



4.20: Union Station: Ceiling, 1919

Balancing 80 feet above floor level, tile workers created this distinctive vaulted ceiling over the Great Hall. On April 4, 1919 photographers Peake & Whittingham ventured aloft to take a close-up of the vitrified Guastavino tile selected by the architects for its immense strength and light reflective qualities.³⁶ Today, during special events like Doors Open,³⁷ tourists can get a close look at the ceiling by climbing the stairs to a gallery, not the rungs of a scaffold.

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