

MANHATTAN SITES
NORTHEAST REGION
FY 2001 ANNUAL REPORT

395 }
377 }
408 } D-26
416 }
470 }
420 }

The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 had a significant impact on Manhattan Sites. All six units were briefly closed to the public, and Federal Hall National Memorial and Castle Clinton National Monument were closed until mid-October. The staff at Federal Hall was extremely gratified to be able to offer temporary shelter and limited assistance to hundreds of persons fleeing the collapse of the trade towers. As a result of the cloud of dust entering the building, the interior of Federal Hall had to be cleaned using HAZMAT procedures and equipment before it could be re-occupied. Access to the downtown area was restricted for several weeks. Battery Park was closed while it was used by the Army National Guard as an encampment.

Damage to Federal Hall included measurable expansion of the pre-existing crack running longitudinally throughout the structure from sub-basement to attic. Preliminary estimates indicate that the cost of stabilization will approach \$15 million. Other repairs to Federal Hall already completed included: replacement of filters, gearbox, and chiller fan unit in the cooling tower on the roof, replacement of glass in the sky light above the rotunda and a Wall Street window, cleaning of dust and debris from the roof and gutters, replacement of soiled carpet in the basement, and cleaning of 23 air handler units which had been filled with dust on September 11.

Re-opening Federal Hall was also contingent upon providing adequate security to assure the safety of the resource, our visitors, and our staff in the presence of continuing terrorism threats. The United States Park Police are stationed at that location 24 hours a day and private security guards operate a magnetometer and inspect bags and parcels.

Castle Clinton was re-opened without any special cleaning or security personnel. Since the Statue of Liberty ferry ticket sales are currently suspended at this location, it is anticipated that more Manhattan Sites staff time will be available for interpretation and less for crowd control. When ticket sales resume, security screening will be implemented in Battery Park prior to allowing visitors to board the ferry.

Other significant developments include:

- The New York City Planning Commission has given final approval to the proposed relocation of Hamilton Grange to St. Nicholas Park. This completes the City's required Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).
- The public restroom expansion project at Castle Clinton has been completed.
- Asbestos-containing material was removed from Federal Hall and a report filed.
- Deputy Superintendent Randy Turner has been appointed Superintendent of Weir Farm NHS and replaced at Manhattan Sites by Acting Deputy Superintendent David Luchsinger.

STEWARDSHIP

The aging HVAC system at **Federal Hall** required frequent maintenance and repair, including:

- Removal and disposal of two hydropneumatic tanks in basement
- Installation of four new hydropneumatic tanks
- Replacement of combustion chambers in attic boilers
- Installation of oil heater upgrade in chiller unit
- Replacement of 3-way valve in heating unit in attic
- Repair of domestic water circulating pump
- Repair of main steam line leak by Con Edison.

*Part of
15 mill package*

Electrical work at Federal Hall included repair of an overloaded circuit and installation of a dedicated 30-amp line for heating on the third floor.

Other projects completed at this site included: cleaning and waxing the sculpture of George Washington on the Wall Street steps, painting the ceiling of the conference room on the second floor, painting the exterior window frames, painting the vault floor in the basement, replacing carpet in the "Freedom of the Press" gallery, replacing opaque drapes with translucent shades in the second floor galleries, and removal and replacement of damaged sidewalk bollards.

In addition to the restroom expansion at **Castle Clinton**, other projects at that site included: replacement of deck planking, installation of two water fountains for visitors, including one for handicapped access, repair of ejector pump in cellar, and repair of sewage pump.

The Alliance for Downtown New York has contributed \$150,000 this year to begin providing the required matching funds in order to access a transportation grant of \$8 million and start the design process for the rehabilitation of Castle Clinton. The architectural team of Beyer Blinder Belle and Thomas Phifer Associates has initiated a conceptual design which preserves the present historic walls and proposes a glass pavilion within the present structure. The pavilion roof serves as a promenade and open-air performance space. An environmental assessment is presently being done by the New York Economic Development Corporation to update the existing GMP/EIS. The estimated cost of construction is approximately \$23 million. Following the production of conceptual drawings and a model, design work will be suspended while a \$15-20 million capital campaign is undertaken by the Conservancy for Historic Battery Park.

At **Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS** walls and ceilings were plastered and painted in the period rooms, hallways, and auditorium. The silk damask drapes were removed,

cleaned, and re-hung in the period rooms. New drapes were provided for windows on the lower floor. Shutters, doors, and window frames were painted. A heat coil was replaced and several electrical circuits upgraded.

Rotted flooring was replaced at **Hamilton Grange National Memorial**, along with several of the front steps. The period dining room ceiling was repainted as a result of a persistent water leak. The carpet at the entrance was replaced.

A 20-amp electrical line was installed at **General Grant National Memorial** for a new heater in the site supervisor's office. Con Edison installed a new electrical line for the guard booths outside the memorial.

Twenty-one historic grave markers were reset, three markers fully conserved and stabilized, and two marble markers conserved and polished at **St. Paul's Church NHS**. A wooden railing was replaced in the bell tower, and historic steps repaired at the rear entrance to the church. Twelve evergreen trees were planted along the back of the property, which will provide a screen and enhance the historic viewscape. Four large maple trees along the front of the green were pruned for the first time in years. A security chain was installed at the side entrance (from Lane Road) to the property to prevent unauthorized access by vehicles. Six cracked windowpanes were replaced in the museum building.

Fifteen hundred items in the **collection** were catalogued. Thirty-six deficiencies in the storage and exhibition of collections were corrected.

A program of **documentation** of park events was established through digital, slide, and video recordings.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Manhattan Sites welcomed President George W. Bush, who addressed an economic conference at Federal Hall. Senator John McCain held a press conference at Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett, and NPS Director Fran Mainella also visited Manhattan Sites.

Site tours were conducted at all six Manhattan Sites by park staff and volunteers. Costumed interpretive programs were presented to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution at Federal Hall, Hamilton Grange, and St. Paul's Church. Costumed interpretation of the War of 1812 was presented at Castle Clinton. General Grant's military and political career was interpreted through costumed programs and interpretive talks at General Grant National Memorial. Over 9,860 interpretive programs were presented to 105,000 visitors. 18,650 students attended education programs both at Manhattan Sites and off-site. In addition, there were nearly 4 million visitor contacts involving information and informal interpretation.

Eighty five museum objects were placed on loan for exhibition at such institutions as: the New York State Capitol, Office of the Governor, Office of the Vice President of the United States, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS.

Seventy eight special use and/or film permits were issued to such organizations as: CBS News, CNN, the BBC, Paramount Pictures, Greystone Communications, Solomon Smith Barney, Archaeology Magazine, the American Legion, Sons of Union Veteran Veterans of the Civil War, the Victorian Society, the ACLU, the Salvation Army, Jews for Jesus, Riverside Church, and the Asian American Business Development Center. Manhattan Sites staff gave television and radio interviews at all six sites.

Over 7500 listeners attended five weekly concerts presented in Castle Clinton by the Conservancy for Historic Battery Park and the Alliance for Downtown New York. Three thousand music lovers attended five Jazzmobile concerts at Grant's Tomb. Occasional concerts were presented at Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace and on the steps of Federal Hall.

Commemorative programs were presented at Castle Clinton on July 4th, at Federal Hall on George Washington's Birthday, George Washington's Inaugural, and Flag Day. Also at Theodore Roosevelt's Birthplace on TR's birthday, as well as the student speech contest and police awards sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Ulysses S. Grant's birthday was commemorated at Grant's tomb with a program including the U. S. Military Academy and Grant Family, which was attended by 1000 students. A concert and open house at Hamilton Grange marked Alexander Hamilton's birthday. The Revolutionary War encampment commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Pell's Point was attended by 1500 students and adults over three days.

Temporary exhibits included a replica of the "American Turtle", a revolutionary war submarine, at Castle Clinton. Federal Hall was the location of an exhibit "In Pursuit of Freedom: African Americans in Brooklyn and the Anti-Slavery Movement" prepared by the Brooklyn Historic Society.

Staff development was a priority this year. A Neuro-Linguistic Practitioner provided in-depth communications training for critical staff. Staff members also attended training in Special Park Use Permits, the Freedom of Information Act, Colonial Williamsburg's first-person interpretation techniques, and the Northeast Region's Interpretation and Education Workshop.

Education and interpretation initiatives included developing the scope of work for preparation of the park's Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, working with GATE and STLE/ELIS staff to develop themes for the National Parks of New York Harbor. MASI staff also collaborated on presentation of programs at General Grant and Theodore Roosevelt's Birthplace for a New York University summer workshop for teachers, and a harbor park program for teachers titled "Geology, Geography, and Harbor Defense." MASI staff prepared a joint program with A. Philip Randolph High School in historic

interpretation for high school students. Staff also attended meetings in support of the International Year of the Volunteer.

PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT

Fifty-eight volunteers donated over 3,000 hours of assistance in interpretation, maintenance, and curation.

The Constitution Works Education Program provided creative educational programs in Constitutional issues at Federal Hall for 6,200 students and 250 teachers from 69 schools in the New York City area. This represents an in-kind contribution of \$202,000.

The Alliance for Downtown New York contributed \$150,000 to provide the required matching funds in order to begin to access a transportation grant of \$8 million for the design of Castle Clinton. In addition, the Alliance provided \$150,000 to support the concert series at Castle Clinton presented by the Conservancy for Historic Battery Park.

CONCERNS

Reference has already been made to the significant cost of structural stabilization of Federal Hall. Additional security measures are also needed at Federal Hall and Castle Clinton to counter terrorism threats. These measures include magnetometers, x-rays, security staff and U. S. Park Police or Protection Rangers, representing added operating costs.

In addition, several important funding requests related to resource preservation and protection have not been addressed. Examples include:

- Replacement of antiquated elevator and HVAC system at Federal Hall.
- Repair of masonry at Castle Clinton.
- Conservation of hundreds of artifacts at several sites.
- Rehabilitation of landscape at St. Paul's Church, along with provision of outdoor lighting, fence, and security system for this property.
- Replacement of obsolete museum exhibits at Federal Hall and rehabilitation of exhibits and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace.

Each of these projects relates directly to accomplishing the mission of the National Park Service at Manhattan Sites, as they contribute to "the protection, restoration, and maintenance in good condition of natural and cultural resources."

Furthermore, increased funding and FTE are needed at Manhattan Sites in order to allow this park to respond to the demands of cultural resource protection and preservation, visitor and staff safety, education and interpretation, and organizational effectiveness.

Specific needs include the addition of the following personnel:

- Personnel Specialist
- Education Specialist
- Computer Specialist
- Curatorial Assistant
- Management Assistant
- Supervisory Law Enforcement Ranger
- WG-10 Maintenance Mechanic
- 5 Security Guards

There is also a great need for additional staff to perform routine maintenance, a seven-day a week operation at all six sites, and improved 24-hour security at all sites.

In short, Manhattan Sites continues to suffer from inadequate funding and FTE needed to reach its full potential as an educational and cultural resource, and as a trustee of some of our nation's most important historic resources.

Joseph T. Avery
Superintendent
Manhattan Sites
November 1, 2001