

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #1

Grand Central Terminal



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INTRODUCTION

Grand Central Terminal (commonly mistaken as Grand Central Station), was built between 1903 and 1913, on 42nd and Park Avenue. This terminal was built to replace the older Grand Central Station and have the electric trains instead of steam trains.

The style that the terminal was built in was Beaux-Arts style. It is today known as one of the most visited tourist spots in the country, perhaps even the world.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



This is part of the ramp to the lower level of the terminal. At the bottom of this ramp, there is the Whispering Arch. The ceiling in the arch was made in a way where a person can talk from one side to a person in another side.

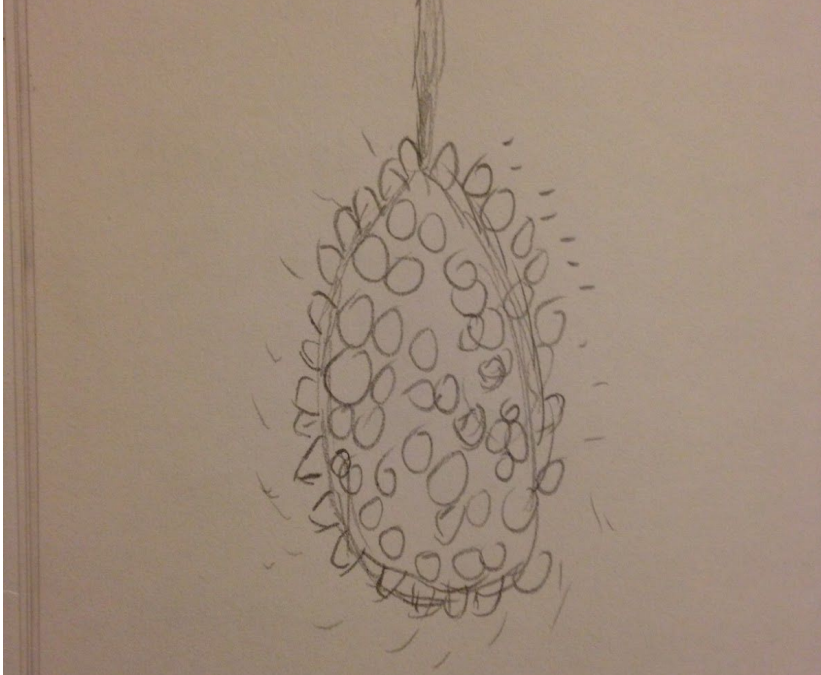


This is a picture of the Main Concourse in the terminal. Up in the ceiling is a painting of the stars, and has all the zodiac signs. The windows in the photo have glass walkways that only employees in GCT can enter and walk through them.

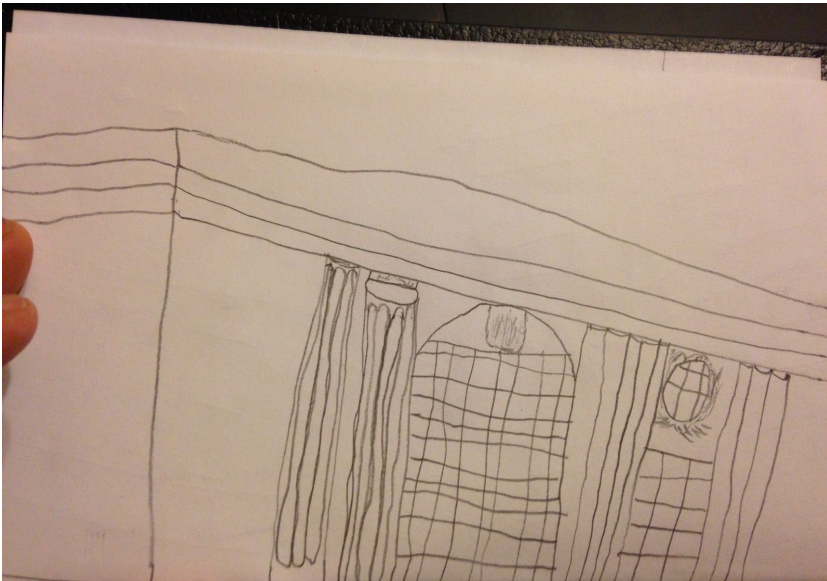


This is the Metro North track system in the terminal. This railroad system used to be out in the open instead of underground. But with the reconstruction from GCS to GCT, they changed both the trains and the system as well.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)



This is a sketch of one of the light fixtures in the terminal. All of the fixtures have a gold look to it, and all the lightbulbs are in the open.



A sketch of the front of the terminal, minus the sculpture on the top. The marble columns and windows follow the Beaux-Arts really well.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794- 1877) - U.S businessman and philanthropist. Vanderbilt made a fortune from shipping and railroads.
- June 5th, 1910- the last train leaves Grand Central Station and demolition begins on it.
- 1913- The Grand Central Terminal is finished.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

-Neo Classicism- a term used to describe art that originate from Europe

-Beaux Arts Style- a theatrical and heavily ornamented classical style taught during the 19th century from Paris.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What's it like in the glass walkways?
2. What are the walls and light fixtures made out of?
3. Where's FDR's secret train?