

Learning Places Fall 2016

# **SITE REPORT #1**

## **Grand Central Terminal**



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### **INTRODUCTION**

We explored the Grand Central Terminal which had more than 100 years in history. It had gone through three different stages of reconstruction. Now, thousands of people enter and exit the city through this building. Because of the neo classical decoration, it is very recognizable in the public space. We learned why the structures were built in certain way, and the Grand Central considered an achievement of civil engineering. We still have a lot to learn in Grand central Terminal.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos\*)



I can see inside of Grand Central Terminal through the giant windows. The top of the building has great statue of Greek Gods that perch above us mortals. Minerva, Hercules, and Mercury are the symbolize to the terminal's strength, brains, and commerce. The 14 feet Tiffany clock that is adorned by the Greek Gods. The clock helped standardized time and train schedules, so that we could be able to figure out when a train was arriving and/or departing.



The lighting is ornamented and beautiful. The chandeliers are dipped in 24 carat gold. Also, it is important because it represents the significance of electricity during the time of the Grand Central Terminal's creation. All the light bulbs were displayed on outside of the chandeliers and light fixtures. Electricity was the part of the major development in Grand Central Terminal.



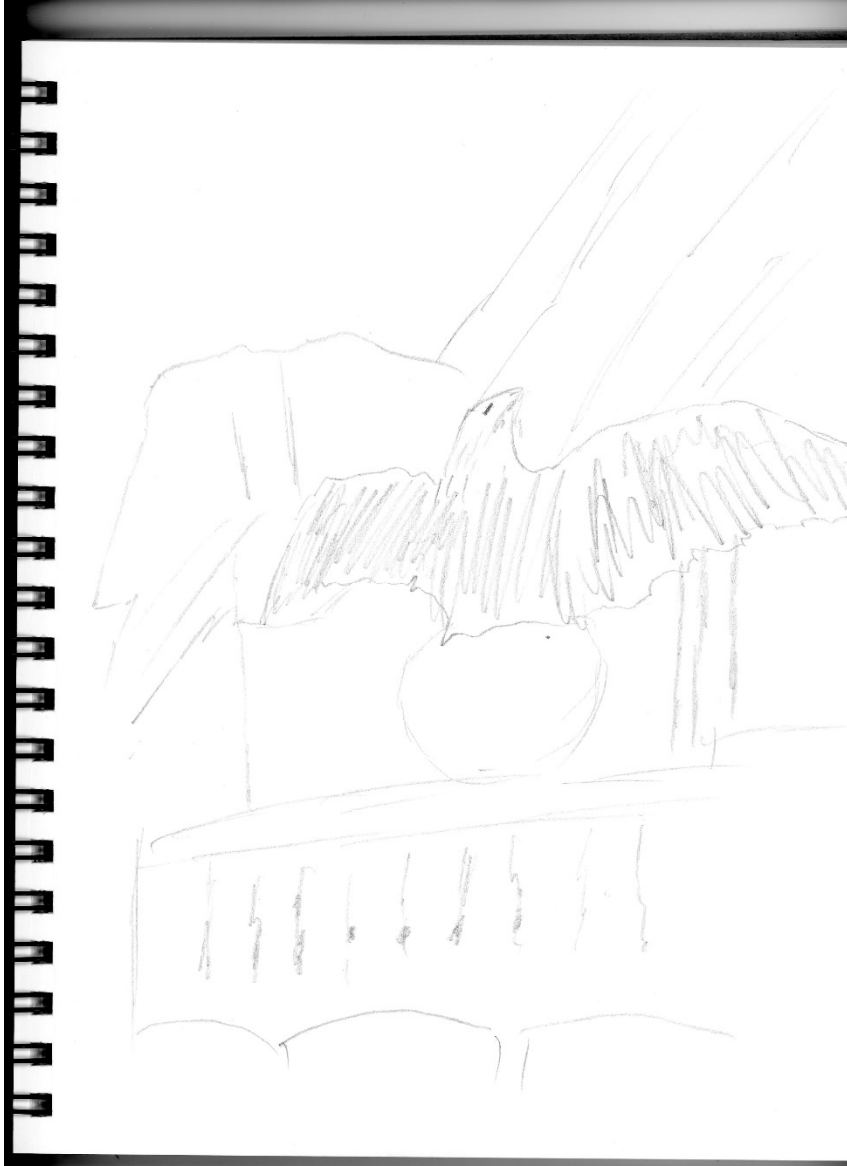


I like this photo a lot because the bare lights bulbs make the Terminal shine even in sunny day. The eagle is monumental. I have seen the expression on the tourists faces when they first laid their eyes on this grand structure. The Beaux-Arts Style gives a feeling off traveling back into time. The statues of Hercules, Mercury and Minerva remains intact.

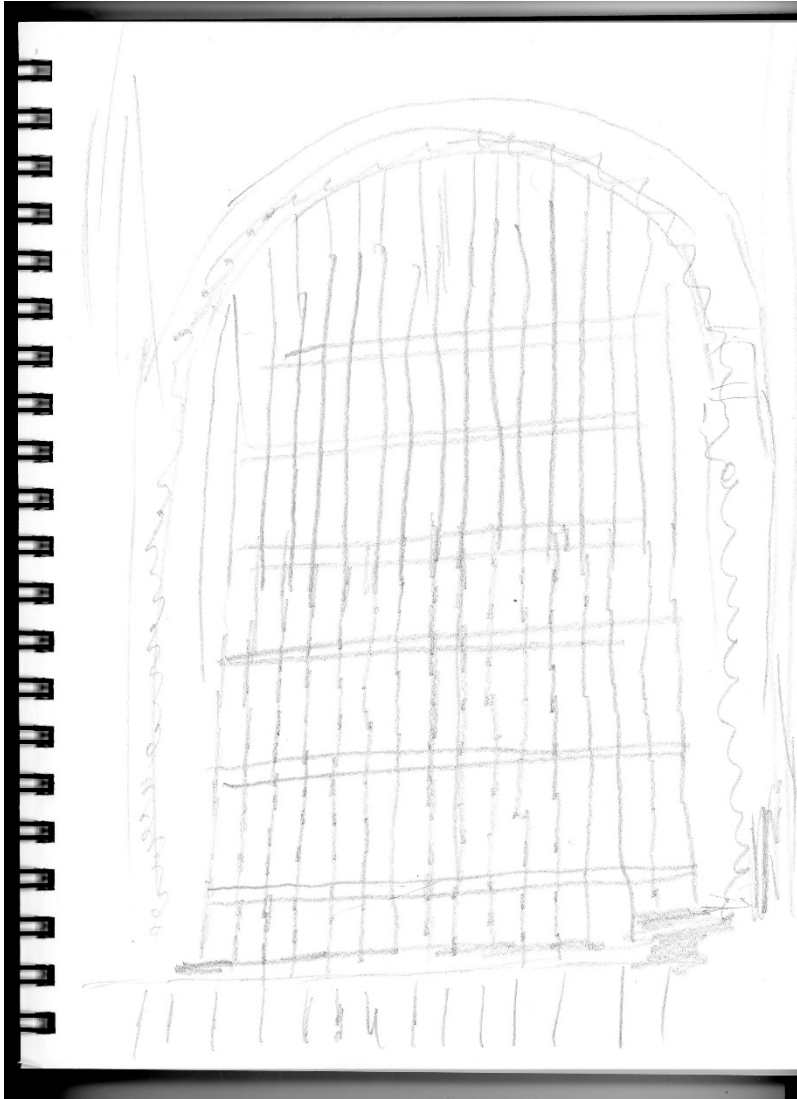
SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches\*)



This is a sketch from where we were waiting outside the Grand Central Terminal



I like this eagle, but I had hard time drawing it. I read the story behind it. It was original from 22eagles of Penn station



This sketch was from inside of the main concourse. It is important for all the light coming inside.

## GENERAL NOTES:

Cornelius Vanderbilt, an American business magnate

Grand Central Terminal was finished in 1913.

The building is styled in a neo-classical way with steel frames running through it.

Vanderbilt hall is no longer open to the public because there was too many homeless in there. Now, we use it sparingly for art exhibits and events.

## INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

The Grand Central Tour was very acknowledged. The waiting room has been converted into one big hall used occasionally for exhibits. There are various parts of the building are either scrolls, rosettes, acorns or a combination of all. On the top of the four-faced clock, there are acorns representing the Vanderbilt family. The great ceiling opening above with the zodiac studded sky by Helleu. A tiny block hole in the ceiling which actually comes from the dawn if the space age. There was an error in the terminal. Helleu painted the beautiful constellation backwards. Hopefully, I will continue to discover more in the second trip

## KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

**Neo Classicism** – is a term coined in the 19th century to describe the overwhelmingly dominant style in the fine and decorative arts in Europe and North America during the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>

**Luxury:** A thing that is expensive and enjoyable but not essential.

**Concourse:** The running or flocking together of people; the condition or state of being so gathered together. to have concourse: to resort in crowds to, unto.

**Paul César Helleu:** were a French oil painter, pastel artist, dry point etcher, and designer,

**Jules-Alexis:** Were a French sculptor and educator.

**Beaux-Arts Style-** is a theatrical and heavily ornamented classical style taught during the 19th century at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.



**Restoration**- the action of returning something to former owner, place or condition

centuries. **QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH**

1. Is Grand Central Terminal use golden ratio?
2. When do Grand Central Terminal go to the next reconstruction?
3. Can Grand Central Terminal handle the all the tourist in next 50 years?