NPS Form 10-900 (Oct 1990) AUG 35 2004

NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

,		.,		
1. Name of Prope	erty		177	
historic name	Main Street Subwa	ay Station (Dual Syste	m IRT)	gener jare
other name/site num	mber Main Street	t/Roosevelt Avenue S	ubway Station	t (2.22.1
2. Location				
street & number	et & number Near the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and Main Street			[ ] not for publication
city or town	Flushing			[ ] vicinity
				zip
state New York	c code _NY	county Queens	code <u>081</u>	code <u>11354</u>
3. State/Federal	Agency Certification	n		
profession [ ] does significan comment  Sig  Sta  In my opin continuati	ering properties in the Natinal requirements as set font meet the National Reg t (X) nationally [ ] statewicks.)  Inature of certifying official agency and mion, the property [ ] meetion sheet for additional compature of certifying official and mature of certifying official and	orth in 36 CFR Part 60. In gister criteria. I recomme de [X] locally. ([ ] See of the comme de [X] locally.	my opinion, the proper nd that this property be continuation sheet for ac	rty [X] meets considered dditional  Date
- 1				
Sta	te or Federal agency and	bureau		
4. National Park	Service Certification	n //		
I hereby certify that the entered in the [ ] see con [ ] determined el [ ] see con [ ] determined no	ne property is:  Phational Register  Itinuation sheet  Iigible for the National Registe  Itinuation sheet  ot eligible for the National Reg  Ithe National Register	alignature er	of the Keepe	Date of Action 10-14-04

Main Street Subway Station System IRT)	Q		nty, New York		
Name of Property	Co	County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (check only one box)		r of Resources within Property ude previously listed resources in the count)		
[ ] private	[ ] building (s)	Contributin	ng Noncontributing		
[ ] public-local [X] public-State	[ ] district [ ] site		Buildings		
[ ] public-Federal	[X] structure		Sites		
	[ ] object	1	0 Structure		
			Objects		
		1	0 TOTAL		
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of Historic Resources of the Ne	a multiple property listing)		f contributing resources v listed in the National Register		
City Subway System		0			
6. Function or Use					
<b>Historic Functions</b>		Current F	unctions		
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)			
Transportation/rail-related		Transportation/rail-related			
Government/public works		Governme	ent/public works		
7 December -					
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categori	ies from instructions)		
OTHER/Arts and Crafts		Foundation	Concrete		
		Walls	Brick, concrete, ceramic tile		
		Roof	Steel, concrete		
		Other	Decorative finishes: Ceramic tile		

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)
See continuation sheet

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

#### 7. Narrative Description

The Main Street Subway Station (Flushing line) Station is located in At Roosevelt Avenue and Main Street in Flushing, Queens County. The station was completed in 1928 as part of the Dual Contracts IRT, Flushing line (7). The station is underground and is aligned in an east-west direction beneath and perpendicular to Main Street, just south of Roosevelt Avenue. The station measures approximately 588 feet in length – platforms were extended in 1952. This narrative description was taken largely from the NYCT Historical Properties Survey: Phase II- Main Street Station Inventory Form that was completed in 1994 and was supplemented with field inspections undertaken in April of 2004. The boundaries incorporate the entire station (exterior entrances, full mezzanine with control areas, two platforms, three tracks).

#### Station Circulation

The circulation pattern for this station incorporates a full mezzanine which is accessed from Roosevelt Avenue above via five staircases near the western control area and four stairways, two escalators and one elevator near the eastern control area. Eight staircases lead from the platform level to the mezzanine and four more staircases lead from the platform level to the street. The recent renovation of the station resulted in a new fare control area on the eastern side of the station. It provides ADA-compliant access to the platforms. The eastern control area also provides access to Lippman Plaza at street level via three escalators, an elevator and a stairway. Corridors run west of the west control booth and between the west and east control areas. An interior entrance to the former Woolworths' building has been walled off.

#### General Characteristics and Construction Methods

Main Street/Roosevelt Avenue is a three track, double island platform station that was constructed using the cut and cover method. The base of the cut is lined by a concrete foundation with a minimum thickness of 4 inches. The basic structural frame of the station consists of built-up "I" section columns of varying height spaced 5 feet on-center along the outer walls and between the tracks. Concrete was used to infill between the columns, creating the exterior walls. The "cover" for the station is trough shaped, with the U running generally parallel to the tracks in order to accommodate such infrastructure necessities as steam, sewer, gas, and water lines, as well as electrical and telecommunications cables beneath the roadway. The lowest portion the U is supported by 5-foot-wide transverse concrete arches that spring from the bottom flange of

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

transverse beams that in turn frame into the center columns of the station. The platform sides of these arches frame into the bottom flanges of longitudinal built-up steel girders with a depth of approximately two feet. The top flanges of the longitudinal girders do not reach street level. Consequently, the flanges are topped with concrete walls that rise just beneath sidewalk level. Along each platform, the roof girder is supported by Tuscan columns.

#### Mezzanine Level

Recently renovated in 2000, the western mezzanine (reconstructed in 1930) is located above the tracks (Photo 1). The walls of the mezzanine are clad in modern white glazed tiles, with the original blue glazed tiles at the base and blue, brown, white, green, maroon and yellow tiled mosaic bands in a repeating geometric pattern (Photo 2). There are also mosaic signs indicating the men' and women's rooms (although the latter sign has been painted over). The ceilings of the mezzanine are segmental concrete arches between encased beams; steel columns are found throughout (Photo 3). A modern metal and glass ticket booth is located in the center of the paid portion of the western mezzanine.

The original entrance was located centrally along the corridor that connects the eastern and western mezzanines. The four stairways that once led to the street and into the former Woolworth's building have since been slabbed over.

The eastern mezzanine was constructed in 2000 and features massive, double-height ceilings and walls tiled in a manner similar to the western mezzanine. The same border seen on the along the platform walls is repeated here and the same steel piers seen in the eastern mezzanine and along the platforms are used to support the ceiling here. Modern artwork is installed above the turnstiles.

#### Platform Level

The platform area includes two narrow island platforms – each only 16 feet, 5 inches wide - serving three tracks (Photo 4). The walls lining the platforms are white glazed tiles, with blue glazed wainscoting tiles and a mosaic band similar in design and material to those found on the mezzanine (Photo 5). Three polygonal panels are found at each identifying "M' panel (Photo 6). There are also large "Main Street" name tablets of mosaic arranged along the track walls (Photo 7). The ceilings above the tracks and platform are similar to those in the mezzanine but with a grid-like pattern of cross beams over the north and south tracks.

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

Steel columns are located along the length of the area, but the three easternmost ranks of columns are clad in white glazed tiles and mosaic bands similar to the walls. The east walls beyond the end of the tracks are also similarly clad. There is a corrugated metal enclosure (trash compactor) at the east end of the north platform. A dispatcher's office, apparently a later addition, at the west end of this platform is clad in beige glazed tiles. A tower room at the west end of the south platform is clad in white glazed tiles and mosaic bands. The platforms are lit with florescent lighting and all signage appears to be modern, apart from the illuminated track indicator signs hanging from the station ceiling that read, "NEXT TRAIN," "EXPRESS" and "LOCAL" (Photo 8).

#### **Exterior Elements and Stairwells**

The four entrances nearest the intersection have beige glazed brick walls; while the entrance south of the intersection's southwest entrance has walls clad with large black glazed tiles with blue speckling. The two entrances (and the area where they connect) on the north side of the east control area have yellow glazed block walls; on the south side the two entrances have light brown glazed tiles. The entrances have a mix of original wood and replacement metal handrails. The main control area of the mezzanine is below the intersection of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue. All of the staircases leading down to the platform from the mezzanine level retain their original wooden handrails, concrete stairs and gates. The walls are clad in white glazed tiles (with blue tile bases) and mosaic bands along the upper portion of the walls.

The entrances at street level are modern versions of the original IRT railings and lampposts (Photo 9). Railings feature squared balusters with points aligned along the top rail. Simple squared pillars support segmented columns, which in turn support modern versions of the original globe lamps.

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

As part of the Multiple Property Submission of the Historic Resources of the New York City Subway System, the Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT), Flushing Line, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of transportation, community planning and development, and social history. The station also meets Criterion C in the areas of engineering, architectural design, and art. The Main Street Subway Station was completed in 1928 as part of an extension that reached from Flushing to Times Square with the Main Street Station serving as the easternmost terminus on the line. The Main Street Station retains a relatively high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As one of about 125 similar underground Dual System stations in the system, Main Street is significant at the local level. This narrative description was taken largely from the NYCT Historical Properties Survey: Phase II – Main Street Subway Station Inventory Form that was completed in 1994 and was supplemented with field inspections undertaken in March of 2004.

The area of Flushing was first settled by the Dutch in the 17th century. It remained largely rural until the arrival of the IRT's Flushing line, which was built between 1915 and 1917. Constructed into what was then open space and farms, the Flushing line crossed the East River via the Steinway Tunnel, and connected the undeveloped portion of Queens to Manhattan. Northern Queens was transformed by the presence of the Flushing line – as residential building in Jackson Heights, Corona and Flushing boomed. Soon northern Queens was filled with large garden–apartment, co-op and other residential real-estate communities. Soon after the Main Street station was opened in 1928, it became the busiest outlying station in the city and the largest bus-subway transfer point. It remained an important transportation node incorporating bus, subway and railroad lines throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The station's design is typical of the Dual System period and of the influence of architect Squire J. Vickers. Vickers brought an Arts and Crafts aesthetic to the design of the stations. In concert with engineer Robert Ridgeway, Vickers ensured that the dual system stations were simpler and more functional than the elaborate original IRT, employing smooth surfaces and simper decoration for an abstracted and standardized aesthetic also known as Functional Rationalism. Station designs generally included decorative metal work (such as railings and lamps) at elevated stations and street stairs and a simple geometric band set on white tile at underground station.

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Name of Property

Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT)

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2

Queens County, New York

County and State

The station maintains a high degree of its original architectural integrity. Despite the recent renovations, much of the original mosaic tile work remains intact, including borders and name tablets in the eastern mezzanine and along the length of both platform walls.

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

## 9. Bibliography

- Cudahy, Brian. A Century of Subways: Celebrating 100 Years of the New York City's Underground Railways. New York: Fordham University Press, 2003.
- Hood, Clifton. 722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How they Transformed New York. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.
- Interborough Rapid Transit Company. *The New York Subway: Its Construction and Equipment*. 1904. Reprinted on website managed by David Pirmann (2004). Retrieved 03/14/04 from source: http://www.nycsubway.org/irt/irtbook/.
- National Park Service, Department of the Interior Historic American Engineering Record NY-122, "Interborough Rapid Transit Subway (Original Line): The NY Rapid Transit Decision of 1900: Economy, Society, Politics" prepared by Walter B. Katz, 1979.
- New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. *IRT Subway System Underground Interior Designation Report*. New York: NYC LPC, October, 1979.
- New York City Transit Authority. *Historical Properties Survey: Phase II Main Street Subway Station*. New York: NYCTA, August, 1994.
- Orlando, Barbara. "Recapturing the Past: Station Architecture," At Your Service: MTA New York City Transit Employee Newsletter, March, 2004.
- Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas, Inc., Historical Perspectives, Inc. and Robert E Olmstead, P.E. "Phase I: Reconnaissance Level Historical Survey of Transit Authority Properties," June, 1991.

Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT)	Queens County, New York			
Name of Property	County and State			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	-			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 1 8 5 9 8 7 0 0 4 5 1 2 5 1 0  Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing			
2	4			
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By (*See Continuation Sheet	for authors*)			
name/title Contact: Kathleen A. Howe, Historic Prese	ervation Specialist			
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic	Preservation Date July 30, 2004			
street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189	Telephone518-237-8643 ext. 3266			
city or town Waterford	state NY zip code 12188			
Additional Documentation				
Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Continuation Sheets				
Maps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	• 1.0 • 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0			
A <b>Sketch map</b> for historic districts and properties have	ing large acreage or numerous resources.			
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the	property.			
Additional items (Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHI	PO or FPO)			
name MTA New York City Transit C	ontact: Hollie Wells, Project Administrator			
street & number 2 Broadway, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, D6.125	telephone 646-252-4268			
city or town New York	state NY zip code 10004			

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. As amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503.

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT)

Name of Property

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County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

## **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Main Street-Flushing Station – Flushing Line is shown as the bold line on the accompanying site plan entitled, "Main Street-Flushing, Station Plan, Flushing Line – IRT Division, 1999." The above-ground station boundaries are also shown on the accompanying location map entitled, "Neighborhood Map – ID No. Q8, NYCTA, 1993." The designation for the Main Street- Flushing Station includes all portions of the station at track level that fall within the boundaries of the current platforms, as well as the mezzanine level and exterior elements.

# **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries for the Main Street Station encompass the entire station. Despite the renovations and addition of the eastern mezzanine, the integrity of the design and sympathetic nature of the addition make the modern portions of this station architecturally significant.

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National Park Service	interior

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Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT)

Section 11 Page 1

Name of Property Queens County, New York County and State

# 11. Form Prepared By:

Steven Bedford, Principal Architectural Historian Stacey Vairo, Architectural Historian Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. 72 Cedar Street Hartford, CT 06106 860-247-7200 NPS Form 10-900a (8-86)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 2

Main Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) Name of Property Queens County, New York

County and State

#### **Additional Documentation**

<u>List of Black and White Photos</u> Main Street –Flushing Station Queens County, New York

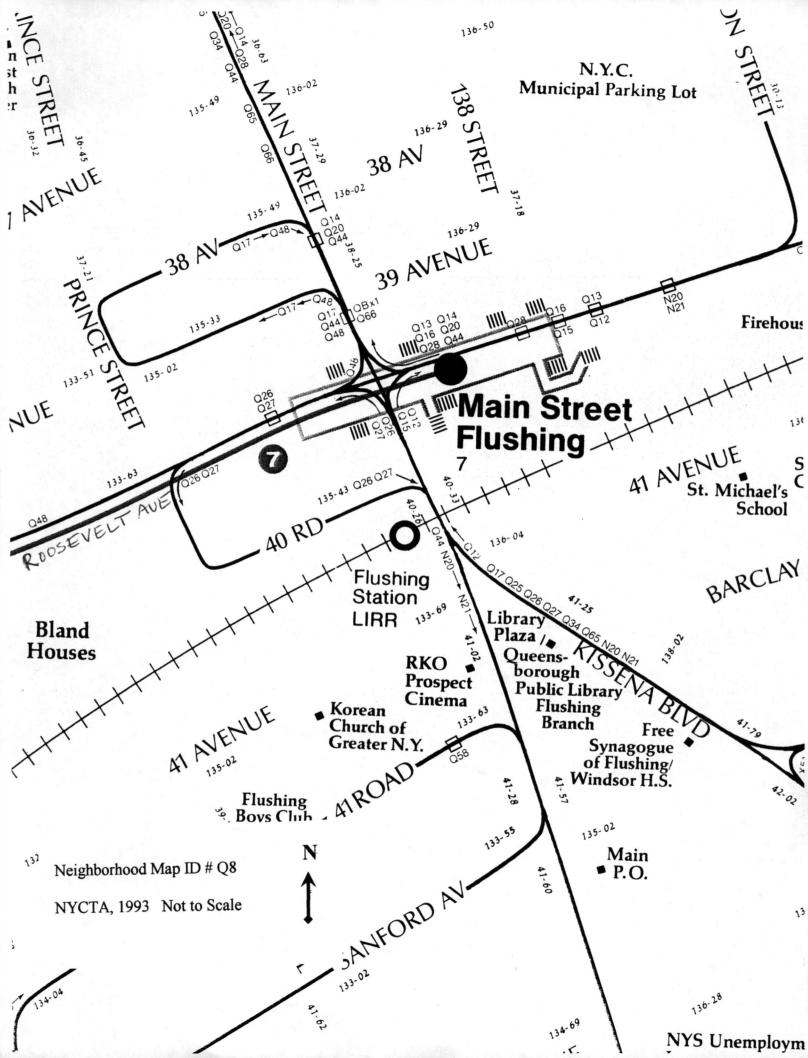
Photographer: Stacey Vairo

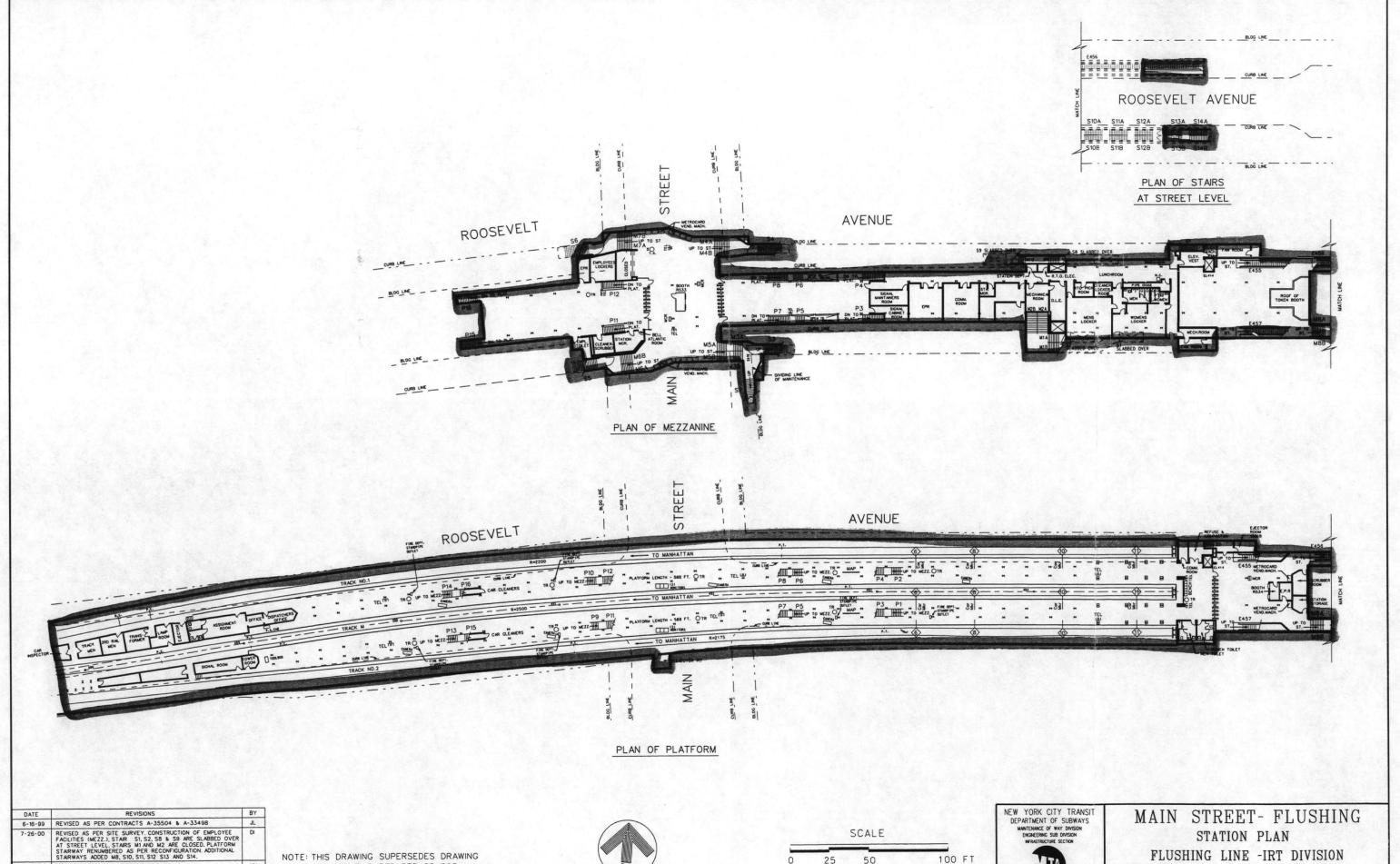
Date: April 2004

Negatives on file: Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

72 Cedar Street Hartford, CT 06106

- 1. Corridor located west of the eastern mezzanine. View east.
- 2. Decorative band of mosaics located along the corridor wall. View north.
- 3. Modern ticket booth located in the center of the eastern mezzanine. View north.
- 4. Platform level taken from the northernmost platform. View east.
- 5. Mosaic name tablet and band along platform walls. View north.
- 6. Detail of the mosaic band with the "M" motif located along the platform wall. View north.
- 7. Detail of the mosaic name tablet and geometric tile motif. View north.
- 8. Track indicator signs along platform near the eastern end. View east.
- 9. Entrance at street level on the southeast corner of Main Street and Roosevelt Avenue. View northeast.





NOTE: THIS DRAWING SUPERSEDES DRAWING MS-5728-R DATED SEP. 25,1963

3-31-03 METROCARD VENDING MACHINES ADDED



25 50 100 FT

STATION PLAN FLUSHING LINE -IRT DIVISION STATION NUMBER: 447 DATE: 06-16-99

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED AC	CTION: NOMINAT	TION					
PROPERTY MNAME:	Main Street Sub	oway Sta	ation (	Dual	System IRT)		
MULTIPLE N NAME:	New York City S	Subway S	System	MPS			
STATE & COUN	NTY: NEW YORK,	Queens	3				
DATE RECEIVED DATE OF WEEK	H DAY: 10/06	/04 5/04	DATE DATE	OF OF	PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	9/21/0 10/14/	
REFERENCE NU	JMBER: 0400114	17					
REASONS FOR	REVIEW:						
APPEAL: N OTHER: N REQUEST: N	DATA PROBLEM: PDIL: SAMPLE:	N LANI N PER: N SLR	DSCAPE: IOD: DRAFT:	N N N	LESS THAN 50 Y PROGRAM UNAPPR NATIONAL:	EARS: OVED:	N N N
COMMENT WAIV	/ER: N						
ACCEPT	RETURN	REJI	ECT		DATE		
ABSTRACT/SUM	MMARY COMMENTS:						
RECOM./CRITE	ERIA Scept	- Xx	2				
REVIEWER	savige		DISCIP	LINE	arch His	Hory	_
TELEPHONE			DATE		10/14/04		
DOCUMENTATIO	N see attached	d commer	nts Y/N	see	e attached SLR	Y/N	
	tion is returne is no longer ur				ng authority, by the NPS.	the	



Main St-Flushing Subway Station Overns Co, NT View east Photoby: Stacey Vario March 2004



Main SI-Flushing Subway Station Overs Co, NY View north Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004

Photo 2



Main St-Flushing Subway Station aveens Co., NY View north Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004

Photo 3



Main St-Flushing Subway Station raveens Co, NY View east Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004

4



Main St-Flushing Subway Station Queens Co, NY View north Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004

7



Main St-Flushing Subway Station Queens Co., Nr View north Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004



Main St-Flushing Subway Station

Queens Co., NY

View north

Photo by: Stacey Vairo

March 2004

Photo 7



Main St-Flushing Subway Station Queens Co; NY View East Photo by: Stacey Vario March 2004

Photo 9



Main St-Flushing Subway Station Overns Co, NY View northeast Photo by: Stacey Vairo March 2004

Photo ?

IRT)

Zone

USGS

and may conflict with previously mapped contours

# The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission



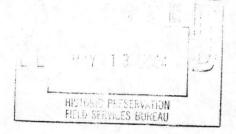
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor North, New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7922 FAX: 212-669-7797 http://nyc.gov/landmarks/



RONDA WIST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR rwist@lpc.nyc.gov

May 10, 2004

Ms. Ruth Pierpont, Director New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau Peebles Island P.O. Box 189 Waterford, New York 12188-0189



Re:

The Historic Resources of the New York City Subway

System, New York, New York

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I write on behalf of Chair Robert B. Tierney in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of The Historic Resources of the New York City Subway System (a multiple property listing) and the individual subway stations nominated for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In 1979, the Commission designated the subway stations at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, 59<sup>th</sup> Street-Columbus Circle, 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, 79<sup>th</sup> Street, 110<sup>th</sup> Street, 116<sup>th</sup> Street-Columbia University, Astor Place, Bleecker Street, Borough Hall, City Hall, and Wall Street as part of the designation of the Interborough Rapid Transit System as a New York City landmark. The subway stations were designed by Heins & La Farge, while chief engineer William B. Parsons and his staff were responsible for the construction of the system. Mosaic sign panels and terra-cotta and faience plaques embellish each station.

The Commission has reviewed the materials submitted by the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau and believes that the individual subway stations named above appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The Commission believes that the subway stations at Jackson Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Simpson Street, Atlantic Avenue, Beverley Road, Dyckman Street, Times Square, and Main Street also appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

Tank (1) ist

Ronda Wist

cc: Robert B. Tierney, Chair Mary Beth Betts