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Tampa Union Station Honored With New Historic Designation On Occasion of Its 100th Anniversary

Addition to National Railway Historical Society's Register of National Railroad Historic Structures, Plaque to Be Unveiled at the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day Event, Saturday, May 12

Tampa (FL), May 4, 2012—Friends of Tampa Union Station and the National Railway Historical Society are announcing that Historic Tampa Union Station will be added to the National Register of Historic Railroad Structures at the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day, Saturday, May 12.

The Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day celebration runs from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission is free.

The new designation will be bestowed upon the station in a ceremony at 11 AM on Saturday, May 12, by members of the National Railway Historical Society's Board of Directors. The program—which will include talks about the rich history of Tampa Union Station—will also feature Tampa Bay History Center Curator of History Rodney Kite-Powell, local historian Fred Hearn, Tampa City Councilman Frank Reddick, and City of Tampa Director of Planning and Development Thom Snelling.

Tampa Union Station, constructed as a joint project of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Seaboard Air Line Railway, and the Tampa Northern Railroad, opened to the public on May 15, 1912. Some of Tampa's most prominent citizens of the time, such as Col. Peter O. Knight, pushed for the opening of the new station, which was originally constructed for a cost of \$250,000. Union Station suffered from neglect as passengers left the railroads for airlines and highways in the 1960s and 1970s; it was closed and boarded-up in 1984. In 1998, Union Station was restored and reopened after a restoration effort largely led by volunteers. Today, it is the 3rd busiest Amtrak station in Florida.

More information on the history of Tampa Union Station, as well as the Tampa Union Station Centennial and National Train Day celebration, can be found on the Friends of Tampa Union Station website www.tampaunionstation.com and the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers website: www.fcrprail.org.

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