1. NAME
COMMON: Union Railroad Station
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 601 North Nebraska Street
CITY OR TOWN: Tampa
STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Hillsborough
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth
STATE CODE: 12
COUNTY CODE: 057

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- District
- Site
- Building
- Object

OWNERSHIP
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress
- Unrestricted

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- Yes
- Restricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: AMTRAK Seaboard Coast Line
STREET AND NUMBER: 601 North Nebraska Street
CITY OR TOWN: Tampa
STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Hillsborough
STATE CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hillsborough County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Tampa
STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Hillsborough
STATE CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
The Union Railroad Station was built in 1912 based on plans drawn up by architect, J.F. Leitner. The building is in Italian Renaissance style, according to a contemporary newspaper account, and "was an ornament to the city of Tampa and an example to other cities of the South."

The exterior of the station is of brown tapestry brick with terra cotta and stone trimmings. The brick, which was manufactured by a local concern, was "selected to give a velvety effect to the exterior." The main facade of the building, which faces east, is a wide and undulating expanse. It is a series of five large staggered bays with entrances set into the recessed bays. Entranceways are classically treated with double wooden doorways which are glazed on the top half. There are very large lunettes over the doors. Windows are treated in a similar manner, that is, they are oversized sash windows with large lunettes, all of which is framed within stone quoin terminating in voussoirs over the windows and doors. The light colored stone used for the string course and bold cornice at the top of the building creates a startling contrast to the dark reddish-brown of the brick. The extreme contrast in colors added to the push and pull of exterior surfaces causes the building to become a study in chiaroscuro. Even on the north and south sides of the building where there are no bays, the color contrast gives the impression that the side walls also undulate. There are five of these large sash windows with the same subordinate decoration seen on the main facade on both the north and south sides. The roof is a series of five low hips corresponding to the five bays of the main facade. A contemporary newspaper article describes the interior of the building as it originally looked:

"All of the glass originally used on the first floor of the station is French plate except for that used in the lunettes and in ceiling lights in the main waiting area. The ceiling lights are opalescent panels set in copper panels which flood the waiting rooms with an abundance of light. In addition to the waiting room, there are smoking and retiring rooms. Electric fixtures are solid cast bronze with verd antique finish to match the wall decorations. All of the hardware used on the interior is in the same finish with monograms on the knobs and escutcheons."

At the rear of the building, tracks are covered with modest metal canopies. The building has fallen into a state of semi-disrepair and many of the interior decorations are now gone.
In summary, the Tampa Union Station, with its "symmetrical mass and plan, five part composition, facade broken into advancing and receding planes and general tendency to multiply re-entrant angles" is one of Florida's best examples of Beaux-Arts Classicism.
Constructing in 1912 by the Tampa Union Station Company, headed by Peter O. Knight, the Union Station represented a decade long struggle between the Tampa Tribune and local business leaders who opposed the construction of a new station. The building with its extensive facilities did, however, improve transportation into Tampa and promoted numerous travel excursions and rapid transit into the Bay area.

In 1911, under great pressure from the Tampa Tribune and numerous business leaders, the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Coast Line joined forces and organized plans through the Tampa Union Station Company, to build a new station. On May 19, 1911 a contract for the construction of the building was won by W. C. Hobbs Company. The project was completed May 15, 1912 at a total cost of $250,000.

The May 15, 1912 edition of the Tampa Tribune described the gala opening of the station as one of the social events of that year. There is no doubt that at the time of its construction, Union Station was one of the finest buildings in downtown Tampa. It survives today as a unique architectural product of the period in which it was built, a period in which there was great attention to detail, to surface ornamentation and texture and to ostentatiousness in the copying of the classical styles so long associated with grandeur and elegance.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tampa Tribune, May 15, 1912, p. 3; May 15, 1912, p. 16; May 16, 1912, p. 12.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>N27° 57' 08&quot;</td>
<td>W82° 27' 03&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE: CODE: COUNTY:
STATE: CODE: COUNTY:
STATE: CODE: COUNTY:
STATE: CODE: COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION:
Div. of Archives, History and Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee

STATE: Florida

CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☑

Name: [Signature]

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 6, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]

Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: JUN 5 1974

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5-21-74