

Mary S. Park
17 October 2011
Studio I: Documentation and Analysis of Historic Buildings

Project 3: Field Documentation & Formal Analysis

Henry Schwarzwald was born in May 26, 1853 in New York City. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth Schwarzwald. Henry succeeded his father and took over the firm, J. Schwarzwald & Sons, the largest manufacturer of beer kegs in the United States. In 1877, he married Alice Finck, sister of his business partner, August Finck. However, Alice died shortly after giving birth to their daughter, Amelia. Henry then married Alice's younger sister, Louisa Finck and had another daughter named Lousia.

The Schwarzwald family also owned numerous apartment buildings and land parcels in New York City. Henry bought several properties along the west side of Manhattan, including multi-tenant buildings at Broadway and 55th Street, and Broadway and 99th Street. The Schwarzwald Estate sold several properties as well as land in Times Square beginning in 1916¹. Henry has a number of patents listed for his beer kegging business, including a dog for barrel staves, patented on December 4, 1883². However, he and August were also involved in a number of lawsuits that stated his manufacturing company infringed upon competing patents, most notably in the New York Filter Co. vs. Schwarzwald et al, which was eventually dismissed.³ He died in his home at 24 West 76th Street in New York on May 11, 1915.

The Schwarzwald Mausoleum is situated on a circular plot on the corner of Park Avenue and Park Avenue in Woodlawn Cemetery. It is built directly in the center of the plot with the front façade facing the intersection (see figure 1). There is one deciduous tree on the east façade and multiple shrubby trees on the back façade. The front and west side of the structure does not have any trees and is very well seen. Schwarzwald is the largest mausoleum

within eye distance. It is much grander and brighter because the sun hits multiple walls without obstruction. The mausoleum has an immense presence in this area.

The plan (see figure 2) is designed in a manner that allows the audience to experience all sides of the structure equally. It is symmetrical both vertically and horizontally. There are three steps leading up to the main floor of the mausoleum. The steps wrap around the entire structure and make it seem as if the structure is meant to be seen from all sides. The circular plot and center placement also support this assumption. However, one's experience does not sustain the original intentions of the design. The mausoleum has two porticos, one in the front and one in the back. However, because the greenery situated along the north and east side of the plot, the back and east wall are obstructed from the street. The back portico is therefore unused and rarely seen by anyone.

The main entrance faces the intersection and is centered on the front façade. The front door is much darker than the light granite exterior and the eye is drawn towards the negative space. The door is made of brass and is full of extensive details. When stepping through the front doors, the interior is flooded with light. The main element of the interior is a large colorful stained glass window on the back wall. The window contains an image of Jesus Christ with his arms wide open floating in a sea of clouds. Underneath the window, a small alter stands with a brass urn.

The interior is completely made up of a light colored marble. The catacombs are located to the left and right, stacked five high and two deep. The catacombs are arranged by family. Henry Schwarzwaldler lies on the east side at eye level closest to the front doors. His first wife, Anna, lies directly underneath him and above him lays his second wife, Louisa. Henry and Louisa's daughter, Louise Connors and husband John Fox Connors lay on the east side towards

the back wall. Henry and Alice's daughter, Emile, and husband, Conrad Stein lie on the west side towards the front door. Above them lies their daughter Alice and husband, John Paul Stabler. On the west side near the back wall lies Alice and Conrad's other daughter, Suzanne and husband, Raymond Carl Stein. It is unknown where Alice and Conrad's son, Conrad H Stein is buried.

The mausoleum follows the Roman Corinthian order with Corinthian styled columns (see figure 6) and pilasters and surrounding the exterior with symmetrical porticos in the front and back. The structure differs from Roman temples in that the columns are not evenly spaced along the portico. The columns are 2'10-1/2" apart on center and the midpoint to column are 3'5-1/2" apart on center. Although the proportions do not correspond exactly to Vitruvius' writings, the overall scale of the structure resonates with the Roman Corinthian order.

The Schwarzwalder Mausoleum was built by the H.K. Keller Company in 1910. H.K. Keller designed and constructed many of the mausoleums at Woodlawn Cemetery and their design elements are apparent in many structures⁴. Correspondence between the construction company and Henry Schwarzwalder shows that expense was not an issue. The contract continuously states that every material used in construction must be of the "best quality".⁵

There is a lot of deterioration on the interior of the structure. A leak in the ceiling has caused extensive water damage on the walls of the interior as well as the floor. The granite floor is cracked underneath the window and the marble catacomb walls are bowing outward. There is also an extensive amount of bacterial growth on the back portico. This façade does not get a lot of sun because of the amount of greenery located along the plot line. Water and moisture are the main causes of obvious damage.

The Schwarzwald Mausoleum stands impressively on its large plot and is very visible from a distance. Although the structure design does not resonate in its location, the intent of the structure is still retained. The interior is narrow and not meant to be inside for long periods of time. On the contrary, the exterior contains long verticals draw the eye upward to the ornate detailed column capitals and the large slabs of granite invoke a monumental presence.

¹ "Times Sq. Realty in \$2,000,000 Deals." *New York Times* 28 October 1930.

² "Obituaries." *New York Times* 11 May 1915. 17 October 2011

³ Schwarzwald, Henry. "Dog for Barrel Staves." 289453. 04 December 1883.

⁴ "Times Sq. Realty in \$2,000,000 Deals." *New York Times* 17 July 1905.

⁵ Contract between Henry Schwarzwald and H.K. Keller Company. 1910. Avery Library Archives.

Additional Resources:

Finck, John C, Descendent of Schwarzwald/Finck. Email correspondence. 29 September 2011.

D. Rowland - T.N. Howe: *Vitruvius. Ten Books on Architecture*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1999.

Schwarzwald Mausoleum Archives. Avery Library. Columbia University. 17 October 2011.

Images

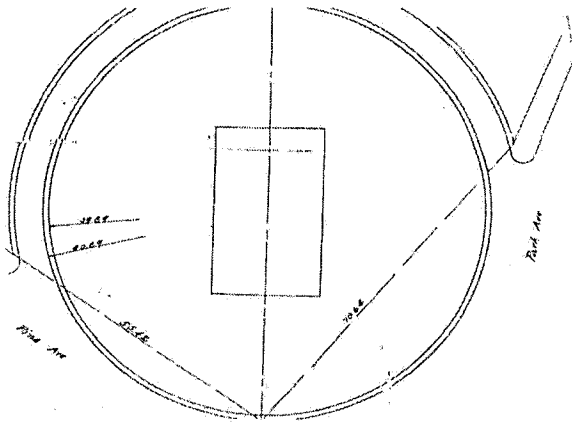


Figure 1: Site Plan

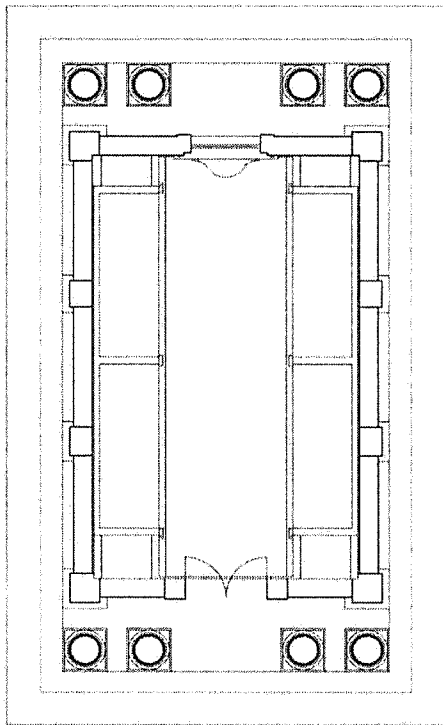




Figure 3: Front Facade



Figure 4: Side Facade

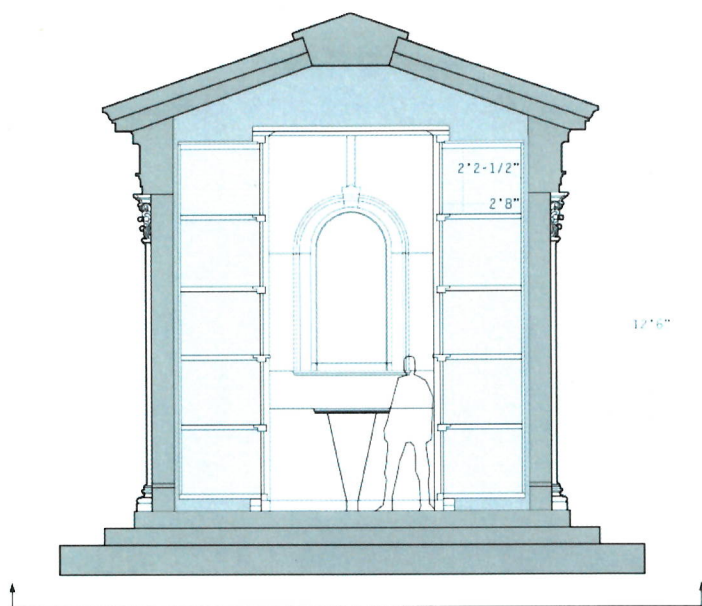


Figure 5: Interior Elevation

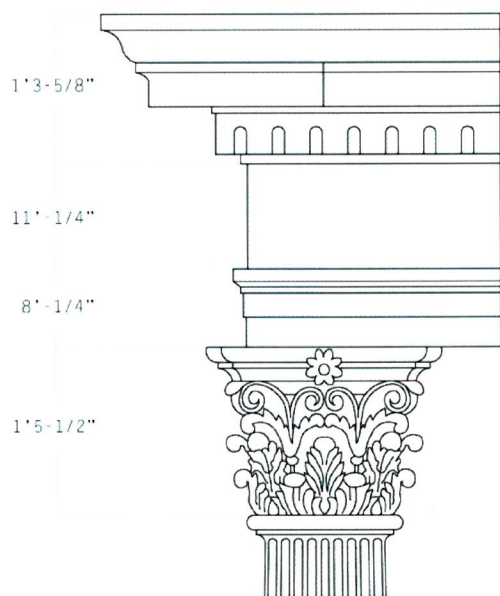


Figure 6: Corinthian Order Detail