Welcome to Verizon Headquarters!

140 West Street
New York, New York

www.verizon.com
Welcome to 140 West Street! Once the headquarters for New York Telephone Company, 140 West Street is now Verizon’s new World Headquarters. 

In commemoration of this occasion, we have prepared this brochure about the history, the damage following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the restoration and the West Street building today.

Designed by Ralph Walker, the 32-story building was one of the first Art Deco skyscrapers built in the city. Completed in 1926, the building defined the skyline of Lower Manhattan and won the Architectural League of New York’s gold medal of honor award. It was landmarked in 1991.

As we know all too well, 140 West Street was significantly damaged on September 11, 2001 when the fourth structure of the World Trade Center complex – Building Seven – collapsed. Steel girders and tons of debris from the adjacent building brutally damaged the West Street building’s brick-and-lime-stone facade with gaping holes.

Internally, the basement was flooded, the lobby was in ruins, including the ceiling frescoes that retell the history of communications as well as the bronze plates imbedded in the marble floor that depict the construction of New York’s telephone network. And, floor-after-floor of sophisticated telephone switching equipment lay silent and upended.

It’s taken more than four years to fully restore 140 West Street to the award-winning structure it once was. Even the Bell symbol – the historic telephone icon – continues to sit square center above our main entrance, completely restored, ringing in a new era in telecommunications.

We are pleased to re-open our doors to employees, community leaders, businesses, architects, tourists, visitors and all lovers of Downtown Manhattan to enjoy the rich history and wonder of our West Street headquarters.

Ivan Seidenberg
Chairman and CEO
At 32 stories high, with another 5 stories below grade, and nearly 1.2 million square feet of space, the building served as the original headquarters of the New York Telephone Company. Heralded since its completion, the now classical art deco design has gained the Barclay-Vesey Building New York City Landmark Status.

Originally designed by architect Ralph Walker of McKenzie, Voorhees and Gmelin, the Barclay-Vesey Building, as 140 West Street is historically known, was at the time of its completion in 1926 the second largest building in Lower Manhattan.
The tragic September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks upon the World Trade Center took an entire nation by surprise and left an unprecedented wake of damage, death and destruction.

The total collapse of the Twin Towers and 7 World Trade Center severely damaged the adjacent Verizon Central Office at 140 West Street, disrupting communications services to hundreds of thousands of residents, businesses and emergency management personnel in southern Manhattan, including Wall Street. Verizon worked around the clock to return the New York Stock Exchange to service within 5 days.

View of the collapse from an upper floor of 140 West Street.
Facade restoration

Entire column bays were destroyed as high up as the 13th story, and the East facade was decimated up to the 9th floor. Despite having two perimeter columns destroyed at their base, the sturdy building remained standing. However, falling debris damaged underground cable vaults and severed incoming Con Edison feeders, commercial steam service, domestic water mains and sewage piping.

Reconstructed over 45 tons of ornamental limestone.

Over 100,000 lbs. of new steel.

Replaced 1500 landmark windows.

Replicated and restored decorative ornamentation.

Over 1 acre of new roofing on 20 separate roofs.

Replaced 475,000 face brick.
Verizon proved its commitment to preserving the historic character of the building by completely restoring the landmark lobby. Dramatic fluctuations of temperature and relative humidity – coupled with smoke and water damage – threatened to destroy the historic ceiling murals beyond repair. The architects assembled a team of artisans to meticulously restore the frescos, chandeliers and bronze work, while seamlessly incorporating modern environmental and security enhancements.
140 West Street today

- Complete renovation of entire building.
- Upgraded and modernized building infrastructure systems.
- State-of-the-art building security systems.
- Enhanced building fire alarm system and fire command station.
- All new fire suppression system.
- Complete modernization of 23 passenger elevators.
- 70 new ADA accessible restrooms.
- Near many New York City lines of transportation - including subway lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, A, C, E, N and R and bus lines M1, M6, M9, M20 and M22.

Today, the building is Verizon’s world headquarters and the cornerstone of Verizon’s real estate portfolio. The building houses more than 1,300 employees and a state-of-the-art telecommunications network serving a significant portion of Lower Manhattan.
The new Lower Manhattan

These website images and more of the restoration progress of the World Trade Center site in Downtown Manhattan can be viewed at these websites:

www.renewnyc.com
(Lower Manhattan Development Corporation)

www.panynj.gov
(The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey) for the new PATH Station, subway maps, etc.

www.silversteinproperties.com
(Freedom Tower)

The new Freedom Tower will face Verizon Headquarters.1

Architect’s view of downtown Manhattan with the new Freedom Tower.2

Inside restored entrance.

Memorial Plaza, Reflecting Absence.3

Credits:
1Architect: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Developer: Silverstein Properties Inc.
Modelmaker: Radi
Photographer: Jock Pottle/ESTO
2Architect: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Developer: Silverstein Properties Inc.
Rendering by dbox
3Memorial Plaza, Reflecting Absence: by Michael Arad and Peter Walker.
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Special thanks to all that have contributed to the contents of this brochure:
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Awards for the 140 West Street Building

2005 National Trust for Historic Preservation - National Preservation Award
2005 New York State AIA - Honor Award for Historic Preservation/Adaptive Reuse
2004 Lucy G. Moses Award for Historic Preservation - from the New York Landmarks Conservancy
2004 Restoration Project of the Year - New York Construction Magazine
2004 Archi Award for Historic Preservation/Adaptive Reuse - Long Island Chapter American Institute of Architects
2004 New York Landmarks Conservancy - Chairman’s Award
2004 The American Council of Engineering Companies of NY ACEC-NY-Engineering Excellence Award

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