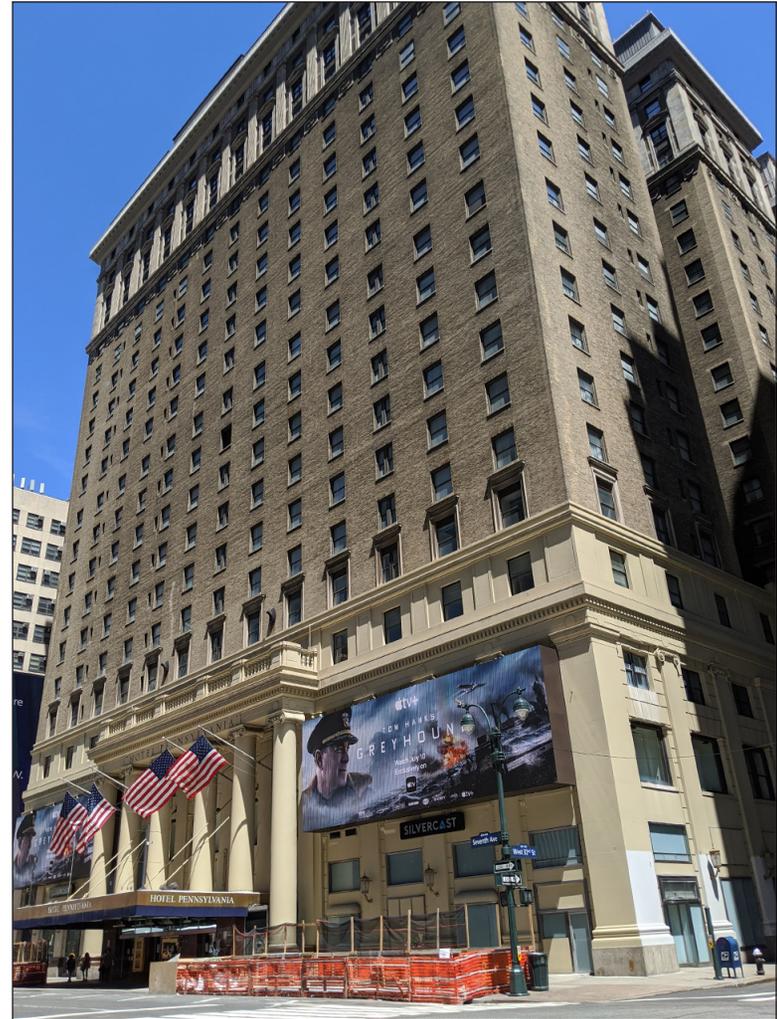




Stewart Hotel, 371-377 Seventh Avenue (#5, S/NR-eligible, NYCL-eligible); located on Development Site 3 **6**



Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Avenue (#6, S/NR-eligible); located on Development Site 7 **7**

## **Empire Station Complex Civic and Land Use Improvement Project**

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### *Site 5*

Site 5 is located on the west side of Seventh Avenue between West 33rd and West 34th Streets and is the eastern portion of Block 783, which contains 1 Penn Plaza. There are no architectural resources located on Site 5.

### *Site 6*

Site 6 is located on Block 809, which is on the east side of Seventh Avenue between West 34th and West 33rd Streets. There are no architectural resources located on Site 6.

### *Site 7*

Site 7 is the western half of Block 808, which is bounded by West 32nd and West 33rd Streets and Sixth and Seventh Avenues. There is one architectural resource located on Site 7.

### *(#6) Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Avenue, S/NR-eligible*

The Hotel Pennsylvania at 401 Seventh Avenue is a 22-story building with Classical Revival-style details (see view 8 of **Figure 8-5**). Designed by the firm of McKim, Mead, & White, it opened in 1919 to cater primarily to travelers using the original Pennsylvania Station. It was also designed aesthetically and urbanistically to complement the station and the General Post Office. The Pennsylvania Railroad company had decided to build the hotel partially out of concern that they would lose passengers to the New York Central Railroad, which was building the Commodore Hotel for a similar clientele near Grand Central Terminal. The Pennsylvania Hotel was also designed to meet the newly emerging need for businessmen's hotels. Such hotels needed, for example, function rooms for large conventions of professional societies and business organizations. Although the commercial zone around Penn Station developed much more slowly than the area around Grand Central Terminal, in large part because the Pennsylvania Railroad was not as active in development as was the New York Central Railroad, the Hotel Pennsylvania aimed to cater to the nearby printing district, the emerging retail district centered around West 34th Street, the proximate Times Square, and the nascent Garment District. The large, brick-and-stone hotel has a limestone base with an Ionic entrance portico and a loggia of ionic pilasters at the building's capital. The building's exterior and interior have undergone a number of alterations. Four of the six Ionic portico columns have been cut off at mid-height to accommodate a new marquee and an expanded entryway. Windows on the first three floors have been closed, punched out, or replaced to accommodate different commercial establishments. Windows at other stories have been replaced, and a number of signs have also been installed on the exterior. A penthouse has been added at the roof level, which breaks the cornice line and adds approximately half a floor in height, and the main cornice has been removed. The lobby has been partially altered. The Hotel Pennsylvania is significant under Criterion A for its association with commercial development around Penn Station. In addition, the building also meets Criterion C for its architectural design.

### *Site 8*

Site 8 is the eastern half of Block 808, which is bounded by West 32nd and West 33rd Streets, and Sixth and Seventh Avenues. There are no architectural resources located on Site 8.

### *Remainder of the Primary Study Area*

Two architectural resources are located in the remainder of the primary study area.

### *(#7) U.S. General Post Office, Block bounded by Eighth and Ninth Avenues, West 31st and West 33rd Streets, S/NR, NYCL*

Significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture, the U.S. General Post Office (now the James A. Farley Building) occupies a superblock between Eighth and Ninth Avenues from West