Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Tennessee COUNTY: Hamilton FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION									
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	Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair	Deter	iorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed		
CONDITION		(Check Or	re)			(Che	ck One)		
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chattanooga's Terminal Station is built in what might be called a subdued Beaux Arts Classicism style. Dominating the red brick structure is the center section with its massive arch opening, said to be the largest brick arch in the world when the station was built during the early 1900's. Decorative brickwork and terra cotta details ornament the facade. The interior of this section contains the main waiting room with a domed and skylighted roof. Originally four large brass chandeliers hung from the brightly painted ceiling. To conserve heat, the ceiling was lowered in 1961, but this was removed in the current renovation program

Flanking the central section of the station are one-story wings with arched openings. Rest rooms and other service areas were located in the wings. The area leading to the tracks is covered. In the railroad yard are butterfly sheds built to provide protection for passengers walking along the train tracks. Numerous one and two-story simple brick structures used for operational and maintenance purposes enclose the northern and southern edges of the tracks.

Terminal Station is located on a large piece of property-originally over 23 acres--in what is presently a deteriorating commercial district. Since August, 1970, the building has not been used.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known)	1906-1908	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	Private preser-
Agriculture	Invention	Science	vation project
Architecture	Landscape	□ Sculpture	for commercial
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	purposes.
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
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Conservation	Music	X Transportation	·
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me iirst traii	i to enter chatt	anooga was in th	ie early 1850's

of these buildings was the Terminal Station complex built between 1906 and 1908, by Southern Railway at a cost of over \$1½ million. During its heyday, some seventeen trains originated at this station.

New York architect Don Barber designed the Terminal Station. In 1900, when a student at the Ecole des beaux-arts in Paris, Barber won the prize in a competition for the best-designed railroad station for a large city. This was the design submitted to Southern Railway officials who accepted Barber's exterior plans, but asked the architect to alter the interior design to conform with the interior of the National Park Bank of New York City.

The most distinguising architectural feature of the building was the brick arch framing the main entrance. Brick for the structure was supplied by the Robbins, Tennessee, plant of the Southern Clay Manufacturing Company. Construction began in fall, 1906, and in June, 1908, there was a public viewing of the completed buildings. A court battle attempting to force the railroad to build overpasses at certain crossings to protect neighborhood residents prevented the station from operating until December 1, 1909.

Local businessmen formed Chattanooga Choo Choo, Inc. for the purpose of purchasing and developing a multimillion-dollar vacation-type complex utilizing the present Terminal Station structures as well as refurnished railroad cars and some new huildings. Work on the ambitious project is scheduled to be completed by early 1973. It is believed that the tourist attraction will aid greatly in rejuvenating downtown Chattanod . NUV 13 1972

> NATIONAL REGISTER

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chattanooga Public Library Clipping File

Steinberg, David H. Unpublished manuscript on the railroad stations in Chattanooga.

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12. STATE	LIAISON OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION						
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