

**Woodlawn Cemetery's Fatton Mausoleum:
The Mausoleum of the "Ostrich Feather King"**

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Henry Fatton, "was known at one time as the 'ostrich feather king' of the country." He was born on October 24, 1844, to parents Numa and Catherine Fatton.¹ Catherine Fatton was of French nationality, and Numa Fatton was of French-Swiss nationality and naturalized on October 24, 1856, in New York, New York.² Numa Fatton was a watchcase maker in New York.³

Unlike his father, Henry Fatton made his fortune as a prominent ostrich feather merchant in New York.⁴ The popularity of ostrich feather use in fashion first emerged in eighteenth century European society as part of a societal inclination towards "luxury and opulence."⁵ Ostrich feathers "were a sign of status and royalty."⁶ Ostrich feathers grew in popularity over time, and in the early nineteenth century, ostrich feathers began to influence mainstream society. The ostrich feather industry was often described as booming, and in the nineteenth century and early 20th century became a popular feature in elegant American fashion.⁷

¹ For quote see "Henry Fatton Obituary," *The Daily Times*, Mamaroneck, N.Y., October 13, 1964, 2.; For birthdate see U.S. Passport Applications, New York, New York, 1795-1925, AncestryLibrary.com.; For parents' names see New York City Marriage Records, New York, 1829-1938, FamilySearch.com.

² For parents' nationality see U.S. Census Bureau, 1910 Census, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York, 2B, AncestryLibrary.com; For the naturalization see U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992, AncestryLibrary.com.

³ Numa Fatton listed in *The New-York City Directory, for 1851-1852*. (Doggett & Rode: New York, 1851), 183 accessed through FamilySearch.com. Also listed here is Numa Fatton's work address at 57 Fulton, Brooklyn, NY.

⁴ "Fatton made Fortune in Feathers." *New York Times*, Mar 28, 1923, 31; Henry Fatton also served on the Board of Trustees for the Union Savings Bank of Westchester County, Mamaroneck, New York. See "Union Savings Bank of Westchester County," *The Daily Times*, September 26, 1912, 3, Newspapers.com.

⁵ Aomar Boum and Michael Bonine, "The Elegant Plume: Ostrich Feathers, African Commercial Networks, and European Capitalism." *The Journal of North African Studies* 20, no. 1, January 1, 2015, 14.

⁶ Boum, "The Elegant Plume," 10.

⁷ Boum, "The Elegant Plume," 14.

Fatton's office was located at 54 West Third Street, New York, New York in 1893.⁸ In 1915, his office was located at 46 East Eighth Street. A 1915 advertisement of Fatton's reads, "Henry Fatton Manufacturer of Fatton's Celebrated Black Ostrich Feathers in Plumes and tips and also ostrich novelties in black white and colors."⁹

Fatton, at age 23, married Anna Rosa Dalley, 12 years old, on March 22, 1868, in Manhattan, New York.¹⁰ Anna Fatton was born July 1855 to parents of French nationality. She immigrated to New York in 1869, according to the 1910 Federal Census data.¹¹ Together, Anna and Henry Fatton lived primarily in Mamaroneck Village in suburban Westchester. According to U.S. Federal Census data, in 1900, they lived on Hawthorne Park, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York.¹² According to U.S. Federal Census data, in 1910, they lived at 322 Boston Post Road, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York.¹³ Anna Fatton passed away on May 14, 1912, at age 56.¹⁴

Following Anna Fatton's passing, Fatton married Louise Roedelsperger, on December 4, 1913, in The Bronx, New York City, New York. Louise Fatton was 30 years old, and Fatton was 68 when they married. Louise Fatton was born in 1883 to parents David and Babette Meyer Roedelsperger, immigrants from France.¹⁵ According to U.S. Federal Census data, by 1920, Louise

⁸ *Seventh Annual Report of the Factory Inspectors of the State of New York*, (James B. Lyon: Albany, 1893),137.

⁹ *The Illustrated Milliner*, (Illustrated Milliner Company: New York, 1915), October 1915, 14M.

¹⁰ U.S. Extracted Marriage Index, New York, New York, 1866-1937, AncestryLibrary.Com. Henry Fatton also appears in the extracted marriage index with the spelling "Henri."

¹¹ 1910 Census, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York, 2B.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau, 1900 Census, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York, 16, AncestryLibrary.com.

¹³ 1910 Census, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York, 2B.

¹⁴ New York, State Death Index, 1880-1956, FamilySearch.com.

¹⁵ New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1938.

and Henry Fatton were living at 322 East Boston Post Road, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York.¹⁶

Following Fatton's death on July 9, 1922, Fatton left most of his estate to Louise Fatton. According to a *New York Times* article, at the time of his death, Fatton's estate was worth \$478,745.64, leaving nearly 85% to his wife. Other inheritors included Fatton's six nephews, one niece, one brother, Louis Fatton, ten friends, and numerous societies and organizations.¹⁷

Louise Fatton went on to live with her sister and did not remarry. She died at 81 on October 11, 1964 and is not interred in the Fatton Mausoleum.¹⁸

Following the death of his first wife, Fatton purchased the mausoleum plot on July 3, 1912. The mausoleum was designed by architect Alexander Adams and constructed by the monument company of Lazzari and Barton.¹⁹ The mausoleum is located within the Highland plot of Woodlawn Cemetery on Lot 13066. Most notably, it is situated next to the Hagedorn Mausoleum circular lot and, therefore, is not rectangular but follows the curve of the Hagedorn lot on one side. The Highland Plot map indicates there once was a path between these two mausoleums, though this path is not evident today between the lots.²⁰

Additionally, the lot has a very significant slope adding to the prominence of the projecting mausoleum, creating the appearance of more significant massing than if it were on a flat lot. To account for the change in elevation, there is a simple yet significant stair to enter the mausoleum.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, 1920 Census, Rye Town, Mamaroneck Village, Westchester, New York, 2B, AncestryLibrary.com

¹⁷ "Fatton Left \$478,745: Importer of Ostrich Feathers Bequeathed Bost of Estate to Wife." *New York Times*, April 01, 1923, 20.

¹⁸ "Henry Fatton Obituary," 2.

¹⁹ Fatton, Examination Sheet, The Woodlawn Cemetery, Woodlawn, New York, New York, 1912, (DWR1.3:FOL 88 – Major Monuments – Fatton, Henry – 2006.009), Avery Drawings & Archive, Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY.

²⁰ George C. Williams, Highland Plot Map, Woodlawn Cemetery, July 22, 1949.

Two mature evergreen trees are placed symmetrically at the rear corners of the mausoleum. The tree to the northwest appears to have caused past deterioration of the roof corner. These trees create significant shade, and as a result, all facades of the mausoleum have significant biological growth where the facades remain moist for extended periods without direct sunlight.

The Fatton Mausoleum follows a Neo-Classical form of the Tuscan order and is constructed of bush fine ten-cut, light Vermont Barre granite.²¹ The structure is symmetrical about its vertical center. Four monolithic Tuscan columns support the architrave and frieze course tympanums, which is decorated with a wreath and flowing ribbon. Two polished granite urns frame the entrance. The bronze door is decorated in a geometric pattern and is cast of U.S. Standard Bronze.

The mausoleum foundation is constructed of cement rubble. The interior of the mausoleum is finished with Tennessee Pink marble. The mausoleum has two stacked catacombs opposite the entrance. Anna Fatton is interned in the lower catacomb, and Fatton is interned in the upper catacomb. There are two busts, one each side, angled to face the entrance in the images of Fatton (west) and Anna Fatton (east). The floor is polished granite with an ornamental etched border.²²

The east and west façades each have a stained-glass window designed using opalescent glass. These windows depict scenes of rivers and valleys. The windows have two panes of decorative glass and a third pane as a protective storm layer. The windows are also composed of bronze grilles of U.S. Standard bronze. Both stained-glass windows are damaged at the bottom,

²¹ Examination Sheet, Woodlawn, New York, New York, 1912.

²² Fatton, Specifications for Mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery for Henry Fatton, Esq., The Woodlawn Cemetery, Woodlawn, New York, New York, 1912, (DWR1.3:FOL 88 – Major Monuments – Fatton, Henry – 2006.009), Avery Drawings & Archive, Columbia University in the City of New York, New York, NY.

where all three panes of glass are broken. This damage can lead to the worsening condition of the window if not repaired.

The roof is constructed in three pieces: the two side pieces were designed to be mortised and tenoned into the tympanum, and the center ridge piece laps the side pieces.²³ The mausoleum was designed with ventilation on all sides.²⁴ Some vent covers are missing, and evidence of animal interference was observed.

Overall, the mausoleum appears to be in relatively acceptable condition. Some mortar deterioration was observed throughout the exterior of the building. Based on visual observation, continued maintenance should be completed to maintain the mausoleum's condition and prevent the mausoleum from deteriorating. Biological growth should be cleaned from the building's façade. Over time, biological growth can lead to trapped moisture and result in the deterioration of materials.

²³ Fatton, Architectural Blueprints, 1912, (DWR1.3:FOL 88 – Major Monuments – Fatton, Henry – 2006.009), Woodlawn Cemetery Records, Avery Drawings & Archive, Columbia University in New York, NY.

²⁴ Specifications for Mausoleum, Woodlawn, New York, New York, 1912.

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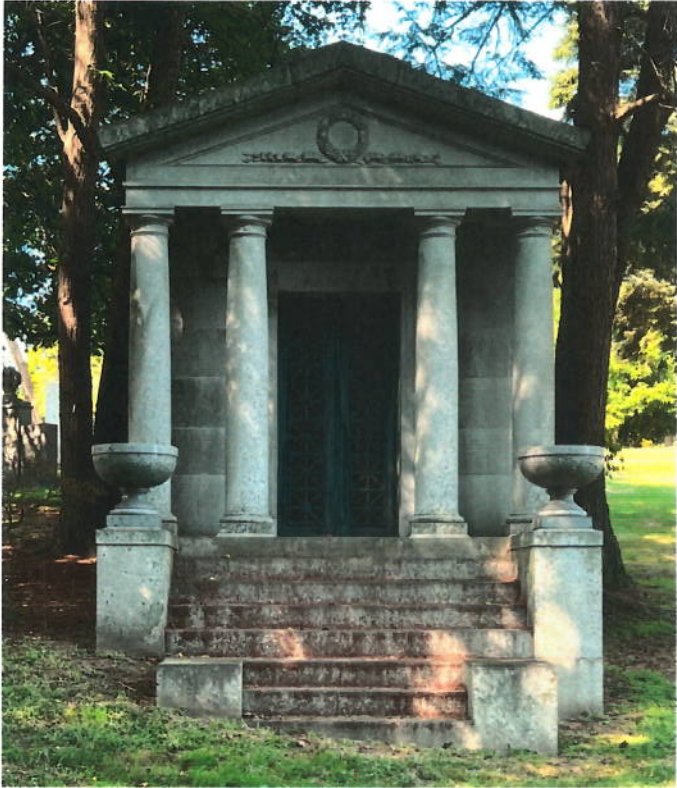


Figure 1: Phetteplace, *South Elevation*, 2022.



Figure 2: Phetteplace, *West Elevation*, 2022.

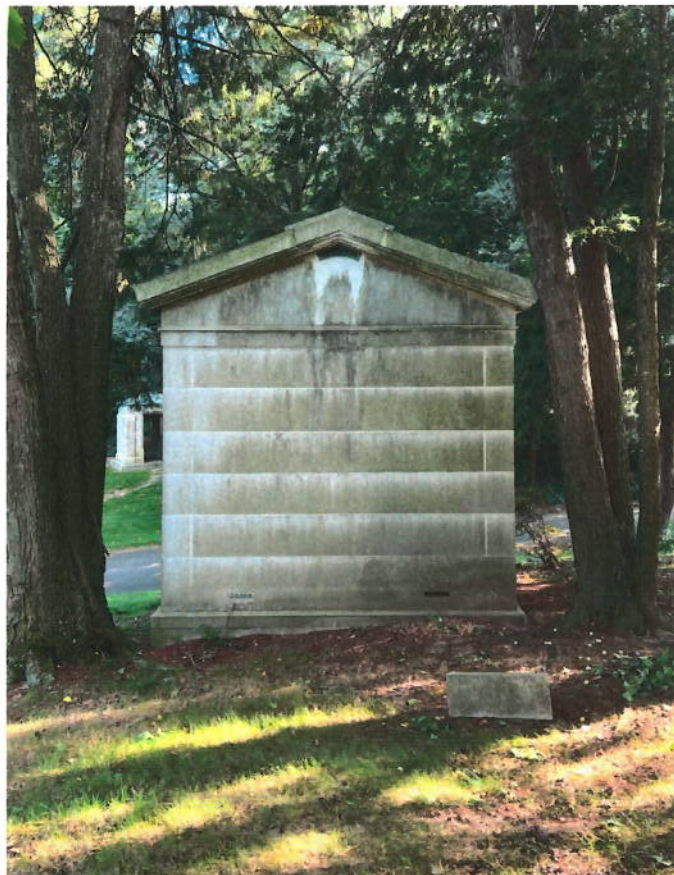


Figure 3: Phetteplace, *North Elevation*, 2022.



Figure 4: Phetteplace, *East Elevation*, 2022.



Figure 5: Phetteplace, *Bust of Henry Fatton on west side of mausoleum* ,2022.



Figure 6: Phetteplace, *Bust of Anna Rosa Fatton on east side of mausoleum* ,2022.



Figure 7: Phetteplace, *Stained-glass on east wall*, 2022.



Figure 8: Phetteplace, *Stained-glass on west wall*, 2022.



Figure 9: Phetteplace, *Damaged northwest roof corner due to tree growth*, 2022.

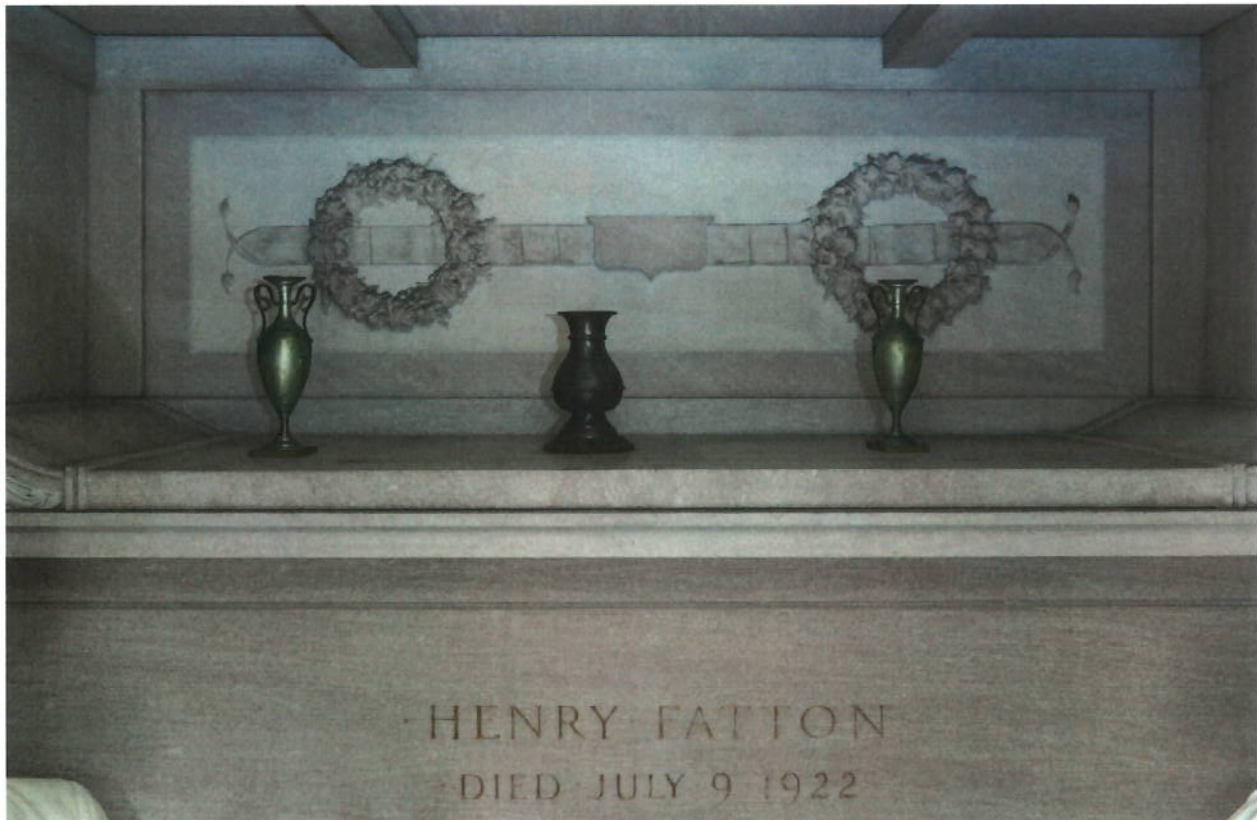


Figure 10: Phetteplace, *Interior frieze and vases above catacombs*, 2022.



Figure 11: Phetteplace, *Stained-glass on east wall*, 2022.



Figure 12: Phetteplace, *Stained-glass on east wall*, 2022.



Figure 7: Phetteplace, *Mausoleum in context of site*, 2022.



Figure 7: Phetteplace, *Missing vent cover and evidence of animal interaction*, 2022.