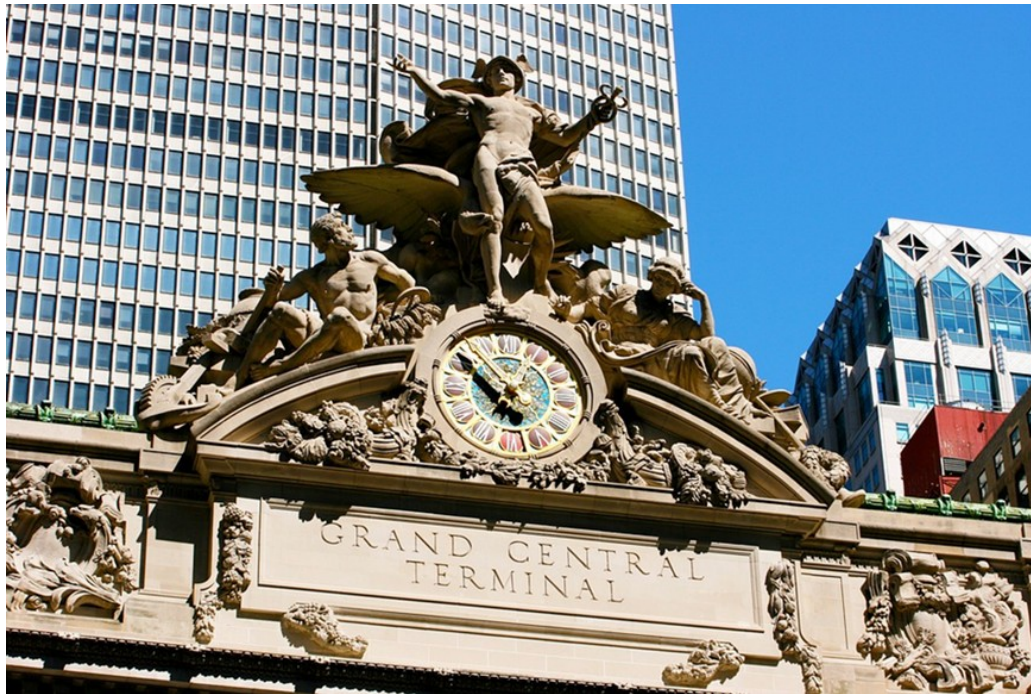


Learning Places Fall 2016

# SITE REPORT #1

## *Grand Central Terminal*



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### INTRODUCTION

Grand Central Terminal is a famous NYC landmark in Midtown Manhattan. Located on 42nd St and Park Ave, Grand Central is one of the busiest train stations in the world, and serves nearly 200,000 NYC commuters every day. The original property was built in 1871, it had gone through two main different stages of reconstruction as well as part of its name establishing its purpose. From Grand Central Depot to Grand Central Station and finally to Grand Central Terminal.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION



The Beaux-Arts Style gives a feeling of traveling back into time. On top of Grand Central is a statue of Hercules, Mercury and Minerva. Jules-Félix Coutan's name lives on forever through this grand creation. Mercury—the God of Commerce which may represent “export” and “import.” Minerva represents intelligence and Hercules represents strength.





The chandelier seen in this image is an original that was installed when GCT (Grand Central Terminal) was built and the metal frame was dipped in 24 carat gold. The benches were removed purposefully due to the homeless people taking refuge for the night in this area during the 1970s and early 1980s.

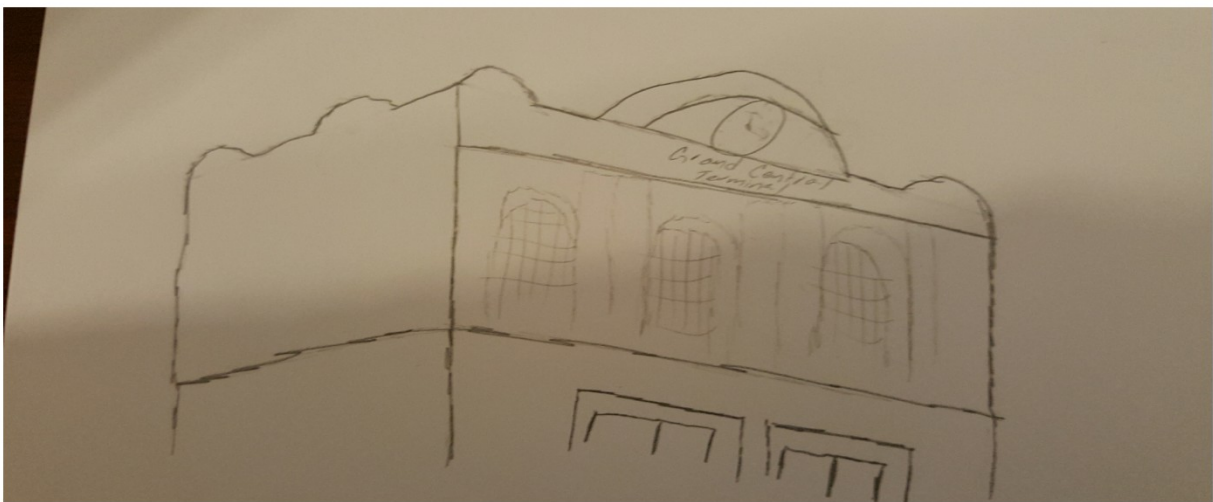
During our recent guide tour at Grand Central, the MTA's Dan Brucker told us about the information booth that there's a secret spiral staircase inside the information booth. So the information

booth people can climb up and climb down as they're serving customers arriving or departing on different trains at different times all throughout the day.



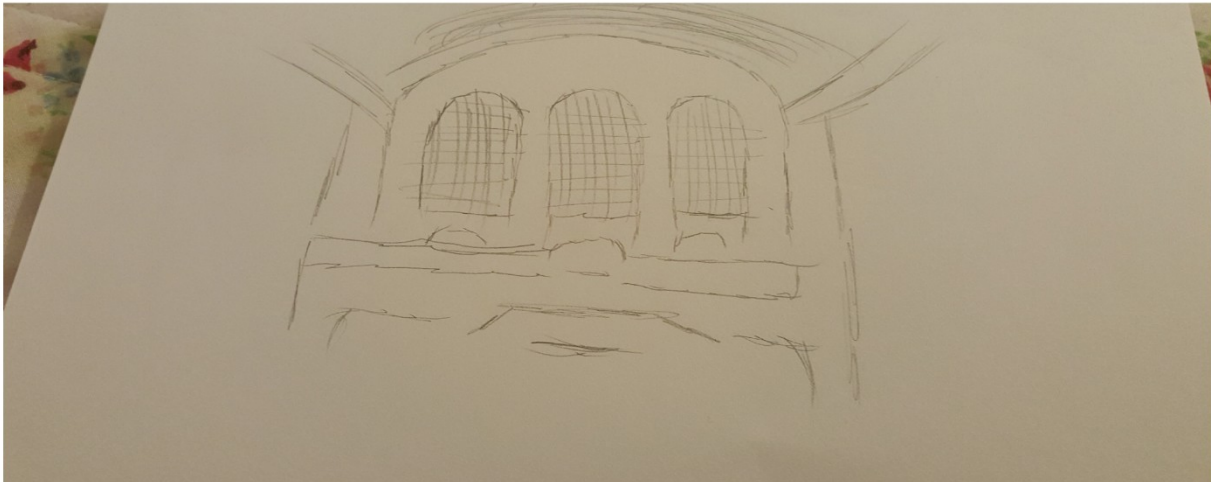
This photo on the left, I took this picture from another secret staircase behind the window. Brucker told us that when the terminal was built, there was only one staircase, which was modeled after the one in the Paris opera house. Until in the 1990s a duplicate staircase was made. Brucker said that the old staircase is one inch smaller from the newer staircase, so that hundreds of thousands of years from now archaeologists discover this place, they'll know, they were not put in at the same time.

SITE DOUMENTATION (Sketches)

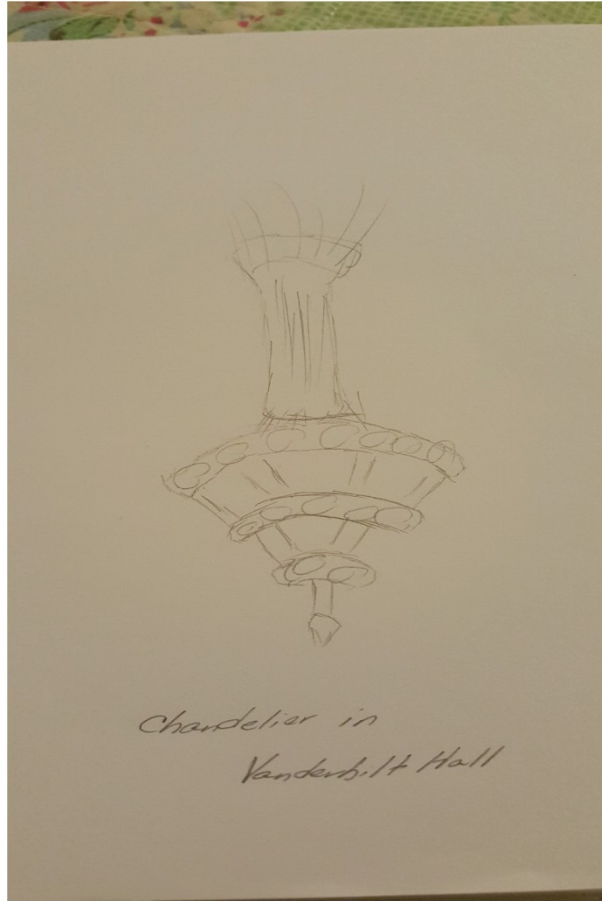




My sketches are not perfect, but I try my best. This sketch is the exterior of Grand Central Terminal. There is some missing drawing that I forgot to draw. As you know I forgot to sketch the statue on top of the clock. In the meantime, it looks pretty good so far.



This sketch was draw from the lobby at Grand Central. Behind the window, there is a secret staircase where you can walk across the pathway to the other side.



This sketch show is a chandelier in Vanderbilt Hall. As I mention earlier, this chandelier was made in 24 carat gold.

### GERENAL NOTES

- Grand Central terminal is a terminal, not a station.
- Secret spiral staircase inside the information booth.
- Most on time trains (98%)
- Smoke stain on the flower on the ceiling due to people smoking inside the terminal.
- 1,000 homeless in GC.
- Secret trains station

### DISCOVERIES

I have discovered that the original benches in the Vanderbilt Hall have been removed due to be homeless. The Vanderbilt Hall have been converted into one big hall where on one side restaurants are being built and the other side is used for exhibits. An acorn can be seen on top of the four-faced clock located in the center of the main concourse. The acorn was taken as a symbol by the Vanderbilt family and the family's motto is as follows: "From the acorn grows the mighty oak."

### KEYWORDS

**Cornelius Vanderbilt** (1794–1877) - US businessman and philanthropist. Vanderbilt amassed a fortune from shipping and railroads, and from this made an endowment to found Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee (1873).

**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 19th centuries.

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

### QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How long does it take to build Grand Central Terminal?
2. Why the acorn symbol was important to the Vanderbilt family?
3. How much is Grand Central Terminal worth?