



## Jeffrey Spivak Union Station Research Collection (K1432)

**Collection Number:** K1432

**Collection Title:** Jeffrey Spivak Union Station Research Collection

**Dates:** 1880-1999

**Creator:** Spivak, Jeffrey

**Abstract:** The Jeffrey Spivak Union Station Research Collection contains letters, notes, and research documents compiled by Jeffrey Spivak for his book *Union Station, Kansas City*.

**Collection Size:** 12.6 cubic feet  
(181 folders, 12 oversize folders, 6 audiocassettes, 7 video tapes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Jeffrey Spivak Union Station Research Collection* (K1432); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Jeffrey Spivak on March 2, 2022 (Accession No. KA2565).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Jeffrey Spivak Union Station Research Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Cydney Millstein Papers*, (K0543)

*George A. Fuller Company Photograph Collection*, (K0080)

*Missouri Architectural Collection*, (K0009)

**Processed by:** Processed by Sophia Southard, December 2023

**Historical Note:**

Jeffrey Spivak worked for *The Kansas City Star* as a civic affairs reporter for over twenty years. In his role at *The Star*, he wrote about civic projects and metropolitan trends, and covered city and suburban governments. In 1996, Spivak and his co-writer, Chris Lester, were Pulitzer Prize finalists for their article series, “Divided We Sprawl,” which investigated the impact of spreading suburban growth. His research on the history of the Kansas City Union Station culminated in a book, *Union Station, Kansas City*, published in 1999. He also wrote the book, *Crowning the Kansas City Royals: Remembering the 1985 World Series Champs*, published in 2005.

*Union Station, Kansas City* explores the history of Union Station, from its grand opening on October 30, 1914, to its central role as both a transportation and social hub in Kansas City, and its eventual decline and threatened demolition.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following 11 series with 2 subseries:

- Personal Remembrances
  - Correspondence
  - Research
- Station Reconstruction
- Station History, Pre-1914 Opening
- Station History, Post-Opening Into 1990s
- Bistate Proposal and Legislation
- Station Reuse Concept Documents, Pre-1996
- Science City Development
- Station Renovation-Era Documents
- Trizec Lawsuit and Station Mediation
- Audiovisual Materials
- Oversize

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Personal Remembrances**

This series consists of research materials related to individuals’ memories of Union Station.

The Correspondence subseries contains emails, letters, and messages to Jeffrey Spivak and other *Kansas City Star* reporters. These were written in response to a *Kansas City Star* prompt asking for individuals to send in their recollections of Union Station.

The Research subseries contains photocopies of correspondence, newspaper articles, and records compiled during Spivak’s research of Union Station. Also included are Spivak’s research notes on Union Station, as well as a student paper written by Shawn Burton.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Station Reconstruction**

This series consists of research materials pertaining to the reconstruction of Union Station in the 1990s. Reconstruction of the station officially began in 1997 and was completed in 1999. Included are research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles, select book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and other documents. Of special interest is research about Amtrak, as well as the reconstruction of the station.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Station History, Pre-1914 Opening**

This series contains research materials about Union Station's history prior to its grand opening on October 30, 1914. Included are research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles, select book chapters, and other documents. Of special interest is research about the architect Jarvis Hunt, who designed the Kansas City Union Station.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Station History, Post-Opening Into 1990s**

This series contains research materials about Union Station's history after its grand opening in 1914. Included are research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles, select book chapters, and other documents. Of special interest is research about Amtrak, railroads, trains, and transportation as it pertains to Union Station.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Bistate Proposal and Legislation**

This series consists of research materials pertaining to the funding of Union Station, and the "bistate tax", a two-state sales tax passed in 1996, which helped to provide partial funding for the restoration of Union Station and create Science City. Included are research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles, select book chapters, and other documents.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Station Reuse Concept Documents, Pre-1996**

This series contains research materials about the reconstruction of Union Station prior to 1996. Reconstruction of the station officially began in 1997. Included are research notes, reports, surveys, and other documents.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Science City Development**

This series contains research materials about the development of Science City prior to its opening in 1999. Included are research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles and other documents.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Station Renovation-Era Documents**

This series contains research materials about the renovation of Union Station and the construction of Science City in the 1990s. Included are construction documents, financial statements, reports, surveys, and research notes, as well as photocopies of newspaper articles and other documents.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Trizec Lawsuit and Station Mediation**

This series consists of research materials pertaining to the lawsuit the city of Kansas City filed against Trizec Corporation in 1988. Prior to the lawsuit, the city of Kansas City had made a development deal with Trizec Corporation in 1974 to preserve and redevelop Union Station, which had begun to deteriorate. The lawsuit, settled in 1994, was filed due to Trizec Corporation's failure to develop Union Station.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Audiovisual Materials**

This series contains audiovisual materials about Union Station. Included are audiocassettes of oral history interviews conducted by Spivak, as well as video tapes about Science City and Union Station.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

### **Oversize**

This series contains oversize materials about Union Station. Included are architectural plans, construction documents, reports, and other documents related to Union Station and Science City.

The collection maintains the original order, except for the alphabetical arrangement of folders within each series.

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