

# VICTORIA TERMINUS

**Introduction:** Victoria Terminus is located in Mumbai on the western part of India touching the shores of the Arabian Sea. This building, designed by F. W. Stevens, is spread across a 2.85 hectare area. The terminal was built over a period of 10 years starting in 1878. This is one of the finest functional Railway Station buildings of the world and is used by more than three million commuters daily. It is now renamed as Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus. It was built to replace Bori Bunder station of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (1853 - 1886), and was named Victoria Terminus to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

## Background

Victoria Terminus exhibits an important interchange of influences from Victorian Italianate Gothic Revival architecture and Indian Traditional building styles. It became a symbol for Bombay as a major mercantile port city on the Indian sub-continent within the British Commonwealth. It is an outstanding example of late 19th century railway architecture in the British Empire, characterized by Victorian Gothic Revival and traditional Indian features, as well as its advanced structural and technical solutions.



## Importance

Bombay was the port for all mails to and from the Western world. The sorting exercise was carried out, once the ships arrived carrying the mail bags. These bags were then transferred to the mail trains which ran from Bombay to all the major cities in India.

## Scope of Exhibit

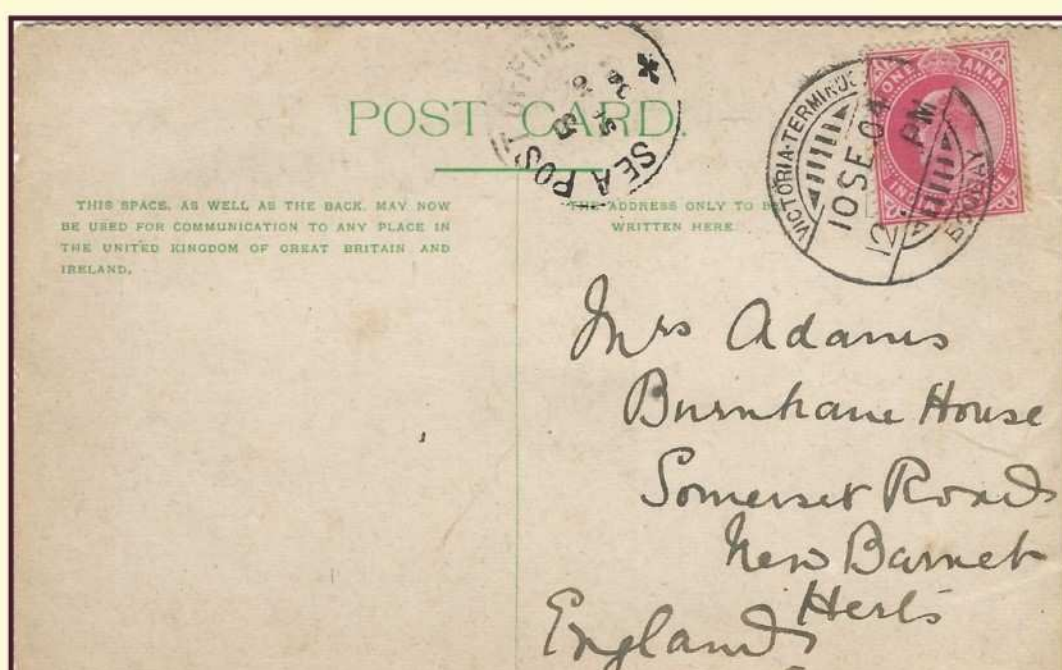
This exhibit illustrates the story of the Victoria terminus using picture post cards printed in India and Europe.

## References

- Paper Jewels—Postcards from the Raj by Omar Khan
- Collecting picture postcards: An introduction by Anthony Burt
- Dissertation, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai by Stephen Goodwin Howard, Department of History, University of York
- British Library Photo Archives image number 723(22)
- Taj Magazine, Bombay A Factious City, by Rahul Mehrotra
- Website of World Heritage Convention by UNESCO : <https://whc.unesco.org>

## Victoria Terminus Post Office

A post office was opened in Victoria Terminus in the year 1894. It was also a Telegraph Receiving Office which was authorized to receive telegrams from the public for dispatch to the nearest Telegraph Office



Grill Type Cancellation of Victoria Terminus dated September 10, 1904 on a picture postcard to England

## Plan of Exhibit

- Introduction
- Importance & Scope
- Victoria Terminus — Genesis
- Architecture & Architect
- VT's Dome—The Crown
- Progress—The Crown Jewel
- The Busy Street Infront
- VT's Neighborhood
- Most Published Scenes
  - VT & the Six Carts
  - VT & the Municipal Hall
  - VT in the Greens
  - VT & the Three carts
- Conclusion

## Genesis of Victoria Terminal

### Bombay—An established gateway to West

The railway station was built to replace the Bori Bunder railway station, in the Bori Bunder area of Bombay, a prominent port and warehouse area known for its imports and exports. Since Bombay became a major port city at the time, a bigger station was built to meet its demands, and was named Victoria Terminus, after the then reigning Empress of India, Queen Victoria.



### Making Space for VT : Mody Bay Reclamation

Mody Bay reclamation started in 1857. Pushed by Sir Bartle Frere, it created 250 acres of land out of which 100 acres were sanctioned to Great Indian Peninsular Railway for building its headquarters.

### Land of the First Indian Passenger Railways Line

Bori Bunder railway station was a railway station, situated at Bori Bunder, Bombay, Bombay Province, in British India. It was from here that first passenger train of the subcontinent ran to Tannah (present-day Thane) in 1853. This famous landmark which has become a symbol of the city, was built as the headquarters of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

### The Majestic Victoria Terminus



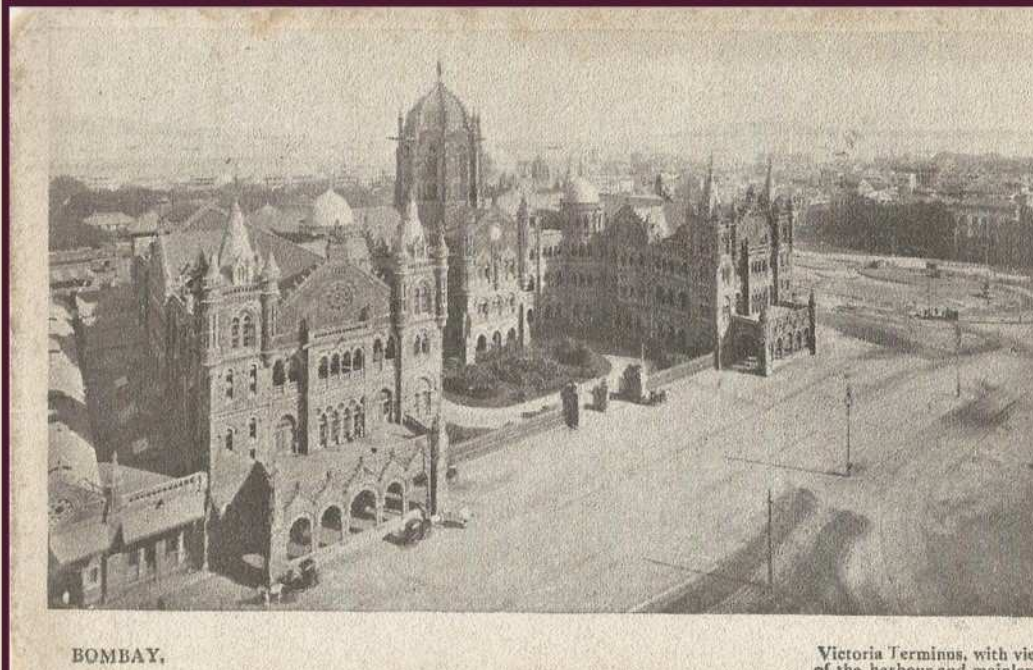
Captioned "Victoria terminus G.I.P. Ry. Station", Divided back. Card no. 231. Collotype printing. Printed in Germany

### Majestic VT—Left Corner View



Captioned "Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed on Kodak paper

### Majestic VT—Right Corner View



Captioned "Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Printed & Published by Times press Bombay, on granular textured paper

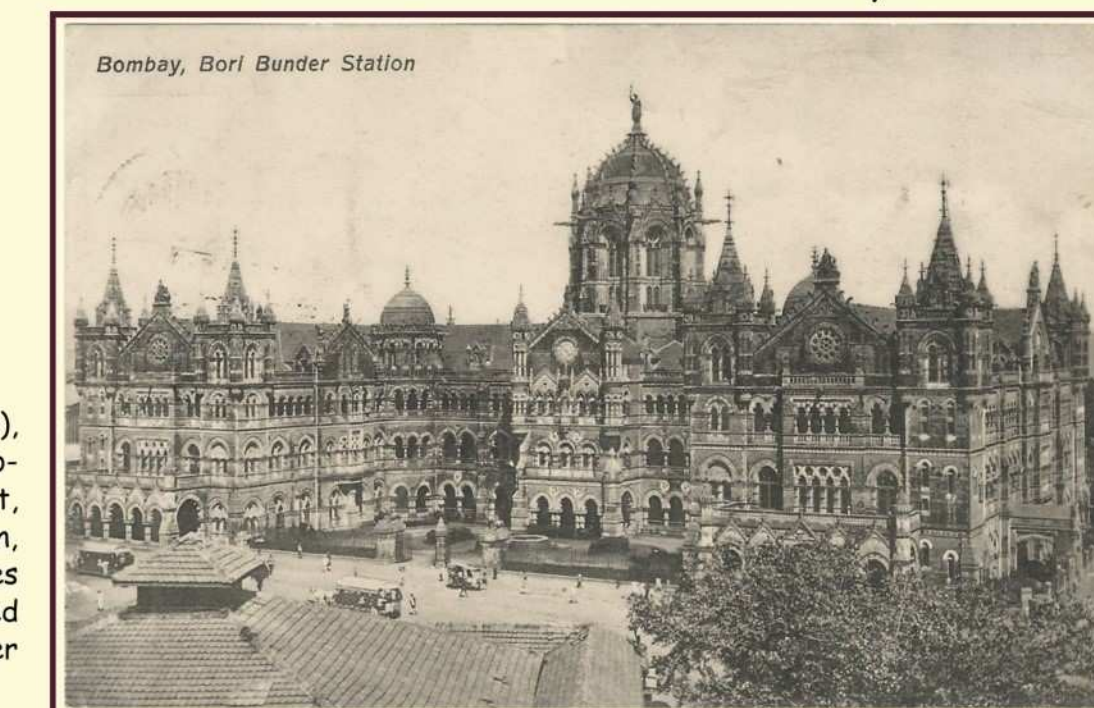
## Architecture of Victoria Terminus

**Design Inspiration:** The design of VT has been compared to George Gilbert Scott's 1873 St Pancras railway station in London, but it is far closer to Scott's second prize winning entry for Berlin's parliament building, exhibited in London in 1875, which featured numerous towers and turrets, and a large central ribbed dome.



**Sir George Gilbert Scott**  
(13 July 1811 – 27 March 1878), styled Sir Gilbert Scott, was a prolific English Gothic revival architect, chiefly associated with the design, building and renovation of churches and cathedrals, although he started his career as a leading designer of workhouses.

### Architecture resembles Italian Gothic Style



Captioned "Bombay Bori Bunder Station", Divided back. Printed by The Phototype & Co. Bombay



**Frederick William Stevens**  
The station was designed by Frederick William Stevens, a British born engineer-architect, attached to the Bombay office of the Indian colonial Public Works Department. Work began in 1878. He received £1,014,000 (US\$23,000) as the payment for his services. Stevens earned the commission to construct the station after a masterpiece watercolor sketch

The style of the station is also similar to other public buildings of the 1870s in Bombay, such as the Elphinstone College but especially the buildings of Bombay University, also designed by G.G. Scott. The station took ten years to complete, the longest for any building of that era in Bombay.

### VT's design was inspired from St Pancras Railway Station, London



Captioned "Victoria Railway Terminus Bombay", Undivided back. Printed in Germany

### VT has prominent towers and turrets



Titled "Bombay Victoria Terminus", Undivided back. Printed in Germany. Published by Bourne & Shephard, Bombay, Shimla & Calcutta

## VT's Dome—The Crown



VT's Dome—Detailed View

The dome is octagonal with eight prominent dovetailed ribs and projecting crockets, of 40 feet span, and strongly buttressed. Victoria Terminus is crowned by a huge 14'-15" tall statue of Progress, executed by Thomas Earp (1828-1893) in marble, and dating to 1887.

Oilette Series No.7022. Divided back. Published by Raphael Tucks & Sons, England



Divided back. Printed in Saxony



Titled "Victoria Terminus G.I.P.R.", Undivided back.



Divided back. Postcard No. 261

## Progress—The Crown Jewel



Statue of Progress

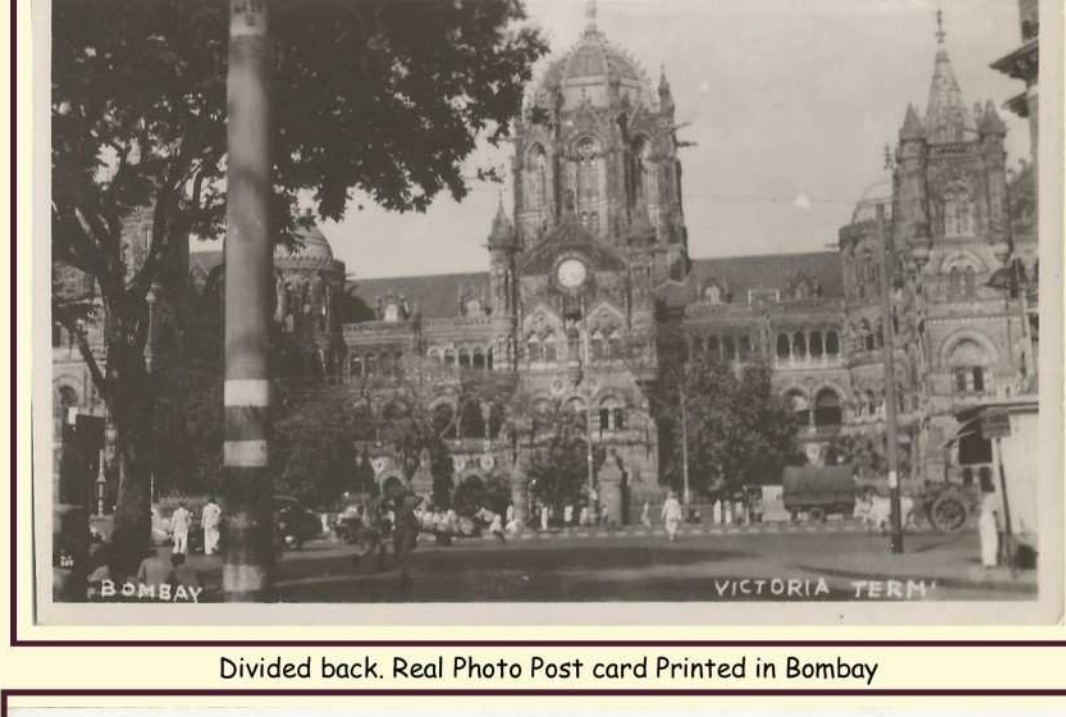
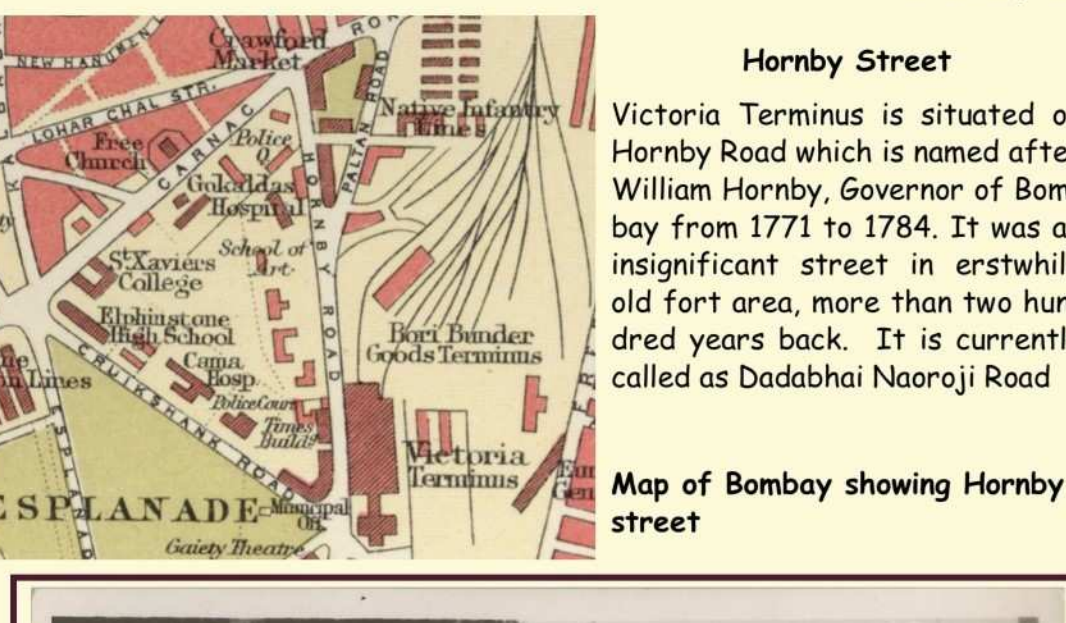
The female figure has a star above her forehead, flowing classical robes, and a winged wheel at her side suggesting change, forward movement, speed and, of course, transport. Looking down from her great height she wears a benign expression, and holds aloft a flaming copper-gilt torch to illuminate the way and lead the advance towards the future. According to Mary Ann Steggle and Richard Barnes, the architectural sculpture students at the JJ School of Art in Bombay at that time put the finishing touches to it

Statue of Progress atop VT's dome is visible from great distance

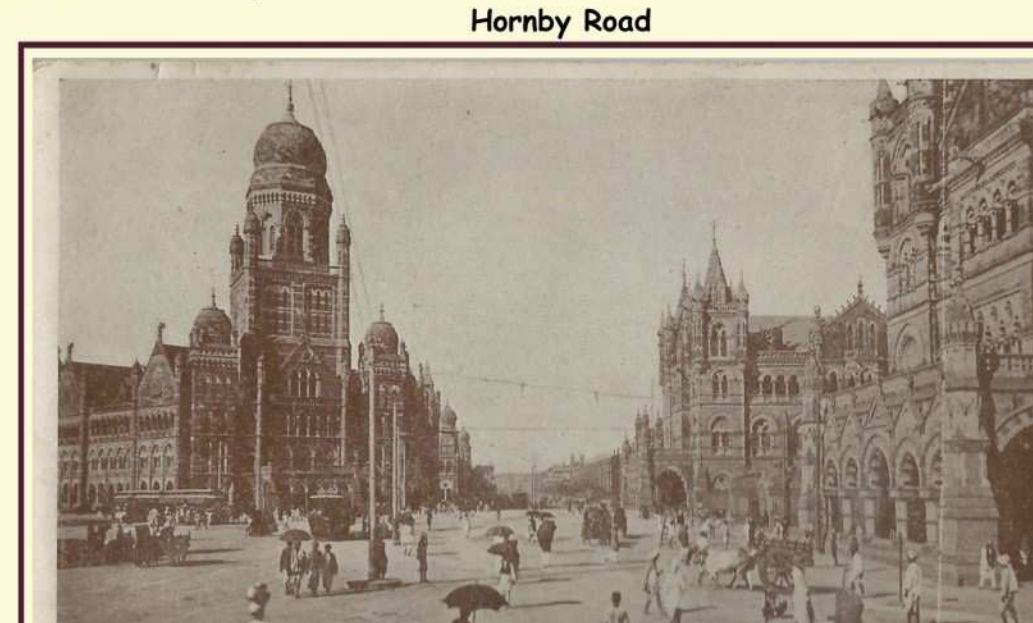


Divided back. Postcard No. 261

## The Busy Street — Hornby

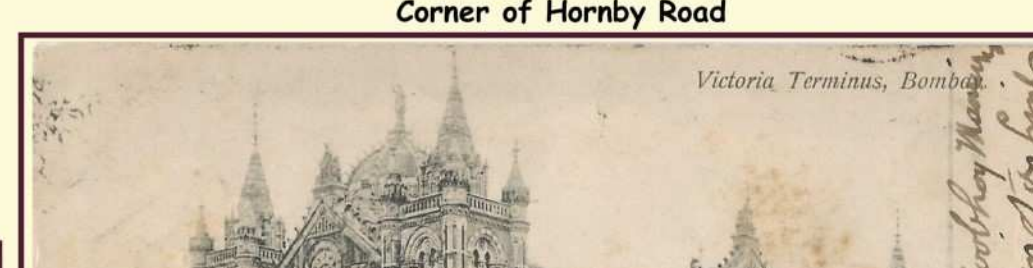


Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed in Bombay

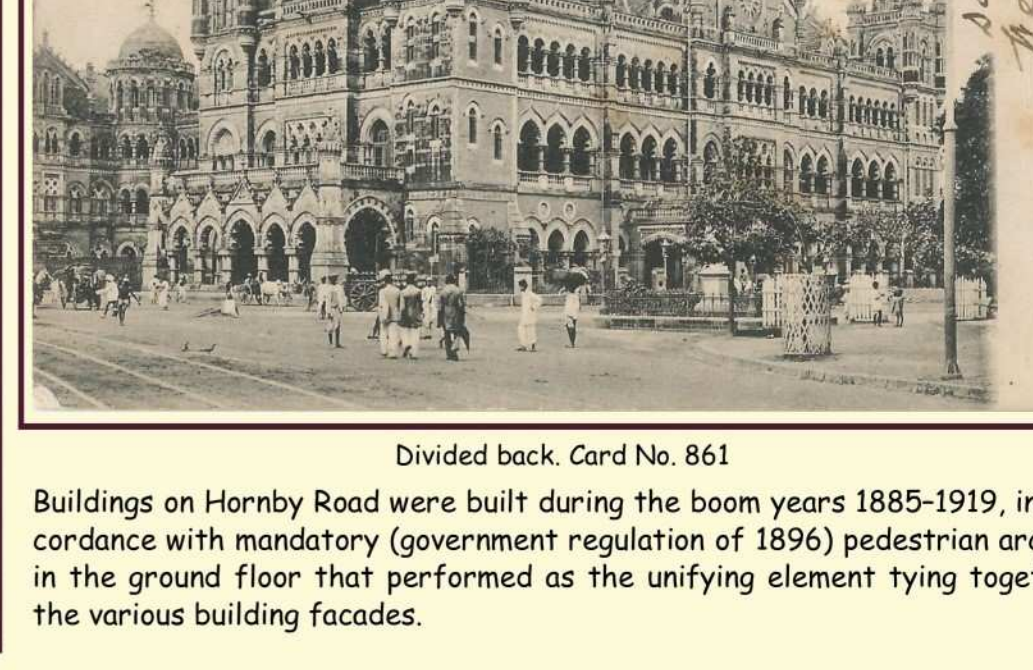


Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed in England by Raphael Tuck & Sons. Enamelled Sepia Series No. 777

The fort was demolished in 1860s by the then Governor Sir Bartle Frere to provide adequate space for the growing civic requirements of the city. The small Hornby Road was converted into a broad avenue, and impressive buildings of Victorian neo-Gothic, Indo-Saracenic, neo-classical and Edwardian structures.



Divided back. Card No. 861



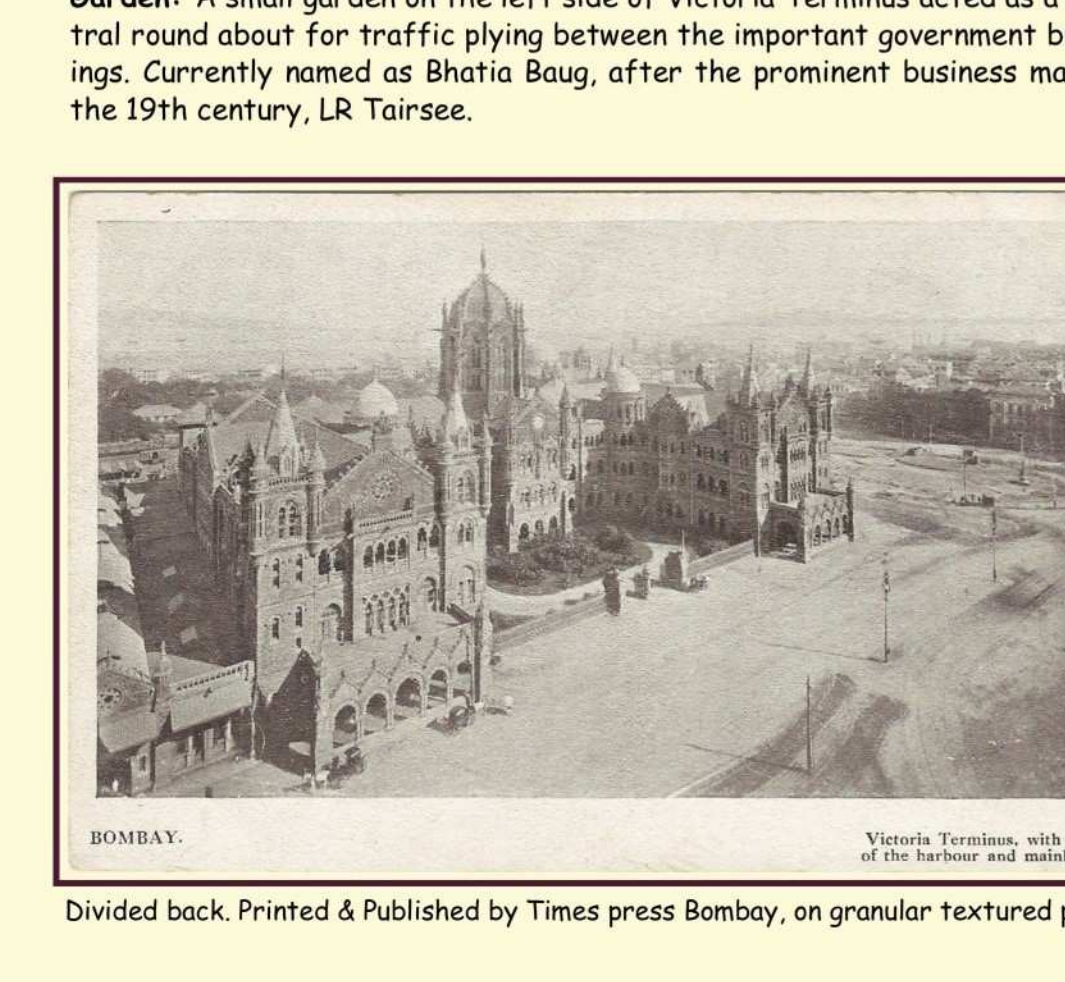
Buildings on Hornby Road were built during the boom years 1885-1919, in accordance with mandatory (government regulation of 1896) pedestrian arcade in the ground floor that performed as the unifying element tying together the various building facades.

## VT's Neighborhood



Captioned "Victoria terminus & Municipal Hall Bombay", Undivided back.

**Garden:** A small garden on the left side of Victoria Terminus acted as a central round about for traffic lying between the important government buildings. Currently named as Bhatia Boug, after the prominent business man of the 19th century, LR Tairise.

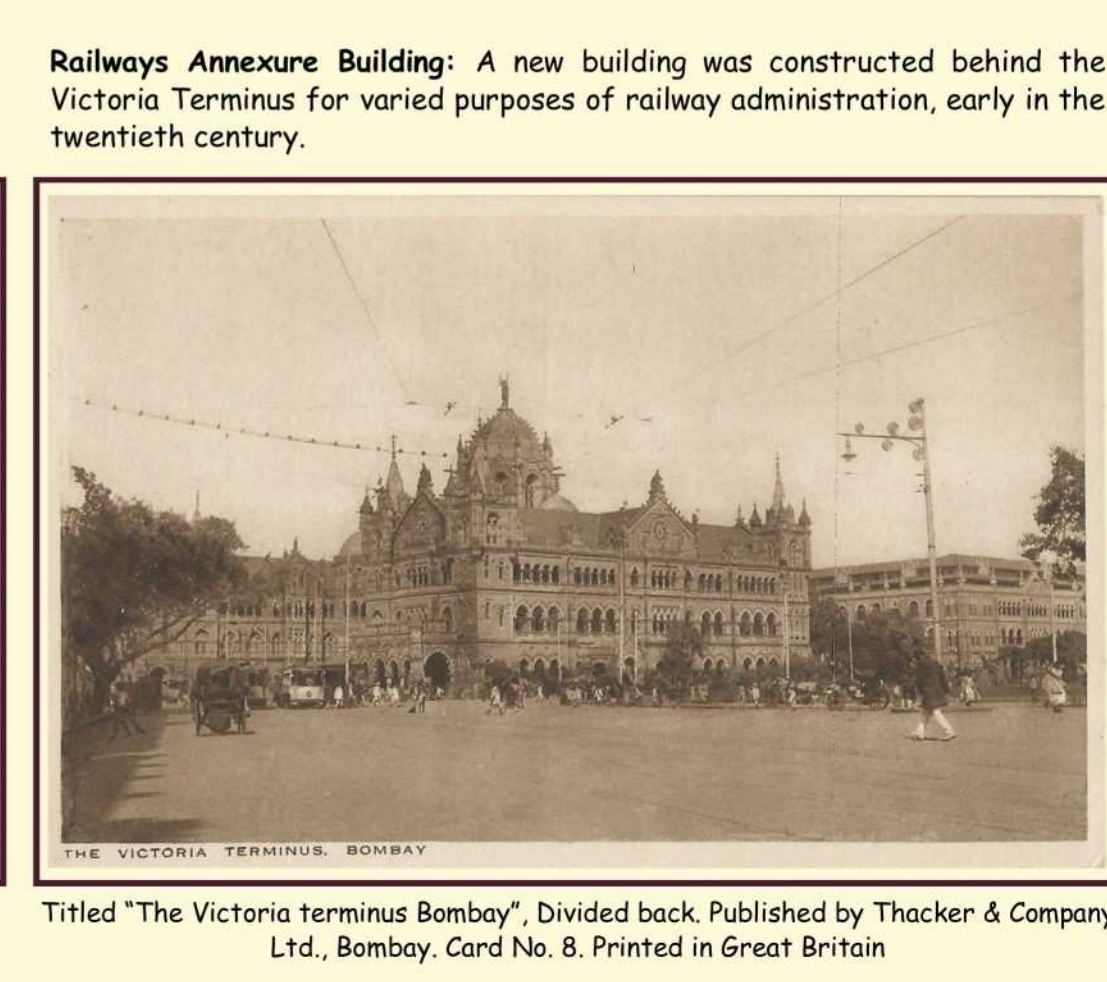


Divided back. Printed & Published by Times press Bombay, on granular-textured paper



Captioned "Victoria terminus & Anandipal Hall, Bombay", Divided back. Card No. 59. Printed in Saxony

**Gaiety Theatre:** Tivoli or Gaiety theatre is one of the Bombay's oldest theatres. Located just opposite Victoria Terminus, it was built by Kuvvurji Paghniwala. It is a Victorian structure constructed in 1879. Originally a theatre for performing arts, it was renamed as Capitol Cinema in 1928 when it was converted to a Movie theatre.



Titled "The Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Published by Thecker & Company Ltd., Bombay. Card No. 8. Printed in Great Britain

## Most Published Scenes

Different views of Victoria Terminus were taken for manufacturing picture postcards. The most popular views are listed as follows with Types and Identifiers

### Type 1: VT & the Six Carts : Image contains six carts on the Hornby street.

Identifier 1: Horse cart and Bullock Cart heading north (center)

Identifier 2: Bullock Cart heading south (seen in the distance)

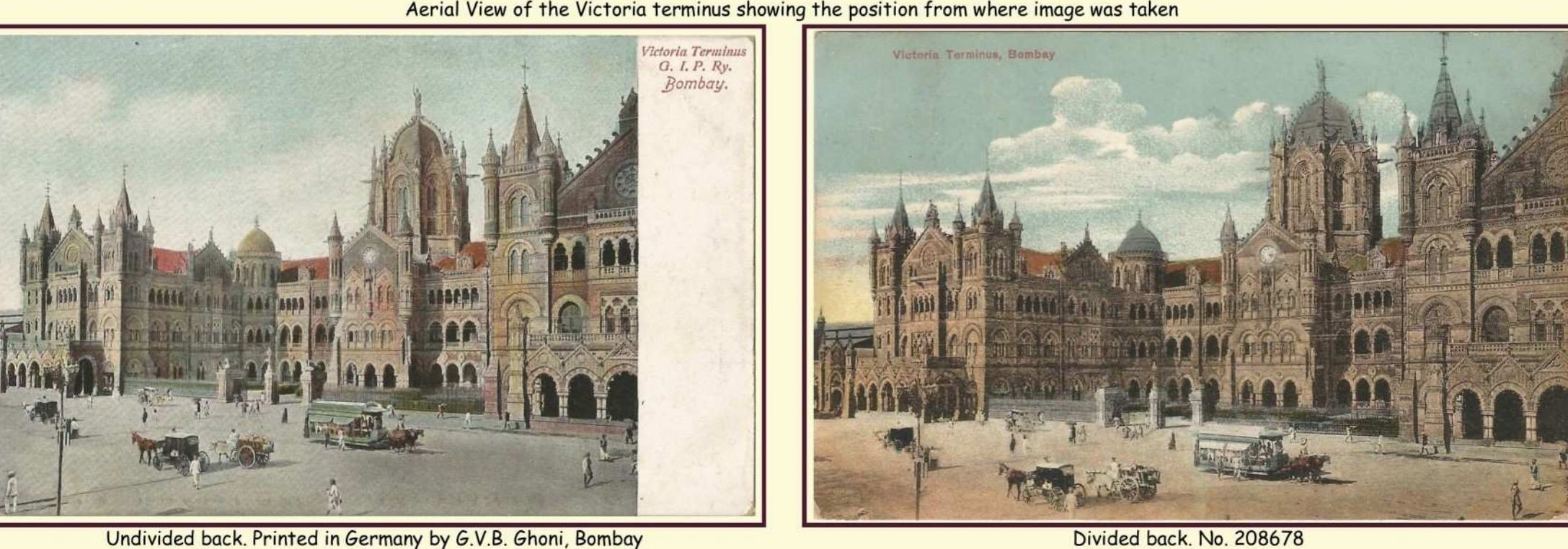
Identifier 3: Bullock Cart heading north Right bottom corner

Identifier 4: Horse pulled omnibus heading south

Identifier 5: Horse Cart heading North (Left bottom corner)

Identifier 6: Quarter past Four visible in the tower clock

Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken



Undivided back. Printed in Germany by G.V.B. Ghoni, Bombay

### Type 2: VT & Municipal Hall

Image contains pair of Bombay Municipal Corporation building and Victoria Terminus. The shape of clouds above may vary depending upon the method of reproduction and retouching.

Identifier 1: Prominent Tree in the front

Identifier 2: Roof of Theatre on the left

Identifier 3: Horse drawn Omnibus at the

Identifier 4: Two Friends crossing Hornby

Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken



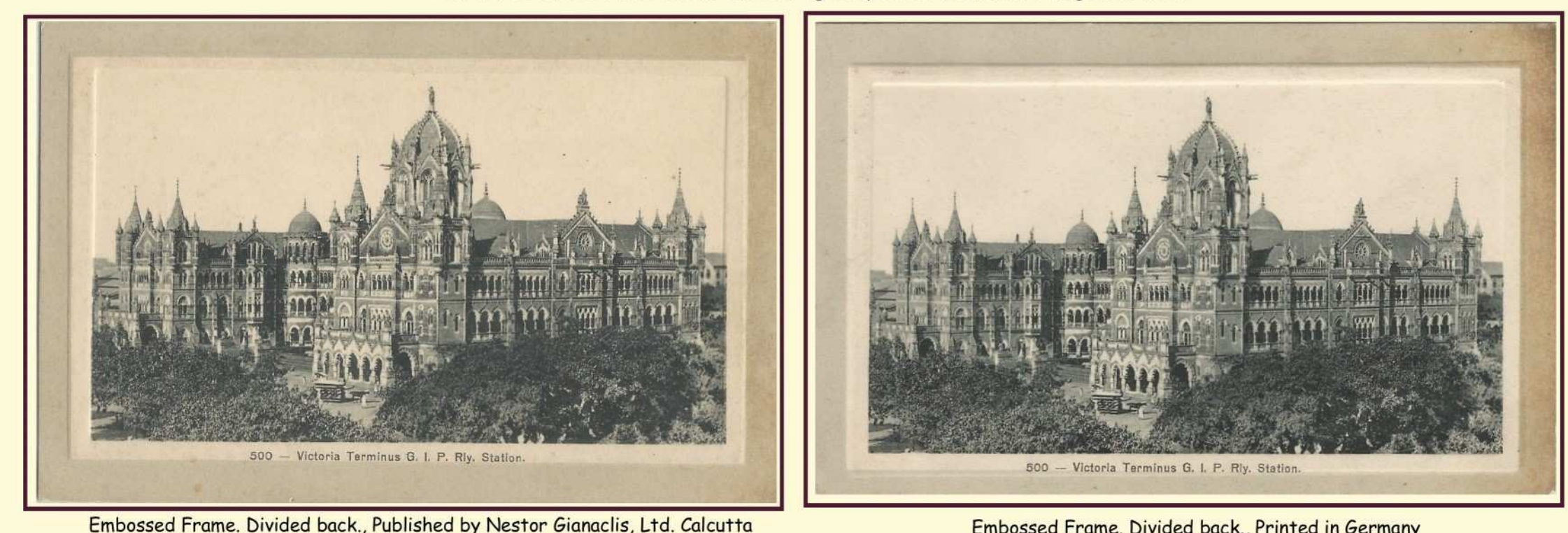
Divided back. Card No. 59

### Type 3: VT in the Greens: Image contains Vt surrounded by thick cover of trees with a little section of Hornby street visible

Identifier 1: People underneath the tree on bottom left. This might not be available in all PPGs due to cropping

Identifier 2: Horse drawn omnibus near the corner visible between the green foliage

Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken



Embossed Frame. Divided back, Published by Nestor Giacomis, Ltd. Calcutta

### Type 4: VT & the 3 Carts: Most reproduced image on postcards, containing 3 cart at the corner of Hornby Street

Identifier 1: Three carts in a row at the corner of VT

Identifier 2: Two friends crossing Hornby

Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken

Divided back. Printed in Saxony

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### Type 4: VT & the 3 Carts (Continued)

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## Conclusion

In March 1996 the station's name was changed to "Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus" after Shivaji, the 17th-century warrior chieftain who employed guerrilla tactics to contest the declining Mughal Empire and found a new state in the western Marathi-speaking regions of the Deccan Plateau.

On 2nd July 2004, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO nominated this magnificent specimen of late 19th century railway architecture as a World Heritage Site. This Terminus is one of the rare specimens of the excellent fusion of traditional western and Indian architecture and adds a unique variety to the rich Indian heritage.

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## Victoria Terminus Post Office

A post office was opened in Victoria Terminus in the year 1894. It was also a Telegraph Receiving Office which was authorized to receive telegrams from the public for dispatch to the nearest Telegraph Office



Grill Type Cancellation of Victoria Terminus dated September 10, 1904 on a picture postcard to England

## References

- Paper Jewels—Postcards from the Raj by Omar Khan
- Collecting picture postcards: An introduction by Anthony Byatt
- Dissertation, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai by Stephen Goodwin Howard, Department of History, University of York
- British Library Photo Archives image number 173/(22)
- Taj Magazine, Bombay A factitious City, by Rahul Mehrotra
- Website of World Heritage Convention by UNESCO : <https://whc.unesco.org>

## Genesis of Victoria Terminal

### Bombay—An established gateway to West

The railway station was built to replace the Bori Bunder railway station, in the Bori Bunder area of Bombay, a prominent port and warehouse area known for its imports and exports. Since Bombay became a major port city at the time, a bigger station was built to meet its demands, and was named Victoria Terminus, after the then reigning Empress of India, Queen Victoria.



### Making Space for VT ; Mody Bay Reclamation

Mody Bay reclamation started in 1857. Pushed by Sir Bartle Frere, it created 250 acres of land out of which 100 acres were sanctioned to Great Indian Peninsular Railway for building its headquarter.

### Land of the First Indian Passenger Railways Line

Bori Bunder railway station was a railway station, situated at Bori Bunder, Bombay, Bombay Province, in British India. It was from here that first passenger train of the subcontinent ran to Tannah (present-day Thane) in 1853. This famous landmark which has become a symbol of the city, was built as the headquarters of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

### The Majestic Victoria Terminus



Captioned "Victoria terminus G.I.P. Rly. Station.", Divided back. Card no. 231; Collo-type printing; Printed in Germany



### Expanding Bombay: Land Reclamation

Reclamation along the eastern edge of the island added considerably to the industrial and port activities by adding large swaths of land

### Majestic VT—Left Corner View



Captioned "Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed on Kodak paper

### Majestic VT—Right Corner View



Captioned "Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Printed & Published by Times press Bombay, on granular textured paper

## Architecture of Victoria Terminus

**Design Inspiration:** The design of VT has been compared to George Gilbert Scott's 1873 St Pancras railway station in London, but it is far closer to Scott's second prize winning entry for Berlin's parliament building, exhibited in London in 1875, which featured numerous towers and turrets, and a large central ribbed dome.



Sir George Gilbert Scott

(13 July 1811 – 27 March 1878), styled **Sir Gilbert Scott**, was a prolific English Gothic revival architect, chiefly associated with the design, building and renovation of churches and cathedrals, although he started his career as a leading designer of workhouses.

### Architecture resembles Italian Gothic Style



Captioned "Bombay Bori Bunder Station", Divided back. Printed by The Prototype & Co. Bombay



Frederick William Stevens

The station was designed by Frederick William Stevens, a British born engineer architect, attached to the Bombay office of the Indian colonial Public Works Department. Work began in 1878. He received ₹1,614,000 (US\$23,000) as the payment for his services. Stevens earned the commission to construct the station after a masterpiece watercolor sketch

The style of the station is also similar to other public buildings of the 1870s in Bombay, such as the Elphinstone College but especially the buildings of Bombay University, also designed by G G Scott. The station took ten years to complete, the longest for any building of that era in Bombay.

VT's design was inspired from St Pancras Railway Station, London



Captioned "Victoria Railway Terminus Bombay", Undivided back. Printed in Germany

VT has prominent towers and turrets



Titled "Bombay Victoria Terminus", Undivided back. Printed in Germany. Published by Bourne & Shephard, Bombay, Shimla & Calcutta

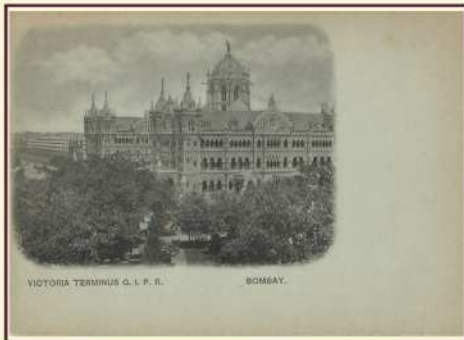
## VT's Dome—The Crown



VT's Dome—Detailed View

The dome is octagonal with eight prominent dovetailed ribs and projecting crockets, of 40 feet span, and strongly buttressed. Victoria Terminus is crowned by a huge 14-15'-tall statue of Progress, executed by Thomas Earp (1828-1893) in marble, and dating to 1887.

Oilette Series No7022. Divided back.  
back. Published by Raphael  
Tucks & Sons, England



Titled "Victoria Terminus G.I.P.R.", Undivided back.

## Progress—The Crown Jewel



Statue of Progress

The female figure has a star above her forehead, flowing classical robes, and a winged wheel at her side suggesting change, forward movement, speed and, of course, transport. Looking down from her great height she wears a benign expression, and holds aloft a flaming copper-gilt torch to illuminate the way and lead the advance towards the future. According to Mary Ann Steggle and Richard Barnes, the architectural sculpture students at the JJ School of Art in Bombay at that time put the finishing touches to it

Statue of Progress atop VT's dome is visible from great distance



Divided back. Printed in Saxony



Divided back. Postcard No. 261

## The Busy Street – Hornby

Hornby Road



### Hornby Street

Victoria Terminus is situated on Hornby Road which is named after William Hornby, Governor of Bombay from 1771 to 1784. It was an insignificant street in erstwhile old fort area, more than two hundred years back. It is currently called as Dadabhai Naoroji Road.

Map of Bombay showing Hornby street



Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed in England by Raphael Tuck & Sons. Enamelled Sepia Series No. 777

The fort was demolished in 1860s by the then Governor Sir Bartle Frere to provide adequate space for the growing civic requirements of the city. The small Hornby Road was converted into a broad avenue, and impressive buildings of Victorian neo-Gothic, Indo-Saracenic, neo-classical and Edwardian structures.



Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed in Bombay

### Corner of Hornby Road



Divided back. Card No. 861

Buildings on Hornby Road were built during the boom years 1885-1919, in accordance with mandatory (government regulation of 1896) pedestrian arcade in the ground floor that performed as the unifying element tying together the various building facades.



Divided back. Real Photo Post card Printed on Gevaert paper

## VT's Neighborhood

**Municipal Hall:** On 9 December 1884, the foundation stone for the Bombay Municipal Hall was laid opposite to Victoria Terminus, by the Viceroy of the time, Lord Ripon. A blend of Venetian Gothic design by Frederick William Stevens and Indo-Saracenic presented by Robert Fellowes Chisholm was chosen. The building was completed in 1893.



Municipal Hall & Victoria Terminus, Bombay.

Captioned "Victoria terminus & Municipal Hall Bombay", Undivided back.

**Garden:** A small garden on the left side of Victoria Terminus acted as a central round about for traffic plying between the important government buildings. Currently named as Bhatia Baug, after the prominent business man of the 19th century, LR Tairsee.



BOMBAY.

Victoria Terminus, with view of the harbour and maidan.

Divided back. Printed & Published by Times press Bombay, on granular textured paper

**Gaiety Theatre:** Tivoli or Gaiety theatre is one of the Bombay's oldest theatres. Located just opposite Victoria Terminus, it was built by Kunvarji Paghtivala. It is a Victorian structure constructed in 1879. Originally a theatre for performing arts, it was renamed as Capitol Cinema in 1928 when it was converted to a Movie theatre.



Victoria Terminus & Municipal Hall, Bombay

Captioned "Victoria terminus & Municipal Hall Bombay", Divided back. Card No. 59. Printed in Saxony

**Railways Annexure Building:** A new building was constructed behind the Victoria Terminus for varied purposes of railway administration, early in the twentieth century.



THE VICTORIA TERMINUS BOMBAY

Titled "The Victoria terminus Bombay", Divided back. Published by Thacker & Company Ltd., Bombay. Card No. 8. Printed in Great Britain

## Most Published Scenes

Different views of Victoria Terminus were taken for manufacturing picture postcards. The most popular views are list as follows with Types and identifiers

**Type 1: VT & the Six Carts** : Image contains six carts on the Hornby street.



Identifier 1  
Horse cart and Bullock Cart  
heading north (center)



Identifier 2  
Bullock Cart heading south  
(seen in the distance)



Identifier 3  
Bullock Cart heading north  
Right bottom corner



Undivided back



Identifier 4  
Horse pulled omnibus heading  
south



Identifier 5  
Horse Cart heading North  
(Left bottom corner)



Identifier 6  
Quarter past Four visible in  
the tower clock



Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken

A: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken  
BC: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken



Undivided back. Printed in Germany by G.V.B. Ghoni, Bombay



Divided back. No. 208678

## Type 2: VT & Municipal Hall

Image contains pair of Bombay Municipal Corporation building and Victoria Terminus. The shape of clouds above may vary depending upon the method of reproduction and retouching.



Identifier 1  
Prominent Tree  
in the front



Identifier 2  
Roof of Theatre  
on the left



Identifier 3  
Horse drawn  
Omnibus at the



Identifier 4  
Two friends  
crossing Hornby

A: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken  
BC: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken



Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken



*Victoria Terminus & Municipal Hall, Bombay*

Divided back. Card No. 59



*Victoria Terminus & Municipal Hall, Bombay.*

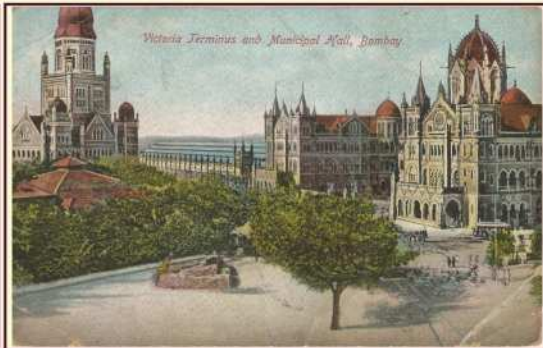
Divided back., No. 1420. Real Photo Card



*Victoria Terminus and Municipal Hall, Bombay*

*Arrived safely this morning. Found the weather  
very hot & steamy in Bombay. Has cleared from*

Divided back. No. 59 184762



*Victoria Terminus and Municipal Hall, Bombay*

Divided back. No. 56368, Printed in Germany

Type 3: VT in the Greens: Image contains Vt surrounded by thick cover of trees with a little section of Hornby street visible



Identifier 1  
People underneath the tree on bottom left  
This might not be available in all PPCs due to cropping



No. 1016 Real Photocard. Divided back., Published by D. Macropolo & Co., Ltd. Calcutta



Identifier 2  
Horse drawn omnibus near the corner visible between the green foliage



Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken

A: Location from where image was taken  
BC: Location from where image was taken



Embossed Frame. Divided back., Published by Nestor Gianacis, Ltd. Calcutta

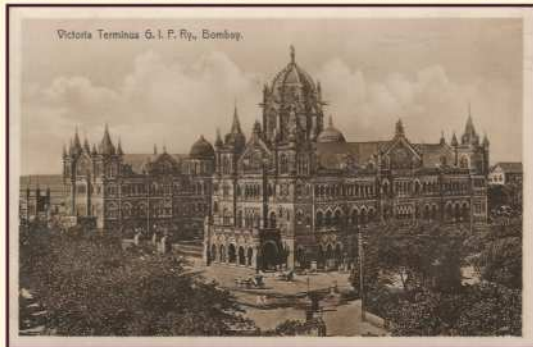


Embossed Frame. Divided back., Printed in Germany

Type 4: VT & the 3 Carts: Most reproduced image on postcards, containing 3 cart at the corner of Hornby Street



Identifier 1  
Three carts in a row at  
the corner of VT



Rel Photo card. Divided back. No. 1413



Identifier 2  
Two friends crossing  
Hornby



A: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken  
BC: Location  
from where  
image was  
taken

Aerial View of the Victoria terminus showing the position from where image was taken



Divided back, Printed in Saxony



Divided back. Card No. 218



Undivided back.  
Published by G. B.  
V. Ghoni, Bombay



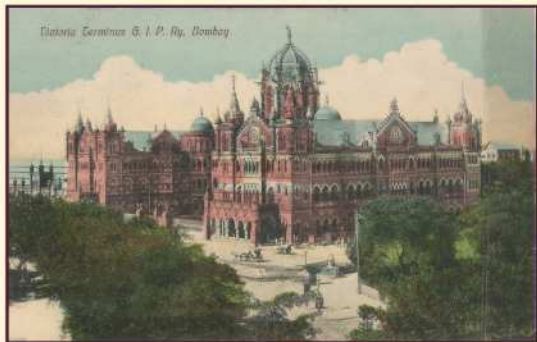
Divided back.



Divided back.  
Printed in Germany.  
No. 184742

Divided back.,  
Printed in Germany

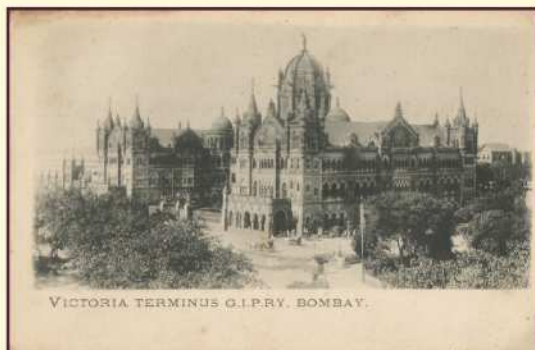
Divided back.  
No. 218



Type 4: VT & the 3 Carts (Continued)



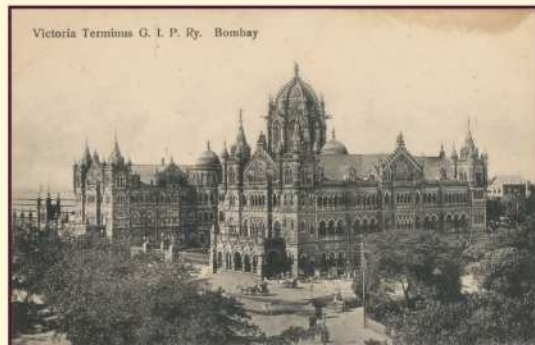
Undivided back.



Undivided back.



Divided back, Printed in England



No. 218. Divided back. Printed in Saxony

Conclusion

In March 1996 the station's name was changed to "Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus" after Shivaji, the 17th-century warrior chieftain who employed guerrilla tactics to contest the declining Mughal Empire and found a new state in the western Marathi-speaking regions of the Deccan Plateau.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO nominated this magnificent specimen of late 19<sup>th</sup> century railway architecture as a World Heritage Site. This terminus is one of the rare specimens of the excellent fusion of traditional western and Indian architecture and adds a unique variety to the rich Indian heritage.