

2098

Form 504

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey

Topographic

Field No.

Office No.

2098

LOCALITY

State

New York

General locality

Ellis Island

Locality

N.Y. Harbor

1893

194

CHIEF OF PARTY

Amey P. Ritter

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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

J. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent.

State: *New York*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographical Sheet No. 2098

LOCALITY:

*Ellis Island, New York
Harbor*

1893.

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Homer P. Ritter

2098

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U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,

Washington DC.

Feb'y. 8, 1893.

2-547

Ellis Island.

Ellis Island is situated in New York Harbor, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ statute miles, in a westerly direction from the Battery, New York City; it is about 1200 yards north of Bedloe Island, it lies at the northeastern end of the Jersey Flats and is about 600 yards west of the 26 foot curve on the west side of the main channel leading to the entrance to the Hudson River.

The island lies 430 yards south of the outer extremity of Port Liberty coal wharf (the last wharf built from Communipaw eastward toward the main channel).

At the present time there is no navigable channel, properly so called, between the island and the main (Jersey) shore, as the water space has barely a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet mean low stage, except in a

depression close to Port Liberty wharf.

A 12 foot channel has been dredged from the southeastern end of the island in a southeasterly direction to deep water.

Ellis Island prior to 1890 was the site of the U.S. magazine; it then contained a little over 2 1/2 acres and viewed from the eastward appeared as a low grassy islet with several long low houses on its eastern side; in front of the houses was a small stone fort; on the south western side was a dwelling surrounded by a few trees.

Subsequent to 1890 the island has been enlarged by filling in and now contains about 7 acres. The island is now occupied by the buildings of the U.S. Immigration Depot - The present shape of the island is nearly rectangular 400 ft by 800 ft, lying N.W. by S.E.

From the western end of the island extends an L shaped breakwater enclosing between it and the island

a basin 200 ft by 800 ft., facing along the southeastern side of the island; this basin is open on the eastern end and connects with the dredged channel.

In the western end of the basin is a ferry slip from which hourly trips are made to the Barge office at the Battery N.Y. City.

The buildings on the island consist of - ^{main depot, storehouse, hospital, engine and boiler ho, kitchen etc.} - the large main building 150 ft by 400 ft, several stories high and surmounted by a tall flagstaff; it is made of wood and occupies the southeastern end of the island; the remainder of the buildings range along the eastern and northeastern sides of the island covering about one half the surface of the island. Some of these buildings ^{are} of wood, some of stone some brick -

The island is less than 10 ft above high water and flat.

Homer P. Ritter