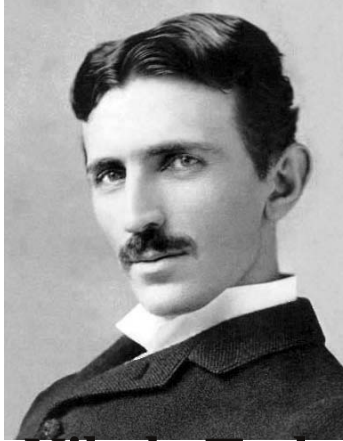




Nikola Tesla

July 10, 1856 - January 7, 1943

New York, New York

Nikola Tesla died in Room 3327 of the New Yorker Hotel on January 7, 1943. He was eighty-six. Born in Smiljan, then in the Austrian Empire, on July 10, 1856, he became a U.S. citizen and did his decisive work here: alternating-current motors, the Niagara generating system, and a laboratory life that mixed real invention with promises the money could not finish. He fed pigeons in the last years and spoke of weapons and wireless power as if both were already on the bench.

He died poor and famous, a combination New York understands. The government briefly seized his papers. The ashes went to Belgrade. The patents, the Westinghouse years, and the public-domain photograph of the thin face in the dark coat stayed in America. This memorial names New York as the city of the labs, the hotel, and the last address.

He never married. He quarreled with Edison in a war of currents that later storytellers simplified into a cartoon. The more useful record is the motor, the coil, and the unpaid hotel bill. There is no New York grave. The work is in the grid.

Hotel clerks knew him as a precise, unpaid guest who asked after the pigeons. The city that had watched Niagara come online also watched the last years thin out. Belgrade keeps the ashes. New York keeps the grid and the photograph. He would have billed both. He became a U.S. citizen and stayed one. The hotel room was not a laboratory, however much later myth wanted it to be. Belgrade keeps what can be kept in an urn. The current in the wall is the American remainder.

Services

Died in New York on January 7, 1943. Ashes at the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade. Longtime New York resident and U.S. citizen.

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