



Michigan Central Station

DETROIT, MI

Michigan Central Station (MCS) was dedicated on January 4, 1914, and was rushed into service following a fire at the old downtown depot a few weeks prior. Originally constructed to serve William Vanderbilt's New York Central Railroad, the building was designed in the Beaux Arts style by two architectural firms, New York's Warren & Wetmore and St. Paul, Minnesota's Reed & Stem, who had previously collaborated on the New York Grand Central Terminal. They used their expertise in railroad and hotel design to fabricate a three-story train depot and an eighteen-story office tower. The interior of the station inspired awe, with its vast spaces and massive stone columns beneath vaulted ceilings. When it first opened, it was the tallest railroad station in the world and the fourth tallest building in Detroit.

With the decline of rail travel after World War II, MCS suffered a prolonged decline. Ownership was transferred to Amtrak on 1971, at which time the building was significantly remodeled and modernized. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. It went into private hands in 1985, and a series of efforts to bring the station back into functional use failed. On January 5, 1988, Train No. 353 bound for Chicago became the last train to roll out of the venerable depot. The deteriorating building sat vacant for decades, and was repeatedly threatened with demolition. In 2018, the Ford Motor Company purchased the building with the intention of rehabilitating it into an office campus.

Over 30 years after its closure, EverGreene has been called in to restore this magnificent train station to its original beauty...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/michigan-central-station/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments
Plaster Survey
Plasterwork
Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

Client
Ford Motor Company

Construction Manager
Christman | Brinker

Restoration Architect
Quinn Evans

Original Architect
Warren & Wetmore

Original Architect
Reed & Stem

Professional Photography
Ford Motor Company