

Track 61

The sprawling New York City metro system is one of the largest and most traveled in the world. But within the bowels of the great subway system exist miles and miles of abandoned tracks and several abandoned stations.

Track 61 was a railway platform for the Metro-North Railroad that ran beneath the famous Waldorf Astoria hotel next to Grand Central Terminal in the middle of the city. It originally served as a storage area for the city's railroad cars. Because of its ideal location next to the Waldorf Astoria and Grand Central Station, Track 61 was used as a means to secretly transport prominent visitors. According to legend, it was first used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a means to privately transport his car from the station to the indoor parking lot of the Waldorf Astoria. In addition, Roosevelt was believed to have utilized Track 61 to get back and forth to the hotel without being seen in public and to hide his deteriorating condition resulting from Polio. In 1965, the famous pop artist Andy Warhol is said to have hosted a private party on the platform. Many years later, Track 61 was used by President George W. Bush to travel to and from meetings that were held in the Waldorf hotel. Countless other rumors of its uses exist.

Nowadays, the station appears to be in complete disrepair and is closed to the public. An old car of the train still sits at the station and the tracks are covered in a thick layer of dirt. Many insist that Track 61 is still in use, because of the supposed presence of an "unmarked" door at the street level of the Waldorf-Astoria that supposedly leads down to the train station.

1. Track 61 was originally used...

- A. as a means to transport prominent citizens secretly.
- B. as a storage area for railroad cars.
- C. for Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- D. for visitors of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel

2. Which of the following is NOT true about Track 61?

- A. It is connected to the Waldorf-Astoria hotel
- B. It is currently open to the public and is used as a museum
- C. Andy Warhol is said to have once thrown a party there
- D. It is one of several abandoned railway stations on the New York City subway system

3. What does the word “prominent” mean in the following sentence?

However, because of its ideal location next the Waldorf Astoria and Grand Central Station, Track 61 was used as a means to secretly transport prominent visitors

- A. Regular
- B. Rich
- C. Foreign
- D. Important

4. Why do people think Track 61 may still be in use?

- A. Because of an unmarked door at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel
- B. Because the track is in disrepair
- C. Because Franklin D. Roosevelt was once used it
- D. The passage doesn't say

5. Which of the following remains a mystery?

- A. Did Franklin D. Roosevelt use Track 61?
- B. Did Track 61 exist?
- C. Where was Track 61?
- D. Is Track 61 still in use today?