

Right by the Ferry Terminal at Battery Park in Lower Manhattan is a very special monument which pays homage to those Irish immigrants that arrived in America to escape the Irish Potato Famine. It is an original stone cottage which was brought in sections to America and rebuilt just as it was found, deserted in the fields, the owners fleeing their native country to escape certain death.



The western edge of the cottage faces where the World Trade Center once stood.



Only part of the cottage remains but it is a symbol of Irish life before the deadly potato blight hit the nation in the 1800s. This photo shows the shell of the cottage, minus the roof.



The cottage has been erected on an artificial hill and you can walk around the structure and view the building from many angles.



This is a view of the interior from the top of the hill showing how the inside was building in layers of local stone



This is a close-up from ground level of the same wall. The part at the bottom that recedes into the wall was once a fireplace.



This is the left section of the wall which was once used as a storage and drying area for food.



There were no windows in these stone cottages, just small holes which would be covered up on the inside in times of bad weather





When they were breaking down the cottage, archaeologists also found a stone Celtic cross carved into a pillar of rock. They carefully brought this valuable artifact to New York and positioned it on top of the hill



In addition to the building and the cross grasses and wild flowers were also brought over from Ireland to make the scene more authentic. Here you can see wild foxgloves growing in the grassy hillside.



Wild poppies also flourish and blossom the grassy hillside by both the cottage and the monument



So the next time that you are in Lower Manhattan take a walk to Battery Park which overlooks New Jersey. Across from the ferry terminal is this unique monument to those immigrants who were forced to leave their homes in Ireland due to the Potato Famine.

