NPS Form 10-900 (Oct 1990)

FEB 15

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.

storic name	West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT))
ther name/site nu		
. Location		
	County Avenue hatures West 90th and West 90th 94	
street & number	Seventh Avenue between West 26 th and West 29 th St	
city or town	New York	[] vicinity
stata Naw Va	de codo NV county New York codo	zip net code tongs
state New You	rk code NY county New York code	061 code 10038
3. State/Federal	Agency Certification	
profession [] does significate comment [] Significat	tering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and monal requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, and meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this print [/] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation shats) gnature of certifying official/Title sate or Federal agency and bureau pinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and My opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and My opinion Places and	the property [X] meets roperty be considered heet for additional JJ/JB/JU Date
	gnature of certifying official/Title	Date
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Si		Date

West 28th Street Subway Station (IRT)		New York County, New York			
Name of Property		ounty and Sta	te		
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (check only one box)		y Number of Resources within P (Do not include previously listed resources in the			
[] private	[] building (s)	Contributin	ng N	loncontributing	
[] public-local [X] public-State	[] district [] site				Buildings
[] public-Federal	[X] structure				Sites
	[] object	1		0	Structures
					Objects
		1		0	TOTAL
Name of related multiple		Number of	contributing	g resources	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		previously	listed in the	National Re	gister
Historic Resources of the No City Subway System	ew York	0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions		Current F			
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)			
Transportation/rail-related		Transportation/rail-related			
Government/public works		Government/public works			
7. Description					
Architectural Classifica (Enter categories from instructions)	tion	Materials (Enter categorie	es from instruction	is)	
OTHER/Arts and Crafts		Foundation	Concrete		
		Walls	Concrete, o	ceramic tile	
* -		Roof	Steel, cond	rete	
		Other		finishes: cera	ımic
			Tile		

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

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

West 28th Street
Subway Station (Dual
System IRT)
Name of Property
New York County, NY
County and State

7. Narrative Description

The West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT, Broadway/7th Avenue Line; 1 and 9 trains) is located in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan. The station was built between 1914 and 1918 as part of the Interborough Subway System (IRT) during the Dual Contracts Period (under Contract 3). It is aligned in a north-south direction beneath and parallel to Seventh Avenue. On the southern end of the station, the perimeter lies roughly between the intersection of West 26th Street and Seventh Avenue and on the northern end the perimeter lies just north of West 29th Street and Seventh Avenue. The platforms were extended to their current length of 530 feet in 1966. This narrative description was taken largely from the *NYCT Historical Properties Survey: Phase II - West 28th Street Station Inventory Form* that was completed in 1994 and was supplemented with field inspections undertaken in May of 2004.

General Characteristics and Construction Methods

The West 28th Street Station, Broadway/7th Avenue Line, is a single-level, three track, side platform station that was constructed using a variation on the cut and cover method of construction. The basic structural frame of the station consists of a concrete foundation and side walls with steel columns. Built-up "I" section columns of varying height are spaced five feet on-center in 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 in section, with the inverted 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. One stipulation of the Dual Contracts agreement stated that all street surfaces must remain intact during station construction. Therefore, it was necessary to build the "cover" of the station beneath a web of timber supports on which the road continued to function. The majority of the Dual contract station ceilings consisted of structural steel frames with concrete jack arches between. Along each platform, the roof girder is supported by H-section piers placed at 15-foot intervals, and the roof girder webs are stiffened above each of the piers.

The side walls of the station are of four-inch brick separated by a one-inch air space from the outer structural walls. The practice of waterproofing the stations with layers of coaltar coated burlap was done away with on the Dual Contract stations due to the insulating quality of the materials used. (The IRT subways were, and are, notorious for holding in

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West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual

System IRT)

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Name of Property
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the heat generated by the subway cars. Floors throughout are three-inch-thick graded concrete incised into large squares. Tracks are constructed of broken stone ballast, timber cross ties and 100-pound rails. All ties are fitted with tie plates (www.nysubways.org).

Throughout the platform areas there are unifying decorative elements that identify this as a typical Dual Contracts station. These include, mosaic friezes, name tablets and directional signs all executed in the same simple Arts and Crafts-style designs.

Station Circulation

The circulation pattern for this station incorporates six stairways; one on each corner of the intersection of Seventh Avenue and 28th Street; and two located on the northwest and northeast corners of Seventh Avenue and West 26th Street. These stairways lead down to two control areas, one each located on the east and west sides of Seventh Avenue.

Platform Level

The concrete, jack-arched ceilings above the platforms are supported by the typical H-section steel columns located at 15 foot intervals along the platform. At the far south ends of platforms, near the exit stairs, new mechanical and trash rooms have been added.

The walls throughout are topped by an 18-inch-wide, geometrically patterned, mosaic tile frieze, punctuated every 15 feet by a hexagonal plaque inside of which are the numerals "28" (Photo 1) At 45-foot intervals there are 8-foot-long name tablets that read "28th Street" (Photo 2). These are crafted in the same shades of blue and brown mosaics used for the frieze. The serif white lettering has graceful tapered contours and sits in a field of blue and brown mosaics, framed by a gold ceramic tile border. There are also mosaic signs that read "To 28th Street" and "To 27th Street" with arrows located below them (Photo 3).

The mosaics are in good condition throughout the station, although there has been some deterioration of the tile work due to water leakage below the sidewalk vents. Where repairs have been made, they have been done so sympathetically to match the originals. The majority of the station walls are covered in white ceramic tiles that were added as part of the 1990 renovation. As is common practice, the tiles, were placed directly over the original surface, which results in a ¼ inch projection where it meets the mosaics.

The mosaic frieze continues throughout the control areas, which are located mid-platform (Photo 4). Metal security gates and banks of modern turnstiles separate the paid and

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System IRT)

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Name of Property
New York County, NY
County and State

unpaid areas of the control area. Doors leading to staff lockers, toilets and a vacant newsstand behind the platform walls are located on either side of the control area. These spaces were altered to serve their current purposes during the 1990 renovation. The walls of the platform extensions on the far north end of the station are covered in modern gray-colored glazed tile.

Exterior Elements and Stairwells

This station has four original concrete stair entrances located at West 28th Street, each with a recently replaced balustrade of unremarkable steel tube (Photo 5). There are two exit stairways at West 27th Street. The exterior railing on the northwest stair is a recent replacement and the stairs on the northeast corner appear to be an original. It features a cast-iron balustrade, with pyramid shaped studs along the length of the top rail. It also features a pair of octagonal-shaped lampposts with open-lotus capitals. The lamps fixture has been replaced by the typical plastic globes. The walls lining all of the stairways have been covered with modern, 6-inch, square tiles.

West 28 th Street Subway Station (IRT) Name of Property		New York County, New York County and State	
B. Stat	ement of Significance		
Mark "x"	in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property all Register listing.) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Transportation Architecture; Art	
[]B	patterns of our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Engineering Community Planning and Development	
[X] C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Social History Period of Significance 1914-1918 Significant Dates 1918	
[]D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A	
	a Considerations in all boxes that apply.)		
Propert	y is:		
[]A []B []C	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. removed from its original location. a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
[]D []E []F []G	a cemetery. a reconstructed building, object, or structure. a commemorative property. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Vickers, Squire Joseph (architect)	
(Explain t	tive Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation s	heets.)	
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References		
	graphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)	
[] pre has [] pre [] pre [] des	Pus documentation on file (NPS): eliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) s been requested eviously listed in the National Register eviously determined eligible by the National Register signated a National Historic Landmark corded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Primary location of additional data: [] State Historic Preservation Office [X] Other State agency [] Federal Agency [X] Local Government [] University	

[X] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # NY-122

[X] Repository name:

NYC Transit Archives

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

West 28th Street
Subway Station (Dual
System IRT)
Name of Property
New York County, NY
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 West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT), Broadway/7th Avenue 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 West 28th Street Subway Station was constructed in 1914 and began operation in 1918. This station retains a relatively high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Dual Contract stations, including West 28th Street, are significant at the local level.

The design of West 28th Street Station was the work of Dual System chief architect Squire J. Vickers. Vickers, known as "the dean of underground architecture," served as Design Architect of the New York City Subway System from 1906 to 1942. Educated at Cornell University's College of Architecture, he was responsible for the design of most of the Dual System and later IND stations. His approach differed dramatically from that of the original subway architects Heins & LaFarge in that he created utilitarian spaces that often featured simple but colorful, whimsical, tile work. In his spare time, Vickers was a painter of fantastical urban scenes that featured strong graphical images and bold colors. Many of these paintings were translated into the mosaic plaques seen throughout the system. Regarding his use of colorful tiles in his designs, Vickers was quoted in *The Municipal Engineer's Journal* in 1917 as saying, "This bit of color set in the hard unyielding surface gives a joyous note like a banner flying from the barrel window of a frowning Medieval Castle."

It was completed in 1918 as part of the Contract 3 of the Dual Contract era, which lasted from 1909 to 1931. The Dual System (as it is also known) was the single greatest period of subway construction and expansion in the city's history.

Contract 3 comprised the construction of the upper Lexington Avenue extension of the original IRT, joining the original subway at Grand Central and continuing the old IRT Broadway /7th Avenue line southward to South Ferry. It thus transformed the original, Z-shaped route into an H-shaped system (The Grand Central Times Square section forming the crossbar of the "h"). In addition, Contract 3 included the Jerome Avenue, White Plains Road and Pelham Bay Park branches in the Bronx, the Queensboro (Flushing and

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System IRT)

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Name of Property
New York County, NY
County and State

Astoria) lines in Queens; and the Nostrand Avenue and New Lots extensions in Brooklyn.

In the West 28th Street station the high qualities of the materials and architectural detail reflect the typical design of a Dual System station, which is noticeably simpler in all aspects from those of the original IRT stations. Original features of the station include the geometric, Arts and Crafts style mosaic banding and plaques and signage and the original exterior entry.

The West 28th Street Station is located at the southern boundary of the central business district and adjacent to the Fashion Institute of Technology campus. The station serves an area of factories and lofts that borders the Flower and Fur districts. The most prominent feature is the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) opened in 1958 and subsequently expanded to full two large city blocks just west of the station. FIT is the training school for the nearby garment industry, one of New York City's important industries.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

West 28th Street Subway Station (IRT) Name of Property New York County, NY 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/.
- Kinetz, Erika. "Neighborhood Report: New York Up Close; How Fairly Tale Color Saved the Subways From Gloom." New York Times 14 July, 2002, Final Edition. Section 14, Page 8.
- 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.
- 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.

West 28 th Street Subway Station (IRT)	New York County, New York
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) 1	Easting Northing
(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 Preservation Special	ist
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation	Date
street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189	Telephone518-237-8643 ext. 3266_
city or town Waterford	stateNY zip code12188
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	_
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage	
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 SHPO or FPO)	
	Vells, Project Administrator
street & number 2 Broadway, 6 th 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.

NPS Form	10-900
(8-86)	

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System

IRT)

Section 10 Page 1

Name of Property
New York County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the W 28th Street Station (Broadway/Seventh Avenue Line) is shown as the bold line on the accompanying site plan entitled, "West 28th Street Station, Station Plan, Broadway/Seventh Avenue Line – IRT Division, 1996." The above-ground station boundaries are also shown on the accompanying location map entitled, "Chelsea, MTA, 1993." The designation for the West 28th Street Station – Broadway/Seventh Avenue Line 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 West 28th Street Station encompass the entire station which is substantially intact from its original date of construction with the exception of the non-historic (1966) platform extensions.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

W 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System

IRT)
Name of Property

Section 11 Page 1

New York County, NY 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)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet W 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System

IRT)

Name of Property

New York County, NY

County and State

Additional Documentation

Section 11 Page

List of Black and White Photos

W. 28th Street Subway Station (IRT)

New York County, NY

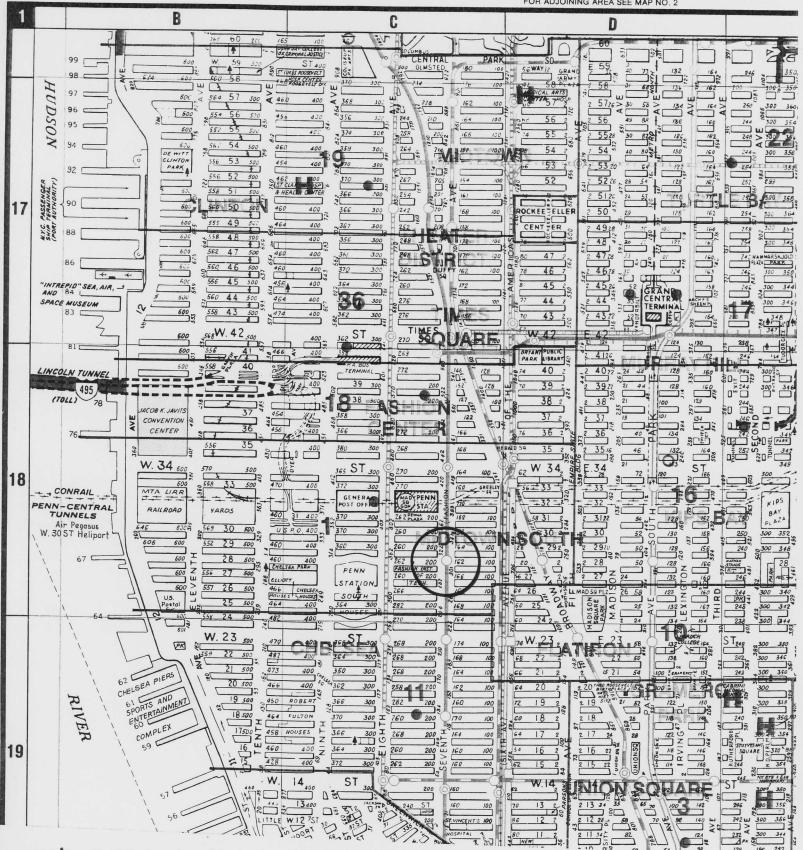
Photographer: Stacey Vairo

Date: May, 2004

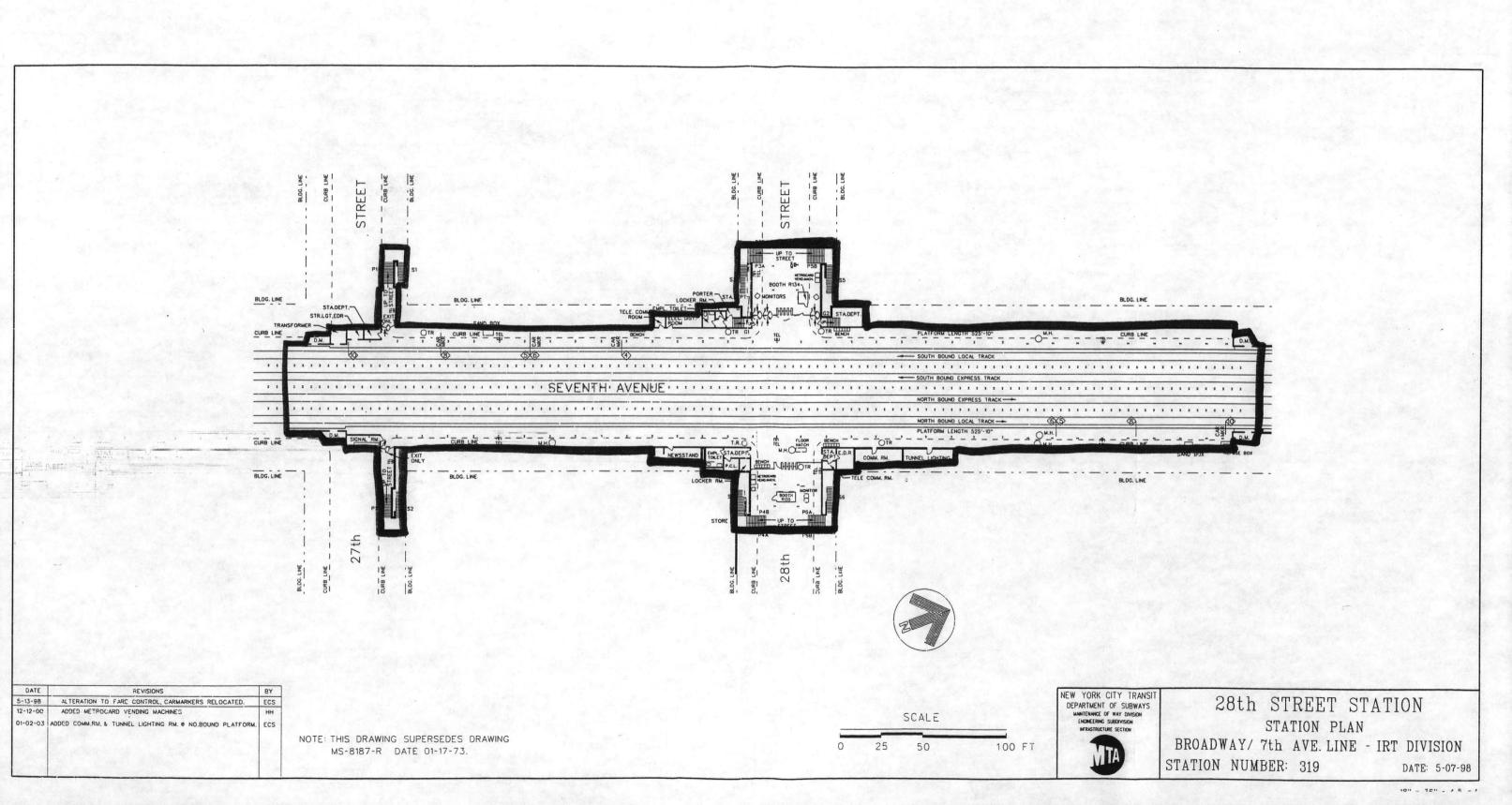
Negatives on file: Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

72 Cedar Street Hartford, CT 06106

- 1. Uptown platform wall with view of name tablets. View northeast.
- 2. Detail of mosaic border and repeating "28" design. View east.
- 3. Mosaic directional sign on Uptown platform. View east.
- 4. Control area of Uptown side. View northeast.
- 5. Exterior of entrance located. View north.



W. 28th Street Station (Dual System IRT) Hagstom map of Ny C, 1998 1"= 1,750'



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY West 28th Street Subway Station (Dual System IRT) NAME:	
MULTIPLE New York City Subway System MPS NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York	
DATE RECEIVED: 2/15/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/10/ DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/25/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/31/ DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	05 05
REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000235	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL:	N N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPTRETURNREJECT3\big 30\big 05\date	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
Entered in the	
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONE DATE	
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N	
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.	



West 28th Street Station (Dud System IRT) New York County, New York

May 2004 View east. Photo/

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New York County, New York
May 2004
View reastst

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W 28 th Street Station New York, New York May 2004 Photo 3 View east

West 28th Street Subway Station HNN *** STEP TOWN STATE TO THE CONSTRUCTION IRT IRT TOWN STATE TO THE YORK CO, MY



W 28 th Street Station New York, allow York May 2004 View hortheast Photo 4

West 28th Street Subway Station HNN ** 88 16th Dual System IRT) STOND ** STATE

New York Co., NY

4



Wew York, New York
May 2004
View north
Photo 5

West 28th Street Submay Station (Dual Syp. IRT) SOOK +2:0N> "STOP! New York Co, NY

and may conflict with previously mapped contours

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

NIMA 6265 III NW-SERIES V821



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

Centre Street, 9th 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

August 31, 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, various counties, 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.

The Commission has reviewed the materials submitted by the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau and believes that the subway stations at 28th Street, 145th Street, 168th Street, 181st Street, Chambers Street, West 28th Street, 86th Street, West 4th Street, 181st Street, and 190th Street in New York County; 242nd Street-Van Cortlandt Park, Westchester Square, Mosholu Parkway, and Pelham Parkway in Bronx County; and 45th Road-Court House Square in Queens County appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

and Wist

cc: Robert B. Tierney Chair Mary Beth Betts