TESLA SCIENCE CENTER AT WARDENCLYFFE

Metal recycling has a surprising history at Wardenclyffe that comes full circle to today.

1901 Inventor Nikola Tesla buys 200 acres in Shoreham, NY, and names it Wardenclyffe with a goal to build a Radio City. The project was funded by JP Morgan and Tesla hired the firm of his friend, architect Stanford White, to build a laboratory and187-foot tower for transmitting communications and power wirelessly around the world. Tesla runs out of funds in 1903 and the project stalls.

1917 Tesla had struggled to resurrect the Wardenclyffe project and is in debt to the heirs of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where he has lived for years on credit extended by his friend, John Jacob Astor. When Astor dies on the Titanic in 1912, his heirs demand payment and Tesla takes out two mortgages. In 1915, unable to make the payments, Tesla turns over the deed. The new owners demolish the tower and sell it for scrap in 1917.

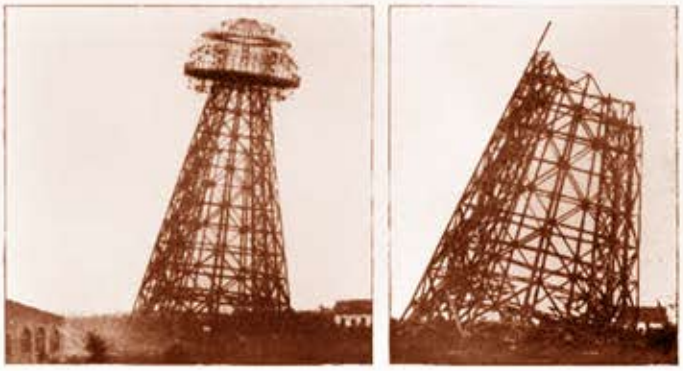
Newspapers of 1903 report light flashing from Wardenclyffe tower, leading to speculation that Tesla operated the tower at least once.

WEIRD DOINGS AT THE TESLA PLANT

Natives Around Wardenclyffe, L. I., Having the Time of Their Lives Guessing What the Electrician Is Trying to Do.

2021 Since 2013 dedicated volunteers have collected 124,660 pounds—or 62.33 tons—of metal to recycle into funds for the restoration of Nikola Tesla's only remaining laboratory. In 2021, we're expanding this effort for the planet and the lab. When Board Member Gene Genova was asked why we collect METAL FOR TESLA, he responded, "It feels right. Tesla's tower was recycled for funding, so we are working hard to get that back."

The tower was demolished with dynamite and dismantled as part of a court order to make the property more salable. The Smiley Steel Company's explosive expert blasted the tower with dynamite once on July 4, 1917, and then later that summer over Labor Day weekend, in early September.



Ultimately, the tower scrap metal was recycled for $1,750. Adjusted for inflation, that is $45,582.95 today.

METAL FOR TESLA

SAT. MARCH 20

9 am - 4 pm • Rain or shine

5 Randall Road, Shoreham NY 11786

Learn more at

teslasciencecenter.org