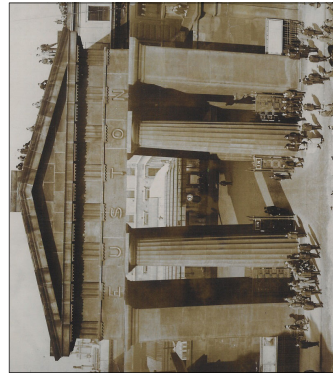


EUSTON ARCH

The Campaign to Rebuild a Lost London Masterpiece



WHAT WAS THE EUSTON ARCH?

Built in 1838 the Euston Arch was the gateway to Euston Station, the first mainline terminus station in a capital city anywhere in the world.

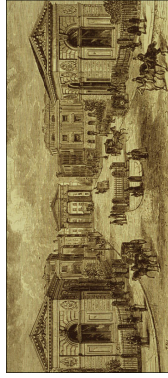
Designed by Philip Hardwick it was made of stone from West Yorkshire and at over 70 ft high, 44 ft deep and weighing 4,420 tons it was the largest Greek Doric propylaeum, or gateway, ever built.

It was described by poet laureate Sir John Betjeman as the finest arch of its type in the world and one befitting the gateway between London and the North.

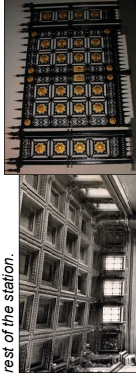
Standing as the entrance to the station for 125 years the golden letters of EUSTON greeted millions as they arrived and departed from our capital city. It was an iconic building defining Britain's railways.

The arch was part of a wider station which also included the ornate Great Hall (see right) which was the station's booking and waiting room.

The arch was located on Drummond St, a road built over by the 1960s redevelopment. The location is now at the bottom of the ramp to platforms 8-11.



(Below) The Great Hall. This was a booking and waiting room and was demolished along with the arch and the rest of the station.



(Above) The ornate gates that hung inside the arch. Now in the National Railway Museum. They could be returned to a rebuilt Euston arch.

WHY WAS IT DESTROYED?

By the 1960s Euston had become a congested station in need of urgent attention and enlargement to serve the newly electrified West Coast Mainline. Redevelopment was blocked by the arch and other buildings such as the Great Hall.

The decision was therefore taken to sweep away the arch and the rest of the station.

Despite a massive public outcry no chance was given to raise funds to move the arch to a site overlooking the Euston Road.

And so in 1962 the arch was destroyed, its broken remains built into the garden of the demolition contractor and used to fill a hole in a London river. Destroying the arch was an officially sanctioned act of vandalism, short sighted stupidity and greed winning out over common sense and beauty.

But the loss of the arch drove forward the heritage movement leading to the saving of buildings like St. Pancras Station that faced a similar fate.

In 1994-95 Dan Cruickshank found the remains of the arch for the BBC TV Series 'One Foot in the Past'. The Euston Arch Trust was founded to campaign for the rebuilding of the arch.

WHY REBUILD THE ARCH NOW?

A restored Euston Arch would be a fitting gateway to a new Euston Station.

Euston Station will soon be rebuilt. The 1960s station is an abject failure, widely seen as the most unpleasant of London's main stations. Its bleak presence ruins the local area and it provides a miserable gateway in and out of our capital city.

Network Rail and its partners expect to submit plans for an estimated £1 billion redevelopment in 2009 with work starting shortly after 2012.

Rebuilding Euston offers the chance to restore the Euston Arch and return to Euston some of the beauty that was stolen from it in the 1960s.

The redevelopment of St. Pancras has shown that a modern station can encompass the past and the future. The new Euston can be the same.

THE EUSTON ARCH: GATEWAY TO A NEW EUSTON

The Euston Arch should be rebuilt between the two lodges on Euston Square overlooking the Euston Road. The lodges are all that remain of the old station.

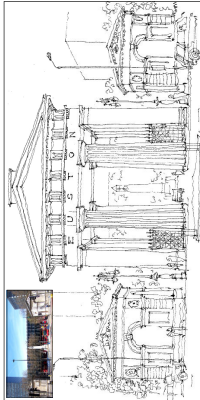
In 1995 the Euston Arch Trust, architect Ptolemy Dean and Alan Baxter & Associate structural engineers drew up proposals (see right) to rebuild the arch with a combination of old stones and new stone from the original quarry in Yorkshire.

Estimated cost of rebuilding in 1995 was £5 million. The arch could serve many purposes including as a commercial space. One of the existing lodges is already a private bar and space at the top of the arch could be opened up for a variety of uses.

The Euston Arch was a masterpiece of British architecture and would stand as an outstanding gateway to the new station, one that London and Britain can be truly proud of.

The Euston Arch Trust is committed to seeing the arch rebuilt. Visit our website for more details and to join our campaign.

Euston Station in the 1920s



Michael Palin



Patron of the Euston Arch Trust
 "The enormous popularity of the restored St. Pancras, soon to be followed by a restored King's Cross, has shown that celebration of the past and potential for the future are not mutually exclusive. The restoration of the Euston Arch would restore to London's oldest main line terminus some of the character and dignity of its great neighbours."

www.eustonarch.org