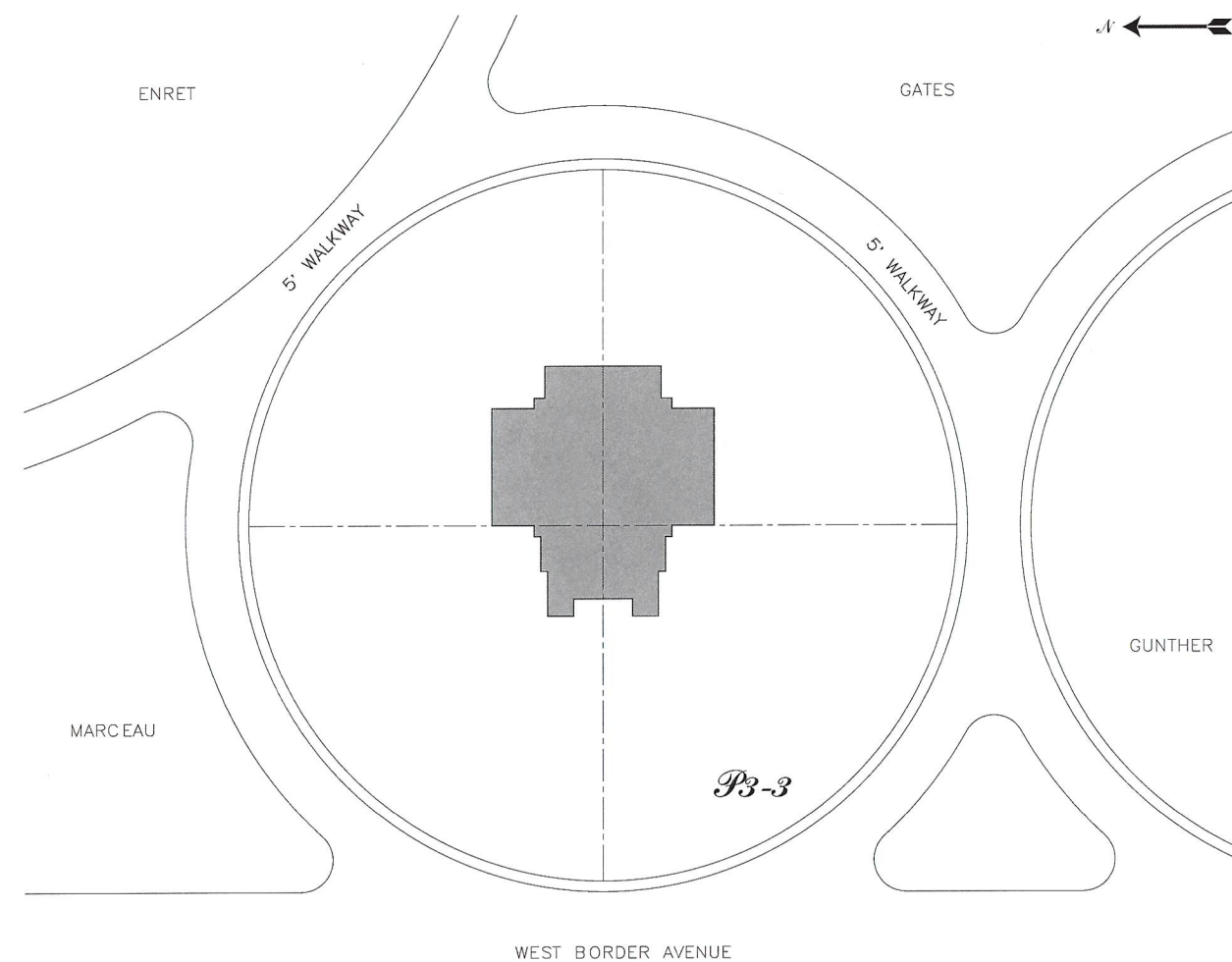
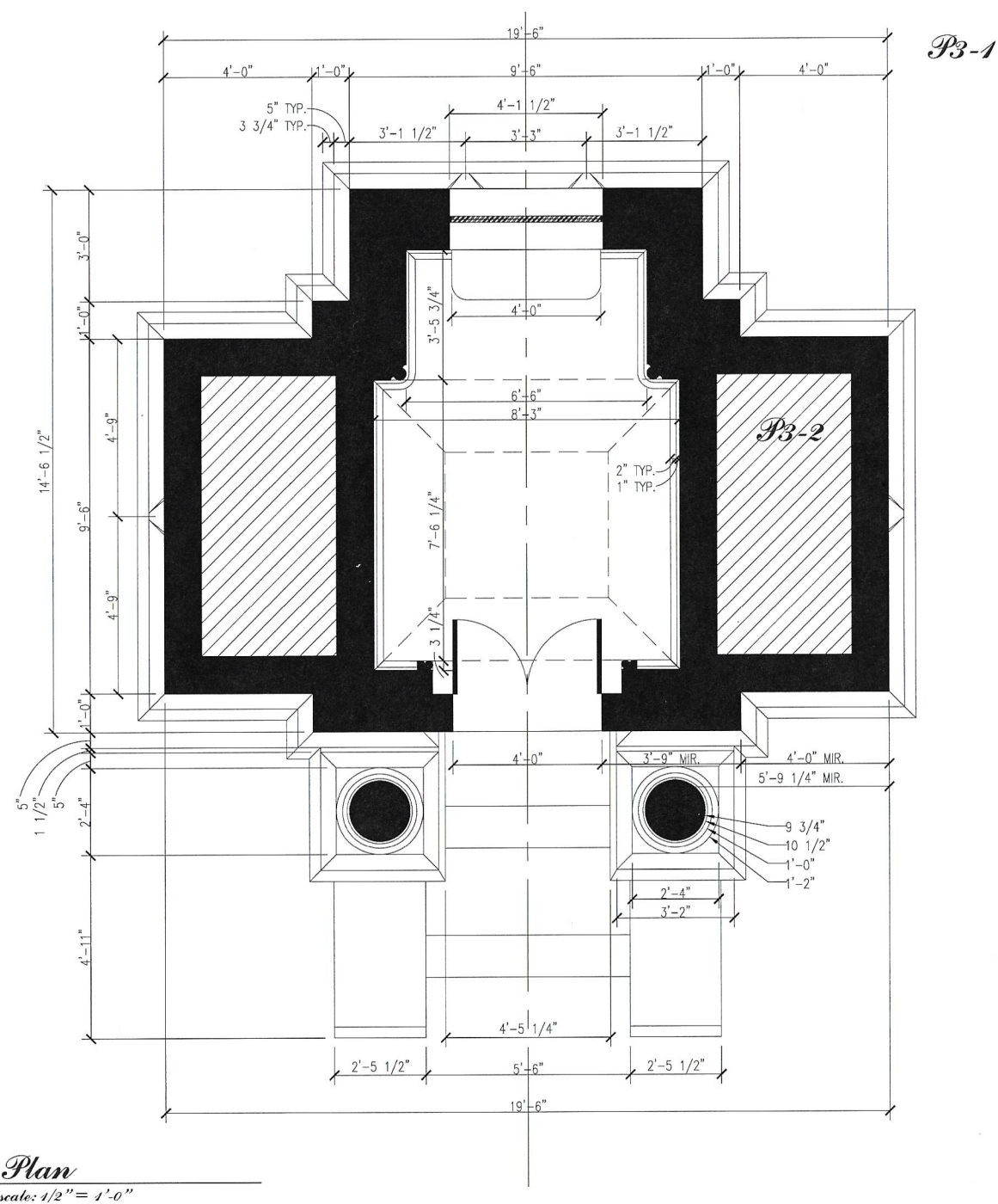




P3-4



P3-5



P3-6



P3-7

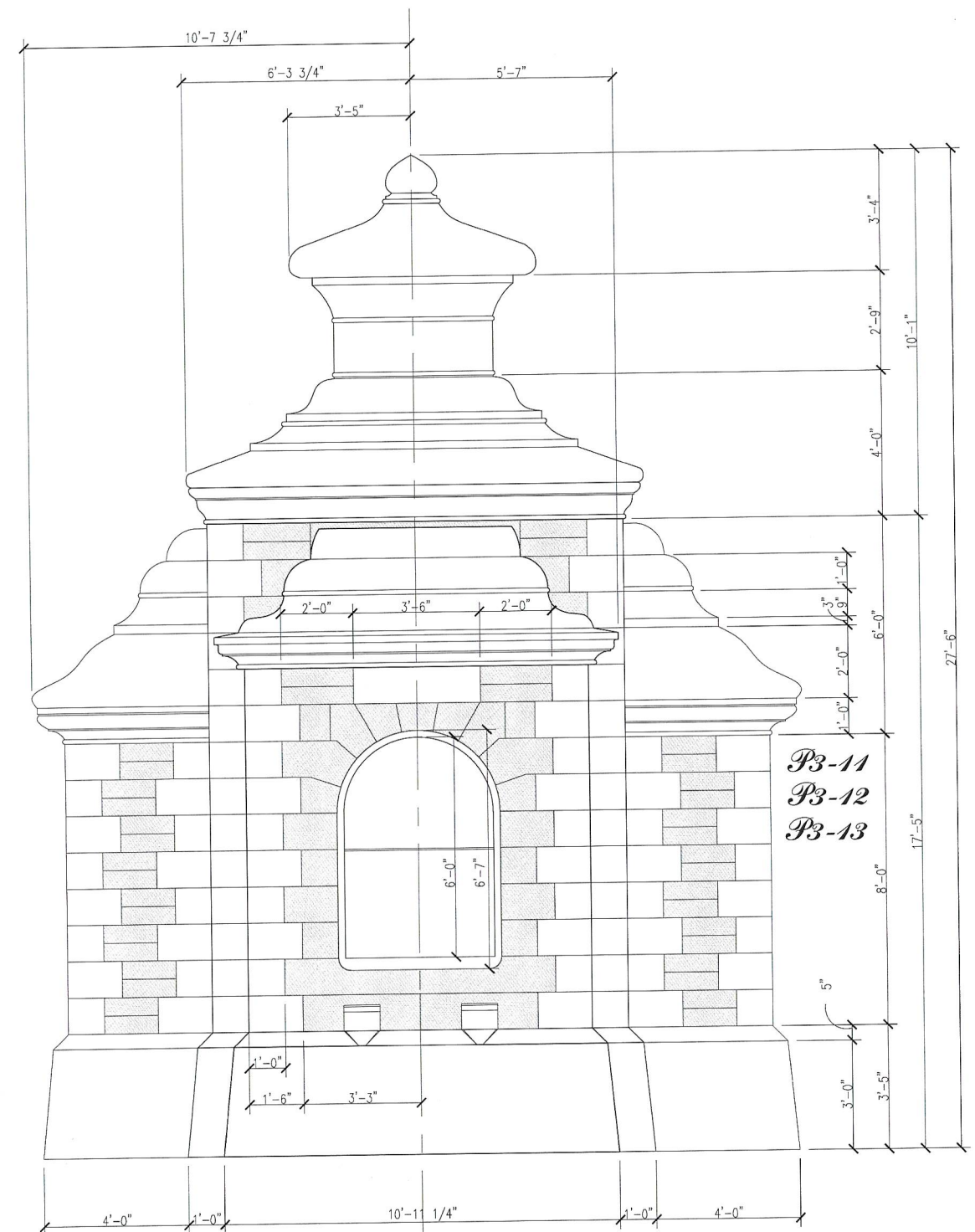
Elisabeth Bastian

Amy Swift Studio 1: Reading Buildings Project 3: Woodlawn Cemetery Faculty: Bollack, Dolkart, Dennis Fall 2009 1846-1909

Ms. Bastian's story in Woodlawn Cemetery in Bronx, USA is perhaps one of the more peculiar and endearing to be told. When entering the Jerome Avenue entrance of the cemetery's west side, a towering granite mausoleum of eclectic styling proclaiming 'Elisabeth Bastian' is one of the first in sight. It seems rather standard. Ms. Bastian must have led a luxurious lifestyle which afforded her this kind of burial, right? Upon further research, however, we discover this is not the case. Ms. Bastian was a German immigrant who worked for many years as a companion to Mrs. Marie Heine. Upon Mrs. Heine's death, Ms. Bastian inherited a large sum of money, which she used to live off of in her later years. She was a very miserly woman and did not spend her inheritance extravagantly. She instead purchased a nice plot at Woodlawn and began making arrangements for extravagance in her afterlife. When Ms. Bastian died in 1909, her will stipulated \$50,000 – nearly all of what she was worth – to be spent on the construction of her mausoleum, which was to be designed post-mortem according to the preferences of James Ingles, the named designer.



Front Elevation
scale: 1/2" = 4'-0"

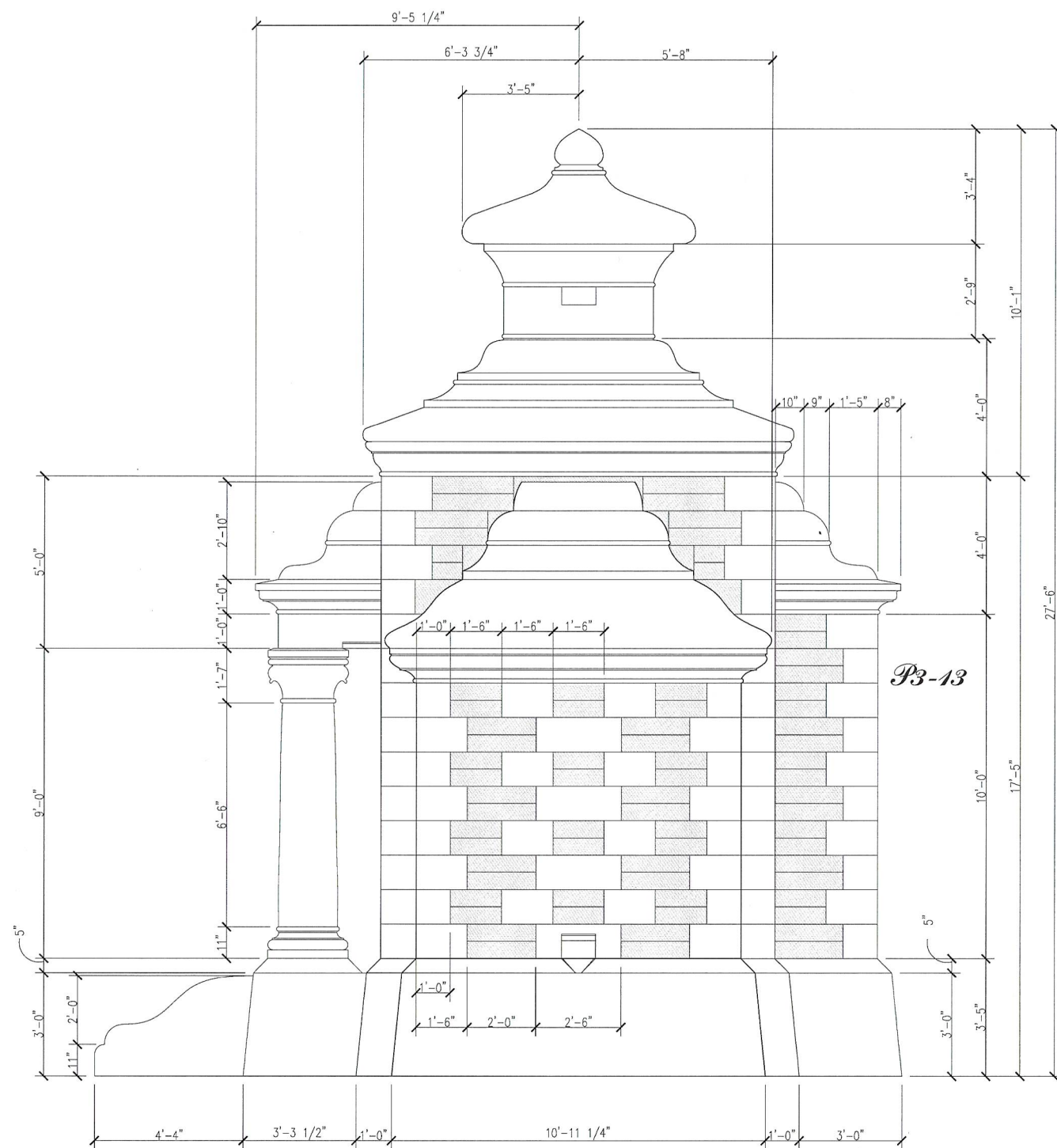


Rear Elevation
scale: 1/2" = 4'-0"

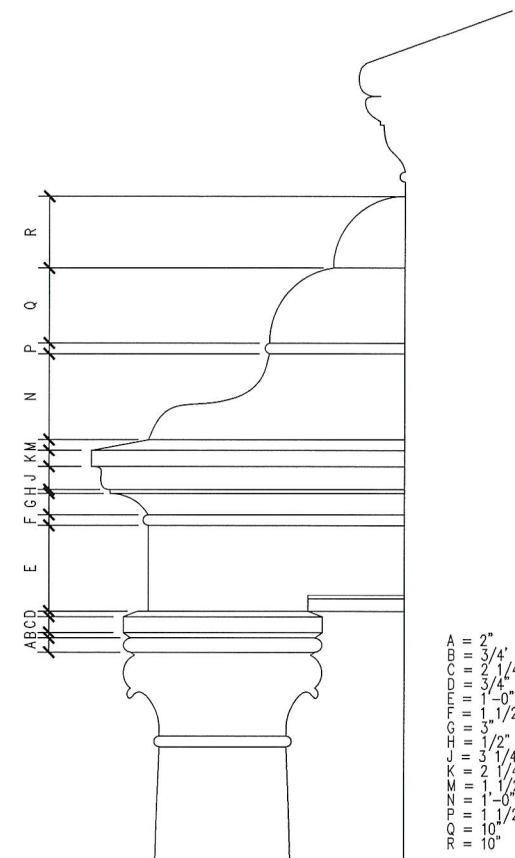
The mausoleum was constructed in 1915 following a 6-year contesting of Ms. Bastian's will by her half-brothers and half-sister who were purposefully cut out with bequests of \$1 each. Mrs. Emma Boelsen, George Von Hofe, and John Von Hofe sued to set aside the probate of instrument on the grounds that Ms. Bastian was mentally unsound. They based these assumptions on what they referred to as Ms. Bastian's "mania" regarding the luxuriousness of her life after death. They even went so far as to gather testimony from a physician. Although we may never know the reality of Ms. Bastian's state of mind, her justification of the exclusion of her siblings is clearly addressed in her will, which states, "Ever since my arrival in this country many years ago, I have been treated with abject scorn and derision by my said relatives." In the 5 other burial spaces in the tomb, Ms. Bastian gave strict instructions as to who these could be - namely a cousin and his wife and son, and her executor and his wife - so as to avoid unwelcomed claims from her half-siblings. The mausoleum itself is an eclectic massing of various styles. The deep steps on the gentle climb

leading up to the ornate bronze door are flanked with low rolling walls rising to the bases of two squatly-dimensioned columns on either side of the door. The columns are capped with ornate Corinthian foliage at their capitals, recalling a Richardsonian Romanesque styling from a few decades prior. The base of the building is a polished granite battlement that raises the building 3ft above ground level and gives it a monumentality fitting of Ms. Bastian's wishes. The central block is square in plan upon which sits a tower. All four sides of the central block have a second protruding façade with a delicately outlined roof profile atop. The granite work is heavily rusticated on all façades; however, smooth coining is present at all corners laid in an alternating lap joint. The heavy bronze door to the interior stands at the front façade, there is an arched stained glass window on the rear façade, and the two side elevations are void of any openings, save for an intricately detailed bronze vent near the top of the angular base. Overall, the

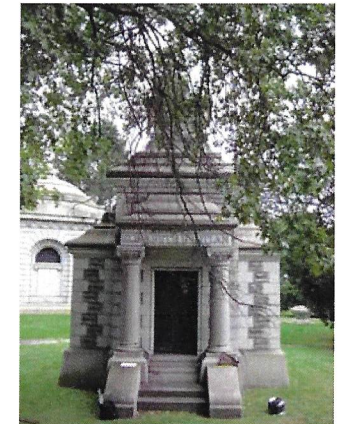
styling can be considered to be in the school of the Richardsonian Romanesque style; however, the rooflines add a peculiar detail not found in this type of style. The undulating and curvy profile of the roofs and tower are reminiscent of Ms. Bastian's Bavarian roots and the type of architectural language she would have seen as a youth. Although the design is a rather odd conglomeration of styles, the detailing in the stonework, delicately outlined bronze relief, and the overall monumentality of the structure make for a memorable tribute to a woman who, in all other pages of history, was not altogether memorable. Ms. Bastian's story, had it not been for this stately place of burial, may never had been told. Perhaps she was not mad as her family suggests, but rather privy to the effects of living on past one's earthly life in the story of a building.



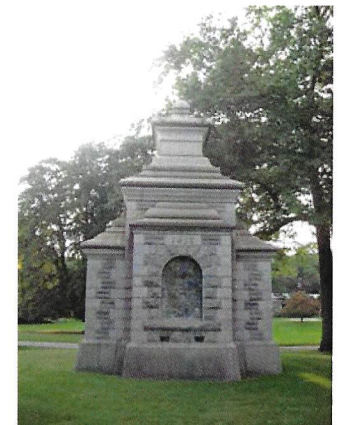
Typical Side Elevation
scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



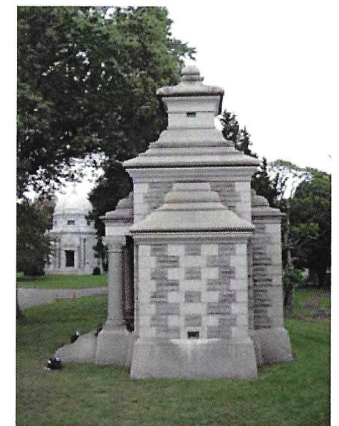
Detail of Porch Roof
scale: 1" = 1'-0"



P3-14



P3-15



P3-16

General Notes:

P3-1: The measurements in this document were taken from site measurement and are subject to vary from the original drawing set found in archives.
P3-2: Internal construction methods are unknown from field observation. Interior and exterior measurements were taken for this exercise. The conditions of the walls in between (such as the construction of the tombs) are unknown.

Site Notes:

P3-: Radius of the site is 33.38' to the edge of the lawn; a 1' granite curb lies between the edge of the lawn and the 5' common walk.

Detail Photos:

P3-4: Detail at column capitals flanking the portal.
P3-5: Profile of low wall flanking stairs as seen from the side elevation.
P3-6: Detail of bronze door panel on front elevation.
P3-7: Detail of a typical bronze vent cover.

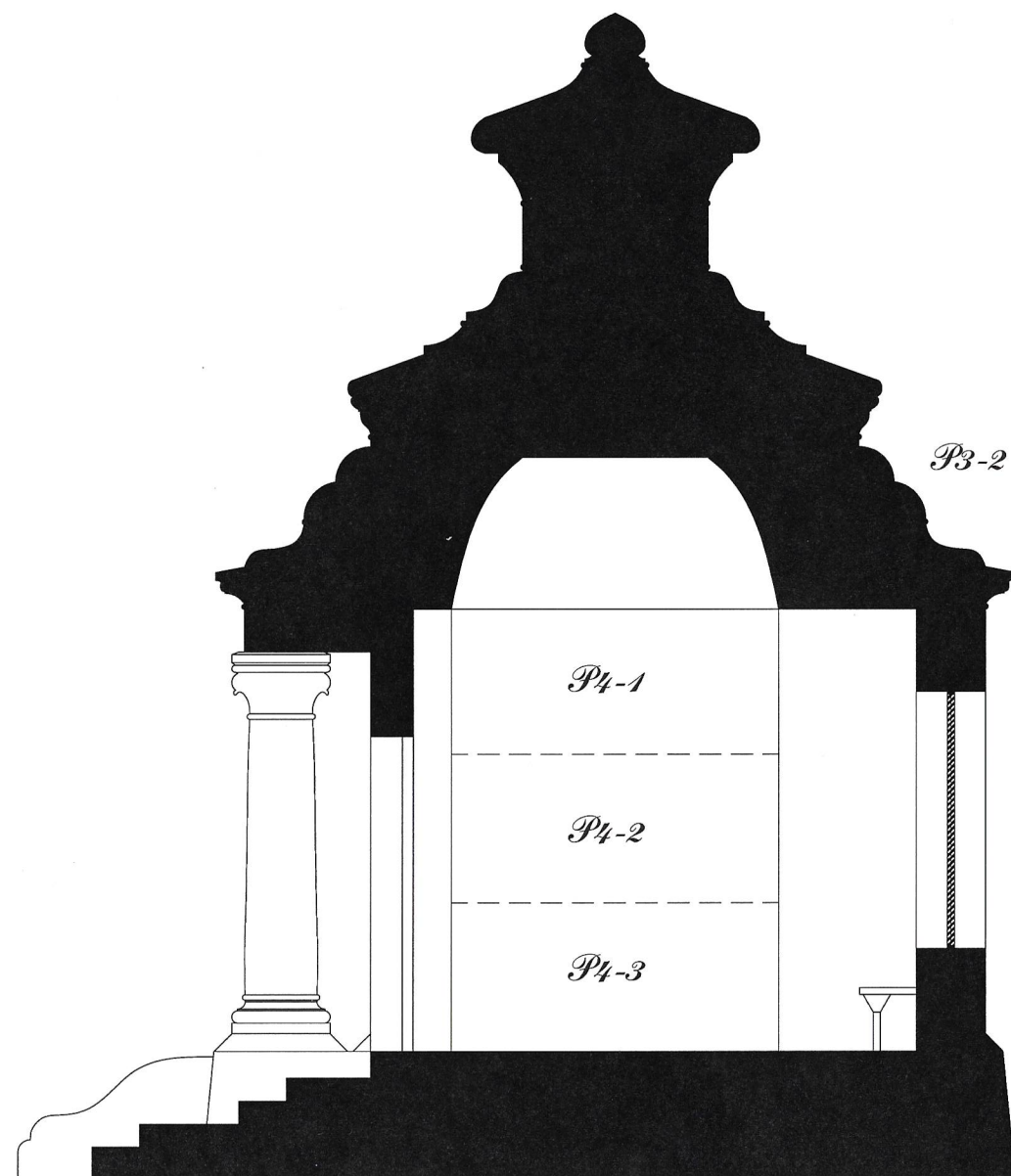
Elevation Notes:

P3-8: Overall height of building is estimated from rectified photographs.
P3-9: Areas showing hatching on the drawings are rusticated granite block. All other areas are cut granite. All horizontal coursing is 12" unless otherwise noted.
P3-10: Column capitals are not drawn as carved. See P3-4 for detail.
P3-11: Arch window is stained glass. See photo of rear elevation.

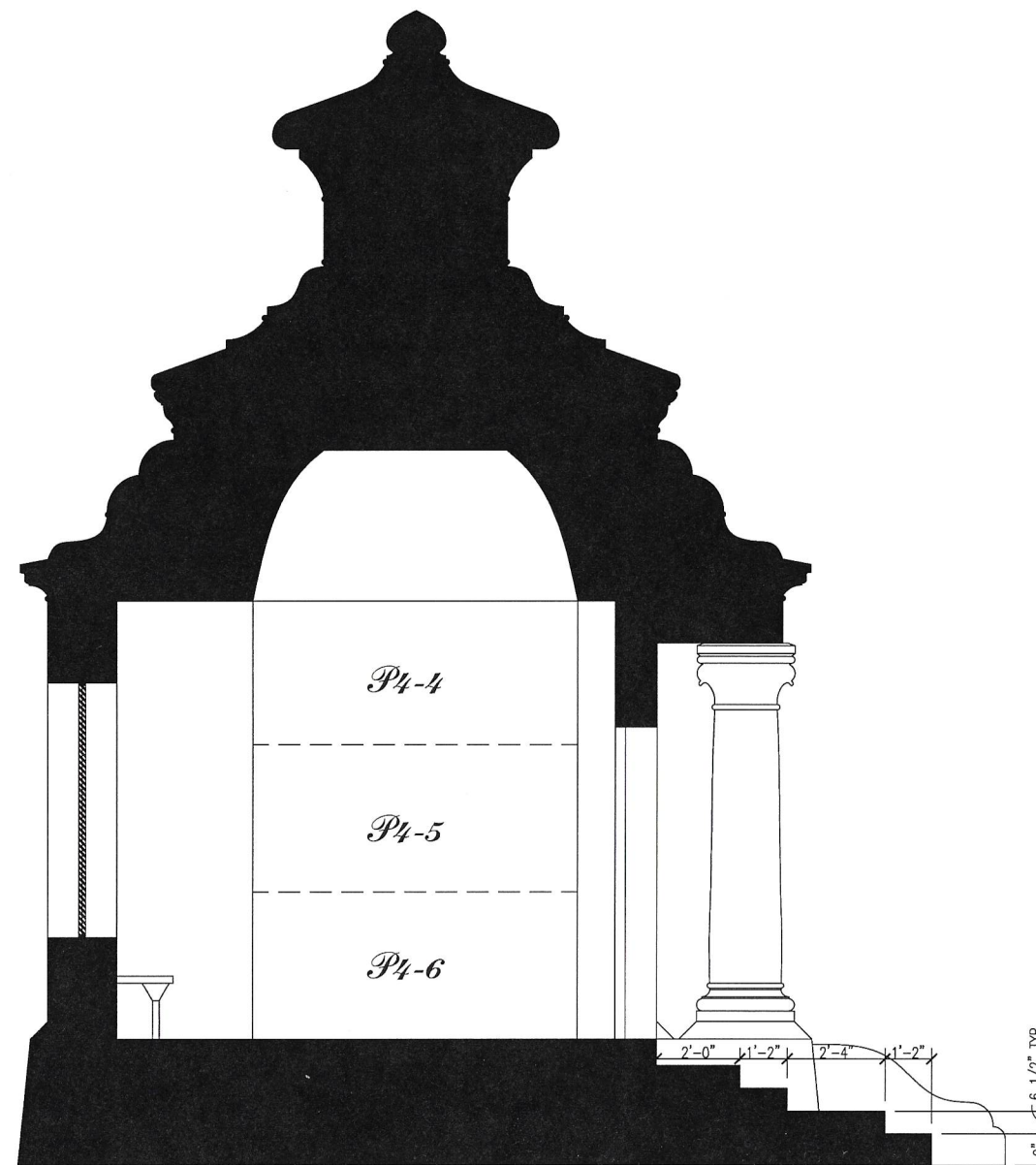
P3-12: Sill is angled for watershed. See P4-7 for detail.
P3-13: See P3-7 for detail of typical bronze vent cover.

Elevation Photos:

P3-14: Front elevation showing entrance.
P3-15: Rear Elevation showing arched stained glass window.
P3-16: Plan East Elevation showing typical side elevation.



Interior Section - Plan West
scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



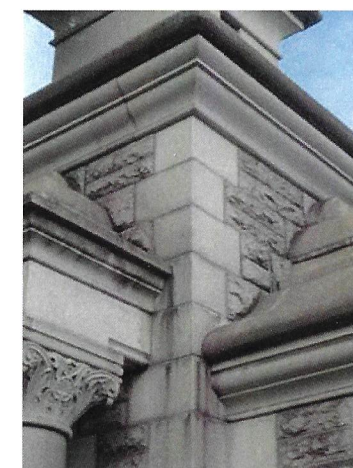
Interior Section - Plan East
scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



P4-7



P4-8



P4-9

Interior Sections:

P4-1: John B. Weisheimer, 1858-unknown; tomb vacant. Relation unknown.
P4-2: John Weigel Weisheimer, 1892-unknown; tomb vacant. Named executor of Ms. Bastian's will and cousin to Ms. Bastian.
P4-3: Helmer F. Boelsen, 1850-1933; named executor of Ms. Bastian's will. Relation unknown.
P4-4: Anna Margretha Wendel (wife of John F. Weisheimer); 1862-unknown; tomb vacant.
P4-5: Elisabeth Bastian, 1846-1909.
P4-6: Marie Von Der Osten (wife of Helmer F. Boelsen), 1849-1921.

Detail Photos:

P4-7: Detail of stained glass window sill.
P4-8: Detail of carved rounded moldings around bronze doors on front elevation.
P4-9: Detail at corner condition where roofs join.