

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #1

Grand Central Station



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INTRODUCTION

Grand Central Station is a marvelous place with such rich history of New York In the 1900's. This place is both historical yet modern in its own way with its beautiful architecture and its modernize look. It is considered a blast from the past in some areas of the station but overall it is a beautiful place where tons of

people and tourist go to visit or catch a ride on the train.

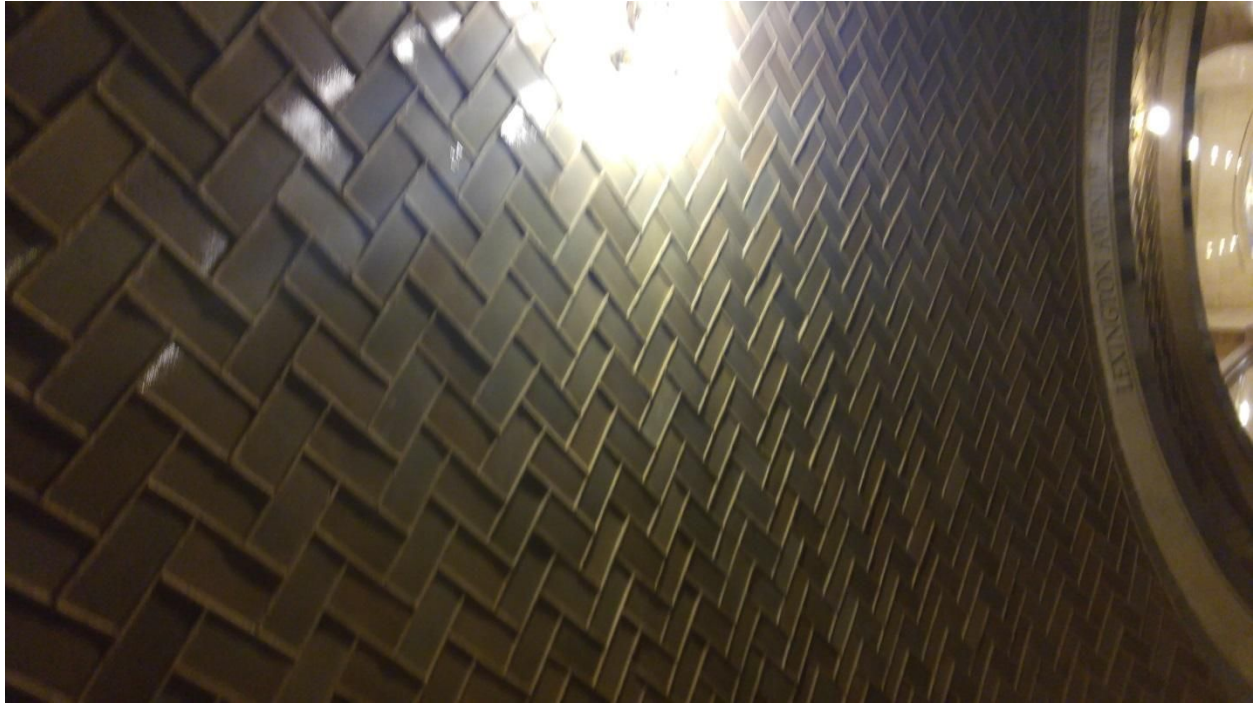
SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



This area was considered the waiting room back then in the 1900's and later on became an area for the homeless. As you can see it is pretty vacant and it is closed to the public. I feel like it has a huge importance because this area is a living fact on how times change in New York and its look marvelous for a place that has been in the building for such a long time.



This is the main lobby of Grand Central Station it is where a lot of people go to for things such as transportation or tourism, as you can see in the picture it is a big place with an amazing style of architecture it has beautiful stairs and pillars and even the ceiling is magnificent. This area's importance is how people travel and buy tickets for transportation, its durability to stay like this throughout many years shows how beautiful this place really is.



This area is called the whispering wall, it is a ceiling inside Grand Central where a person goes from one corner of the wall and talks and the other person on the opposite side of the wall can hear you. It is an architect wonder and catches your attention on how this is made, it is a very important place for tourist and its importance is very big because it manages it great job of reflecting sound on the ceiling across.

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This area is where the glass floor is located as you can see we are at the very top of grand central terminal, it is quite amazing because when you're on the floor you don't notice this place at all, this place looks like a window when your down there on the main terminal. The reason why I think this is important because I think this area of grand central gives you a better insight about the terminal.

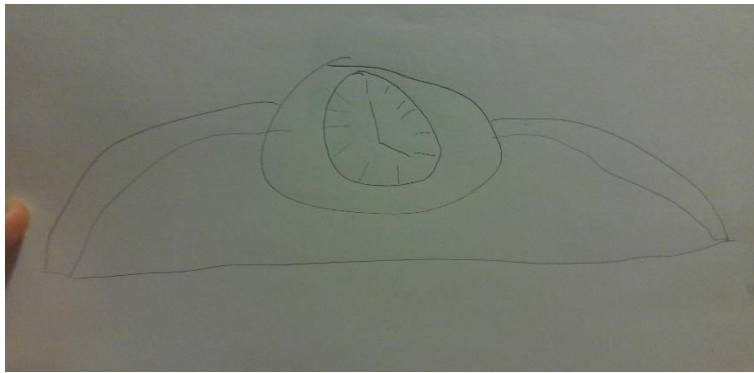


This picture shows the magnificent ceiling of grand central terminal, this picture shows the zodiac signs and is considered a star map, the reason why I think this is so important because the ceiling is marvelous and it catches my attention on how they made this and how long did it take for grand central to have a ceiling like this.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketch)



Even though my sketch isn't all that great my sketch is about the upper level of Grand Central where cars usually tend to travel along with a statue in the center, the reason why this sketch is so important because the statue is Cornelius Vanderbilt, which was the architect behind Grand Central.



My next sketch is about the clock outside grand central. The reason why this sketch is so important because the clock was very revolutionary at the time Grand Central was built because around that time the clock wasn't very important till people needed to know what time trains were coming in and coming out.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Cornelius Vanderbilt was the architect behind the building
- Grand Central Station opened in 1871

- Jacqueline Kennedy was essential to the preservation of Grand Central
- Warren and Wetmore was an architecture firm that helped build the station
- WASA Studio is also another architecture firm that also helped build the station
- The ceiling for grand central terminal was inspired by the space race during the cold war
- Nazi spies tried to destroy a generator room on the lower levels
- The ceiling before it had a star map was pure black and took a year to clean.
- During the 1970's grand central wasn't a pleasant place to visit due the homeless living there.
- Jackie Kennedy was a major figure for helping preserving grand central terminal.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Neoclassicism- Is an architectural style that mixed the old with the new during the time.

Train Shed- A train shed was a station building where the tracks and platforms of a railway station are covered by a roof

Grand Central terminal- Grand Central terminal is where people would go to buy tickets for trains or wait for a train.

Grand Central station- Grand Central terminal is where the trains are ready to depart/arrive.

Helios zodiac- Helios zodiac is the ceiling of the Grand Central terminal that shows all the zodiac signs in space.

Train information booth- this is where the information booth displays information for the trains

and there departure time but is totally inaccurate.

Insight

During our second trip to Grand Central Terminal I was able to make a better insight then our previous trip. Personally I enjoyed our second trip better than our first trip, Mr. Brucker helped me notice a lot of things I didn't pay attention to during our first visit. I was amazed by how much more there was to grand central than just a place to go catch a train. My favorite part of the tour would be the story Mr. Brucker told the class about Nazi spies trying to infiltrate the lower levels of grand central. I was very interested in this particular part of the tour because he answered my question from my previous site report whether grand central was ever prepped during world war 2 or the cold war. My other main insight has to be our trip to the higher levels to grand central on the glass floor, to be honest even though I was terrified of the glass floor I found it amazing how they managed to use a glass floor without it breaking, I also found it pretty cool how taking the picture ranging from the ceiling to the bottom where the information booth made for a good picture.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Since Grand Central Station was active for so long how did Grand Central Station prep to events in time such as World Ward 2 or the Cold War?
2. What was the process of preserving Grand Central Station in the 70's?
3. What are the hardships Grand Central Station has in today's era?

4. Since a lot of people go to Grand central every year how can the people that work in grand central count or estimate how many people go every year?
5. Since the early 1900's was very crucial for grand central to be constructed, how can grand central manage to stay as a place for train transportation if there were to be renovations in the future?
6. If the Grand Central Information board isn't why hasn't any managed to change it?