

Columbia University in the City of New York

Problem 3: Documentation & Analysis

Winslow Mausoleum

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ARCH A4510: Reading Buildings

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Winslow Mausoleum

The Winslow family mausoleum, located on Park View Road in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, is a single bay Barre granite rectilinear structure in the Egyptian Revival style. The overall dimensions of the mausoleum are roughly fourteen feet in length, by ten feet in width, by thirteen feet in height, placed upon a one foot thick Barre granite base with a three foot-ten inch projecting staircase towards the road. The design is typical of the Egyptian Revival style employing battered walls lined with a torus banding, a cove cornice with a folded leaf and winged sun disc motif, and two columns with lotus and papyrus decorations on the base and capital framing the entry. The original design called for three stained-glass windows, one on the rear façade, and one on each of the side elevations, and a cast bronze Egyptianizing double doorway on the principal façade. The mausoleum has suffered from defacement over the years as one decorative bar has been removed from the doorway and another one has been cracked possibly as part of an attempt to forcefully enter the structure, in addition to the theft of the southern elevation's four foot by two foot-four inch stained-glass window. The mausoleum was commissioned in 1921 by Clarion Bennett Winslow as a final resting place for his first wife, Emma Reynolds Winslow, and was designed and constructed by the prolific mortuary architectural firm of Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland of New York City the following year.¹ The light veined imported Italian marble veneered interior of the mausoleum is laid out in a symmetrical manner with a central space with

an altar in the rear and is flanked on both sides by double vaults, only three of which have been occupied by the family.

Clarion Bennett Winslow, born October 14th 1864 in Depauville, New York, a descendent of the Winslows who arrived on the first voyage of the Mayflower, started his career as a clerk for the Campbell and Moulton Dry Good Store in Watertown New York after graduating in 1887 from Shields Business College in Utica. Several years later in 1894 Winslow jumped at an opportunity to work at the store adjacent to Campbell and Moulton in Watertown, the F. W. Woolworth Company, being hired as the manager for the chain's original store.ⁱⁱ Two years following his appointment with the Woolworth Company, Winslow married Emma Erona Reynolds, on June 23rd 1896 in Cazenovia, New York, at the home of Emma's sister, Mrs. Charles B. Marshall.ⁱⁱⁱ Very early on the Woolworth Company recognized Clarion's aptitude for sales and promoted him to manager for stores in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Yonkers, New York, and Worcester, Massachusetts, respectively before elevating him to the position of buyer at the Woolworth headquarters in New York City. Winslow again would move up the company's ladder in 1919 when he was made the superintendent of buying for the entire chain and eventually was elected to the Board of Directors in 1921 which enabled him to amass considerable wealth.^{iv}

Clarion and Emma Winslow maintained two residences, one at the Beresford Apartments at the corner of Central Park West and West 81st Street across from the American Museum of Natural History, and a summer residence in suburban White Plains, New York, at 14 Prescott Road now known as Winslow Road, bought presumably as a retreat for the sickly Emma. It would be at this summer residence that Emma Winslow would die of "heart trouble" on July 23rd, 1921 shortly after Clarion's

election to the Woolworth Board of Directors. It was the original intent of Clarion to have his wife buried at the Brookside Cemetery in Watertown, New York, where “an elaborate mausoleum” was to be erected in her honor, though for reasons unknown Emma Winslow was eventually laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in 1922.^v Four years following the death of his first wife, Clarion met and married Lenora Harring Emerson, the widow of the late New York State Supreme Court Justice Edgar C. Emerson, in 1925 and the couple took up full time residence in White Plains. Over the next twenty year the couple traveled extensively throughout Europe and the United States in addition to donating close to \$2,000,000 to myriad institutions in White Plains, the greatest benefactors being the White Plains Hospital at which the school of nursing and an administration building are named in their honor and the Young Men’s Christian Association.^{vi}

Lenora and Clarion Winslow would both also be laid to rest at the Winslow mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery constructed for Emma Winslow, when Mrs. Winslow died on April 8th, 1942 and Clarion followed a little over a year later on October 26th, 1943 without any heirs. The reason for Clarion’s choice for the mausoleum design is unknown though there are several possible explanations for the use of Egyptian Revival as the garb for his family’s tomb. First, Egyptian Revival had long been an established style for funerary architecture, having its earliest uses in Ancient Rome but first being employed in the United States in the designs of Cemetery gates, the two most famous being at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, Connecticut. This trend for “Egyptomania” would be greatly revived in the 1920s as its motifs and those of other ancient cultures were easily adaptable to the new Art Deco vogue culminating in 1922 with the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen.^{vii} Perhaps a more prosaic explanation for Winslow’s choice was because of his use of Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland as his architect as this firm had constructed over

65 mausolea in Woodlawn by the late 1920s and seemed to have had a proclivity for the Egyptian Revival style as this style was preeminently displayed in their catalogs and it seems many similar examples to the Winslow mausoleum were designed and constructed by the company.^{viii} Lastly, while it is likely that Clarion Winslow merely chose the mausoleum configuration out of one of the architect's design catalogs purely for its aesthetic appeal it is even more likely that the design was chosen for its association with the mausoleum of F.W. Woolworth. The principal façade of Woolworth's mausoleum also designed and built by Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland, is nearly identical in configuration and detail of the Winslow Mausoleum differing only in scale and lacking guardian sphinxes.

Essentially the Winslow mausoleum, like that of F.W. Woolworth and the overwhelming majority of the mausolea in Woodlawn, is formally based off of a Greek temple scheme, in this case a temple "in antis" precedent. The Greek temple "in antis" is a square or rectangular structure that is placed upon a base with two columns being the most salient feature of the principal façade that help to frame an interior portico or "pronaos" behind which is the "cella" or the main sacred space of the temple. (See Figure 2.) While Egyptian funerary architecture never took on such forms and temples tended to only display columns on their interiors behind large battered walls, such precedents of Egyptianizing Greek temple forms can be found in Ancient Egypt but only dating from the time of the Ptolemies and under the rule of the Romans and the Temple of Dendur can serve as a familiar example.^{ix} Lastly, there is some evidence suggesting that the Winslow Mausoleum was once meant to have been landscaped in a manner that would have served to reinforce the strong centrality of the entry procession that is associated with the temple "in antis" form. Through the use of trees and shrubbery laid out symmetrically starting at the mausoleum and extending to the road, a straight path to the entry was originally defined that through time and the loss of greenery has been robbed from the structure.^x All

that remains of this landscape is one tree to the immediate right of the structure that has become overgrown and obscures a portion of the principle façade. Despite the vandalism and loss of manicured landscape the Winslow mausoleum is a beautiful example of Egyptian Revival architecture executed with superb craftsmanship and excellent material and of which the family can still be proud.



Figure 1

Winslow Mausoleum 2013 (Photograph by the Author)

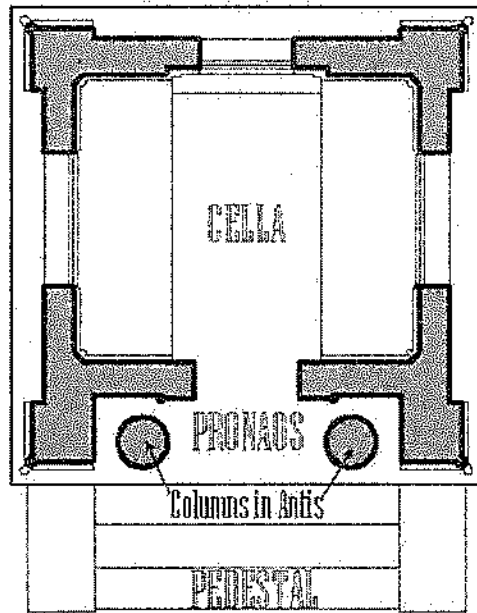


Figure 2 Mausoleum Plan. Showing temple "in antis" Components



Figure 3 Winslow Mausoleum Circa 1920s Showing Original Landscaping

ⁱ Both the date of mausoleum construction and material specifications were listed in telegraphs between Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland and the administration of Woodlawn Cemetery in addition to being more comprehensively explained in the architect's specification document.

Farrington, Gould, Hoagland, "Architectural Specifications for Our Winslow Mausoleum", 1922, Woodlawn Cemetery Collection, Avery Library of Columbia University in the City of New York, New York.

ⁱⁱ Editorial, Clarion Winslow, Woolworth Aide: Ex-Superintendent of Buying, Donor of \$800,000 to White Plains, Dies at 79, *The New York Times*, October 27th, 1943, Special Issue of the New York Times.

ⁱⁱⁱ Editorial, Mrs. C.B. Winslow Dies Suddenly: Succumbs at Summer Home in White Plains, *Watertown Daily Times*, July 25th, 1921, Regular Issue

^{iv} Editorial, C.B. Winslow Ex-Woolworth Director Dies: Served the Company 30 Years; Donated \$1,000,000 to White Plains Institutions, *New York Herald Tribune*, October 27th, 1943, Special Issue of the New York Herald Tribune.

^v Editorial, Mrs. C.B. Winslow Dies Suddenly: Succumbs at Summer Home in White Plains, *Watertown Daily Times*, July 25th, 1921, Regular Issue

^{vi} Editorial, Mrs. Clarion Winslow: Wife of Woolworth Company's Former Vice President Dies, *The New York Times*, April 9th, 1942, Special Issue of the New York Times

^{vii} James Steven Curl, *The Egyptian Revival: Ancient Egypt as the Inspiration for Design Motifs in the West* (New York: Routledge, 2005) 298.

^{viii} The introductory page of their 1920s trade catalog displays a winged sun disc a prominent Egyptian motif found on the gorge cornices of the Winslow mausoleum. This shows the fondness by the firm for the Egyptian Revival style as no classical motifs are used for decoration in the catalog.

Farrington Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated: Memorial Designers and Builders: Mausoleums, Monuments, Statuary (New York: Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland Incorporated, 1927) Woodlawn Cemetery Collection, Avery Library of Columbia University in the City of New York.

^{ix} Ptolemaic Egypt refers to the period when the Egyptian Empire was under Greek rule following the death of Alexander the Great. The Temple of Dendur dating from 15 AD was built by the Roman Governor Petronius and is essentially a temple "in antis" configuration just Egyptianized.

^x A circa 1920s photograph of the Winslow mausoleum showing the original landscaping was included in the following publication by the firm. Though the Avery Library lists the copyright of the photo album this photograph is included within as 1910 this must clearly be erroneous as the Winslow Mausoleum was not constructed until 1922.

Photographs of Mausoleums (New York: Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland Incorporated, Circa 1920s) Woodlawn Cemetery Collection, Avery Library of Columbia University in the City of New York.