest from the matching funds) to move the two Laundry and Hospital buildings from stabilization to rehabilitation. This would include cleaning and restoration of the masonry and ornamental trim; treating approximately 40% of all exterior wall surfaces to repair missing or eroded mortar; repairing structural steel including metal roof trusses; installing new roof sheathing, replacing failed and missing roof flashing, replacing missing and damaged copper gutters and leaders, repairing and replacing clay roof tiles; replacing all windows and doors with thermal upgrades; repairing and replacing interior partitions, completing interior finishes including plaster and painting, installing a passenger elevator; installing new plumbing and fixtures throughout; installing all new electric service and HVAC system; installing fire suppression and intrusion alarm systems; designing, fabricating and installing an interpretive exhibit.

Ferry Building exterior, SAT grant 1999 for \$1.46 million was matched by the State of NJ.

Ferry Building interior, SAT Committee taking lead on raising the \$855,000. needed (this estimate recently doubled from \$400,000.) Heating and cooling systems, fire protection and detection system, two handicapped-accessible bathrooms, secondary electrical branches and outlets, and interior lighting (\$580,000.). Interior finishes (\$273,000.)

Laundry Building and Hospital Outbuilding (main 3 buildings), SAT 2000 grant applied for which Governor Whitman's *Save Ellis Island!* commission has pledged to match.

Resources and Contacts

The World Monuments Fund identified the south side of Ellis Island as one of the world's most threatened culturally significant historic sites by 1996. Laurie Beckelman, 212-517-9367.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation put Ellis Island on its "11 Most Endangered List" in 1997 which helped stimulate publicity and interest in more of the Island's preservation. Bobbie Greene, 202-588-6190, cell 301-530-6953.

National Park Service, 1998 \$3 million was earmarked

National Park Service, Ellis Island, Diane Dayson, Superintendent, 212-363-3206 x100, fax 363-8347, diane_h_dayson@nps.gov,

Cynthia Garrett, Deputy Superintendent, 212-363-3206 x105, cell 917-846-3621

Frank Mills, Assistant Superintendent

Save Ellis Island! Initially called the NJ Governor's Advisory Committee for the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island, and then the Ellis Island NJ Foundation. Lisa Nitze, staff contact. Chaired by Finn Casperson. 908-781-3012. Lisa H 973-734-1913.

Proposed Graham-Reid National Park Preservation Act of 1999 supported by Senator Bob Graham, D-FL, would create the National Park System Resource Protection Fund. Catharine Cyr, staff, 224-0732

State of New Jersey, Division for Parks, Historic, and Forestry, State Historic Preservation Office, Greg Marshall, Director, 609-292-2733

Governor Whitman's Office

Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation, Steve Briganti, President, (they restored the main building at Ellis Island and are planning to restore the adjacent Baggage & Dormitory building). 212-883-1986 x712. Assistant Sharon McKenna x734. 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 4th Floor, New York City, NY 11017.

FROM : Lisa Nitze

PHONE NO. : 9737341815

May. 31 2000 10:27AM P2

Memorandum

To: Bobbie Greene

From: Lisa Nitze

Date: 5/5/00

RE: Mid-July on Ellis Island

Regarding the mid-July time frame, there will be many possible announcements which could be made:

1. Phase One of the Ellis Island South Side Stabilization Project is due to be completed by mid-July. This involves stabilization of all of the buildings on the side of the ferry slip opposite the Immigration Museum. These are very stately buildings and will provide great visuals.
2. The New Jersey Department of Corrections Inmate Labor Assistance Program has completed clearing the extensive and overwhelming vegetation off of all of the abandoned buildings on the South Side. These 29 buildings are now fully visible with all of their attractive architectural features identifiable for the first time in decades.
3. The proposed \$1 million in New Jersey State Funds for stabilization of the Baggage and Dormitory Building will hopefully be committed in the State Budget which will be finalized June 30, 2000.
4. The partnership between the Congress, New Jersey and the National Park Service will hopefully have resulted in full funding commitments for stabilization of all 30 abandoned buildings on the island to be completed within two years.
5. The Save Americas Treasures 1999 grant for restoration of the Ferry Building with its New Jersey State funding match agreement should be in place and the plans set and ready to go out for bid.
6. The Save Americas Treasures 2000 grant application for rehabilitation of the South Side Hospital Complex laundry and Outbuilding is due to have been awarded or rejected by that point. Hopefully, if awarded, there is another announcement to make.
7. The Ellis Island New Jersey Foundation will have been launched with the purpose of raising the funds necessary to rehabilitate and put to beneficial reuse all 30 abandoned buildings on Ellis Island.



General view of Ellis Island showing the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and the unrestored historic hospital complex on the south side of the island (upper left).



General view of Ellis Island showing the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and the unrestored historic hospital complex on the south side of the island (left)