

Union Station  
50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-139

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
S36-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
District of Columbia		Washington

HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)	HABS NO.
Union Station	DC-139

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)

50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
1903-1908	Daniel H. Burnham (Sculptor: Louis Saint-Gaudens)

SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)

Key element in the McMillan Commission's plan to redevelop Washington following City Beautiful precepts. Was designed to centralize and consolidate train access to Washington, while at the same time providing a monumental, impressive introduction to the city for arriving visitors. Architect Burnham was the "father" of the City Beautiful planning movement in America.

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)

Classical Revival

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)

Steel frame, Vermont granite facing

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)

626' long; central pavilion; east and west wings and end pavilions

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

Monumental central pavilion with 3 arched openings; engaged Ionic columns supporting allegorical figures; inscriptions above cornice; arcaded wings; end pavilions have arched carriage openings; ornate cast-iron light standards, flag pole and hanging lamps

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)

Principal waiting room 120' x 219' with 96'-high barrel vaulted coffered ceiling; main concourse with access to platforms is 760' long, trimmed with white enamel brick and terra cotta; classical detailing and sculpture throughout

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

Converted to a National Visitor's Center ca. 1975.  
Currently being reconverted to use as a train station.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE

Reported fair to poor.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)

Schwartz, Nancy B. Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.  
Listed on National Register of Historic Places.

COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE
	6/21/83

ADDENDUM TO  
UNION STATION  
50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-139

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
536-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013