

About the Cover

The Grand Central Air Terminal Building (pictured) is one of Glendale's most storied structures. It opened in 1929 as the primary public building for Grand Central Air Terminal (GCAT), which had been established in 1922 as the Glendale Municipal Airport and served as the first commercial airport in the Los Angeles area. GCAT was designed by Henry L. Gogerty in a seamless blend of the Spanish Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles that reflect both the local vernacular architectural tradition and (what was then) the excitement of air travel. The building helped establish the overall program of airline terminals today, providing dedicated areas for ticketing, waiting, and dining. It also incorporated offices and the airport's control tower. Amelia Earhart, Charles Lindbergh, and many other early aviators were regular visitors, as were Hollywood celebrities, many of whom kept personal airplanes there.

Through a 2000 Development Agreement with the City of Glendale to manage positive growth on the Grand Central Creative Campus (GC3) and help fund local and regional public improvements, the Walt Disney Company has committed to completely rehabilitate GCAT by December 31, 2015. In addition to renovating one of Glendale's most important historic resources, the Agreement contemplates the creation of almost 6 million square feet of new creative space in a campus environment. The larger GC3 project stands to be an economic engine for decades to come generating both jobs and revenue to fund general services Citywide. The GCAT project is privately financed and will provide office and event space for Disney employees and a visitor's center available to the public by reservation. The demolition of an unrelated tilt-up concrete building to the south will provide for a large landscaped outdoor event space but, more importantly, open up views of the historic terminal that have been blocked since the 1960s.

The Grand Central Air Terminal building was identified as an important site in the City's 1977 Preservation Element and was added to the Glendale Register of Historic Resources upon its adoption in 1997. The Disney Company has agreed to submit the rehabilitated building for consideration on the National Registry of Historic Places.

