

The Cammeyer Mausoleum



Figure 1: North Elevation, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.

Ashlyn Pause

Historic Preservation Studio 1

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The Cammeyer Mausoleum is a large double Roman temple front mausoleum located within a circular plot (FAI-9555) in the southwestern corner of the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York.¹ The mausoleum was designed by C. E. Tayntor and constructed using Barre gray granite from the company's granite quarry in Barre, Vermont.² In plan view, the mausoleum sits at approximately 27 feet by 13 feet and is approximately 18 feet in total height. This is relatively large for a mausoleum at the Woodlawn Cemetery. The entrance to the mausoleum faces the Matthew C. Borden sarcophagus in the Fairview Lot to the right of the Jerome Avenue entrance.

The mausoleum's primary Roman temple front entrance faces north with the corresponding temple facade facing south (Figures 1 and 5). The structure is elevated approximately 2 feet from the ground with stairs leading up both sides of the double temple facades. The stairs are each flanked by two square bases enclosing the staircase. At the top of the stairs, there are four Corinthian columns in two pairs with each pair sharing a two-foot-tall base. The bases on the north facade contain decorative low-relief floral carvings in the granite with a large "C" in the carving's center. The columns support the entablature and pediment projecting from the gabled roof. There are four pilasters, each located behind a column. The pilasters on the north facade are symmetrically placed behind the columns, whereas the pilasters on the south facade are asymmetrical with the columns due to the lack of an entry point. On the north facade, the two central pilasters support an entablature that projects over the symmetrical bronze doors leading into the mausoleum's interior (Figure 8). The doors were completed by Paul E. Cabaret

¹ Brianne Kozlowski, Drew Anderson, and Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, "Woodlawn Cemetery Stained Glass Condition Assessment," Woodlawn Cemetery: Liberty Stained Glass Conservation, November 5, 2021.

² "Re: Alfred J. Cammeyer lot #9555-60," June 7, 1911, Correspondence File, Avery Drawings and Archives.

of New York, New York, according to the engraving on the bottom of the right door (Figure 9). Cabaret, documented on West Fourteenth Street in the early 20th century, was a craftsman proficient in brass and bronze metalworking.³ This secondary entablature also displays a low relief carving of the name “Cammeyer” placed directly above the entryway. The south facade has the name “Cammeyer” engraved into the primary entablature and does not contain this secondary entablature.

The east and west elevations are symmetrical and identical to one another (Figure 2). The elevations contain four pilasters with a centrally located window. The outermost columns from the north and south elevations are visible on the ends of each side of the east and west elevations. The columns and pilasters support the entablature. Each column and pilaster base on the exterior also displays symmetrical layered square coverings recessed into the base. The windows are separated from the exterior with a detailed bronze window guard (Figure 4). Beyond the guard, are Tiffany stained-glass windows made from opalescent and rippled glass, with lead comes (Figure 3).⁴ The windows on both the east and west elevations are identical.

The mausoleum’s interior is constructed of marble (Figure 7). It is a symmetrical interior with stone scotia molding on both the floor and ceiling. There are five crypts on the southern wall, three of which are occupied. The bottom and top crypt are currently empty. There are two bronze handles on each crypt. A stained-glass window is visible on either side of the crypts. The windows depict a yellow cross and a green and blue background with an orange border and circles of various sizes organized symmetrically throughout the window (Figure 3). Below each

³ Brooks Sheffield, “Siegel-Cooper’s Massive Bronze Columns,” *Lost City* (blog), 2010, <http://lostnewyorkcity.blogspot.com/2010/03/siegel-coopers-massive-bronze-columns.html>.

⁴ Brianne Kozlowski, Drew Anderson, and Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, “Woodlawn Cemetery Stained Glass Condition Assessment,” *Woodlawn Cemetery: Liberty Stained Glass Conservation*, November 5, 2021.

window is a small ledge with marble scotia molding bracing the ledge from underneath (Figure 3). There is also a curved marble pediment-like detail on top of the windows which resembles a reverse ogee arch (Figure 3). The mausoleum's interior is 12 feet in height at its centermost point. The ceiling heights vary due to a square-shaped recessed panel in the center of the ceiling (Figure 7). The recession contains a circular medallion detail with four smaller circular medallion details on each corner.

The mausoleum's condition is not optimal. On the west elevation, two stones from the roof have both detached and fallen to the ground (Figure 2). Due to possible water infiltration, the mortar holding the stones, each located between the pediment block and the side entablature, has failed. Evidence of similar circumstances is present on the east elevation where cracking in the same locations is visible. In addition to the cracking and missing masonry on the east and west elevations, there is also cracking in the entablature just below all previously mentioned concerns. Other evidence of water infiltration can be found on the northeastern corner of the exterior where streaks of mortar are slightly visible. Additionally, the Barre granite exterior ceiling on both the north and south facades is spalling. This spalling is also present in areas of the exterior walls. The granite flaking is likely due to sub-florescence.

Cracks throughout the structure can be found on the east elevation pilasters, where repairs seem to have been poorly attempted. There are also cracks in the square blocks on each corner of the staircases, which have not been addressed. Due to possible erosion, the mausoleum's foundations are also visible in certain areas.

Additionally, the interior of the mausoleum is showing signs of decay through the severe bowing of the stained glass, as well as the crypts themselves. The stained-glass report suggests that the windows are in a state of potential breakage due to the severity of the glass's bowing.

The stone crypts are also bowing outwardly by approximately 1 inch. This interior state of decay likely coincides with the water infiltration evidence seen on the structure's exterior.

Within the mausoleum itself, Alfred J. Cammeyer is located within the central crypt between his two wives (Figure 7). Below him rests his first wife, Catherine M. Cammeyer, and above him his second wife, Mattie (Martha) Hay Cammeyer McKee.

Alfred J. Cammeyer was born on September 15, 1840, in Brooklyn, New York to John Cammeyer, a tanner and leather craftsman, and a German mother.⁵ Alfred is most known for founding and owning "Cammeyer Shoes," the world's largest shoe store, located in Manhattan, New York.⁶

Alfred started his journey in the shoe business at fifteen years old when he began working for French & Brothers.⁷ In 1871, Alfred was listed in the city directory with "Mason G" on Third Avenue.⁸ Alfred was listed again as working in "shoes" in 1879, this time at Bleecker Street and Carmine Street.⁹ By 1880, Alfred went into business with Henry Mason, co-owning a store, "Cammeyer & Mason," at 116 Duane Street in Manhattan.¹⁰ It is unclear if the Mason listed in the 1871 directory is referring to Henry Mason.

The Cammeyer Shoe building, located at the southeastern corner of Sixth Avenue and 20th Street, was constructed in 1892 by architects Hubert, Pearson, and Hoddick.¹¹ Cammeyer Shoes moved into this 6-story, 111,047-square-foot monumental building on September 29, 1893

⁵ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909; 1900 U.S. Federal Census. Enumeration District 0467, Page 1. Accessed through Ancestry Library.

⁶ "The Cammeyer," Real Estate, Homes, 2024.

⁷ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909.

⁸ New York City Directory, 1871, U.S. City Directories, accessed through Ancestry Library.

⁹ New York City Directory, 1879, U.S. City Directories, accessed through Ancestry Library.

¹⁰ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909; New York City Directory, 1880, U.S. City Directories, accessed through Ancestry Library.

¹¹ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

(Figure 10).¹² The store housed departments for women, men, and children, as well as an entire department dedicated to slippers (Figures 12, 13, 14, and 15).¹³ It is recorded that by 1894 Cammeyer had 400 employees and by 1899 the number was up to 600.¹⁴ It is also recorded that the Cammeyer store had its own mailing department due to the large number of mailed orders for shoes being sent across the country.¹⁵

The Cammeyer Shoe company found multiple ways to promote itself, including its involvement in the women's campaign to repeal the 18th Amendment, also known as the prohibition. Cammeyer partnered with the Women's Organization For National Prohibition Repeal to create a line of "repeal" footwear, in which 10% of all proceeds were donated to the Women's Organization.¹⁶ Cammeyer Shoe advertisements and catalogs appear in every New York newspaper. Within these advertisements, the company's logo was always displayed as "Cammeyer stamped on a shoe means standard of merit" (Figure 11).¹⁷

When Alfred died of apoplexy in 1909 at 69 years old, his funeral was held at the Church of Holy Communion across the street from the Cammeyer Shoes building on Sixth Avenue and 20th Street.¹⁸ The company was continued under the same name by a Cammeyer Shoe employee

¹² Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>; The Cammeyer-650 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10011 Property Information," Real Estate, Property Shark, 2003-2024.

¹³ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

¹⁴ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

¹⁵ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

¹⁶ "Women Repeal Group Shopping for Shoes," Getty Images, 1933, <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/women-wet-leaders-buy-repeal-shows-repeal-shoes-are-the-news-photo/516575304>.

¹⁷ "Cammeyer Stamped on a Shoe Means Standard of Merit," New York Public Library, New York Public Library Digital Collections, 1914, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e1-32e1-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

¹⁸ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909.

named Louis M. Hart.¹⁹ In 1914, a catalog advertisement lists Cammeyer Shoes prices in the range of \$5.50-\$6.00, approximately \$130.00-\$170.00 in 2024 (Figure 11).²⁰ In 1937, Cammeyer Shoes left the building at the southeastern corner of Sixth Avenue and 20th Street.²¹

Today, the Cammeyer shoe building has been converted into an apartment complex, known even today as The Cammeyer, with 67 total units.²² These apartments are available to purchase in the range of \$1.6M - \$3.0M.²³ The building was previously used as office space but the conversion to apartment units happened around 2010.²⁴ The architects responsible for the 2010 renovation were Perkins Eastman Architects.²⁵

Alfred married Catherine M. Alley on May 3, 1881, in Manhattan, New York.²⁶ At the time of their marriage, Alfred was 41 years old and Catherine was 31 years old. Catherine was never listed in the city directories with Alfred, however, her presence in the Cammeyer Mausoleum suggests that they were married until the time of her death on February 13, 1898.²⁷ Within the records, Catherine is often recorded sailing between New York and Europe.²⁸

¹⁹ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

²⁰ "Cammeyer Stamped on a Shoe Means Standard of Merit," New York Public Library, New York Public Library Digital Collections, 1914, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e1-32e1-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

²¹ "650 6th Avenue," Kameentall Architects, n.d.

²² "The Cammeyer," Real Estate, Homes, 2024.

²³ "The Cammeyer," Real Estate, Homes, 2024.

²⁴ Tom Miller, "The 1892 Cammeyer Building," *Daytonian in Manhattan* (blog), September 21, 2010, <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2010/09/1892-cammeyer-building.html>.

²⁵ "The Cammeyer," Real Estate, Homes, 2024.

²⁶ "Extracted Marriage Index," May 3, 1881, Certificate Number: 1957, accessed through Ancestry Library, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/958863:9105?tid=&pid=&queryid=939b72ce-ebb7-435f-aa0b-558a68edf33a&phsrc=YnO8&phstart=successSource>.

²⁷ New York City Directory, 1888, U.S. City Directories, accessed through Ancestry Library; New York City Directory, 1897, U.S. City Directories, Accessed through Ancestry Library.

²⁸ "Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York," September 17, 1888, M237, The National Archives in Washington DC, Accessed through Ancestry Library, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/7925398:7488?tid=&pid=&queryid=dc15eabd-2825-4416-bd71-5a24acea0b5d&phsrc=apE11&phstart=successSource>.

Catherine died in Genoa, Italy at 48 years old.²⁹ Her body was interred at Woodlawn on March 3, 1898.³⁰ Alfred and Catherine did not have children.

Approximately one year after Catherine's death Alfred married Mattie (Martha) Hay on July 5, 1899, in Manhattan, New York.³¹ Alfred was 66 years old at the time he married 30-year-old Mattie Hay.³² Their marriage occurred at the height of Alfred's career. However, the primary reason for the couple's 36-year age gap was undetermined.

Mattie Hay was born in 1869 in New York to Rebecca and George Hay.³³ Alfred and Mattie were married for ten years before Alfred's passing on August 13, 1909 at his holiday beach home in Sea Gate, Brooklyn, New York.³⁴ Sea Gate is a private gated community on the western end of Coney Island.³⁵ Throughout their marriage, the couple primarily resided at their luxury city apartment, The Dakota, located at 72nd Street and Central Park West.³⁶ However, they had property elsewhere in New York and New Jersey.³⁷ The number of luxury, exclusive, and highly privatized properties owned by Alfred and Mattie speaks to the success and affluence obtained by Alfred through his achievements in the shoe industry. Alfred and Mattie did not have children.

²⁹ Woodlawn Cemetery, "Fairview—Cammeyer," n.d.

³⁰ Woodlawn Cemetery, "Fairview—Cammeyer," n.d.

³¹ "Extracted Marriage Index," July 5, 1899, Certificate Number: 10605, Accessed through Ancestry Library, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/539525:9105?tid=&pid=&queryid=728c0fa5-573c-4f23-942b-8cf34aa1593b&phsrc=ZYk2&phstart=successSource>.

³² 1900 U.S. Federal Census. Enumeration District 0467, Page 1. Accessed through Ancestry Library.

³³ 1900 U.S. Federal Census. Enumeration District 0467, Page 1. Accessed through Ancestry Library; 1910 U.S. Federal Census. Enumeration District 1304, Page 1. Accessed through Ancestry Library; "Re: Alfred J. Cammeyer lot #9555-60," June 7, 1911, Correspondence File, Avery Drawings and Archives.

³⁴ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909.

³⁵ "Sea Gate Brooklyn," Sea Gate Brooklyn, 2024.

³⁶ "Alfred J. Cammeyer," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, August 14, 1909.

³⁷ "Record of Wills," Surrogate's Court, New York County, March 17, 1909, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/4159739:8800?tid=&pid=&queryid=e8afa4e5-99d2-4b48-8ed0-9fa30cdce99b&phsrc=ZYk11&phstart=successSource>.

Eleven years following Alfred's passing Mattie married talent manager and actor from Mount Sterling, Kentucky named Frank McKee on August 23, 1920 in Saratoga, New York.³⁸ At the time, Frank was 60 years old and Mattie was 48 years old.³⁹ Frank McKee was retired at the time of their marriage but had previously appeared in movies such as "The Last Dance" and "Girl O' My Dreams."⁴⁰ Frank was also the previous owner of both the Park Theater and Savoy Theater, both of which contributed to his wealth.⁴¹ Additionally, his friendship with Charles Hoyt, an American playwright, increased his previous social standing and influence in the industry.⁴² Frank had also become a widower by his first wife, an actress named Isabelle Coe, with whom he had one daughter.⁴³

The couple lived at 200 W 72nd Street, two blocks from The Dakota.⁴⁴ However, Mattie was widowed again two years after their marriage when Frank passed away on November 13, 1922.⁴⁵ Frank was interred at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky with his first wife, Sarah Isabelle Coe McKee.⁴⁶ Frank and Mattie did not have children. Following Frank's death,

³⁸ "County Marriage Records," August 23, 1920, Film Number: 001287475, accessed through Ancestry Library, https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/900282470:61377?tid=&pid=&queryid=171668372c9cb1c867a7abe8a3b9fa30&_phsrc=WBW41&_phstart=successSource.

³⁹ "County Marriage Records," August 23, 1920, Film Number: 001287475, accessed through Ancestry Library, https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/900282470:61377?tid=&pid=&queryid=171668372c9cb1c867a7abe8a3b9fa30&_phsrc=WBW41&_phstart=successSource.

⁴⁰ "Frank McKee," IMDb, 1990-2024.

⁴¹ "Obituary," *New York Tribune*, November 14, 1922.

⁴² "Obituary," *New York Tribune*, November 14, 1922.

⁴³ "Obituary," *New York Tribune*, November 14, 1922.

⁴⁴ "Obituary," *New York Tribune*, November 14, 1922.

⁴⁵ "Obituary," *New York Tribune*, November 14, 1922.

⁴⁶ Jane Woerner, "Frank M. McKee," Find A Grave, 2017, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178660926/frank-m-mckee>.

Mattie continued to live in and out of The Dakota, with her mother and her paid servants, until her own passing on February 6, 1931.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ 1910 U.S. Federal Census. Enumeration District 1304, Page 1. Accessed through Ancestry Library; Jane Woerner, "Frank M. McKee," Find A Grave, 2017, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178660926/frank-m-mckee>.

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Woodlawn Cemetery. “Fairview—Cammeyer,” n.d.

Figures



Figure 2: The west elevation of the mausoleum, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.

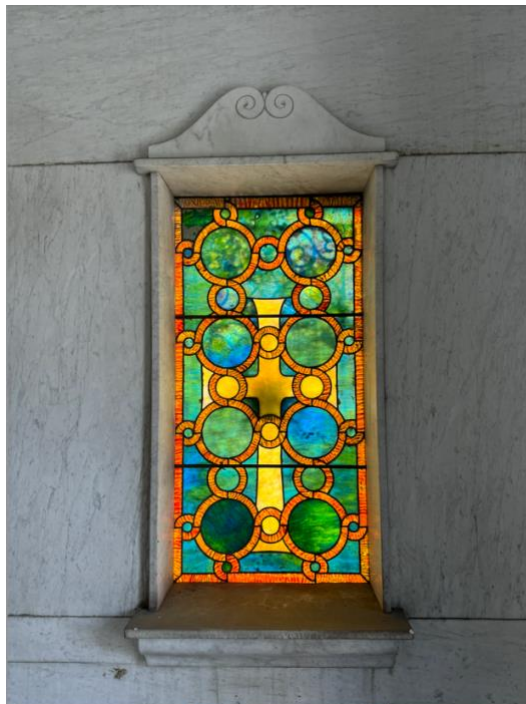


Figure 3: The opalescent and rippled Tiffany stained glass from the interior, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 4: Bronze window guard, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 5: The south elevation of the mausoleum, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 6: The south and west elevations, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 7: Interior of Cammeyer mausoleum, 2024. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 8: Bronze door by Paul E. Cabaret. Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.



Figure 9: Engraving on bronze door: "Paul E. Cabaret New York, N.Y." Photograph provided by Ashlyn Pause.

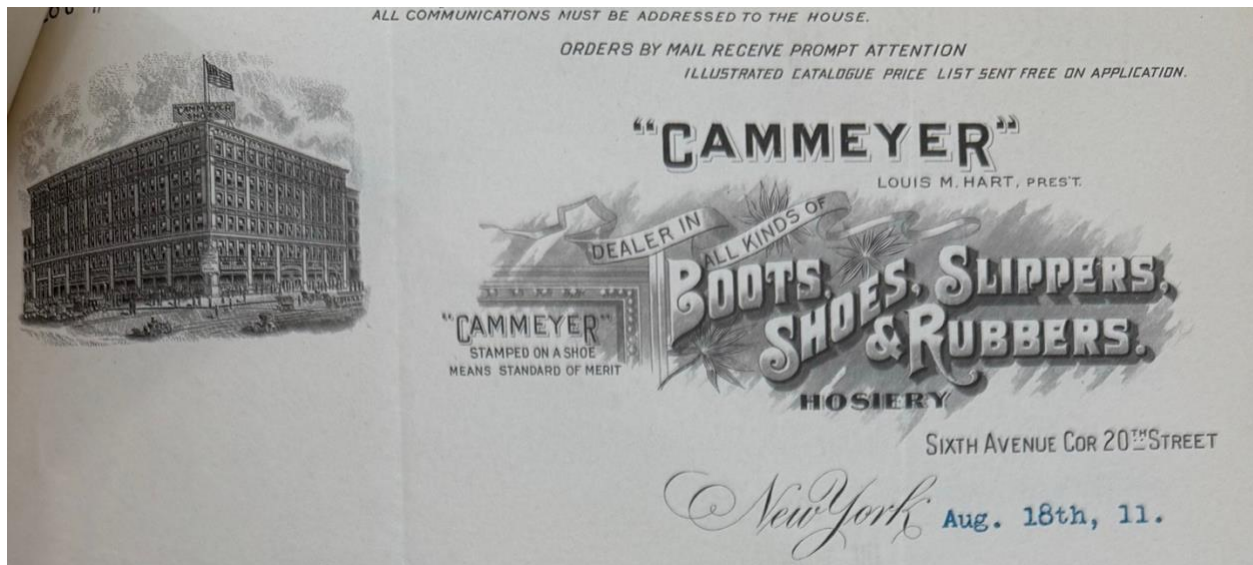


Figure 10: Cammeyer Shoe letterhead, 1911. Accessed through the Avery Drawings and Archives.



Figure 11: Cammeyer Shoe catalog, 1914. Accessed through the New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Figure 12: Silk slippers, 1893-99. Accessed through the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Figure 13: Leather and cotton Oxford shoe, 1898. Accessed through the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Figure 14: Beaded leather evening shoes, 1915-20. Accessed through the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Figure 15: Leather and straw shoes, 1928. Accessed through the Metropolitan Museum of Art.