

Woodlawn research Name: Zhiyue Zhang Date: 11/09/17

Biography:

Samuel Untermyer was born on March 6, 1858 in Lynchburg, Virginia and moved to New York City after his father's death in 1866. His parents, Isadore Untermyer and Theresa Laudauer, were both German Jews. He was educated at the College of the City of New York and received his LL.B. from Columbia Law School in 1878, well-known as a prominent lawyer, civic leader and the donator of Untermyer Park in Yonkers, New York. On August 9, 1880, Samuel Untermyer got married to Minnie Carl (1857-1924) and they had three children, two sons, Alvin and Irwin and one daughter Irene. Alvin was also a lawyer and served in 305th Field Artillery in France during the Great War. Irwin, a justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, and Irene was a philanthropist. On March 16, 1940, Samuel Untermyer died in Palm Springs Riverside County, California and his body was interred at the family plot he established in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

As a lawyer, Samuel Untermyer took part in some of the country's most important litigation regarding corporations and the public trust, became a staunch advocate of stock market regulations, government ownership of railroads and various legal reforms, additionally, some of the investigations he led, formed the groundwork for United States Federal Reserve Law, the Clayton Anti-Trust Law, the Federal Trade Commission Bill and the Securities and Exchange Act.

Samuel Untermyer also worked as a civic leader and a social reformer. He was an active Zionist, an able advocate for the Zionist liberation movement and President of the Karen Hayesod, the agency through which the movement was conducted in America. From 1904 to 1932, he was a delegate to six Democratic National Conventions. And he was a leading crusader against anti-Semitism, active in the movement to boycott Germany after Hitler rose to power and served as attorney for Herman Bernstein's suit against Henry Ford for anti-Semitism.

In his career, Samuel Untermyer had participated in plenty of celebrated cases and made great contributions to United States law and social reform, such as being counsel to the Committee on Banking and Currency of the U.S. House of Representatives headed by Arsene Pujo, cross-examining J.P. Morgan and other New York bankers. This Pujo Money Trust Investigation resulted in remedial legislation and the establishment of the Federal Reserve System. He also agitated for the compulsory regulation of stock exchanges before Congress and state legislatures; dealt with reforms in the criminal laws, the regulation of trusts and combinations and other economic subjects; participated in the preparation of the Federal Reserve Bank law, the Clayton bill, the Federal Trade Commission bill and other legislation curbing trusts; was appointed by President Wilson to frame uniform laws for the PanAmerican countries; being counsel for the Lockwood Committee, appointed by the Legislature to investigate an conspiracy among the building trades of New York City and statewide housing conditions. Samuel Untermyer was also the first attorney to earn one million dollars in a single case.

Untermyer Park, known as Untermyer Garden, previously was part of the "Greystone" estate. Samuel Untermyer purchased "Greystone" in 1899 and after his death in 1940, the whole estate was donated to Yonkers, New York was listed on. The park was renamed Untermyer Park. In 1974, Untermyer Park became one of the National Register of Historic Places and, since 2011, the restoration of the park has been in charge of by the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit.

Reference:

·Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1922). "Untermyer, Samuel". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. **32** (12th ed.). London & New York. pp. 901–02.

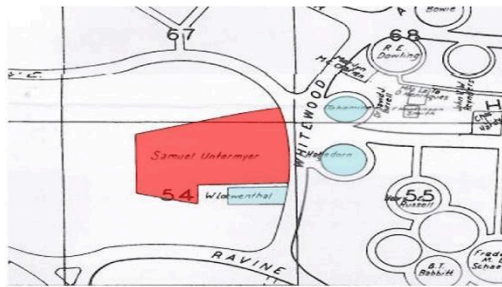
· [National Park Service](#) (2009-03-13). "[National Register Information System](#)". *National Register of Historic Places. National Park Service*.

·"[Samuel Untermyer](#)". Retrieved 2007-01-11.

<https://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/people/social-sciences-and-the-law/social-reformers/untermyer-samuel>
· [Samuel Untermeyer](#) at [Find a Grave](#). <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6935954>
· United States Federal Census 1910-1940 & U.S. City Directories.
· "[Untermeyer Political Graveyard entry](#)". Retrieved 2007-01-16.
· "[Untermeyer park](#)". Retrieved 2007-01-11.
<https://www.backyardgardener.com/garden-tip-articles/articles/untermyer-park-e-ginsburg/>

Monument:

The Samuel Untermeyer monument (object + site) in Cliff Plot, Sections 54, 67 is sited on a 22,000 square foot private lot, located at the east-south side of the cemetery, adjoined Whitewood Avenue. On the east side of the Samuel Untermeyer monument is the Walter Loewenthal mausoleum, and there are some other mausoleums across the Whitewood Avenue. The monument is surrounded by vegetation, so it is hidden and hard to be seen. The entrance is near the avenue but not very obvious and recognizable because there is no pathway or fence, it is not close to the shrine (a holy or sacred place, this word was used in the architecture drawing) the scale is not very large and trees are planted on the both sides.



Viewpoint at Whitewood Ave



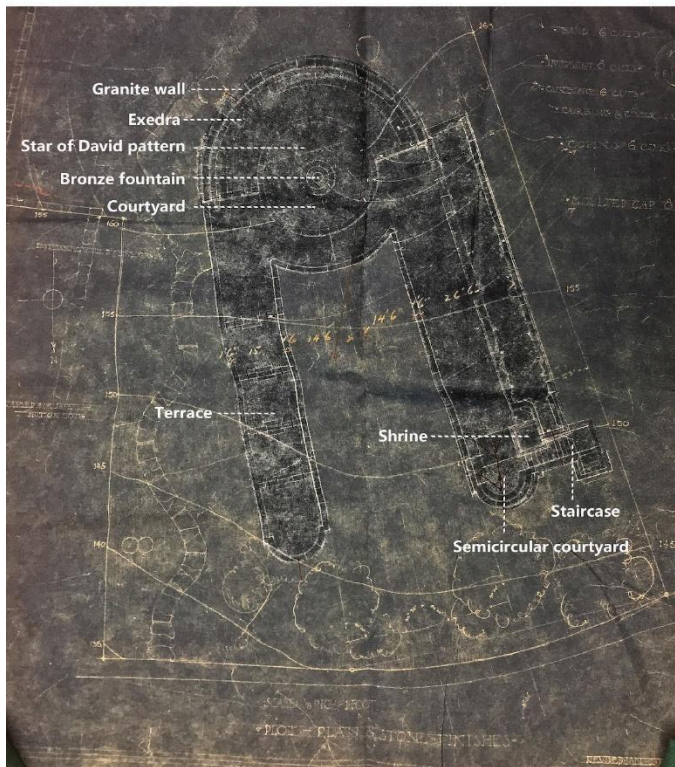
Entrance

The monument exists in a designed landscape with various kinds of vegetations around it. Along the wall of the monument, there are, kalmia, rhodo's, beriberi, leucothoe, azalea amoena and hemlock tree; at the both sides of the entrance, there are kalmia, rhodo, azalea macrantha, azalea amoena and a tulip tree; after entering the monument, there is a tulip tree at the center of the lawn, and there are boxwood trees in the rear area and courtyard. The landscape design of the monument retained the Woodlawn Cemetery's landscape-lawn and picturesque character.



Vegetations

The monument was designed by architect Paul Chafin (an artist, interior designer and architect, his most famous work is Villa Vizcaya), in 1925 and fabricated by the Maine & New Hampshire Granite Company in crystal blue German granite, featured a bronze fountain and sculpture by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney(an American sculptor, art patron and collector, founder of Whitney Museum of American Art), 1925. It's a U-shaped monument, with one side of the U occupied by a set of stepped grass terraces edged in stone, following the sloping terrain, ascending to a circular courtyard.



Plot Plan

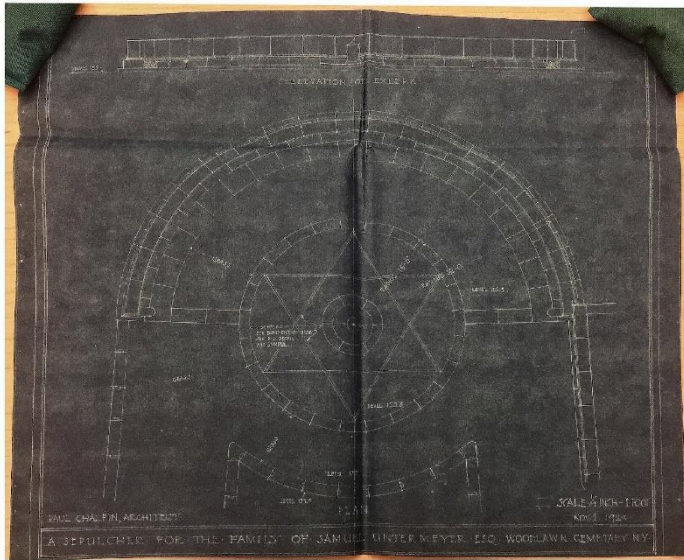


Section & Elevation



SECTION & ELEVATION

The courtyard is bordered by a low granite wall with exedra and paved with stones set in a Star of David pattern with a planting of boxwood and at the center is the bronze, sculpted as an urn with three lion busts as feet.



Star of David pattern & Bronze fountain



Star of David pattern, Bronze fountain, Courtyard, Bench, Granite wall



Bronze fountain

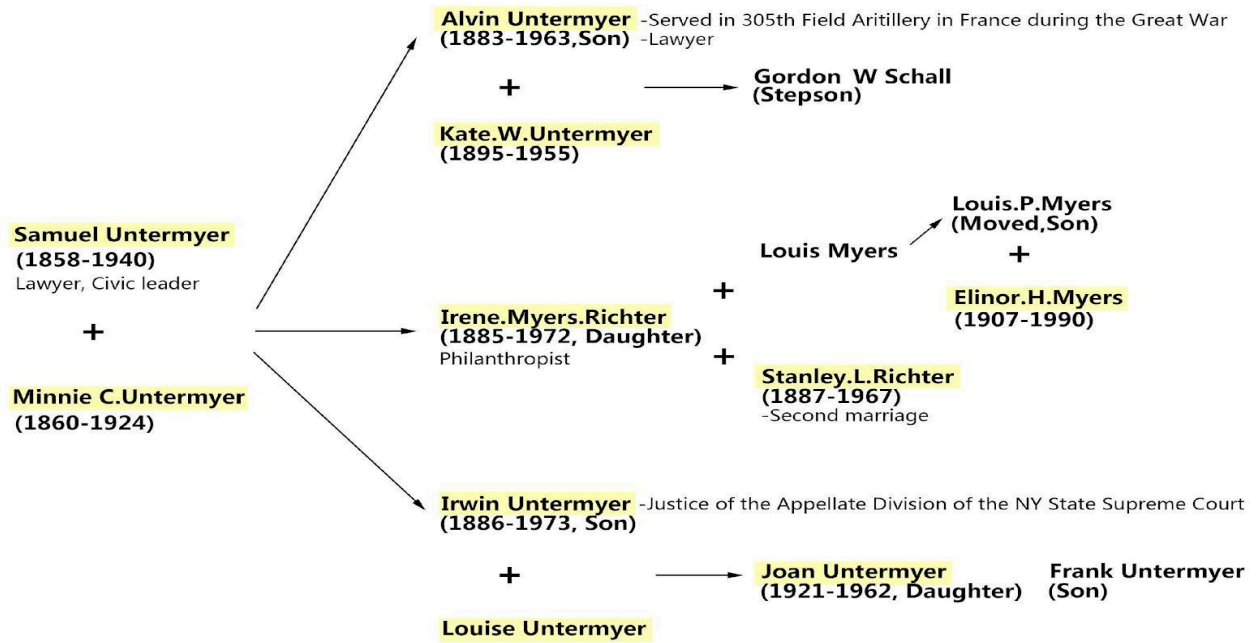


Granite wall & Exedra

The U continues to the area of interments, which is marked at the end with a vertical shrine, located in the north-west corner of the monument. There used to be eleven family members interred here but one (Louis P. Myers, Alvin Untermyer's son) was removed on August 31, 1964. The rest of them are Minnie C. Untermyer, Samuel Untermyer, Kate Willis Untermyer, Joan Gray Untermyer, Alvin Untermyer, Louise Untermyer, Stanley L. Richter, Irene Myers Richter, Irwin Untermyer and Elinor Henry Myers.



Shrine & Sepulcher



Beneath the shrine, is Samuel Untermyer and his wife's interment and the Untermyer name is inscribed on the base of the shrine. Because of this interment, the shrine is raised, so its elevation is higher than other mausoleums nearby. The shrine is unique in style in Woodlawn Cemetery, sharing some similarities with the ancient eastern architecture, especially the Buddhist temple, possesses a rectangular plan with sculpture in the middle and the characterized carved pyramidal roof. The architect Paul Chalfin, an artist, interior designer and architect, most known for his work on Villa Vizcaya, have studied the ancient eastern architecture and written a book named Japanese wood carvings, architectural and decorative fragments from temples and palaces. Maybe because of this academic background, Paul Chalfin's architecture style had been influenced by eastern architecture and he added the eastern architecture elements to this monument.



Buddhist temple in Indian

The shrine is open on three sides with elaborate black bronze doors decorated with figures depicting the stages of a woman's life, floral symbols, and Greek inscriptions. Fluted square columns with festoons at their top mark each of the four corners of the shrine and support the steeply stepped, ornate black bronze roof. The center is occupied by a sculpture of a woman ascending to the afterlife with two figures in the foreground; one is on his knees, the other is standing. The sculpture was also done by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney



Decorated bronze doors



Square columns with festoons



Bronze roof



Square columns



Sculpture by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney

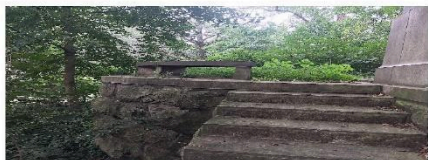
Beside the shrine, is a semicircular courtyard with granite benches on the border and a staircase down to the ground level. Since the shrine is lifted and the staircase now is surrounded by vegetation, it is hard to gain access to the shrine and can only be approached by climbing the ladder.



Semicircular courtyard with benches



Staircases



Reference:

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Woodlawn Cemetery.

·Paul Chalfin. 1903. Japanese wood carvings, architectural and decorative fragments from temples and palaces.
·Samuel Untermyer monument files, Avery Library.