

## ***Statue of Liberty World Heritage Site: New Location for Secondary Screening Facility***

### Assessment and Evaluation of Impact

NPS identified two assets that convey OUV that could be affected by the new location of the secondary screening facility. These include:

- Views within and from the Island
- Liberty Island Grounds

Both assets are part of the setting of the Statue. Although they help convey OUV, they are not considered primary resources and were analyzed as assets of other historical significance.

#### *Views within and from the Island*

Bartholdi chose Liberty Island because the location satisfied two major criteria for placement of the Statue—it could be seen from a great distance and it could stand alone. The 1999 draft Cultural Landscape Report for Liberty Island identified four major groupings of important views from the island outward, with the most important being frontal views. A sequence of views guide the visitor through the experience of the Statue.

The view along the Main Mall from the Flag Plaza toward the Statue was designed as the visitor's first unobstructed view of the Statue. A visitor was intended to debark from the ferry, walk down the Approach Mall while viewing the New York Skyline and then turn right at the Flag Plaza to see the back of the Statue framed by a wide pedestrian mall lined with trees (Berg 1999). Although the Main Mall and Flag Plaza leading to it were reconfigured, enlarged, and resurfaced in 1986, the experience remains largely the same. However, when visitors turn at the Flag Plaza, their view now includes a large white security tent at the base of the Monument, which blocks views of Fort Wood and the Monument entrance. Although the view of the Statue remains the same, the experience of navigating around the tent and security lines detracts from the ability to appreciate the view. The proposed facility will be completely out of the tree-lined view along the Main Mall. Although it will be noticeable to visitors along the wing walk, this is not a major designed view.

The new facility would not impact views from the Island toward New York and New York Harbor. Although people standing on the terreplein of Fort Wood would be able to look down and see the screening facility, the building would be well below the height of the terreplein walls and the roof is expected to blend in either through color or through the use of a living roof, so that it is minimally impactful. The sweeping harbor views from the terreplein and pedestal will not be interrupted by the new building.

As a result, the impact to OUV from changes to views off and from within the island will be neutral to moderately beneficial by removing the tent from a main designed view.

### *Grounds*

The current security tent is located on the Main Mall, which is part of the primary circulation system for Liberty Island. The tent covers approximately one third of the pedestrian mall and connect to gates surrounding the entrance to the Statue. Because the tent cuts off circulation across the Statue entrance, visitors must choose which way to navigate around the tent. This choice, along with long security lines, can cause congestion and confusion. The proposed facility would be adjacent to the eastern Wing Walk, which is part of the secondary circulation system and would not impede pedestrians. Because of its function of screening visitors before entering the Monument, the screening facility cannot be relegated to the administrative portion of the Island. It would be noticed by most visitors; however, the building and lockers would be smaller and less visible than the large white tent, and out of the immediate path of most visitors, with designated queuing areas adjacent to, but off of the Wing Walk. It will also be easier to maintain, and thus more attractive over the long term. The building will obscure a portion of the Fort Wood walls, but it will open up a better view of the Monument entrance.

As a result, the new facility would be an improvement to OUV over the existing tent and would not affect the front view of the Statue rising from a lawn and surrounded by trees.

### Conclusion

For these reasons, the impact of the new building on the grounds and setting of the Statue would be slight with an overall improvement over current conditions and assets that convey OUV. By removing from primary views and circulation systems the existing temporary screening tent, which has been in use since 2001, the setting of the Statue will be improved and primary views restored. Although a new facility will need to be built within the grounds, it will be designed and situated in such a way to be much less noticeable and in a more appropriate location.