

Theme: Commercialization of GCT's Waiting Room

Thesis Statement: Though the Waiting Room (now known as Vanderbilt Hall) was once a public space, for passengers and loiterers alike, it is now a commercialized space utilized to simply pursue the economic interests of Grand Central Terminal.

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I) Overview

- A) Purpose of Grand Central Terminal**
- B) Third Iteration of Grand Central Depot**
- C) Transition from steam-powered locomotive to electrification**
- D) The Waiting Room (Now known as Vanderbilt Hall)**

II) Historical Background

- A) City Beautiful Movement**
- B) Beaux-Arts Architecture**
- C) Driving Force Behind GCT**

III) Factors Influencing Decline of GCT

- A) Physical Wear & Tear of War Effort**
- B) Decrease In Railroad Use/Bankruptcy**
- C) Decline in NY Manufacturing Industries**
- D) Decline in Economic Base**
- E) Suburbanization**
- F) NYC Fiscal Crisis**

IV) Waiting Room (1970s)

- A) Refugee Camp for the Homeless and Mentally Ill**
- B) Used only as Transitional space for Commuters**
- C) Dangerous and Unsanitary Conditions**
- D) Deinstitutionalization of State Psychiatric Hospitals**
- E) Shortage of Affordable Housing**

V) Transformation of Waiting Room into Commercial Space

- A) Restoration**
- B) Renovation**
- C) Vendors/Exhibitions/Retail Stores**
- D) Physical/Spatial Separation of People (i.e. Partitions)**

