

## THE STORY OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AT FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY THAT HAS STOOD PROMINENTLY IN FRONT OF FRANKLIN SCHOOL SINCE 1951 IS A REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL STATUE OF LIBERTY IN NEW YORK HARBOR. THE REPLICA IS  $1/19^{\text{TH}}$  THE SIZE OF THE 151-FOOT STATUE IN NEW YORK HARBOR. THE SHEET COPPER USED FOR THE STATUE ON THE CAMPUS OF FRANKLIN SCHOOL IS MADE OF SHEET COPPER THAT IS  $3/32^{\text{ND}}$  OF AN INCH THICK. IT IS MADE OF THE SAME MATERIAL AND EQUAL THICKNESS AS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IN NEW YORK. THE FRANKLIN STATUE IS  $8 \frac{1}{2}$  FEET TALL WITHOUT THE BASE. IT WEIGHS 290 POUNDS. THE STATUE COST \$350, PLUS \$9 FOR FREIGHT.

THE STAR-SHAPED BASE, (WHICH IS ALSO THE SHAPE OF THE FOUNDATION ON THE NEW YORK STATUE) CAME FOR \$250 IN ADDITION TO DONATED LABOR. THE FOOTING OF THE STATUE IS 22 INCHES DEEP AND RESTS ON THE BED OF THE OLD STREET. THE CEMENT AND BRICKS WERE FURNISHED AT COST BY JOE OLDHAM AND THE BADGER LUMBER COMPANY. THE BRICK PEDESTAL IS 3 FEET 2 INCHES SQUARE AT THE BASE AND  $6 \frac{1}{2}$  FEET TALL. THE BRICK STAR IS 15 FEET ACROSS AT ITS FARTHEST POINTS AND 2 FEET HIGH. THE ARCHITECT FOR THE STAR DESIGN WAS LEO ADAMS.

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1951, THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WAS DEDICATED AFTER A MILE-LONG PARADE OF 1,000 UNIFORMED SCOUTS AND LEADERS. THE EXCELSIOR SPRINGS AND LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL BANDS PERFORMED ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE AND ON THE GROUNDS OF FRANKLIN SCHOOL. THE STATUE WAS UNVEILED BY H. ROE BARTLE AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THE FLIGHT OF TWELVE F-51 NAVY AIRPLANES FROM THE OLATHE BASE FLEW OVERHEAD.

IT WAS DEDICATED BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF CLAY COUNTY AS A PLEDGE OF "EVERLASTING FIDELITY AND LOYALTY TO FREEDOM". AFTER FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE STATUE WERE COMPLETED, THE STATUE WAS REDEDICATED IN FRONT OF FRANKLIN SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 1992. THE STATUE WAS AGAIN REMOVED FOR RESTORATION AND REDEDICATED ON DECEMBER 14, 2001, IN FRONT OF FRANKLIN SCHOOL WITH MAYOR STEVE HAWKINS GIVING A SPEECH.