

Madison's own Statue of Liberty in need of a lift

ANITA WEIER For the State Journal | Posted: Saturday, September 5, 2009 8:30 pm

Madison is well known for its Lady Liberty on the Lake. But a less-publicized replica of the Statue of Liberty stands in Warner Park, a distressed maiden badly in need of rescue.

Though other city sculptures are also suffering, a survey for the Madison Art Commission in 2007 determined that Liberty was "in most urgent need of care." The copper statue is cracked, broken and stained - a decrepit version of the New York City original.

The statue "exhibits advanced signs of deterioration from neglect and failed repairs," the survey found. "It's sad that our national symbol of liberty is the most damaged public sculpture in the city."

The Madison statue was one of more than 200 replicas of the Statue of Liberty presented to communities around the United States from 1949 to 1952 by the Boy Scouts of America as part of a 40th anniversary project to "strengthen the arm of liberty."

Kansas City businessman and Scout Commissioner Jack Whitaker launched the long-ago project. A Chicago company manufactured the replicas for the Kansas City Boy Scout office, which then sold them to troops and others around the country at a cost of \$350 plus freight.

Madison's statue, which stands about 8½ feet tall and sits atop an 8-foot tall base, was brought here with help from the local Rotary Club.

Madison has long had a special relationship to Lady Liberty. In 1979, leaders of the Pail and Shovel Party placed a life-size papier mache replica of the top portion of the statue on frozen Lake Mendota, giving the appearance it was rising out of the lake. The statue has lived on in postcards and memories, and a later incarnation has made repeat appearances.

The copper Lady Liberty was first located in Giddings Park on the Isthmus. It was moved to Warner Park in a plaza near the Community Recreation Center sometime in the 1970s after it was vandalized at its original location, said Karin Wolf, administrator of Madison's arts program.

But Tony Rajer, a local art conservator who teaches at UW-Madison, said the worst damage occurred when a dump truck backed into the statue while it was in city storage.

"The sad thing is that the Statue of Liberty replica in Madison has had several locations and has been abused over the years. It has gotten worse because the city has never invested any money in its care and repair," Rajer said. "There have been decades of neglect."

Now there's a budding interest in repairing and preserving the statue.

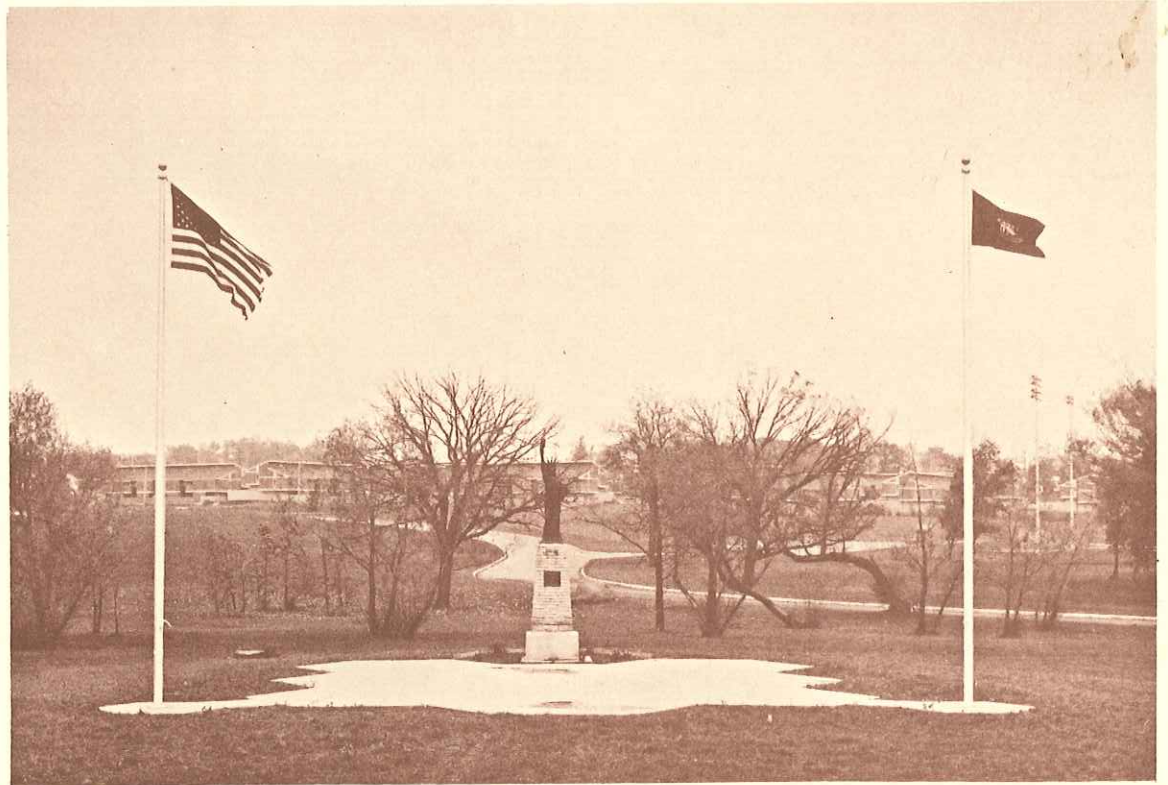
John Frye, an active member of the Yahara Boy Scout District, is trying to get Scouts interested in the project. "Maybe this could tie in with a school history lesson," said Frye, 69, a North Side resident who takes a Liberty display with him when he drives to various Scout functions.

And Wolf, who has consulted with Rajer and other art conservators, is hoping a community discussion planned for later this month might spark a fundraising effort to repair the statue and form an endowment to care for it.

Rajer, who repaired and restored another Liberty replica in Mason City, Iowa, said the Madison statue could be restored for \$20,000 to \$25,000 and could take about a year to complete.

Made of copper sheets about the thickness of a penny, the statue has no internal structure to give it strength. To restore it, workers would have to build a stainless steel armature to hold it up, Rajer said, similar to a human skeleton

"This statue is repairable," he said. "The patient is very sick but would make a full recovery."



MADISON'S STATUE OF LIBERTY

Court of Honor - Warner Park

Rededicated October 28, 1971

ON THE

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION ON BEDLOE ISLAND

OF AMERICA'S STATUE OF LIBERTY

(NEW YORK HARBOR) OCTOBER 28, 1886

● REDEDICATION PROGRAM ●

COURT OF HONOR PLAZA
WARNER PARK

THURSDAY • 5:00 P.M. • OCTOBER 28, 1971

● MASTER OF CEREMONIES ●

William J. O'Rourke

President, Rotary Club of Madison

Singing - "My Country 'Tis Of Thee"

Led by Ruth L. Harris

History of Madison's Statue

Tad Froncek

Presentation of Certificate of
Appreciation

Mayor William D. Dyke

Presentation of American Flag to
Mr. M. F. Browne Jr.

Congressman Bob Kastenmeier
Represented by Former Mayor
Otto Festge

Presentation of Wisconsin Flag to
Mr. M. R. Straus

Governor Patrick C. Lucey
Represented by Aleta Murray

Raising of Colors

"Star-Spangled Banner"
Led by Ruth L. Harris
Music by Drum & Bugle Corp.

Presentation of Statue to
Mr. Ray Matoy
Executive Director,
Four Lakes Council,
Boy Scouts of America

Don Schraufnagel

Recitation of
"The New Colossus"
By Emma Lazarus

Mark Markwardt
Past President of
Rotary Club of Madison

"God Bless America"

Led by Ruth L. Harris



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

to

CLARENCE TROOFT

For Assisting in the Restoration of the
Statue of Liberty Replica
in Madison, Wisconsin.

CO-CHAIRMEN

TAD FRONCEK

DON SCHRAUFNAGEL

MAYOR WILLIAM D. DYKE

DATE

AMERICA'S STATUE OF LIBERTY

Inspired by the United States of America's promise of freedom for all who sought to throw off the yoke of oppression and hunger, French historian, Edouard de Laboulaye (1811-1883), dreamed of a monument that would serve as a symbol of liberty for the world's downtrodden masses. Moreover, he felt, the monument should be offered to the United States as a gesture of friendship from the French people.

Noted French sculptor Frederic Bartholdi, drawn into a discussion of the monument by Laboulaye, enthusiastically took on the project of designing the now famous Statue of Liberty.

Laboulaye persuaded Gustave Eiffel, creator of the Eiffel Tower, to design the Statue's steel framework and enlisted the aid of Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Panama Canal, in raising funds.

In Paris, on July 4, 1884, the people of France officially presented the Statue of Liberty to the U. S. ambassador. Shipped to the United States, it was erected on Bedloe Island (since renamed Liberty Island) in New York harbor. More than \$200,000 in pennies contributed by American school children provided the funds for the Statue's pedestal.

From base of pedestal to tip of torch, the Statue of Liberty towers 305 feet above the harbor. The copper exterior and steel framework weigh about 450,000 pounds.

MADISON'S STATUE OF LIBERTY

Madison's Statue of Liberty, a replica of the original, was initially presented to the Boy Scouts of America by the Rotarians in 1951 at the celebration commemorating Scouting's 40th anniversary in America. It was dedicated at Giddings Park on the shores of Lake Mendota.

In 1961 the Giddings Park site was acquired by a church as a building site. Another suitable site for the Statue could not be found, despite the efforts of both public officials and the State Historical Society. For ten long years the Statue was moved from one storage place to another, and finally was placed in a fenced corner in the maintenance area of Franklin Park.

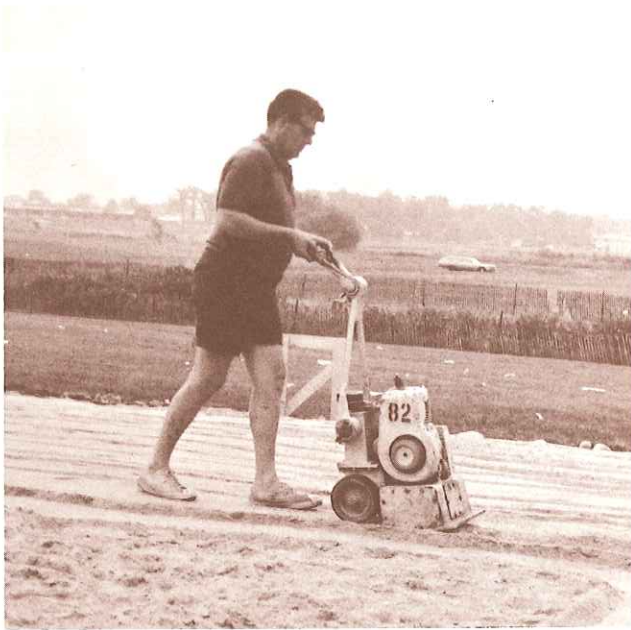
By chance, the mother of two Boy Scouts, came upon the Statue in 1970. She noted that neglect and vandalism had taken its toll. With hope that Miss Liberty could be saved, she told several Scout leaders, who volunteered to restore the statue and move it to a more fitting location.

Many Four Lakes Council Scouters also remembered the Lady of Liberty, and felt that the time was right for a rededication, not only of the Statue, but also of the values for which she stands.

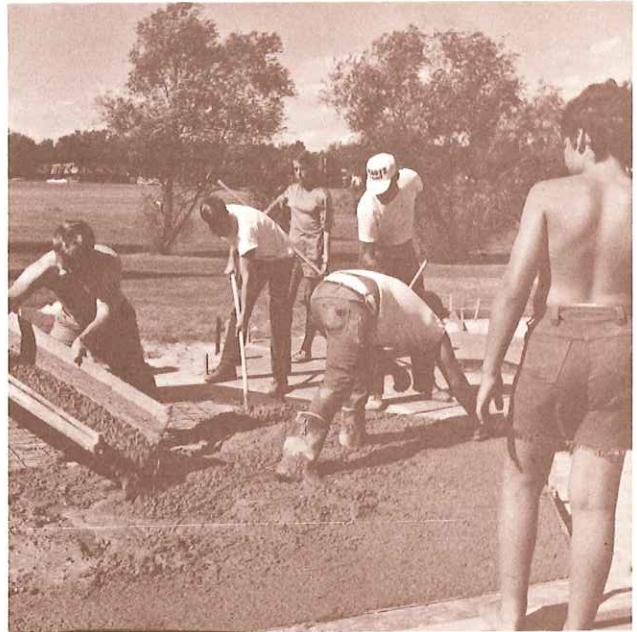
Assisted by interested Madisonians and the Madison Parks Department, Scout leaders selected Warner Park as the appropriate location and hoped to erect a plaza-like setting for the Statue. The Statue Plaza, now known as the Court of Honor, was designed not only for use at Scout functions, but for civic activities as well.

On this 85th anniversary of the original Miss Liberty's dedication in New York and with the restoration and today's rededication 85 years later of Madison's replica, Madison's Statue of Liberty reassumes its role as a reminder of our American heritage. It serves as a lasting memorial, too, to a community firmly committed to preserving the freedoms and values which have made this nation great.

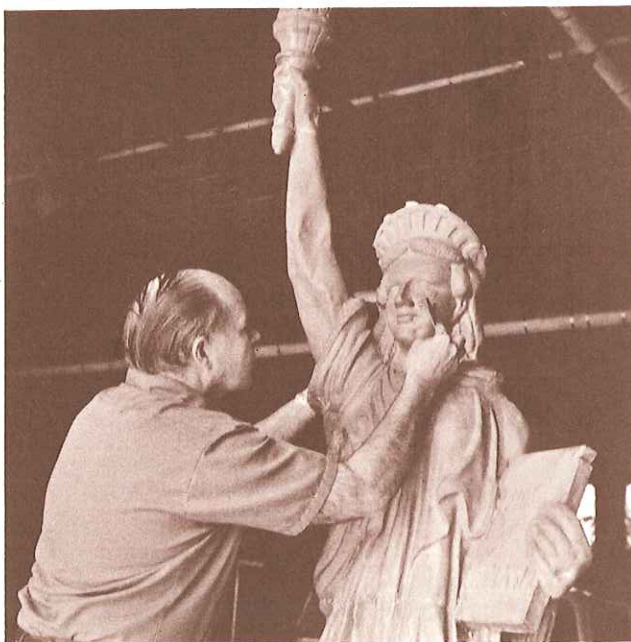
"LONG MAY OUR LAND BE BRIGHT WITH FREEDOM'S HOLY LIGHT"



Prepare the base for freedom's cause.



With pride they put on the finishing touch.



With care like this she may even smile.



Flowers, like children, grow with love.

● VOLUNTEER HELP ●

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Holtzman, Roy	Utzig, Don
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HOPE AND FAITH

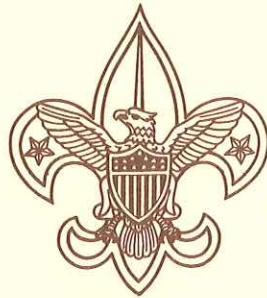
*The arm of freedom raised on high,
a peaceful message in the sky.*

*To tell our world, we all belong,
and share the things to make us strong.*

*The work they've shown can prove a way
the young and old share a day.*

*To labor, sweat, extend your pride,
the goals are very much alive.*

By Ken Voss



*"Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

By Emma Lazarus



The Rotary News

MADISON, WISCONSIN

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Madison, Wisconsin 53703

August 28, 1971

DR. WALTER SULLIVAN DIES

Dr. Walter E. Sullivan, 86, emeritus professor of anatomy at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, died at his home in Costa Mesa, Calif., on Tuesday (Aug. 24, 1971) after an illness.

Walter was an Active Member of our Club for 18 years from the time he joined in 1938 until 1956 when he retired from teaching and moved to California.

Dr. Sullivan was not only an outstanding educator in the field of anatomy (the department he headed as chairman for nearly 25 years) but he was also active in civic affairs. He served as a member of the Madison Zoological Society, the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, the Madison General Hospital Board, and other community projects.

— CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION —

MADISON ROTARY FOUNDATION

Where Voluntary Gifts Become Good Works

YOUR Madison Rotary Foundation recently made a donation to be used for the Children's Park/Playground Shelter House at Central Colony.

"The members of Central Colony Service Auxiliary express their appreciation for your recent generous contribution to help us with our park project for the children of Central Colony."

Sincerely, Mrs. Paul Holloway, Cor. Secretary.

GUESTS OF MEMBERS AUG. 25

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Giswold
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— SHARE ROTARY BY ADDING NEW MEMBERS —

STATUE OF LIBERTY REDEDICATED

A brief but impressive rededication service was held last Wednesday morning at Warner Park when the Replica of the Statue of Liberty was rededicated at its new (and we hope final) resting place.

A formal rededication service will be held sometime in October at the area that will be known as Madison Liberty Court of Honor. At that time we will have a more complete review of the ceremony.

This replica statue was purchased by the Rotary Club of Madison in cooperation with the Four Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts and was dedicated on Flag Day June 14, 1951, when it was originally placed in Giddings Park.

Mark Markwardt, then Immediate Past President of our Club made the presentation speech. Mark, Jim Otto (the Rotary Club representative on the then Statue of Liberty Committee), Ray Matoy and President Bill O'Rourke were present last Wednesday at the rededication ceremonies.

Mayor Bill Dyke made impressive acceptance remarks for the City.

Don Schraufnagel, of the State Bureau of Facilities and Tad Froncek, of Oscar Mayer & Co., Graphic Arts Div., have been the leaders and hard workers behind this relocation project and deserve a big vote of thanks along with Parks Supt. Forrest Bradley and assistant Scott Huston who helped prepare the site. Jerry Surfus, Vice President of Madison South Rotary, has also been a promoter.

Watch for the announcement of the formal dedication in October.



CITY OF MADISON

Wisconsin 53709

OFFICE of the MAYOR

WILLIAM D. DYKE
MAYOR

TELEPHONE
266-4611

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, for approximately eighteen months, many interested citizens of Madison have given voluntarily of their time, talents and money, to restore Madison's Statue of Liberty and to select a suitable site for it; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Parks Department, a Plaza has been designed in Warner Park, named "Madison's Court of Honor", for the purpose of conducting Scouting and Civic affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Madison Rotarians saw it fitting in 1951 to honor the Scouting Movement on its 40th Anniversary by dedicating this replica of America's Statue of Liberty as a pledge of everlasting fidelity and loyalty, to preserve our heritage of freedom; and

WHEREAS, October 28, 1971, being the 85th Anniversary the dedication of America's Statue of Liberty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William D. Dyke, Mayor of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, in recognition of all these deeds, do hereby proclaim October 28, 1971 as

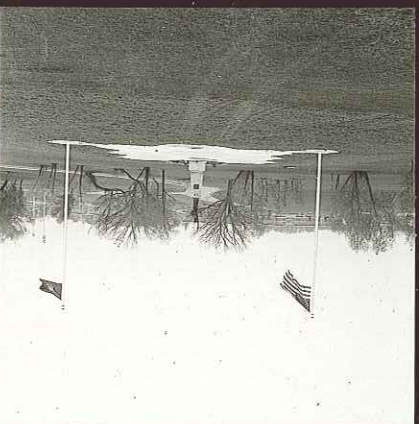
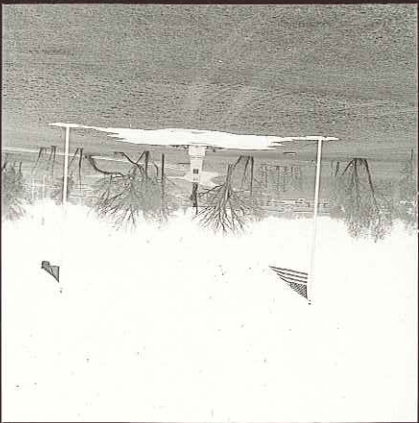
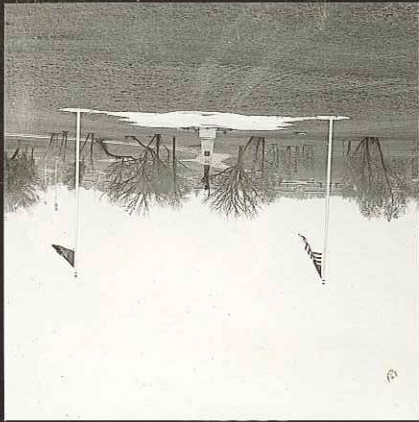
"AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY"

and encourage the press, and citizens to join the volunteers of this restoration in dedicating themselves, by their presence at 5:00 p.m., October 28, 1971, at the Court of Honor Site, Warner Park, Madison, Wisconsin, to witness the rededication and flag raising ceremonies.

William D. Dyke, Mayor
City of Madison, Wisconsin

Signed this 28th day of October,
1971, at City Hall.





6x9
8x10

KODAK SAFETY FILM

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KODAK SAFETY FILM

Owner/Administrator:

Name: City of Madison

Department/Division: Parks Department – East Maintenance Div.

Street Address: 4602 Sycamore

City: Madison

State: Wisconsin

Zip Code: 53704

Contact Name: Karin Wolf

Telephone: (608) 261-9134

If sculpture has been moved, please list former location(s) or owner(s):

1st Location: Giddings Park

2nd Location: Warner Park – corner of Northport and Sherman

Location Type: Plaza/Courtyard

General Vicinity: Town

Any other significant environmental factors:

Roads are ¼ mile from statue, lake is ½ mile (freshwater).

CONDITION INFORMATION

Structural Condition

Cracks, splits, breaks and holes noted in statue, as well as base. It needs to be conserved.

Surface Appearance

Etched, pitted and corroded elements of statue.

Metallic staining noted throughout.

Discolored epoxy resin.

Surface Coating: None.

Basic Condition Assessment: In urgent need of treatment.

OVERALL DESCRIPTION

Sculpture is a replica of original Statue of Liberty in New York City.

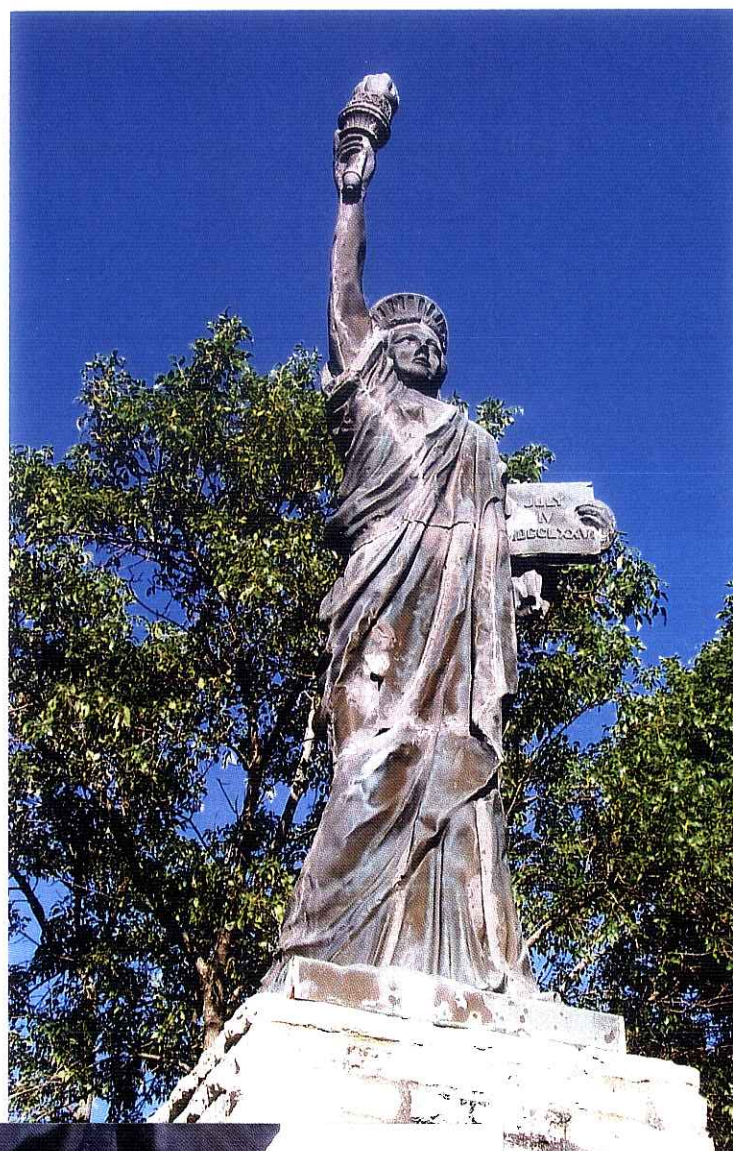
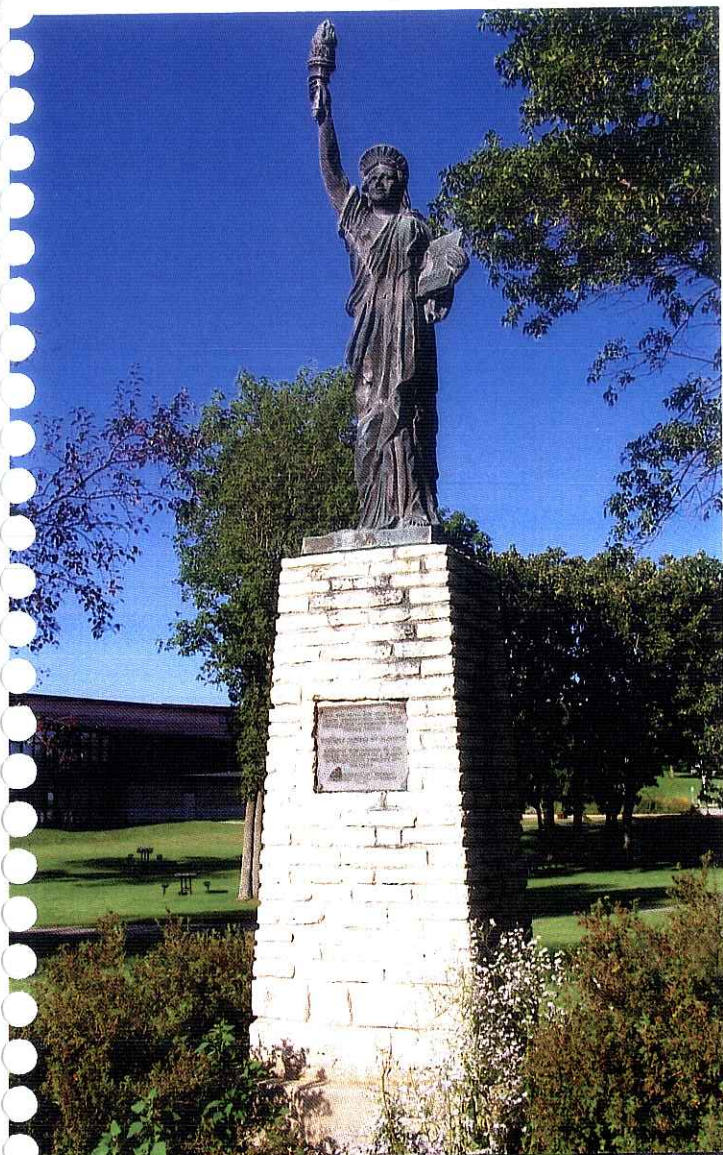
Overall condition: Statue is badly dented in many areas. Its seams are splitting, and past repairs were done shoddily and are now discolored and unsightly. Right arm is especially dented. Statue is stained light green on several areas. Mortar where stone meets concrete is cracking.

Presented by the Boy Scouts of America.

FINE ARTS CONSERVATION SERVICES
Anton Rajer
P. O. Box 567
Madison, WI 53701-0567
(608) 249-7042 tel. (920) 246-1407 cell
rajert@gdinet.com

August, 2007

1. *Statute of Liberty*, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (Warner Park)



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August, 2007

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