

# Buildings in NYC

More Amazing Than They Seem...

# Author's Note

On the outside, buildings are tall, and grand, but that's not all. The exterior is just a fraction of the building's history. Here are some pictures of buildings that are way more amazing than they seem, including the well known Empire State Building, the tall Freedom Tower, and the Guggenheim. Here goes!

# Empire State Building



The Empire State Building has 103 floors and is 1,454 feet tall. Only 102 floors are available to the public. The 103<sup>rd</sup> floor was going to be for offices but that was shut down. There are also observation decks on the 102<sup>nd</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> floor. It also is the 29<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the world, and the 5<sup>th</sup> tallest building in the United States. The spire saves it from being the 4<sup>th</sup> tallest, and the spire also triples as a radio antenna and lightning rod. The building gets struck with lightning on average 23 times per year! The Empire State Building has had a couple setbacks, one being when an U.S army bomber plane crashed in between the 79<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> floors of the building. That wasn't good, but they kept on working.

# Chrysler Building

The Chrysler Building was unsurprisingly named after Walt P. Chrysler. It has 77 floors and was only the tallest building in the world for about a year. The crown at the top is made out of “Enduro KA-2” metal, and there are a lot of elevators. 32 to be exact. 32! Construction started September 19, 1928. In total, 391,881 rivets were used and approximately 3,826,000 bricks were manually laid. Upon completion, it was the spire that made it taller than 40 Wall Street, which was the tallest at the time.



# Flatiron Building

The Flatiron Building is the first skyscraper in the world. The first! Even though it's short, it is still technically a skyscraper. They had to start somewhere, you know. See how it's not square? The builder's had to get around the wedge shaped area they had to work in. In that time, the new discovery of lightweight materials like steel, builders had a lot to build with, and taller structures were possible to make. This limestone tower's sharp angle (As shown in picture) is about 25 degrees. In the October of 1925, Harry S. Black sold the building for around \$2.000,000 to gain money for the U.S Reality Company that he owned.



# One World Trade Center

The One World Trade Center is currently the tallest building in the United States. Because of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the building is reinforced with 3 foot concrete walls in all stairwells, elevator shafts, risers, and sprinkler systems and the tower has a strong, redundant steel frame. Some of the windows facing West Street are armed with specially tempered blast resistant plastic. Even more, vehicles are scanned for dangerous materials and there are 400 closed-circuit surveillance cameras designed to detect potential threats, just in case.





# Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, or better known as just the Guggenheim, was established in 1937. It is “The Museum of Non-Objective Painting”, because at the time there were so many avant-garde paintings there was a need for a permanent museum. Then, Guggenheim took to Frank Lloyd Wright to ask him for a building design. It took him 15, 700 sketches, and 6 working designs. Some critics thought the building’s design would overshadow the artwork in the building. Clearly all the critics were wrong.





# MetLife Building

The MetLife, or Pam Am Building is one of the city's most recognizable skyscrapers. Some of that comes from the shape of the building. The tenants also have Grand Central Station just south of them. The building also dwarfs the New York Central Building. The building also serves as a helicopter-landing pad, until the incident when the helicopter crash killed 5 people and seriously injured a lot of people, and no one has landed there since.



# St. Patrick's Cathedral



The St. Patrick's Cathedral is a decorated Neo-Gothic style church. The denomination of this cathedral is Roman Catholic. The St. Patrick's Cathedral was renovated in 2012 and lasted three years at a cost of \$177,000,000, and can now hold up to 3,000 people. St. Patrick's Cathedral also has two spires, 19 bells, and two pipe organs. Work on the building begun in 1858, and construction paused during the civil war but resumed in 1865. It was completed in 1878. The building was dedicated in 1979, and was re-dedicated 1910.

# 30 Rock

30 Rock goes by many names: 30 Rock, The Slab, Rock Center, 30 Rockefeller Center, GE Building, RCA Building, and the Comcast Building. It is also the centerpiece of all of Rockefeller Center. The NBCUniversal Company owns the first through 30<sup>th</sup> and the fiftieth through the 59<sup>th</sup>, and at the same time, Tishman Speyer owns the 31<sup>st</sup> through 49<sup>th</sup>. In 1985, 30 Rock gained Landmark Status. The building is one of the most famous and recognized skyscrapers in New York.







# CitiCorp. Building

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church is right at the base of the Citicorp building because the workers wanted their building right where the church was. The church refused to move, neither did the workers, so they made a deal. The church had to stay on the northwest corner of the block to make more room. I'm not sure if you can see it or not, but the building is on "stilts" on the center on each side. But that made the building structurally unsound. If a wind blew from NE, NW, SE, or SW, the building would topple. So, to combat that, they used lighter and stronger bolts to keep the building stable. Unless a hurricane hits. That would be bad.



# Metropolitan Opera



The Metropolitan Opera, or, The Met, is a company based in New York City, resident at the Metropolitan Opera House at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The Met also shows operas during the “Opera Season”, which is from September to May. The Met was originally going to be farther down town, but that didn’t work out, so they put it where it is. There is also a fountain in front that occasionally shoots out water really high in the sky. Also, in the auditorium, the chandeliers retract to the ceiling as the opera/ballet begins. Outside of New York the Met has been known to audiences in large measure through its many years of live radio broadcasts.