

BOMBARDIER

BACKGROUND

THE ROYAL-PRUSSIAN RAILWAY DIRECTORATE - BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION'S NEW HEADQUARTERS

Since 1895 Schöneberger Ufer 1 has been the seat of significant development and decision making for the German railway industry. Today, Bombardier Transportation continues that long, proud and important history with the railway industry by announcing its decision to make this historic building its new world-wide Head Quarters.

Following the nationalization of the private railways between 1878 and 1887, a new administrative building became a necessity. In 1892, the first cut of the spade took place near Potsdamer Platz. Headed by railway-superintendent Armin Wegener (1850–1917), construction of the three-storey building was completed in 1895. From 1929 till 1938, the administrative building was extended by a new building at Schöneberger Strasse.

Inaugurated in 1895, the building was initially the seat of the Royal-Prussian Railway Directorate, which was responsible for the entire local transport in and around Berlin. In 1920, the so-called Reichsbahndirektion Berlin took over. After WWII, the Royal-Prussian Railway Directorate was used by the Soviet military administration as headquarters for the Soviet transport division, although the building was located effectively outside of any of the occupying powers' territories.

In April 1948, American Military Police stormed the house, forcing the withdrawal of the Red Army soldiers. The incident caused considerable disruption of the S-Bahn-traffic in the former Western sectors. Trying to avoid a second blockade, however, the Americans left the building again. In the meantime, the Eastern transport police had moved into the building at Schöneberger Ufer. In June 1949, the house was assaulted by railway workers on strike. Another incident took place in January 1950, when West-Berlin police surrounded the building and disarmed the transport police that were stationed there. As a result, the American and Soviet city commandants agreed to vacate the building. Upon transferring the building back to Deutsche Reichsbahn, a hospital for West-Berlin Reichsbahn workers was established there in December of 1958. With the hospital using only some of the 600 rooms, the building also became home to a railway training center, archive and switchboard.

At the end of the 1980s, the building was sold to the Berlin Senate which gave it back to the Reichsbahn after the wall had come down. In August 1990, the hospital was relocated to Tempelhof. The Reichsbahn established its own company health insurance fund which started operations in this building in January 1991 and stayed there until November 1999.

Between 1992 and 2002 the Royal Directorate also housed the head office of Deutsche Bahn's Berlin representation, as well as other users like the freight transport branch DB Cargo. After their move to a different location, the building was extensively renovated.

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