

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Tagging for Access

This week, we're talking tags! When the National Archives [first introduced the concept of the “citizen archivist,”](#) our goal was to embrace the principles of Open Government while creating an online experience that connects the public to the mission of the National Archives. We recognize that what researchers learn from the records is valuable, we want to create ways to capture and harness that knowledge and information.

To encourage contributions from the public, we implemented tagging in the National Archives Catalog in 2011 as a way for users to apply meaningful keywords or labels to records and make content more discoverable online. Tagging is designed to be open to all users; as tags are added to items and descriptions in the Catalog, users can more quickly and easily find, and re-find, the information they seek.

clearly illustrated in this image, but it is not represented in the description. The keyword tag helps identify it as a record about manufacturing.

The screenshot shows the National Archives Catalog interface. At the top, the header includes the National Archives logo, the text "NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG", a search bar with "Advanced Search", and links for "Login" and "Register". Below the header, there are links for "Share", "Export", and a "MENU" icon. The main content area features a record hierarchy on the left, a central image of a young woman smiling while working on military police insignia, and a list of tags on the left side. The record hierarchy includes "Record Group 208: Records of the Office of War Information, 1926 - 1951", "Series: Negro Activities in Industry, Government, and the Armed Forces, 1941 - 1945", and "Item: 'Insignia for military police are being turned out in an eastern quartermaster corps depot where this young worker has obtained war production employment.'", 5/1942". The tags list includes "Manufacturing", "Military Police", "Singer Sewing Machine", "smile", and "wmwr-tg1". The "Tag" section is circled in red. Below the image, there is a search bar, a "View/Add Contributions" button, and a "Comment" section.

You may also notice the unusual tag, [wmwr-tg1](#). This tag was created by the Community Managers for the National Archives Catalog and added to records to create a [tagging mission](#) around women at war. Code-like tags are very useful because the search engine does not bring back other results that are not part of this very specific set.

Sometimes researchers use tags to collect a list of records. Did you know that by creating your own tags you can share a list of records with a colleague, use them in a presentation or for a special event?

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Advanced Search Login Register

Share Export

Record Hierarchy

Record Group 360:
Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, 1765 - 1821

Series:
Official Records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, 1785 - 1787

Item:
George Washington's Annotated Copy of a Draft of the U.S. Constitution

Tag

article 4

article 6

article four

article six

constitution

constitutional convention

george washington

July4Hub

learninglab

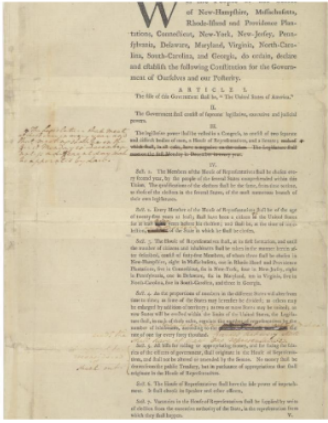
national history day

new nation

nhd2012

U.S. Constitution Draft

George Washington's Annotated Copy of a Draft of the U.S. Constitution



View/Add Contributions

1 of 9

Documents

PDF

The description above includes the tags: [National History Day](#) and [learninglab](#). These tags are not words or even concepts that are found within the record itself, but by adding this tag it will be returned in a search result that is meaningful to our colleagues in the [National Archives Education staff's Learning Lab](#) and history teachers participating in National History Day.

These are just a few examples of the different ways to use tags. How have you used tagging to help with your online research?

We recognize that users have different motivations for tagging. To encourage constructive conversations and contributions, we've created a [Citizen Contribution Policy](#) that outlines acceptable contributions to the Catalog.

New to Tagging? Learn how to [get started](#).

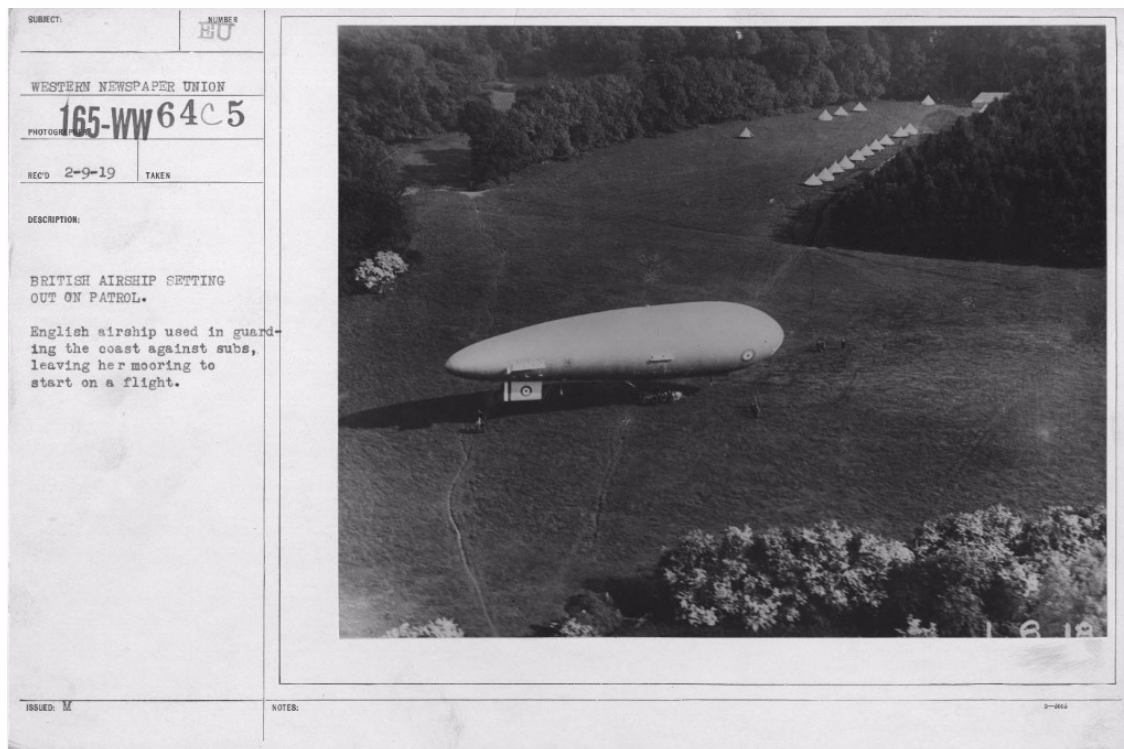
Are You Ready to Tag? Select a [Tagging Mission](#) and get tagging!

We'd love to hear from you!

- How have you used tagging to help your research?
- How would you like to contribute to the National Archives Catalog and increase access to our records?
- Do you have ideas about features and functionality you'd like to see in the Catalog?

Send us a message at catalog@nara.gov

New and interesting records in the Catalog



War Department: [American Unofficial Collection of World War I Photographs, 1917-1918](#)

World War I photographs obtained from private sources, the U.S. Army Signal Corps, and other Federal and State government agencies. We have recently added more photographs to this series.



U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth: [Inmate Case Files, 7/3/1895-11/5/1957](#)

Contents of the files vary from inmate to inmate, but nearly all include a "Record Sheet" that gives the inmate's name; registration number; alias; crime; sentence in years, months, and days; court fines and costs; date received at the penitentiary; date of sentence; date sentence began; date maximum terms ends; good time allowed; occupation; age; date eligible to parole (after 1910); violations (date, description, number of days in solitary confinement); and loss of days toward reduction of sentence. Most files include a "mug shot" photograph of the inmate with front and profile views.

the Court Historian

number 8 • november 1995

published by the
federal judicial
history office

Constructing Justice: An Exhibit of Courthouse Photographs at the Federal Judicial Center

Throughout much of the history of the United States, federal courthouses have been one of the most common points of contact between citizens and their government. Since the earliest days of the judiciary, these buildings have presented in bricks and mortar (or steel and glass) a tangible image of the federal courts. The history of the design and construction of these courthouses provides a perspective on the growing importance of the judiciary and the expansion of its role in public life. In an exhibit at the Federal Judicial Center, photographs selected from the collection of the



Scrivener, Pa.
The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Scrivener, Pennsylvania (1878). The deed transferring title of this property to the U.S. government reserved for the previous owner the right to construct subterranean passageway "to reach and mine any coal or other materials belonging to other lands or premises." This Beaux-Arts structure, built between 1890 and 1894, was used by the government in 1930 to make way for a larger courthouse and post office.

Office of the Supervising Architect depict the variety of buildings serving the judiciary during an era of tremendous growth.

From 1852 to 1939, the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury designed and oversaw the construction of federal buildings throughout the nation. Often a combination of courthouse, customhouse, and post office, these structures extended the authority of the federal government to every region of the country. Newly settled towns vied with large cities for the placement of federal offices that might make their communities administrative and commercial centers. The new buildings lent a prestige to the federal courts, which previously had met in an assortment of state offices and rented buildings.

Over nine decades, the architectural styles varied from the restrained classicism of the 1850s, to the brooding Romanesque of the late-nineteenth century, to the clean-lined Art Deco of the

New Deal era. Throughout these years, however, the forms and vocabulary of classical architecture predominated. The supervising architect and staff designed most of the courthouses, but during a brief period in the early twentieth century Congress authorized the hiring of private architects. Some of the most prestigious firms in the country competed for commissions and created grand, Beaux-Arts style buildings that had all the appearances of a state capitol.

Many buildings were of the latest engineering design as well as of the prevailing architectural fashion, and as early as the 1850s they featured cast iron and other fireproof materials. But the vitality of the federal courts threatened the long-term preservation of many of the buildings, in spite of their architectural distinction and advanced methods of construction. As caseloads increased and courts absorbed more and more room, even some of the most monumental and expensive courthouses faced the wrecker's ball, to provide space for larger federal buildings.

The twenty-eight buildings represented in the Federal Judicial Center exhibit reflect the varied history of courthouses built during this period. The small, virtually unchanged Windsor, Vermont, building of 1859 is the oldest continuously used courthouse and post office in the country. Others experienced a far more turbulent history. The courthouse of Galveston, Texas, fell into Confederate hands. In Richmond, Virginia, the courthouse served as the presidential office of Jefferson Davis.

continued on page 7

In this issue

Forthcoming Publications from the FJHO	2
Diversifying the Judiciary	3
Recent Publications	3
Resources of the History Office	4

a publication of the Federal Judicial Center

1

Federal Judicial Center: [Publications, 1/1/1995-12/31/2005](#)

Published documents pertaining to litigation procedures, court functions, and related topics.

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.





[Privacy policy](#)

[Subscribe or Unsubscribe](#)