

NYC: THE TRUE STORY

A history of some of New York City's famous landmarks.





DEDICATION



I dedicate this photo essay to all of my fifth grade teachers, who understood me and helped me arrive at a completed essay. Thank You!

I also dedicate this book to whomever reads this photo essay, in the hope that I have helped shed some light on New York City's history. Thank you to the reader!

Of all the world's great cities, perhaps New York is the one that attracts people from all over the world the most. Tourists of all different backgrounds flock to the city of New York to view its many landmarks. Each of these landmarks has a story all its own to tell. New York City's landmarks have a very rich and complicated history.



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



The Statue of Liberty stands upon
the island from which she has
guided so many immigrants for
decades.

BROADWAY



Broadway continues to be a thriving area dedicated to theater and other arts, attracting people from all sorts of backgrounds.

CENTRAL PARK



Central Park is a popular destination in which resident New Yorkers can find at least a little peace in which to rest, something that isn't always easily acquired in the hustle and bustle of everyday life in New York City.



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Though no longer the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building continues to be a symbol of the spirit that holds New York City together, and make it one of the most famous cities in the world.



ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

One World Trade Center rises high above the rest of the New York City skyline. In fact, it rises high above all of America's skylines.



GLOSSARY

*More information about the landmarks already mentioned, plus
some that weren't!*

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty was made to represent freedom and democracy. It was a gift from France to the United States after the American Revolutionary War, in which the two nations were allies. The statue's parts were originally made in Paris, France. The statue was designed by Fredrick-Auguste Bartholdi. After the statue was built, it was taken apart and sent to the United States in 241 crates in the year of 1885. It was then reconstructed in its new location. The Statue of Liberty was made a World Heritage Site in 1984, after being a National Monument since October 15, 1924. For as long as it stands, the Statue of Liberty will be a symbol of a companionship between two nations, and the virtues that the United States of America prizes so much.



BROADWAY

Broadway is perhaps one of the world's most famous theater districts, and a center for the arts in New York City. Broadway is located in Times Sq., which was named after the New York times, who set up headquarters here. The first musicals to be shown here came in 1915. In 1917, when the United States entered World War One, over \$500,000 raised for the Red Cross by theater companies. During the Great Depression hit the theater industry hard, with about 25,000 people working in theaters losing their jobs. During World War Two, members of the military were offered free food and entertainment at theaters. The first Tony awards were given out here in 1947. Most of the theaters were designated as historical landmarks in the year of 1888.



CENTRAL PARK

Central Park was created to increase the reputation of New York City, and was the first landscaped park in the United States of America. The creation of the park was mostly supported by rich families and merchants. In 1853, a plot of suitable land was found, where the rough terrain meant that it was not wanted for development. The construction forced 1,600 people out, off the land on which they had created shanty-towns. The park ran reasonably smoothly up until the 1960's, when waste, crime and graffiti lead to a deminishing number of visitors. Renovation began in the 1980's, and paid off, leading to an astounding 30,000 visitors a year in modern New York City.



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING



The Empire State Building is likely one of New York City's more iconic landmarks. Construction began on March 17, 1930, and only lasted one year and forty-five days, with the workers building at a rate of 4.5 floors per week. When the building was completed, it was pronounced by some as the «eighth world wonder». And it was easy to see why. The building was the tallest one in the world at the time, and held the title for 40 years. Another claim that the building had to fame was when an airplane crashed into it on July 28, 1945. Two floors were damaged and fourteen people were killed. The Empire State Building was declared a landmark on May 18, 1981.

ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

One World Trade Center, which was designed by David Childs, is one of NYC's newest iconic locations. This building is the tallest building in the nation, and the third-tallest building in the world. Five-different building were built to replace the Twin Towers, which were destroyed on September 11, 2001, by two planes which had been hijacked by terrorists.



A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text. The border is white and set against a dark background. It features a central floral motif at the top and bottom, with symmetrical scrollwork extending to the sides and corners.


BROOKLYN BRIDGE

The Brooklyn Bridge, which was made in 1883, connects the two NYC boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. At the time that the bridge was built, however, the two modern-day boroughs were two independent cities. Construction began in 1869, with 600 workers and \$15,000, which is \$32,000,000 in today's money. About 24 people died during the construction. The bridge was designated as a National Monument in 1964, and continues to serve the city. In modern NYC, about 150,000 pedestrians and cars pass over the bridge every day.


A decorative white floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns surrounds the text. At the top center, there is a small floral ornament above the title. Below the title, a horizontal line with a central scrollwork flourish separates it from the main text.

ELLIS ISLAND

Ellis Island one of the most famous immigration stops in the nation. And for good reason. Between the year of 1892 and the year of 1954, 12,000,000 immigrants were ushered through this gateway to the United States of America, and possibly a happier life. Before it became an immigration post, however, Ellis Island served as an army base to protect New York City from a British attack by sea in the War of 1812. The idea for an army base to be put in New York Harbor was inspired after the American Revolutionary War, in which New York City was crippled and captured by the British when they invaded from the Atlantic. Afterwards, the ideal island was converted into into a stop for immigrants. It opened on New Years Day in 1892. The next day, the first immigrants, Annie Moore and her two male siblings, were processed. About five years later, the building burned down, and was rapidly replaced, this time supposedly “fire-proof”. The reason that New York Harbor was such a popular and important stop for incoming immigrants was because this location was a port favored by many passenger steam ship companies.

The image features a decorative white scrollwork border on a black background. The border is ornate, with intricate floral and leaf patterns that curve and swirl around the perimeter of the page. The central area is a light gray, providing a clear space for the text.

The first and second class immigrants were rarely processed, unless they had contradicted an illness, or had problems with the judicial system. The entire third class, however, having spent a long period of time in bad conditions were forced to deal with the discomfort of going through Ellis Island. Many families were often separated, with some individuals who were allowed into the nation, and those that weren't. While two percent of all the immigrants who passed through Ellis Island weren't allowed to go into the nation, most immigrants were treated well. In the 1920's, however, anti immigration legislation led to a decrease in the number of immigrants going into the nation through Ellis Island. In 1939, the Coast Guard began using Ellis Island as a base. This continued for seven years. After World War Two, Ellis Island served as an immigration stop again. In the year of 1965, Ellis Island was incorporated into the Statue of Liberty National Monument.



WALL STREET

Wall Street was originally the site of a wall on the northern border of New Amsterdam, which later became New York City. Since then, the site has expanded greatly, becoming the home base of the New York Stock Exchange and the global financial market. While many people made fortunes on Wall Street, many lost money. The Stock Market Dived in 1929, leading to the Great Depression. By 1931, four million had supposedly lost their jobs. Since then, conditions have taken a turn for the better, despite another sharp dip recently, in the year of 2008.


Throughout NYC's history, its landmarks have played an important part. The Statue of Liberty inspired many incoming immigrants as they came to start a new chapter in their lives, while Ellis Island was a stop for immigrants that introduced the United States to them. And that is only a taste of what these New York City monuments had to offer. The history of each landmark ties in with the general history of the city itself, and even the history of the entire nation. It even plays a small role in the history of the entire human race. New York City's landmarks will continue to inspire people for generations to come.



The image features a large, ornate white decorative border on a black background. The border is highly detailed with intricate scrollwork, floral motifs, and symmetrical flourishes. It frames a central white area where the text is located. The top and bottom edges of the border are particularly elaborate, with large, symmetrical designs that resemble stylized leaves or scrolls. The overall aesthetic is classic and elegant, reminiscent of a book cover or a formal title page.


A TALE OF ONE CITY

The history of New York City, from it's beginning in the 1600's, to modern times.




Today, New York City is a thriving metropolis with a diverse population. Many people come from around the world to see NYC's famous numerous landmarks. But the city itself is interesting. Beginning in the 1600's a small town known as New Amsterdam, NYC is now one of the world's most renowned cities. NYC has a very diverse and rich history.

NYC's beginning is in sharp contrast to what it is now. The first people to settle in the area were the Lenape, who found it possible to sustain themselves on the land between the Hudson and Delaware rivers. The first European to explore the area was Giovanni da Verrazano. The great city began as a small settlement established on what is now Governor's Island in 1624. Then called New Amsterdam, the settlement's population was only about 30 families, led by Peter Minuit. These thirty families eventually managed to move New Amsterdam to the much larger island of Manhattan, after trading with the Lenape. At that point, only about 300 people lived at the settlement. The settlement, controlled by the Dutch, was prospering. But a great event was about to change the course the settlement was to take.




In 1664, New Amsterdam was greeted by a British fleet in the Second Dutch War. The settlement gave up without a shot being fired. And just like that, New Amsterdam became New York City, a British colonial town. For the next hundred years, New York's population would diversify, as immigrants from many nations around the world came to the city.

Perhaps the most important event that tied in with New York City in the 1700's was the American Revolutionary War. The city was full of rebels who weren't afraid to stand up for what they felt was right. One such example was the year of 1765, shortly after the Stamp Act was passed. Businesses owned by rebels were closed, and New York's royal governor was burned. In that same year, the first Colonial Congress met. Just a few years later, in 1776, the Revolutionary War was well under way, and Washington battled to keep New York City under rebel control. However, this campaign failed, and the British captured the city. The city of New York was to remain under British control until the end of the Revolutionary War. After the war was over, the city held the title of the United States' capital between 1789 and 1790.



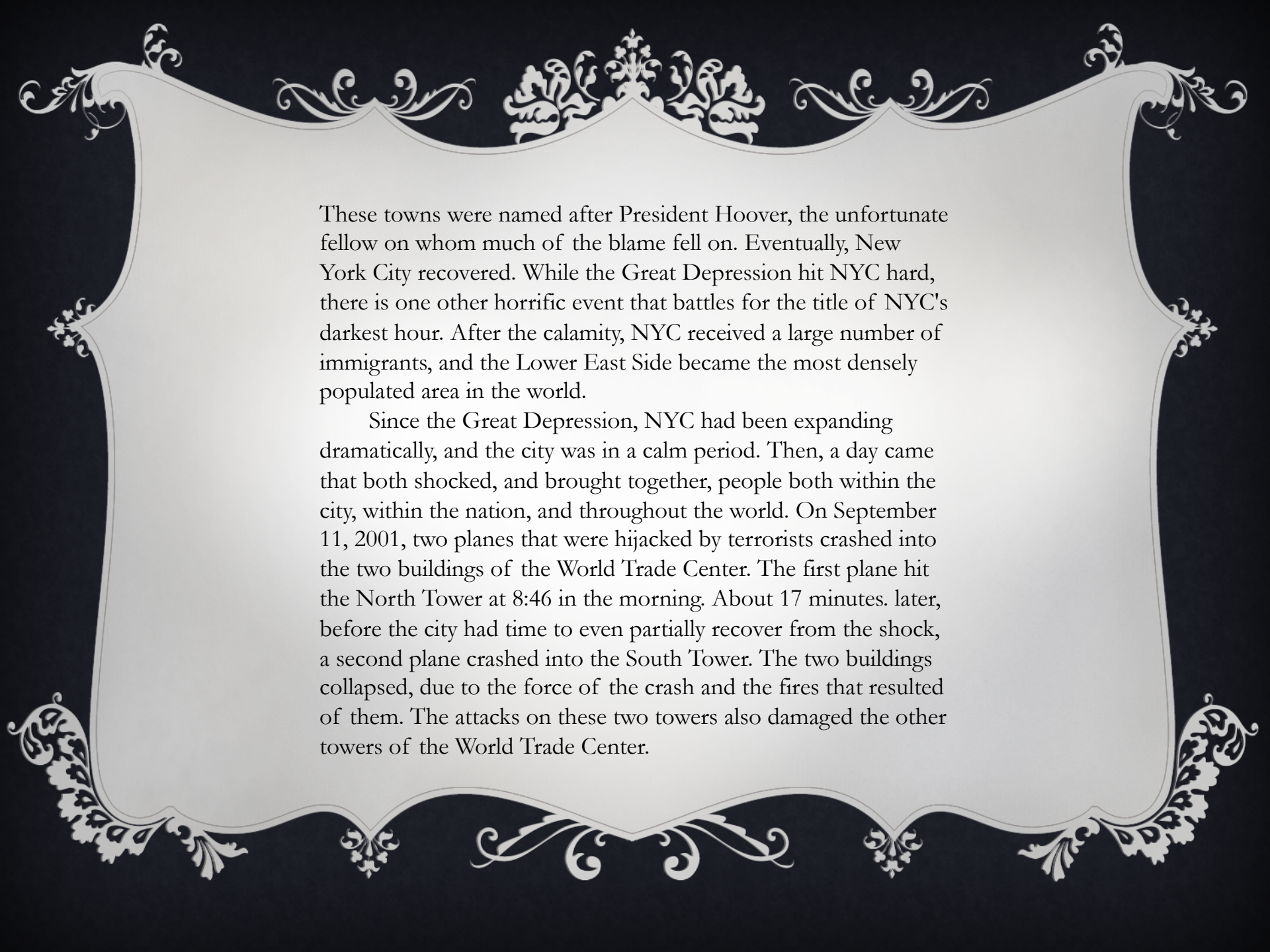
After the Constitution was created, much of New York accepted it because of the efforts of Alexander Hamilton. Many Loyalists refused to accept the fact that the new, independent state of New York wasn't a British colony any longer, and left the city. NYC also held the title of state capital up until 1794. NYC became the largest city in the nation in 1790.

In the 1800's, New York began to expand dramatically. In 1807, the first steam ship to make a voyage of considerable distance left New York City for Albany. The Erie Canal, which opened in 1825, increased NYC's importance as a trading post. The year of 1811 was a significant one for New York City, as it was then that the "Commissioner's Plan" was created. It was a plan for many streets to the north of Houston St. In the 1840's through the 1850's New York City saw an increase in the number of immigrants from the European nations of Germany and Ireland. These new immigrants formed unique communities, based on what nation they came from. In 1888, construction began on New York City's first subway line.




At about the turn of the century, in 1898, the five independent cities of Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan all forged together to create one large city, the one we now know so well.

Of all the different centuries during which New York City existed, the 1900's and 2000's are possibly the most famous and controversial. The century started badly for the entire United States, with President McKinley assassinated in 1901. Fortunes improved, with New Yorkers basking in the luxuries of the early 1920's. Perhaps this period was a possible explanation for the poverty to come; the citizens of New York were simply completely unprepared. In the late 1920's and early 1930's, NYC, and the rest of the United States of America, were hit by a period of poverty, which is now known as the "Great Depression". Many of New York's prominent citizens lost much of their money on the New York Stock Exchange, after it dropped sharply. Some even lost their homes, and were forced to go and live on the streets in shanty towns known as "Hoovervilles".

The page features a decorative white scrollwork border on a black background. The border is ornate, with intricate floral and vine patterns that frame the central text area. The top and bottom edges of the border are particularly elaborate, with large, symmetrical flourishes. The sides of the border are also detailed with smaller, repeating motifs.

These towns were named after President Hoover, the unfortunate fellow on whom much of the blame fell on. Eventually, New York City recovered. While the Great Depression hit NYC hard, there is one other horrific event that battles for the title of NYC's darkest hour. After the calamity, NYC received a large number of immigrants, and the Lower East Side became the most densely populated area in the world.

Since the Great Depression, NYC had been expanding dramatically, and the city was in a calm period. Then, a day came that both shocked, and brought together, people both within the city, within the nation, and throughout the world. On September 11, 2001, two planes that were hijacked by terrorists crashed into the two buildings of the World Trade Center. The first plane hit the North Tower at 8:46 in the morning. About 17 minutes later, before the city had time to even partially recover from the shock, a second plane crashed into the South Tower. The two buildings collapsed, due to the force of the crash and the fires that resulted of them. The attacks on these two towers also damaged the other towers of the World Trade Center.

A decorative white scrollwork border with intricate floral and leaf patterns, framing the central text on a black background. The border is symmetrical and features a central crest-like element at the top.

This also unintentionally led to the passengers aboard another hijacked plane to fight with the terrorists in control of the plane, which eventually crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Of the almost 3,000 people that died on 9/11/2001 as a result of the terrorist attacks, 2,573 came from the city of New York. This is, without a doubt, the most profound event in NYC in the twenty-first century.

While the history of the city of New York is very profound, it is the future that shall likely hold the most surprises. Much of the world is rapidly changing, adapting to new technology, and new problems, both within nations and globally. What shall New York City look like a hundred, or even a thousand years from now? Shall the new century have other large events in store for New York City? Only time will tell. Some day, our present, and our future, will be written down in history.



CREDITS

Statue of Liberty

www.statueofliberty.org
<http://en.unesco.org>

Central Park

www.centralpark.com
www.aviewoncities.com

Wall Street

www.loc.com
www.pbs.org

One World Trade Center

www.wtc.com
www.panynj.gov

Broadway

www.nyc.gov

Ellis Island

www.ellisland.org

www.nps.gov

New York City (“A Tale of One City”)

www.ny.com

www.history.com

www.911memorial.org

Brooklyn Bridge

www.history.com

www.aviewoncities.com

Empire State Building

www.aviewoncities.com

www.cnn.com

A decorative white floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns surrounds the text on a black background. The border is symmetrical and frames the central content.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Dear reader,

My name is Alex Vtorov. I am a resident New Yorker, and wish to spread my love for this great city to other people. True, the city has it's faults. Pollution is a problem, just like it is in every major city. The residents aren't always that great. But overall, the city of New York is a spectacular place. It shows signs of having expanded greatly, especially for what started as a small town with a minute population. Today, people from all over the world come to New York from different places around the world, for different reasons. It is hard to not feel awed by it all. If you have ever been in New York, I hope that you understand what I mean. For any reader, my hope is that you enjoyed my photo essay. Thank you for reading!

Sincerely, Alex Vtorov