



Conron Mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, New York City

Anna-Kristina Hoffman

Studio I

October 3th, 2025

The Conron Mausoleum is located in the Parkview of Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City, housing two separate yet seemingly intertwined families: the Conrons and the Dyers. The plans for the mausoleum were drafted on February 25th, 1930, by Peacock Memorial Studios, and it was constructed later that year, before the death of Joseph Conron on September 10th, 1931. The mausoleum was subsequently utilized by more Conron family members throughout the decades.

The Mausoleum

The mausoleum has a classical style, honed or polished granite exterior, with a raw, rough-grain granite curved roof. The entryway is inset from the rest of the exterior, and a copper or brass rounded double door is on the front elevation of the building. The double doors have a swirling vine motif that secures and partially obstructs a glass window behind the copper detailing on both doors. Around the brass door is a curved, projecting, carved granite door frame. Pilaster, square, smooth profile, granite columns flank either side of the doors and hold up an entablature that is inscribed "JOSEPH CONRON." Above both capitals and projecting from the entablature are carved marble wreaths with ribbons. The curved upper roof is a rougher granite than the rest of the mausoleum and is only visible from the front and rear elevations. Two granite urns with brass lids are placed on the east and west sides of the mausoleum, towards the front facade. The urns sit on two feet by two feet platforms separated visually from the foundation of the mausoleum by height, sitting about three inches lower than the foundation. On the Eastern and Western Facades are two-inch by ten-inch ornately constructed vent plates. There are four on either facade, two on the top below the mausoleum's belting and two directly above the

foundation. All eight of the vent plates are constructed of brass, which matches the door framing and urn lids in material and color.



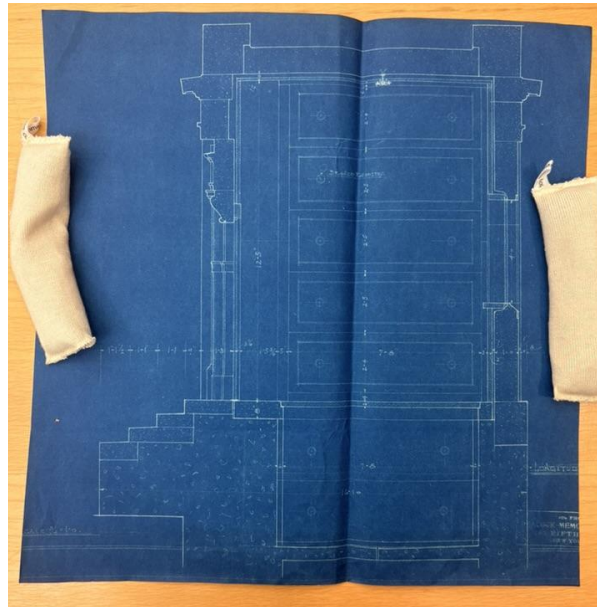
Interior Facing South/Front of Mausoleum



Interior Facing North/Rear of Mausoleum

Almost the whole of the interior of the mausoleum is constructed of marble, grandeur opposing its granite exterior. The walls, crypts, and window surrounds are all constructed of marble, though the floor is granite. A green carpet sits on the floor, covering another marble floor plate. The interior is set up as an aisle. Entering through the brass doors, five marble crypts are stacked vertically on either side of the aisle, and a painted glass window is at the end of the aisle or rear of the mausoleum. There is approximately a two-foot space between the interior of the front facade wall and where the crypts begin, after which the crypts span the entirety of the rear wall. The painted window at the end of the aisle is unsigned and was crafted to appear like stained glass. It depicts a Christian religious scene, with Jesus Christ as a central figure. A quote below the scene reads: "Behold I stand at the door and knock." The window is inset and has a

marble surround and sill, resembling its opposing granite inset and sill on the exterior of the mausoleum. However, since the window is painted, the image is not visible from the exterior. Although the crypts themselves are marble, they have metal rosette handle knobs, which match the brass rosettes seen surrounding the double doors.



Cross-section Blueprint of the Conron Mausoleum¹

According to the blueprints provided by Avery Library's Architectural Archive, the mausoleum continues into the earth, revealing several additional crypts buried underground. The marble plate on the floor of the mausoleum, covered by the green carpet, is likely an entryway to the underground crypts. It is doubtful that these crypts are being utilized currently, as four of the crypts above ground are still unused, and there is no indication or markings on the marble floor plate of names.

¹Cross-section of Conron Mausoleum, Peacock Memorial Studios, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library, Columbia University Archive Records

Degradation Analysis of the Mausoleum

ph Lot 16801 Park View Plot
 MONTHLY STATEMENT
 S. D. 4144

The Woodlawn Cemetery
 OFFICE, 20 EAST 23rd STREET
 NEW YORK

DEC 1 1934

Mrs. Joseph Conron,
 19 East 93rd Street,
 New York City.

Nov.	1	Account Rendered	\$85 00
------	---	------------------	---------

Attention *Park View*

Gentlemen
 I am paying this bill, but our family are very dissatisfied with the way the grass & plot looked during last summer. You said it would be thoroughly planted & upturn the grass this was not done only a few small barrows of top soil was put on. My brother lives near by & matched your name Mrs Joseph Conron. Sup

Correspondence between Mrs. Joseph (Cecilia) Conron

The Conron Mausoleum is not as pristine as it was upon construction, as it has undergone much weathering over the decades. The mausoleum seemed not to have been well-maintained even soon after construction, as noted by correspondences between Mrs. Joseph Conron (Cecilia Dyer) and Woodlawn Cemetery, beginning in December 1934. While foliage is not noted in the original blueprints, many of the correspondences in the following years include disappointment at both the lack of botanical maintenance and the structural integrity of the mausoleum. Most notable is that, originally, the two granite urns on the east and west sides of the mausoleum once were flower planters and the annual fee charged to the Conron family for the care of the

mausoleum included the replanting of flowers in the urns.² The urns have since been retired of this purpose and are now permanently covered by brass lids, matching the door framing and detailing in material.



Western Facade

Northern, Rear Facade

Eastern Facade

The lawn, as mentioned in Cecilia's many correspondences with Woodlawn Cemetery, is no longer, causing dirt to layer on the entire lower portion of the mausoleum on all elevations. The mausoleum is also under multiple tree canopies, causing biological growth across all elevations. The rear, northern-facing facade has two trees planted about one foot from the foundation of the mausoleum, contributing to the biological growth on this elevation. A future area of concern is the tree's foliage, which is making contact with the granite and the window. On the coarse-grained granite roof is a different type of biological growth, one resembling moss rather than algae, appearing on the lower elevations.

The interior of the mausoleum appears to be in good condition, not having experienced much degradation over the decades. Perhaps the most severe of the issues regarding the interior of the mausoleum is a spider infestation, but there are no visible signs of concern, such as water

² Correspondence from Mrs. Joseph Conron to The Woodlawn Cemetery, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library, Columbia University Archive Records

damage or crumbling masonry. The painted glass, its framing, and even flowers left many years ago are intact.

The Conron Family

John and Joseph Conron were sons of two Irish immigrants born in the mid-19th century, with John being the firstborn of the Conron Brothers.³ He was born, raised, and, according to numerous censuses, lived in New York City for most of his life while working in “poultry.”^{4,5} John married Virginia Dyer on June 4th, 1900, and they lived together without having children until John’s death on September 4th, 1929.⁶

Joseph Conron was the younger brother of John E. Conron, and whose name appears on the exterior of their family mausoleum. Although John E. Conron passed before Joseph Conron, the mausoleum is in Joseph’s name. Perhaps this is because Joseph intended to pass the mausoleum to his children, and John passed without having children. Joseph Conron was born May 28th, 1866, and also spent the majority of his life living in New York City, aside from his frequent travels abroad, through Europe with his wife and children.⁷ Joseph was married to Cecilia Dyer in 1888, and together they had two children: Dorothy in around 1897 and Raymond in 1903.⁸ Joseph's son, Raymond Conron, lived a life very similar to his father, taking after the family business of wholesale meat, dairy, and egg wholesalers.⁹ He married Agnes Amy, a music teacher, in 1956 and, upon his death in 1984, was interred in the Conron mausoleum.¹⁰ His wife followed suit in 1993, joining him in the same crypt. Raymond’s sister Dorothy Conron,

³ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1920; New York, New York; ED 558; AD 7; Roll: T625_1197; Page 8B Ancestry.com

⁴ *Brooklyn Elite Directories*; 1913; Page 361; Ancestry.com

⁵ New York, New York Voter List 1924; Election District: 24

⁶ “Extracted Marriage Index,” June 4, 1900, New York, New York, United States, Certificate Number: 9373.

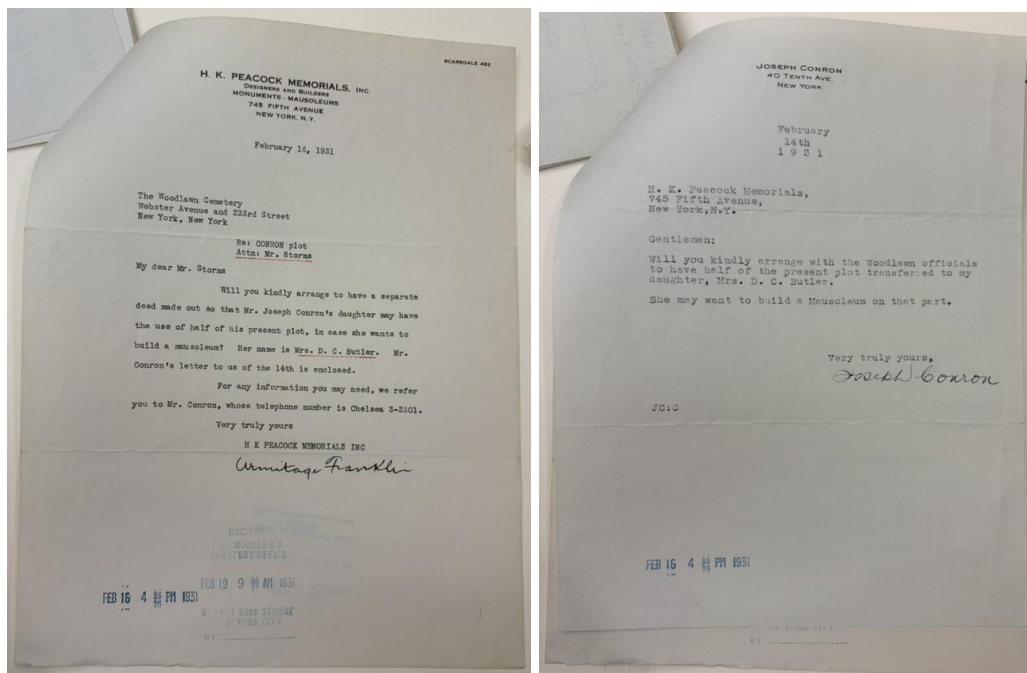
⁷ New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island) 1820-1957, Ancestry.com

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1920; New York, New York; ED 558; AD 7; Roll: T625_1197; Page 8B

⁹ *Herald Tribune*; October 2, 1959;

¹⁰ “Mrs. Sanders is Renewed.” *New York Times*, July 25, 1956

however, was not buried in the mausoleum. In 1931, after the construction of the mausoleum and her uncle's passing, she inquired to her father about obtaining a portion of the Conron plot at Woodlawn.¹¹ Woodlawn had the plot drafted and sent, though it appears no further action was taken as the lot was divided, as neither Dorothy nor her late husbands reside there.



Letters for Woodlawn Cemetery about Dividing the Conron Plot for Dorothy Conron¹²

The Dyer Family

Along with the Conrons, the name “Dyer” is also prevalent in the mausoleum, as it is related to the lineage of three of the women buried inside: Virginia, Cecilia, and Renee. It is difficult to find a relation in the early censuses when the women were children; the only evident connection is a shared maiden name engraved on the marble crypts at Woodlawn Cemetery. The relation was not apparent until the 1925 and 1930 censuses, where the document lists Renee as a “sister” living with Virginia, though there is no mention of Cecilia. However, another sister is

¹¹ “Re: Conron Plot” letter to Woodlawn from Peacock Memorials, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library, Columbia University Archive Records

¹² “Re: Conron Plot” letter to Woodlawn from Peacock Memorials, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library, Columbia University Archive Records

documented: Isabella G. Brown.^{13, 14} Upon the death of Virginia Conron in 1959, an obituary was published in the New York Times listing Mrs. Renee Caullet as the sister of Virginia, but there is no mention of any other siblings.¹⁵

Cecilia Dyer married into the Conron family in 1888, as documented in the 1900 census, and Virginia and John E. Conron married twelve years later, in 1900.¹⁶ Renee is first listed as living with the Conrons in the 1925 census.¹⁷ Of the three Dyer sisters, Cecilia's death came first; she passed on June 3rd, 1954, followed by Virginia on August 15, 1959, and subsequently Renee on October 25th, 1969.

Conron Bros Co.



Advertisement in Fordham University's 1916 Yearbook "The Maroon"¹⁸

In the early 20th century, records for a business run by the Conron brothers, aptly named "Conron Bros Co.," began appearing. Conron Bros Co. was a refrigeration company that specialized in selling dairy, meats, and other refrigerated food goods. The company grew over

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1925, Albany, New York ED 24, AD 07; Page 6; Ancestry.com

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1930; Manhattan, New York; ED: 0538; Page 26A; Ancestry.com

¹⁵ "Obituaries," *New York Times*; August 17, 1959; Ancestry.com

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1900, Manhattan, New York; Roll: 1103; Page 1 ED 0477; Ancestry.com

¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1925, Albany, New York ED 24; AD 07; Page 6; Ancestry.com

¹⁸ Fordham University School Yearbook "The Maroon," 1916, Page 110

the span of 40 years, becoming a chain wholesaler with several different locations across Manhattan. There are surviving records of advertisements for the company – this one was found in Fordham University's school yearbook “The Maroon” from 1916.¹⁹

The company, however, is most frequently documented in public legal records, with decades of lawsuits, tax filings, and public appeals in its wake. During the first few decades of the 20th century, newspapers noted that the company was filing for petitions to continue “the lease of and the privilege to maintain and use the conduits and appurtenances.”²⁰ Dozens of petitions of this nature were filed throughout the decades about land dealings with the Conron’s Company, and by the end of the 1920s, many of the larger properties where the Conron Bros Co. grocery chain used to sit were released to different realty companies, with the Conron Bros Co. losing their lease in many similar instances.^{21,22} Displayed below is an image from the 1940s of one of the last properties owned by Conron Cold Storage, located at the intersection of 12th Avenue and 131st Street, that was later sold. Inscribed high on the large building is “FREEZERS - CONRON BROS. - COLD STORAGE.” Other businesses that specialized in the selling of dairy, poultry, and other meats are listed on the building at street level with street accessible entrances that utilized the Conron Bros Co. refrigeration company.

¹⁹ Fordham University School Yearbook “*The Maroon*,” 1916, Page 110

²⁰ “Legal Notice,” *Herald Tribune*, October 2, 1959, B10

²¹ “Investors Buy 2 Bronx Houses,” *New York Times*, 1955

²² “Knotty Conditions in Mortgage Case,” *New York Times*, November 23, 1930, Page 160



Conron Cold Storage Location at 12th and 131st Street, NYC²³

Joseph and Cecelia Conron's children, Dorothy and Raymond, followed in the Conron family legacy in grocery retail, although in different ways. Dorothy married James Butler, president of the James Butler Grocery Company, before his untimely death in 1940. Raymond took over the family business, with his position as president of the business noted in legal proceedings regarding the company in the early to mid-20th century.²⁴

Joseph and John E. Conron built a lasting family legacy in the Conron name. They were able to continue the family legacy in the field of refrigeration before expanding to wholesalers of meat and dairy. Their father's company and Conron Bros. Company afforded them the luxury of expanding their business across Manhattan. These efforts helped to afford them the last great luxury: a beautiful granite and marble mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery.

²³ "1940s NYC: Street Photos of Every Building in New York City in 1939/1940," 1940s NYC, Street photos of every building in New York City in 1939/1940

²⁴ New York Herald Tribune, "Legal Notice," April 16, 1956, A9

Bibliographies

Conron Cemetery Plot Related Records, Avery Library's Architectural Archives

"Investors Buy 2 Bronx Houses: Henkind-Walsey Co Purchase Properties on Bergen Ave. and East 179th Street." *New York Times*, June 25, 1955. Page 26. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

"Knotty Conditions in Mortgage Case: Appellate Division Upsets Order in Suit Over Fourteenth Street Property. Receivership is Upheld Firm of Conron Brothers asks Lien of \$77,324 for Improvements on Property. Some Involved Situations." *New York Times*. November 23, 1930, Page 160. Proquest Historical Newspapers
<https://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/knotty-conditions-mortgage-case/docview/98662277/se-2>.

"Legal Notice," *New York Herald Tribune (1926-1962)*, October 2, 1959; ProQuest Historical Newspapers
<https://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/display-ad-74-no-title/docview/1323993190/se-2>.

"Legal Notice." *New York Herald Tribune*, April 16, 1956. A9; ProQuest Historical Newspapers

"Obituary" *New York Times*, 23. August 17, 1959. ProQuest Historical Newspapers

"Extracted Marriage Index," June 4, 1900, New York, New York, United States, Certificate Number: 9373. <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>

U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1925, Albany, New York ED 24; AD 07; Page 6; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>; (October 3, 2025)

"Mrs. Sanders is Rewed: Former Agnes Amy Married to Raymond Dyer Conron." *New York Times*. July 25, 1956. Page 23. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

The National Archives in Washington, DC; London, England, UK; Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and Successors: Inwards Passenger Lists; *UK and Ireland, Incoming Passanger Lists, 1878-1960*. Class: Bt26; Piece: 777; Item: 9, [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>, (October 3, 2025)

U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1900, Manhattan, New York; Roll: 1103; Page 1 ED 0477; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>; (October 3, 2025)

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1910, New York, New York, Manhattan Ward 12, ED 0742; Roll T624_1028; Page 6a; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>> (October 3, 2025)

U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1920; New York, New York; ED 558; AD 7; Roll: T625_1197; Page 8B; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>

U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1925, Albany, New York ED 24; AD 07; Page 6; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>; (October 3, 2025)

U.S. Census Bureau; Census 1930; Manhattan, New York; ED: 0538; Page 26A; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), generated by Anna-Kristina Hoffman; using [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>

“Re: Conron Plot” letter to Woodlawn from Peacock Memorials; Columbia’s Avery Library
 Architectural Archive Records; Conron Folder
 Cross-Section Blueprint of Conron Mausoleum; Columbia’s Avery Library Architectural
 Archive Records; Conron Folder
 Woodlawn Cemetery Correspondence with Cecilia; Columbia’s Avery Library Architectural
 Archive Records; Conron Folder
 Fordham University School Yearbook “The Maroon,” 1916; Page 110;
 <www.library.fordham.edu/digital/item/collection/YEARBOOK/id/150>
 New York, New York Voter List 1924; Election District 24; New York City Municipal Archive;
 Accessed through [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com); <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>
 US City Directories, “Brooklyn Elite Directories,” 1913; Page 361; Accessed through
[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com); <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>
 “Legal Notice,” *Herald Tribune*; October 2, 1959, B10; ProQuest Historical Newspapers;
 <www.proquest.com>
 “Obituaries,” *New York Times*; August 17, 1959; [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com),
 <<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>>
 NY Central Buys Realty in Market Section,” *New York Herald Tribune*, 1929. ProQuest
 Historical Newspapers
 “1940s NYC: Street Photos of Every Building in New York City in 1939/1940.” 1940s NYC,
 Street photos of every building in New York City in 1939/1940. Accessed October 3,
 2025.
https://1940s.nyc/map/photo/nynyma_rec0040_1_02004_0068b#17.34/40.818667/-73.958995.