



SING SING PRISON MUSEUM

The Sing Sing Prison Museum (SSPM) will tell the complex and compelling stories of 200 years of incarceration on the grounds of America's most historic active prison, Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York. SSPM will include two main structures – one outside state prison property (the former prison Powerhouse), the other within prison walls (the original Cellblock). Through its exhibitions, collections and programs, Sing Sing Prison Museum will provide a forum for the examination of historical and contemporary issues in the criminal justice system, and their social, political and cultural impact, and to inspire visitors to take action toward building a more just society.

- In the 19th century, medieval-style punishments were applied frequently and without mercy. The “shower bath” was akin to waterboarding. All such tortures were banned in the early 20th century.

- In the late 19th century, the electric chair made use of a new technology – electric current – as a form of capital punishment. Executions were considered more modern and less public than hanging. The electric chair spread to prisons around the U.S. and is still in use today in a few US states.

- The 1825 Cellblock is the oldest building at the prison, six stories high, 476 feet long and 44 feet wide.

- The 1,200 cells in the historic Cellblock were a mere seven-feet long, six-and-a-half-feet high and three feet, seven inches wide furnished only with a cot, a Bible and a bucket, since there was no plumbing. There was no heating or electricity.

- Warner Bros. made the 1932 film “20,000 Years in Sing Sing,” starring Spencer Tracy and Bette Davis, based on Warden Lewis Lawes’s 1931 memoir.

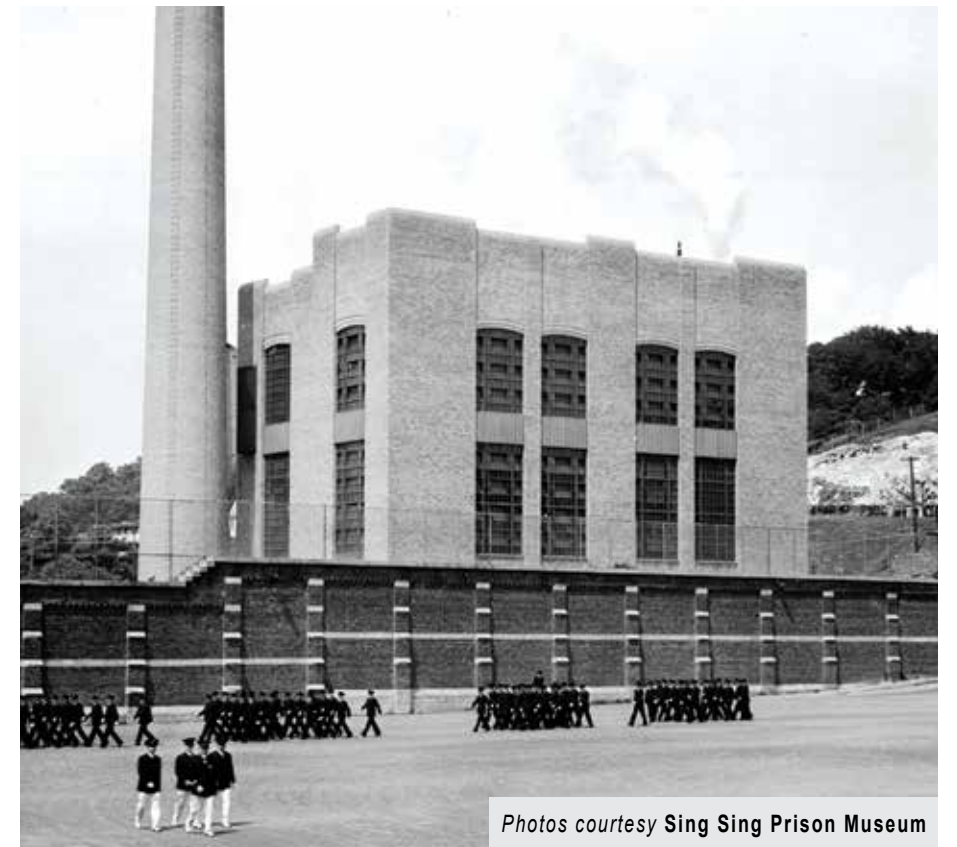
The Powerhouse, built in 1936, supplied electric power to the prison, including the electric chair. This building, now used largely for storage, stands outside the prison walls and will be rehabilitated and repurposed as the Museum’s main building and preview center.

The original Cellblock, one of America’s largest buildings when it was completed in 1828, once housed more than 1,200 incarcerated men. Now an impressive ruin within the prison walls, it will be the centerpiece of the Museum’s visitor experience.

A portion of the Powerhouse will open in late 2020 as a preview center. The full Museum will open in 2025, which is the 200th construction anniversary of the original Cellblock.

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Sing Sing Prison Museum, slated to open in 2025, will be the extraordinary location where the complex and compelling stories of two hundred years of incarceration will be shared with the public on the grounds of America’s most historic active prison, Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, NY. Through its exhibitions, collections and programs, Sing Sing Prison Museum will provide a forum for the examination of historical and contemporary issues in the criminal justice system, and their social, political and cultural impact. www.singsingprisonmuseum.org



Photos courtesy Sing Sing Prison Museum



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