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The Cozzino Mausoleum
HP Studio Mausoleum Biographic Research
Oct 11th, 2022

Introduction

The Cozzino Mausoleum is located in the Highland Plot at Woodlawn Cemetery, New York City. The original owner of the plot is Hattie Gross Cozzino Toomey. This mausoleum housed seven people, all of whom are her relatives. This paper will discuss the biographical information about the households, architects and the architectural aspects of the Cozzino mausoleum.

Architect & Contractor

The Cozzino Mausoleum was constructed by C.E Taynor & Co. and other 193 mausoleums were designed and constructed by C.E Taynor & Co at Woodlawn Cemetery as well.¹ C.E Tayntor owned and operated granite quarries in Hallowell, Maine and Barre Vermont and had an office in New York City.² It was one of the leading mausoleum design companies in the United states. C.E Taynor & Co declared that their mausoleum designs were on the basics of “the study of the finest examples of ancient and modern memorial architecture in Egypt, Greece, Italy and throughout the world.”³

¹ “Woodlawn Cemetery Records, 1863-1999,” Woodlawn Cemetery records, 1863-1999 | Avery Drawings & Archives Collections | Columbia University Libraries Finding Aids, n.d., https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-a/lc/dpd_6665518/dsc/1, 1.

² C.E. Tayntor (New York City, New York, n.d.).

³ “Three Fine Mausoleums” THE Brooklyn Daily Eagle (New York, 26, 1916), p. 24.

Site

The building is located in the Highland plot at section 43. The site is not flat, with gradual changes in topography. The Cozzino mausoleum is located on the south side of the 49 feet radius circular path at Ravine Avenue and Prospect Avenue.

Architecture

The building massing is a rectangular form with a gable roof and it is symmetrical. The architectural style of the Cozzino mausoleum is inspired by ancient Greek and Roman architecture, characterized by a low pitched gable, pediments and a frieze. The entrance door is located in the center of the north facade and each side of the entrance door are two columns, but they are not in any column order from Greek architecture, the columns are in the Roman Tuscan order which have straightforward, unadorned shafts with simple, unadorned base and capital.⁴(Figure 1.) These columns are sited on the water table course.

The east and west facades of the Cozzino mausoleum are the same in appearance and uniform in form. There is an air vent on both the east and west facade under the pediment. The south facade of the building is different from the north facade, and it has a window opening underneath the frieze.(Figure 2.) There is a grille in front of the window that is attached to the two longer sides of the window.

There are eight catacomb shelves, four on each side of the mausoleum. The stained glass window with numerous rectangular grid patterns on the background on the south facade has a family crest on it which represents "strength and valor".⁵ (Figure 3.)

⁴ Christopher Muscato, "Take Online Courses. Earn College Credit. Research Schools, Degrees & Careers," Tuscan Order: Architecture and Columns, n.d., <https://study.com/academy/lesson/tuscan-order-architecture-columns.html>.

⁵ "Coat of Arms Symbols and Meanings." Heraldry & Crests. Accessed October 10, 2022. <https://www.heraldryandcrests.com/pages/heraldic-symbolism-a-z>.

The architectural design of the mausoleum is simple and elegant, it combines different classical architecture elements from different periods of time.

Households in the Cozzino Mausoleum

There are seven people buried in the Cozzino mausoleum. They are Hattie Gross Cozzino Toomey, Joseph Augustine Cozzino, Camila Gross Snow, Capt. Noah S. Snow, Chester Ira Thatcher, Julia Gross Thatcher and Fielding Javonne Thatcher.

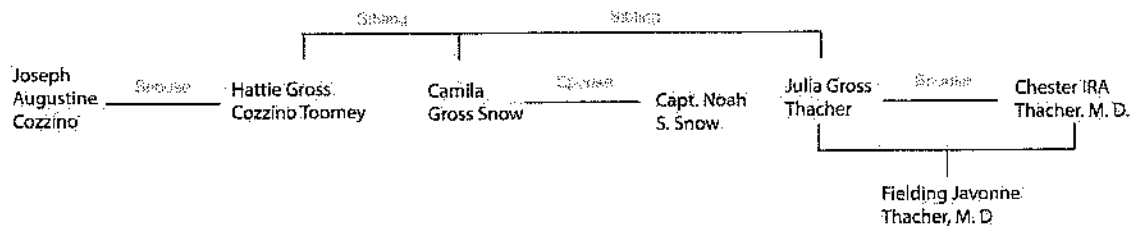


Fig 4. Family Tree of households in the Cozzino Mausoleum

Hattie Gross Cozzino Toomey, the owner of the Mausoleum, was born in 1847.⁶ She was the daughter of Dr. Orrin R and Jane S Gross. Her parents are both “natives of Massachusetts and descendants of old New England families.”⁷ She was a founder of the American Criterion Society and Vice President of the Eclectic Club.⁸ She remarried William J Tommey later, in early 1920.⁹

Her spouse, Joseph Augustine Cozzino was born in 1846, he died in 1905 due to pneumonia.¹⁰ He was a generous supporter of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a large

⁶ Year: 1907; Arrival: New York, New York, USA; Microfilm Serial: T715, 1897-1957; Line: 1; Page Number: 83

⁷ William Pelletreau, *In Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York* (New York: The Lewis Pub. Co., 1907), pp. 273.

⁸ “Hattie Toomey Obituary,” *Brooklyn Times Union*, April 27, 1928, p. 22.

⁹ United State Census Year: 1920; Census Place: Los Angeles Assembly District 63, Los Angeles, California; Roll: T625_107; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 178

¹⁰ “Joseph Cozzino Obituary,” *New York Tribune*, Nov 30, 1905, p. 11.

shareholder in the J.M. Horton Ice Cream Company.¹¹ His grandfather, Joseph Comillo Cozzino, was born in the town of Catania Sicily, Italy. Because of the eruption of Mt. Etna, “a large portion of the family estate with valuable family records were destroyed at Santo Rosario,” Joseph Comillo Cozzino came to the United States to pursue new opportunities.¹²

Joseph Cozzino, the father of Joseph Augustine Cozzino and the son of Joseph Comillo Cozzino, was a linguist and proficient in “Italian, French, German and English” languages.¹³ He also participated in the hotel business in both New York City and Washington D.C.¹⁴

At the J.M Horton Ice Cream Company, Joseph Augustine Cozzino worked as a treasurer, and was one of the largest manufacturers in New York City.¹⁵ It was founded in 1870 by James Madison.¹⁶ Horton claimed “he sold three-fifths of all the ice cream consumed in New York City”.¹⁷ The company had a big success in its business.

Another significant person in this mausoleum household is Chester Ira Thacher, a Christian scientist who was born in New York on April 5th, 1841 and married Julia Gross Thacher in the early 1870s.¹⁸ His son, Fielding Jayvonne Thacher, was born in 1878. He studied at Michigan University at Ann Arbor.¹⁹ He began to study electricity in 1880 when he moved to Chicago. According to him, magnetism is the life of the blood, thus he established the Thacher

¹¹ “Obituary,” *New York Tribune*, Nov 30, 1905, p. 11.

¹² William Pelletreau, 271

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Moses, King. *In King's Handbook of New York City: An Outline History and Description of the American Metropolis*, 984. Boston: s.n., 1893.

¹⁶ Frank Mastropolo, “Ghost Signs of NYC: JM Horton Ice Cream: Frank Mastropolo,” NewsBreak Original (NewsBreak Original, July 30, 2022), <https://original.newsbreak.com/@frank-mastropolo-1591143/2686244286650-ghost-signs-of-nyc-jm-horton-ice-cream>.

¹⁷ Anne Cooper, Funderburg. *In Chocolate, Strawberry, and Vanilla: A History of American Ice Cream*, Bowling Green, (Bowling Green State Univ. Popular Press, 1995), p.55.

¹⁸ “Dr. Chester Ira Thacher,” Bahai Chronicles, May 11, 2019, <https://bahaichronicles.org/dr-chester-ira-thacher/>.

¹⁹ *Bahai Chronicles*, 2019

Magnetic Shield Company to produce a gadget that promised to boost circulation and treat illnesses by exposing the patient to magnetic waves.²⁰

Camila Gross Snow was a housewife. Her husband, Noah S. Snow was a sea captain.²¹

Material and Condition

The exterior facade of the mausoleum is made out of Barre Vermont granite.²² Both its waterable course and the ashlar wall of the facade are rock-faced. The shafts of the columns on the north facade are polished. The entry door and the grille on the south facade are both made out of Bronze. The grille on the south facade of the mausoleum is for preventing window damage.²³

The interior of the mausoleum uses a different stone material : marble is the material for interior finishes. The marble is fine light veined marble.²⁴ Except the floor finished with sand rubbed, other surfaces in the interior of the mausoleum are polished.

There is some deterioration and some material conditions on both exterior and interior. There are some areas with biological growth at the entry and roof edges with moss cover on the surface of the granite stone. Furthermore, there is another type of biological growth, lichen, growing on the granite walkway in front of the mausoleum. There is also discoloration around the air vent area on the west facade of the mausoleum. There are also some deterioration issues in the mausoleum, such as cracks on the top of the gable roof, missing mortar on the west and east edges of the roof. Furthermore, There is hysteresis in the interior on the interior finishes of

²⁰ "Chester I. Thacher." - *Bahaipedia, an encyclopedia about the Bahá'í Faith*. Accessed October 10, 2022. https://bahaipedia.org/Chester_I._Thacher.

²¹ United States Federal Census, 1880, p. 29.

²² Hattie G. Cozzino., 1905-1906, Section 43/69, box MM04, folder 23, Woodlawn Cemetery Records, Avery Drawing Archive Collections, Columbia University, New York City, NY.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

catacombs and the stained glass window frame has missing materials at the corner which causes its change in geometry.

The material of the foundation of the mausoleum is rubble stone.

Conclusion

The architectural design of the mausoleum is inspired from both ancient Roman and Greek architecture. It has a simple and elegant form which makes it look like a modern version of an ancient temple. It uses different types of stones which demonstrates various features of stone as a building material. The household in the mausoleum made significant contributions to different fields in the United States.



Figure 1. North Facade



Figure 2. South Facade



Figure 3. The Interior