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Problem 3: Field Documentation & Formal Analysis

The Kayser mausoleum is located on the south side of Woodlawn Cemetery, just east of the Jerome Avenue entrance, in the Bronx, New York. The mausoleum sits on the Acacia plot, which is at a fork in the road where Linden Avenue splits into Linden and Wintergreen Avenues. Henrietta Kayser commissioned this mausoleum for her husband, Julius Kayser, who died on March 9, 1920 of heart problems.¹ It was designed by Davis, McGrath, & Kiessling architecture firm and contracted by E.H. Stone Co., which was a monument designing and building company.²

Julius Kayser was born in Gemany on February 6, 1838 and immigrated to New York with his family in September of the same year, according to New York passenger lists.³ In 1868 in New York City, Julius Kayser married Henrietta Bache, whose father was from Bavaria and whose mother was from New York City.⁴ According to United States census data Julius and Henrietta Kayser were living in Castelton, Richmond, New York (present-day Staten Island) with the Bache family in 1870, while Julius was unemployed.⁵ By 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Kayser had their own residence at 106 Eighth Street in Manhattan and Mr. Kayser's occupation was "fancy good."⁶ It was around this time that Julius Kayser founded his company Julius Kayser & Co, which manufactured silk gloves and hosiery. The company's first factory was in Brooklyn, but as the company gained more and more recognition Kayser factories opened in different parts of New York State and even one in Germany. Kayser gloves and hosiery were sold in Kayser stores, like the one on Fifth Avenue (img. 1), as well as in many department stores. When Julius Kayser died in 1920,

he was living at 71 East 71st Street in Manhattan, where his wife also lived until she died on December 13, 1943.⁷

Besides Julius and Henrietta Kayser, there are 6 other people buried in the Kayser mausoleum. First, there are Alice Bache Kayser and Countess Laura Sala, who were the daughters of Julius and Henrietta. Second, there is Edwin S. Bayer, Laura Sala's first husband. Edwin Bayer was an art collector, lawyer, and president and general manager of Julius Kayser & Co. after Julius Kayser died. He graduated from Harvard in 1890 and Columbia Law School in 1893.⁸ Third, there are Sybil Brown and Edwin S. Bayer Jr. They were the son and daughter of Laura Sala and Edwin S. Bayer. Last, there is Vincent Brown, who was the husband of Sybil Brown.

The Kayser mausoleum has a very interesting design as well as an interesting relationship to its surrounding area. It is located at a point where one road splits into two (see img. 2). This makes the mausoleum almost impossible not to notice. Even if a visitor has not gone to Woodlawn Cemetery to see this particular mausoleum, but is visiting those nearby, the Kayser mausoleum will be evident to them. Even those simply passing by cannot choose a route that will not pass the mausoleum. The Kayser mausoleum is also surrounded by open areas of grass on each side and in the front with no other mausoleums visibly prominent as one approaches it. This places the mausoleum in a sort of void where one is forced to focus on this particular building (see img. 3).

As one gets closer to the mausoleum, the contrast of the dark bronze door against the almost white granite draws the visitor in. The entrance is located behind a portico which one must walk under before they enter the mausoleum. Passing under the overhang and through the columns makes visitors aware that they are passing into a new space. Once

visitors are inside the mausoleum, directly in front is a stained-glass window (see img. 4). This window not only serves as a barrier between outside and inside space, but also reminds visitors that they are in a new space and are there to concentrate on what is inside. The interior of the mausoleum contains very little open space, again forcing visitors to focus on the act of mourning. The right and left walls contain only the tombs. The last interior surface visible to visitors is the ceiling, which contains a bronze relief of a sun (see img. 5). In ancient Egypt, the sun was a symbol of immortality. As visitors examine this relief, the eyes are looking up alluding, perhaps, to where the souls of those they are mourning have passed to.

The front façade of the Kayser mausoleum consists mainly of Doric elements, including: a Doric portico decorated with a string of guttae and laurel wreaths on the frieze, as well as a Greek key motif extending across the frieze of the entire structure (see img. 6). On each of the doors there is a repeating palm frond design (see img. 7). All decoration as well as the dark bronze doors are placed in the center of the façade, putting the emphasis on the entrance to the mausoleum. Unlike many other mausoleums at Woodlawn, there are no stairs that lead up to the entrance. This allows the visitor to walk directly in. The whole building is constructed of large slabs of granite that is very light gray and the mortar joints are extremely thin, which causes the mausoleum to look like a single mass (see img. 8). The only elements that extend out from the central cube are the portico (see img. 9) and the pyramidal roof (see img. 6). The portico, again, draws the visitor inside and the pyramidal roof draws the eye up and alludes to where those being mourned have gone.

The design of the Kayser mausoleum is simple. It is basically a cube with a portico and a pyramid on top. There is also very little decoration. The pyramidal roof and sun relief

on the interior ceiling both allude to ancient Egypt. Step pyramids, such as that of Djoser in Saqqara, were where ancient Egyptians buried dead pharaohs. Instead of adhering to the current style, the architects of the Kayser mausoleum used Egyptian and Greek elements to create something more archaic. A conscious decision is made to divert from the current style and go back to something older. By creating something more archaic, the architects convey the stature of those buried inside.

¹ "Julius Kayser." *New York Times*, Mar. 10, 1920.

² Columbia University. Avery Drawings and Archives. Woodlawn archive. Kayser folder.

³ Ancestry.com. *New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957*. Accessed October 7, 2012. http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-c&gsfn=Julius&gsln=Kayser&mswpn_ftp=New+York+City&uidh=fph&pcat=40&h=1043707754&recoff=8+9&db=nypl&indiv=1.

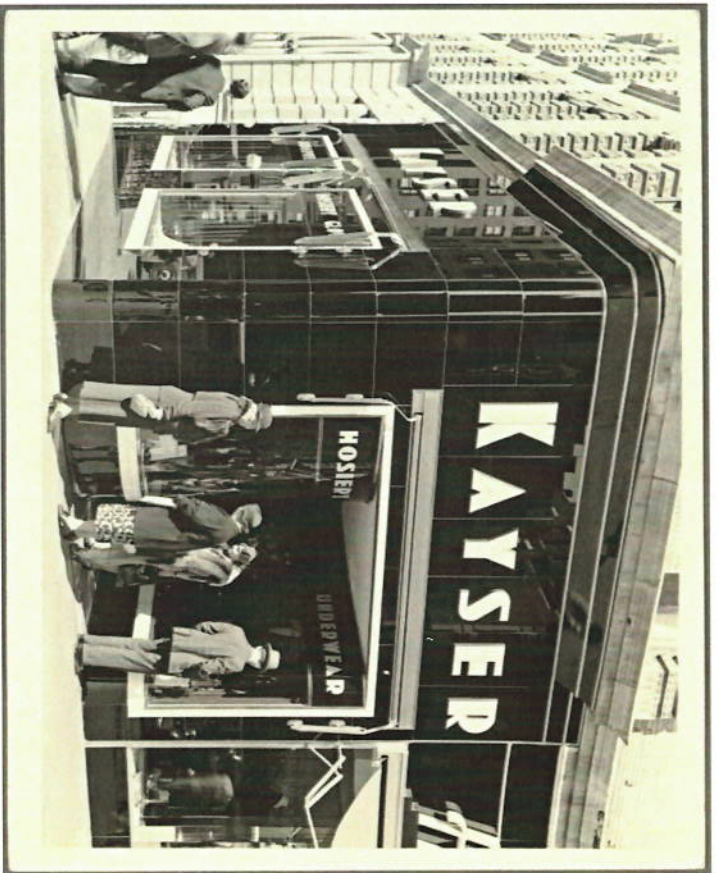
⁴ Ancestry.com. *New York City Marriages, 1600s-1800s*. Accessed October 7, 2012. http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-c&gsfn=Julius&gsln=Kayser&mswpn_ftp=New+York+City&uidh=fph&pcat=34&h=370829&recoff=7+8&db=NYCmarriages_ga&indiv=1.

⁵ Ancestry.com. *1870 United States Federal Census*. Accessed October 7, 2012. http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-c&gsfn=Julius&gsln=Kayser&mswpn_ftp=New+York+City&uidh=fph&pcat=CEN_1870&h=32125753&db=1870usfedcen&indiv=1.

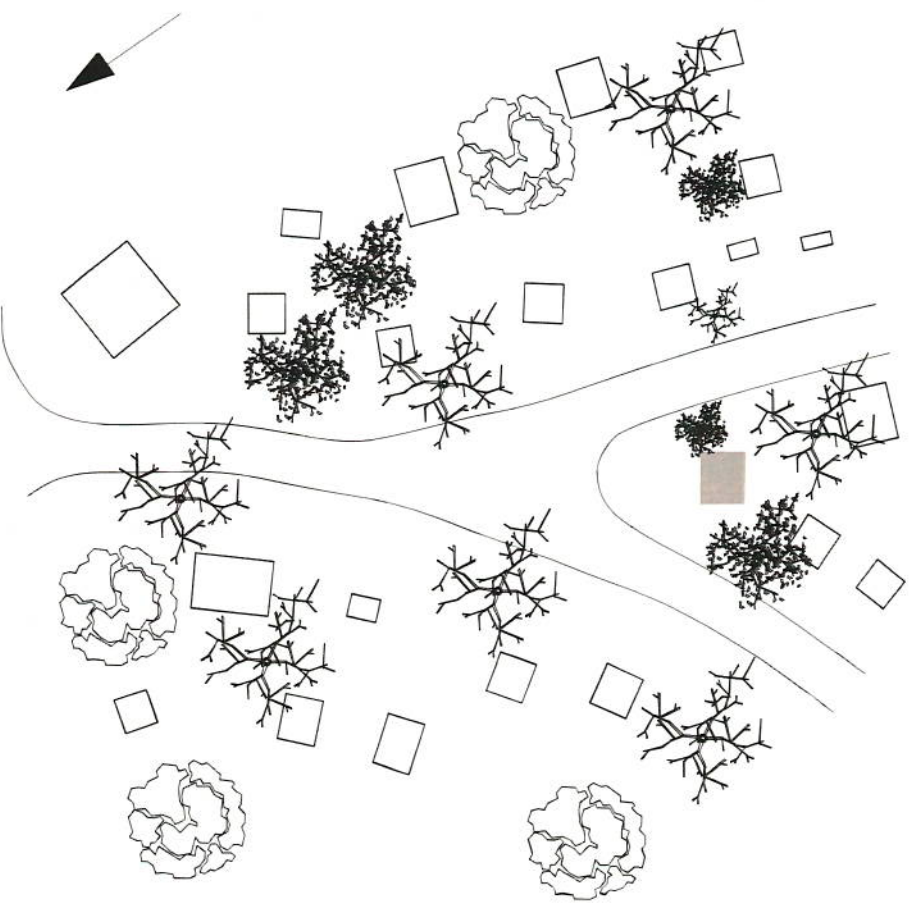
⁶ Ancestry.com. *1880 United States Federal Census*. Accessed October 7, 2012. http://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-c&gsfn=Julius&gsln=Kayser&mswpn_ftp=New+York+City&uidh=fph&pcat=CEN_1870&h=32125753&db=1870usfedcen&indiv=1.

⁷ "Kayser Home Purchased by an Investor For Remodeling Into Smaller Apartments." *New York Times*, Apr. 2, 1944.

⁸ The Frick Collection. "Archives Directory for the History of Collecting in America: Edwin S. Bayer." Accessed October 7, 2012.
<http://research.frick.org/directoryweb/browserecord.php?-action=browse&-recid=7874>.



Above: Kayser Hosiery-545 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, New York Public Library Digital Collection, 1930s (img. 1)



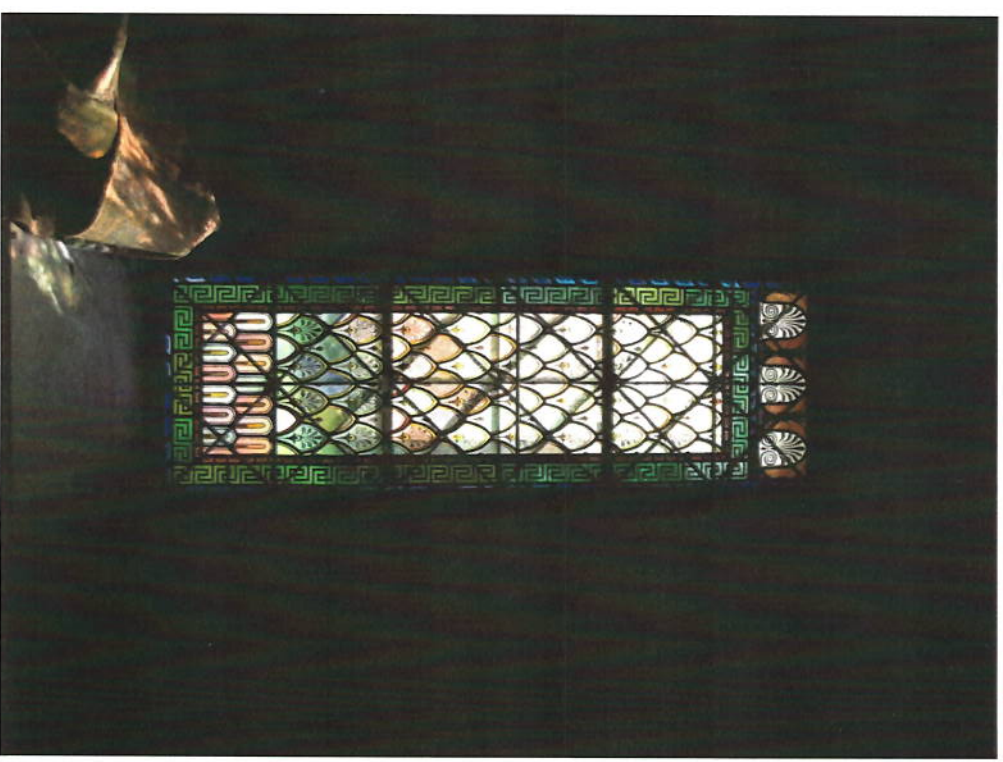
Below: Site plan with Kayser mausoleum shown in gray (img. 2)



Above: Showing surroundings of Kayser mausoleum (img. 3)
Below: Bronze sun relief (img. 5).

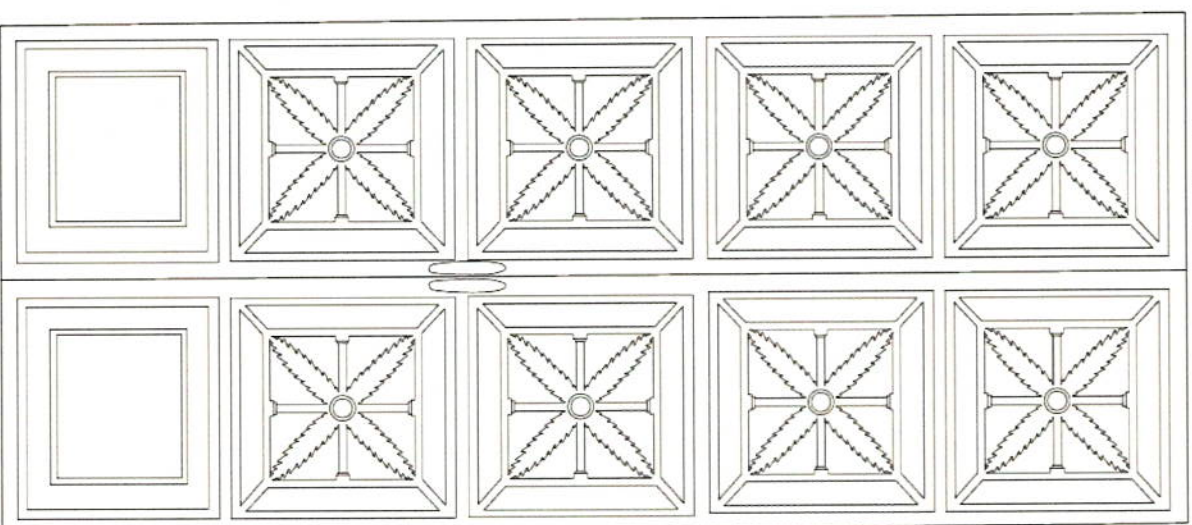


Below: Stained glass on interior of mausoleum (img. 4)





Above: Showing Greek key motif, laurel wreaths, and dentil molding on front façade (img. 6)



Below: CAD drawing showing door detail (img. 7)



Above: Photo of rear façade showing size of granite slabs and mortar joints (img. 8)

Below: CAD drawing of mausoleum plan showing projection of portico (img. 9).

