

**Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum:  
Graphics and Research**

Seo Jun Oh

ARCHA 4510: Studio I- Historic Preservation

Andrew Dolkart, Caludia Kavenagh & Kim Yao

September 28, 2018

**Location and Context:**

The Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum is located at the Aster Plot of Woodlawn Cemetery, the northwestern edge of the premises. The mausoleum is twenty-four feet away from Park Avenue, one of the major roads in Woodlawn, with façade facing to the street. No vegetation or structures directly block the mausoleum, so the visibility from the main street is good.

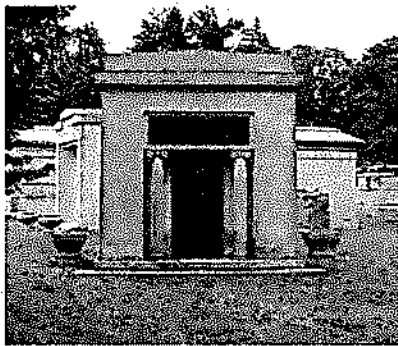
**Design and designer:**

The architect of the Ringler mausoleum is Farrington, Gould & Hoagland Inc. Their firm built more than two hundreds mausoleums in New York.<sup>1</sup> For the Ringler mausoleum they adopted a few classical elements and created a simple but efficient design, addressing the various demands of the market.

A prominent feature of mausoleum design would be the Ionic columns standing on the portico. The columns were mounted on two steps to give a modest lift to the building. The spacing between columns is *Araeostyle*, and the columns are in antis and surround the doorway. The capitals have the elements of the true Ionic columns, including well-carved volutes, baluster, and egg-and-dart pattern. The columns are supporting the entablature with the bronze frieze, which depicts what looks like the march of Roman general. The height of the entablature does not follow the conventional proportion of the Ionic order, of which height is four times of shaft diameter. On top of the entablature, there comes the attic, although the form of the attic is crude and recessed seven inches from the cornice. Pediment in each exterior is made of single granite stone, and they are joined by mortar.

There is a possibility that Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland Inc. constantly modified this design and sold it to more than one client. For example, two other owners in Woodlawn, Runk, and Takamine, commissioned the mausoleum designs from Farrington, Gould & Hoagland Inc.,

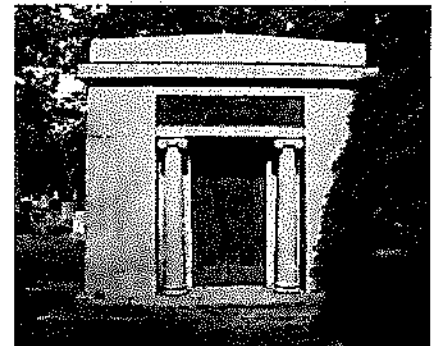
which look very similar to the Ringler's.<sup>2</sup> This might indicate that the firm prepared design which can be prepared quickly, and sold it to the clients who have concern in budget and time. The size and material of the portico, Ionic columns, interior marble slabs, and catacombs of Runk and Takamine mausoleum are almost identical to Ringler's, with differences about two inches in range. Only significant difference is the height of the entablature where Runk and Takamine mausoleums are 1.5ft shorter than the Ringler's. This is because these two mausoleums have six catacombs while Ringler has eight. Without two catacombs, the height of entablature in Runk and Takamine mausoleum is 2.5 times of shaft diameter, close to the conventional proportion of the Ionic order. It seems that Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland Inc. were knowledgeable of classical architecture, yet flexible enough to tweak the convention to accommodate the client needs. Pre-made building components and easily modifiable designs show that their focus was economics and to create flexibility in a growing market.



Ringler (1924)



Runk (1922)



Takamine (1923)

*Figure 1 Comparison of Ringler, Runk, and Takamine mausoleum*

### **Material:**

Frederick Ringler and the architects made a note on their contract regarding the materials of the building.<sup>3</sup> Exterior material for wall, floor, roof, and columns are New Hampshire grey granite. For the interior, catacombs were made of Pennsylvania Ribbon slate, and exposed

surfaces were made of pink Tennessee marble. Bronze was used for the doors, ventilation, catacomb rosette, and window frame. There are also art glass, protective glass, and door glass.

#### **Tenants of the mausoleum:**

A total of nine people buried in Ringler mausoleum. The owner, Frederick Ringler, was a German immigrant from Darmstadt, came to the US in 1866. He learned an electro-typing skill at his early age and later became head of his own electrotype company. His business then expanded to the brewery, bank, and realty<sup>4</sup>. He had a legal dispute with his nephews as he was accused of embezzling the inheritance of his older brother, William Ringler. Ringler family dispute was covered in the New York Times in multiple occasion<sup>5</sup>. In the end, the court ruled favor to Frederick Ringler, but such legal quagmire might lead his estrangement from his direct siblings. As a result, except for his wife and daughter, the rest of the people in Ringler mausoleum are all related to the owner through marriage.

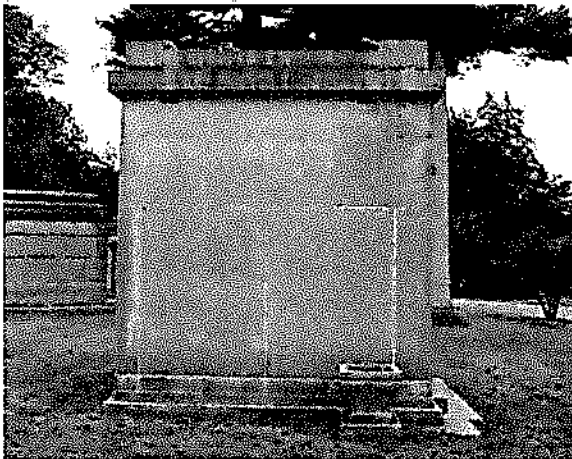
Another significant tenant of Ringler mausoleum is Walter L. Mason, who died in 1965. He was the third husband of Frederick's daughter, Veronica Mason, and the last person buried in the mausoleum. In his will, Mason bequeathed \$7,000 to Woodlawn cemetery for perpetual maintenance of Ringler mausoleum. He was specific about the range of care for the mausoleum and left written record that the maintenance should include repointing, exterior cleaning, special repairs, and monthly interior cleaning<sup>6</sup>. Even with a significant contribution, his name was never inscribed on his catacomb for an unknown reason. He was the only person in the mausoleum whose name is unwritten.

#### **Condition:**

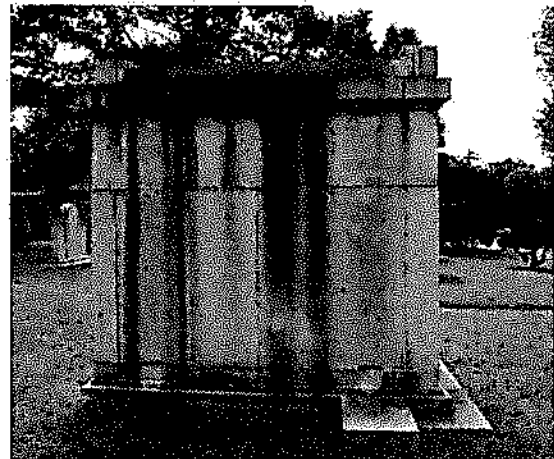
The current physical condition of Ringler mausoleum is in a good state. No signs of water infiltration or significant biological growth were found from the interior or exterior of the

building. There are few cracks on the roof stones and one fracture on the interior marble, but no significant damage caused by inherent bad or systemic problem. The bronze is also in the good state, with no signs of rust causing damage to the adjacent surfaces.

Such good condition may be attributed to the constant maintenance by Woodlawn cemetery. Comparison between Ringler and Runk mausoleum illustrates the impact of regular maintenance in the long-term preservation condition of the mausoleum. Runk mausoleum, which was built in 1922, predates Ringler mausoleum for only two years. Currently, Runk mausoleum is standing in much worse condition than Ringler. North and south elevation shows water marks that elongate from roof to ground level (figure 2). Mortars on the roof joints are entirely missing, and severe water infiltration is visible from the interior marble slab (figure 3). For the future study, it would be interesting to conduct a comparative analysis and find out which parts of the building are damaged first and what caused that damage.

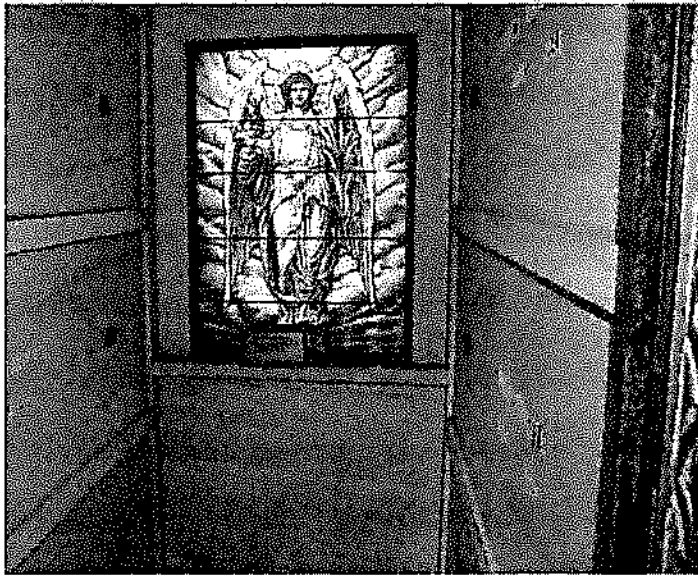


Ringler (1924)

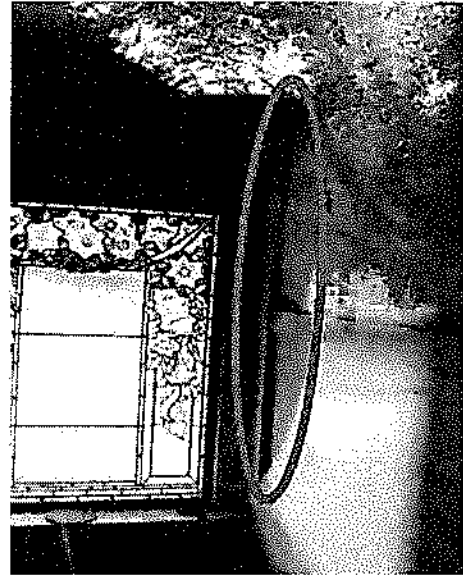


Runk (1922)

*Figure 2 Condition comparison*



Ringler (1924)



Runk (1922)

*Figure 3. Condition Comparison: Interior*

Notes

1. Farrington Gould Hoagland, Inc. "Farrington Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated : memorial designers and builders : mausoleums, monuments, statuary." 1927
2. Farrington Gould Hoagland, Inc. 191-? "Photographs of mausoleums."
3. Aitken, Robert, 1863-1999. "Woodlawn Cemetery records: major monument files, Box 15, Folder 21"
4. The National Cyclopedia of American Biography. 1926-. Current volume
5. Bowman, Lee. "Ringler Family Quarrel." *New York Times*, September 8, 1901.
6. Aitken, Robert, 1863-1999. "Woodlawn Cemetery records: Lot owner's correspondence, Box 110"

## Bibliography

Aitken, Robert, 1863-1999. "*Woodlawn Cemetery records: major monument files.*"

Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland, Inc. 1927. "*Farrington Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated : memorial designers and builders : mausoleums, monuments, statuary.*" New York: Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland, Inc., 1927.

Farrington, Gould, & Hoagland, Inc. 1927. "*Photographs of Mausoleum.*" [New York? : Farrington Gould Hoagland, Inc., 191-?]

Harris, Cyril (ed.). *Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications, 1983.

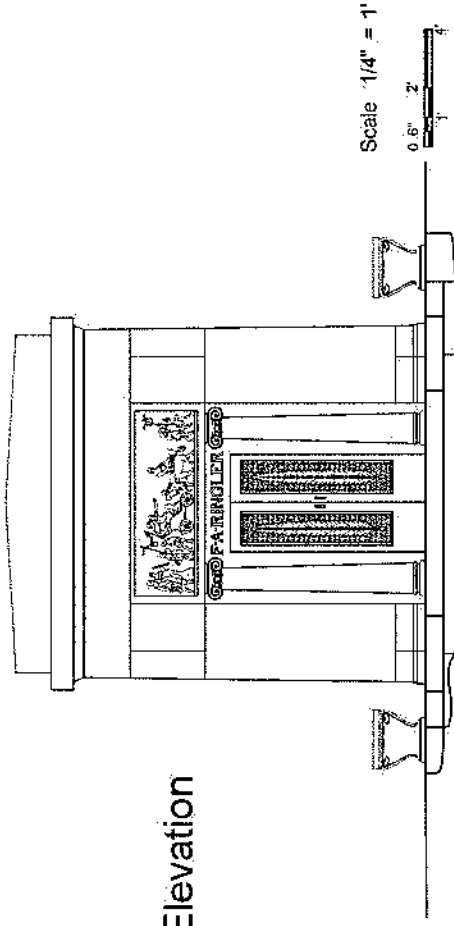
Summerson, John. *The Classical Language of Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1966.

The National Cyclopedia of American Biography. "*The National cyclopedia of American biography*", 1921-. Clifton, N.J. : J.T. White

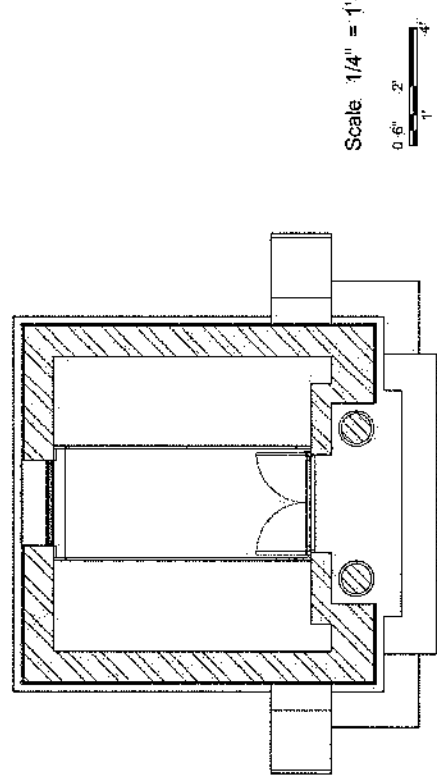


# Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum

ARCH4510 - Andrew Dolkart, Claudia Kavenagh, & Kim Yao  
Project 1: Woodlawn Cemetery - Graphics and Research  
Sec Jun, Oh  
September 27, 2018



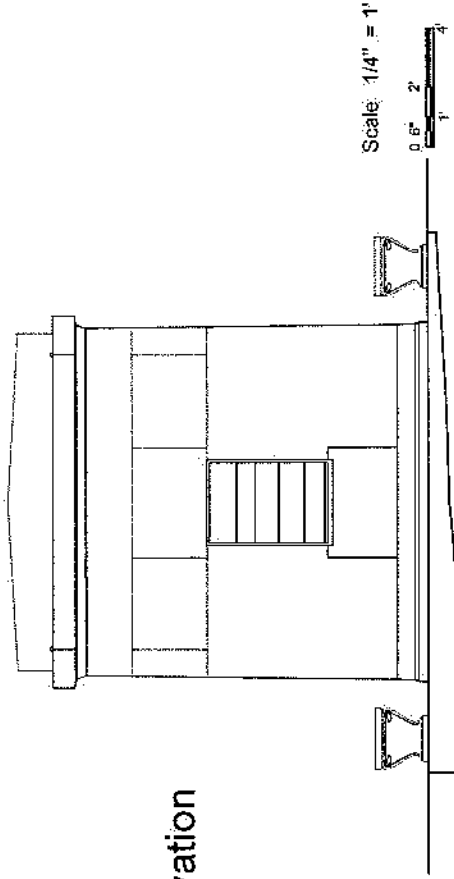
West Elevation



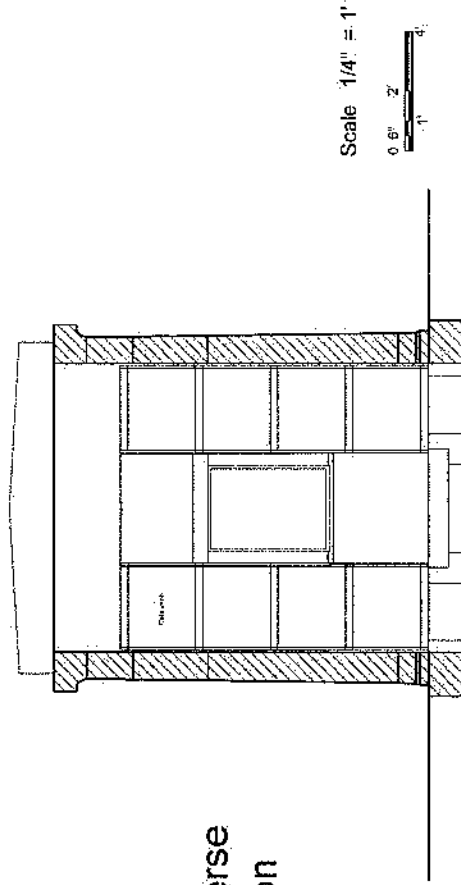
Ground Plan

# Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum

ARCH4510 - Andrew Dolkart, Claudia Kaveriagh, & Kim Yao  
Project 1: Woodlawn Cemetery - Graphics and Research  
Sao Jun Oh  
September 27, 2018



East Elevation



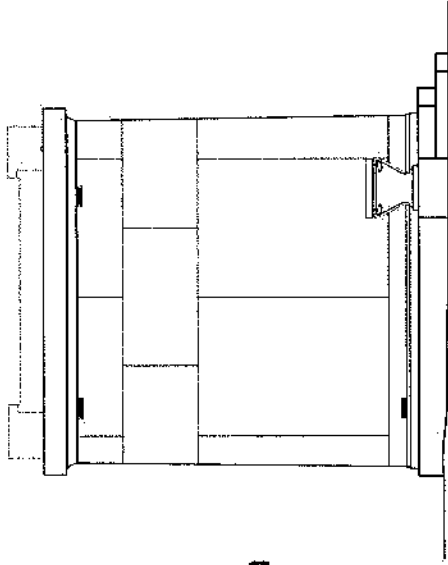
Transverse Section

# Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum

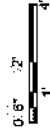
ARCH4510 - Andrew Dolkart, Claudia Kavenagh, & Kim Yao  
Project 7: Woodlawn Cemetery - Graphics and Research  
Seo Jun Oh  
September 27, 2018



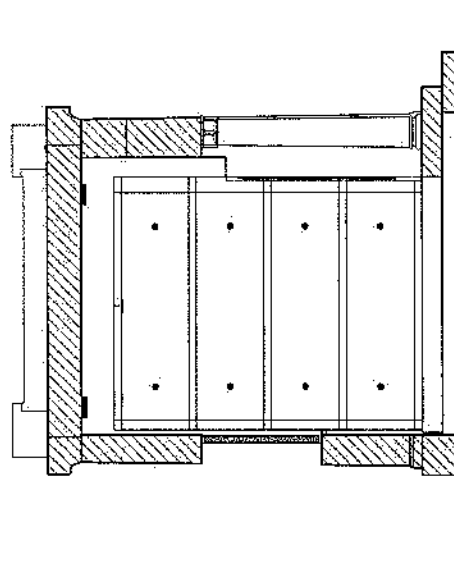
## North Elevation



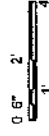
Scale 1/4" = 1'



## Cross Section

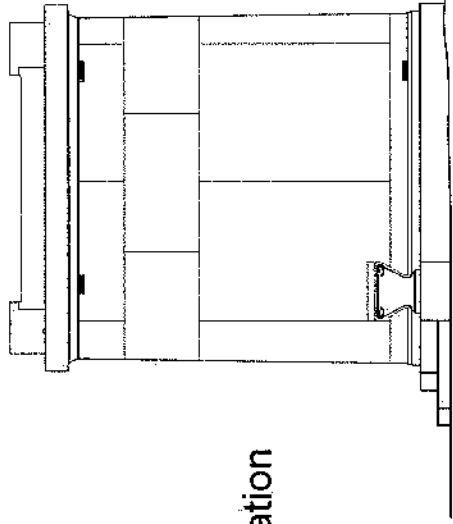


Scale 1/4" = 1'



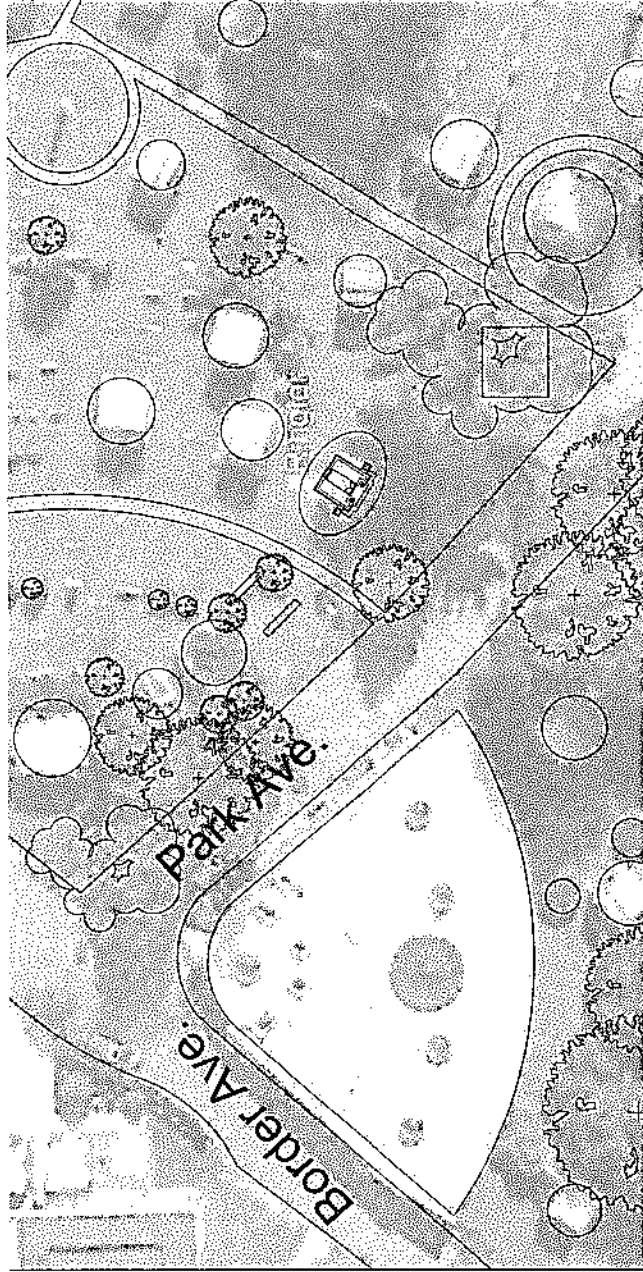
# Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum

ARCH4510 - Andrew Dolkart, Claudia Kavenagh, & Kim Yao  
Project 1: Woodlawn Cemetery - Graphics and Research  
Sac Jun Oh  
September 27, 2016



South Elevation

Scale 1/4" = 1'

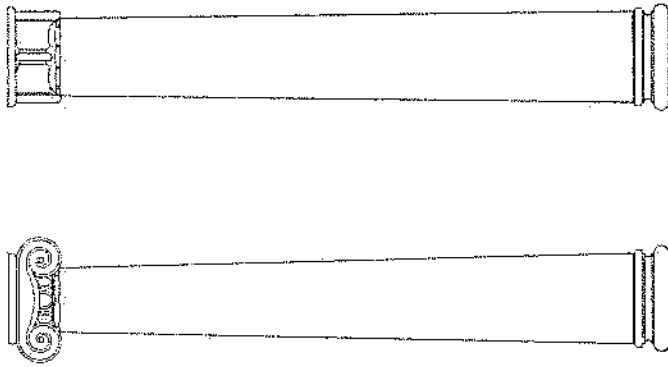


Site Plan

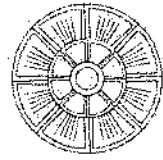
Scale 1/32" = 1'

# Frederick A. Ringler Mausoleum

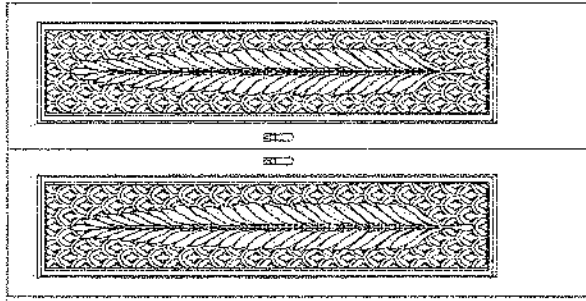
ARCH-4510 - Andrew Dolkart, Claudia Kavenagh, & Kim Yao  
Project 1: Woodlawn Cemetery - Graphics and Research  
See Jun Oh  
September 27, 2018



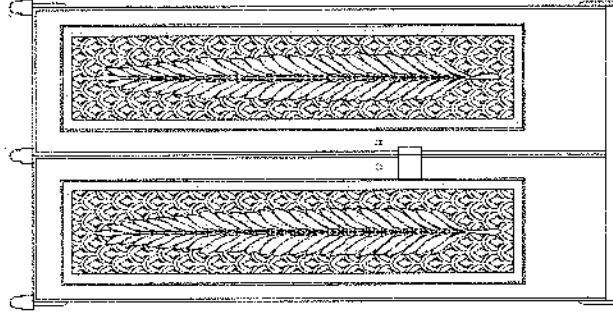
Ionic Column  
Front & Side view  
Scale 1:16



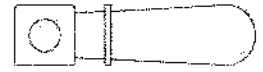
Catacomb Rosette  
Bronze  
Scale 1:2



Bronze Door  
Front Facade  
Scale 1:16



Bronze Door  
Rear Facade  
Scale 1:16



Door Knob  
Bronze  
Scale 1:2