Portugal's Unexpectedly Heroic Custard Tarts

Handicapping This Year's Doomsday Clock Adjustment

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A Rescued Surfer Who Got Lost on Purpose

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Jan 26
Seattle

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- **42.7840, -96.9260**
  National Music Museum, South Dakota

What's near me?

**Washington, D.C.**

**National Archives Vault**

An atomic bomb-proof strongbox protects the U.S. Constitution from terrorists and thieves.

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The Mosler safe under construction National Archives (Public Domain)

Scale model depicts the Mosler Vault https://catalog.archives.gov/id/35810804
Safe under construction National Archives (Public Domain)

Installing the Mosler vault National Archives (Public Domain)
The National Archives building in Washington, D.C. houses some of the United States’ most foundational texts, including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. These three documents are collectively known as the Charters of Freedom, and could be the most closely guarded pieces of paper on the planet.
Washington, D.C.

**The Capitol Stones**

Enormous piles of historically significant stones, dumped by Congress in a forest, and abandoned for 60 years.
38.9577, -77.0510
Added by davidplotz1
Washington, D.C.

**Capitol Air Conditioning Towers**

"Congress may voluntarily remain in session throughout the summer, in order that our Congressmen may be protected from the intolerable discomforts and dangers of the ordinary outdoor weather!"
38.8884, -77.0109

Added by Elliot Carter
Washington, D.C.

**Washington Coliseum**

A historic arena where The Beatles played their first concert in the U.S.
38.9054, -77.0024
Added by evyatarguttman

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During the day these important texts are available for public viewing under bulletproof glass and constant guard. But every night (and at the press of a button, should the need arise) a special elevator pulls them underground into a custom-built armored vault.

The original vault was built in 1953 by the Mosler Safe Company. The firm was the logical choice, having previously taken on notable achievements like the gold bullion vault at Fort Knox, and a bank vault in Hiroshima that survived an atomic bomb.

The original, 55-ton Mosler Vault was the size of walk-in closet and employed a 20-foot scissor jack to raise and lower the Charters of Freedom. A 1953 documentary shows the lift in operation here. The Mosler Vault was replaced in the early 2000s as the National Archive underwent a major $110 million renovation. The current vault, designed by Diebold, is still shrouded in secrecy.

#security#founding fathers#archive#atom bombs#government#secret#history

**Know Before You Go**

The National Archives building is open to the public 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The vault is not.
Sources


38.8924
-77.0227

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Elliot Carter

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Edit Place
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**Washington, D.C.**

**Government Printing Office**

Need a hardcopy of the 50-title Code of Federal Regulations? This is the place. 38.8993, -77.0093

Added by Elliot Carter

**New York, New York**

**The Hidden Art Deco Tunnel Underneath the New Yorker Hotel**

The beautiful tunnel that ran from the lobby to Penn Station is still hidden underneath 34th Street. 40.7527, -73.9936

Added by Luke J Spencer

**New York, New York**

**Carnegie Hall Archives**

More than 300,000 historical artifacts from the famous music venue, from Duke Ellington's handwritten score to The Beatles' booking slip. 40.7650, -73.9800

Added by Luke J Spencer

**Washington, D.C.**

**Capitol Air Conditioning Towers**

"Congress may voluntarily remain in session throughout the summer, in order that our Congressmen may be protected from the intolerable discomforts and dangers of the ordinary outdoor weather!" 38.8884, -77.0109

Added by Elliot Carter
Near This Place

Washington, D.C.

**Temperance Fountain**

* A much-maligned monument to teetotalism.

38.8938, -77.0217

Added by WhiskeyBristles

Washington, D.C.

**Martha, the Last Passenger Pigeon**

* The last known passenger pigeon, Martha's remains serve as a tool to educate about conservation.

38.8912, -77.0260

Added by Rachel

Washington, D.C.

**minibar by Jose Andres**

* Truly adventurous food from one of America's most innovative chefs.

38.8964, -77.0236

Added by meelar

Washington, D.C.

**National Museum of Crime and Punishment**

* America's Most Wanted's set resides in this tribute to the history of crime and punishment.

38.8967, -77.0217

Added by Kristin Dunlop

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