

Woodlawn Cemetery: Biographical Research
Louis K. Ungrich Mausoleum



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The Ungrich family

The Ungrich family has five properties in Woodlawn Cemetery, where four generations of Ungrich family members rest. During the greatest flow of German immigration to America in the mid 19th century, Philipp Martin Ungrich and his wife Louisa Kaiser immigrated to America, eventually opening a bakery in August of 1837 in New York¹. After their naturalization, they had six children in America; three of them, Louis Ungrich, Louis Kossuth Ungrich, and Julia Ungrich would eventually each build a mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery (fig.1). The second generation of Ungrich Family was active in the banking and real estate businesses and had a strong connection with the Schwarz family. Three members of the second generation married into the Schwarz family and worked in the family business of real estate. Louis Ungrich, Louis Kossuth Ungrich, and the husband of Julia, Jacob A Schwarz, established a real estate firm named L. and J. Ungrich at 501 West 140th Street in New York, which was highly successful. After his brother died in a car accident in 1908, Louis K. Ungrich became the firm's president.²

Louis K. Ungrich was born in 1851. In 1877 Louis K. Ungrich married Margaret Elizabeth Biehl, and they built a house in Hamilton Heights at 475 West 144th Street. Louis K. Ungrich was extensively active in real estate and also ventured into many

¹ New York States Census. 1855. Prepared by Ancestry Library in association with the National Archives and Records Administration. (accessed Oct 16:55:00 EST 2021). https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/1654675365:7181?tid=&pid=&queryId=afba52dda5fe0f4f39cf16bae38ed800&_phsrc=ftP59&_phstart=successSource

² *RACING AUTO HITS POLE, HARLEM MERCHANT DIES*, The New York Times, New York Tribune (1905-1910); Sep 19, 1908; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: New York Tribune / Herald Tribune pg. 6

³ Ibid.

different businesses.³ He remained the president of the family real estate firm until his death in 1925. Inspired by his German origin, he was one of the organizers of Lutheran Hospital and the builder of the Lutheran Church of Atonement at West 141st Street & Edgecombe Ave. He was also the president of the Commonwealth Savings Bank and a member of Harlem Lodge 457, F. and A. M, a non-for-profit corporation for free and accepted Masons established in 1868. Throughout his life, Ungrich was a successful businessman and a generous philanthropist.

Louis K Ungrich Mausoleum

Louis K. Ungrich commissioned the C.E. Tayntor Granite Company of 29 West 34th Street to design and construct a mausoleum for the future use in 1912. Also, his brother Louis Ungrich and sister Julia Schwarz built their family mausoleum from the designs by the same company in the same Doric temple style. Correspondence between the Tayntor Granite Company and Mr. Ungrich suggests that he purchased a plot at the north corner of Park Avenue and Filbert Avenue.⁴ The location of the lot and the mausoleum suggests a great deal of consideration from his point of view. According to the correspondence, Ungrich particularly desired the mausoleum to face south to the center of Park Avenue. Furthermore, during his visit to the site before construction, Ungrich specifically demanded to have his mausoleum face at a point of the rear line of a nearby mausoleum.⁵ Also, on the plot, two carefully trimmed Blue Ice Arizona Cypresses are planted to highlight the symmetrical order of

⁴ Woodlawn Cemetery records, 1863-1999 Series 2: Masoleum Owners Correspondence ## Ungrich A to Z, Transaction Number 225 449. Volume/Box Box MOC 15 Folder 9

⁵ Woodlawn Cemetery records, 1863-1999 Series 2: Major Monuments ## Ungrich A to Z, Transaction Number 225 448. Volume/Box Box MM 18 Folder 12

the mausoleum and its surroundings. The carefully chosen location and designed landscape and sitting emphasize the memorial from a distance and enhance the picturesque view from its doorstep.

The similarity of the three Ungrich Family mausoleums and the correspondence prove that the design is not a custom design but one of several different classical designs offered by the Tayntor Granite Company with minor modifications. The Doric temple mausoleum, with overall dimensions of 10'-0" in width, 22'-5" in length, and 15'-10" in height⁶, has a front recessed distyle pronaos, or porch with two columns, with a main room inside. It is built of granite from the Tayntor Quarries in Barre, Vermont, with a white veined Italian marble for the interior space⁷.

The design was one of the Tayntor Granite Company's popular styles.⁸ It was largely inspired by the ancient Greek Doric structures, such as the Athenian Treasury at Delphi built in 510 BC (fig.2) . The Doric style shows simplicity and the sense of strength compared with Ionic and the Corinthian. The Doric columns on the front facade illustrate the "strongest" order in the classical world, emphasizing its presence in such a special location.

The interior of the building is a symmetrical rectangle within which eight catacombs are placed with four on each side. The shelves of these catacombs are described as made of slate.⁹ Currently, only the upper six catacombs are occupied, with inscriptions of name, birth date, and death date on the side. The entire interior

⁶ Woodlawn Cemetery records, 1863-1999 Series 2: Major Monuments ## Ungrich A to Z, Transaction Number 225 448. Volume/Box Box MM 18 Folder 12

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid

of this mausoleum is finished in light veined Italian marble (fig.3), with all exposed surfaces highly polished with the exception of the rough finished floor. The spandrels in the marble at the rear are finely carved . The mausoleum has a pair of doors (fig.4) made in the best United States Standard bronze as specified in construction documents.¹⁰ Each door has a sheet of plate glass securely set into a bronze frame that operates independently from the entire door for ventilation. The stained glass window (fig.5) on the north side depicts the story of Christ and Mary of Bethany - the latter is venerated in Lutheranism, which indicates Ungrich's German origin and his religious belief.

Usually, the Doric mausoleums designed by Tayntor Granite Company would apply their patented roof design, like the one used on his brother Louis Ungrich's mausoleum. The standard design has three parts of granite interlocking with each other to ensure the longevity of the structure as well as to make sure there is no water leakage on the roof. Moreover, the standard design would ensure that there were no skyward facing joints. However, the roof of Louis K Ungrich's mausoleum consists of only two slabs of granite (fig.6). The two sloped sides of the roof meet at the ridge, with a mortar joint between them right at the ridge line. It might be possible that the obvious water damage on the cornice of the west elevation (fig. 7C) and the crack on the central roof on the north elevation (fig. 7D) are due to the absence to such a patent design.

¹⁰ Woodlawn Cemetery records, 1863-1999 Series 2: Major Monuments ## Ungrich A to Z, Transaction Number 225 448. Volume/Box Box MM 18 Folder 12

Current Conditions

Today, one hundred and nine years after its completion, the mausoleum remains in fine condition compared with its surrounding mausoleums. Traces on the mausoleum indicate that great care has been given to the mausoleum, such as the exterior granites are clean after wash (fig. 1A). Still, there are several visible material issues (fig.7) on the surface, as listed below.

- A. The biological growth on the base granite and interior marble (fig.7A).
- B. The damaged front stairs were patched with different colors of granite(fig.7B).
- C. The water leakage is causing material deterioration on the cornice at the west side (fig.7C).
- D. The joint at the roof at the north side has lost its mortar and caused a wide opening (fig.7D).
- E. The surface of the original Lafarge cement mortar is falling apart, and was repaired in a light color with a more refined granule alternative (fig.7E).
- F. Traces of water leakage on the marble surface of catacombs in the interior (fig.7F).

The repair work at the Ungrich mausoleum uses different filing materials, making the traces of damage easily identifiable. Despite this, the strong Doric temple still sits steadily on Park Avenue, contributing to Woodlawn Cemetery's incredible scenery.



Figure 1A. Mausoleum of Louis K. Ungrich. Photo taken by author.



Figure 1B. Mausoleum of Louis Ungrich. Photo taken by author.



Figure 1C. Mausoleum of Julia Schwarz. Photo taken by author.



Figure 2. Athenian Treasury at Delphi built in 510 BC. Courtesy of Ancient- Greece.org



Figure 3. light veined Italian marble at interior space, photo taken by author



Figure 4. Bronze door at the entrance, photo taken by author



Figure 5. Stained glass at the north side. Christ and Mary of Bethany. Photo taken by author

No. 853,909.

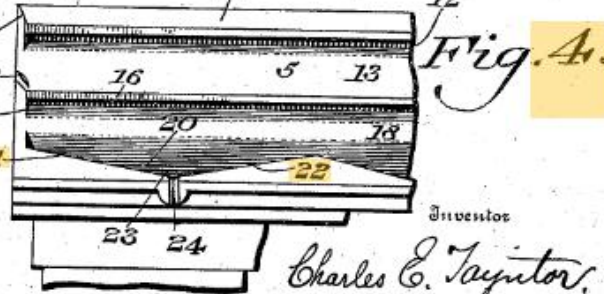
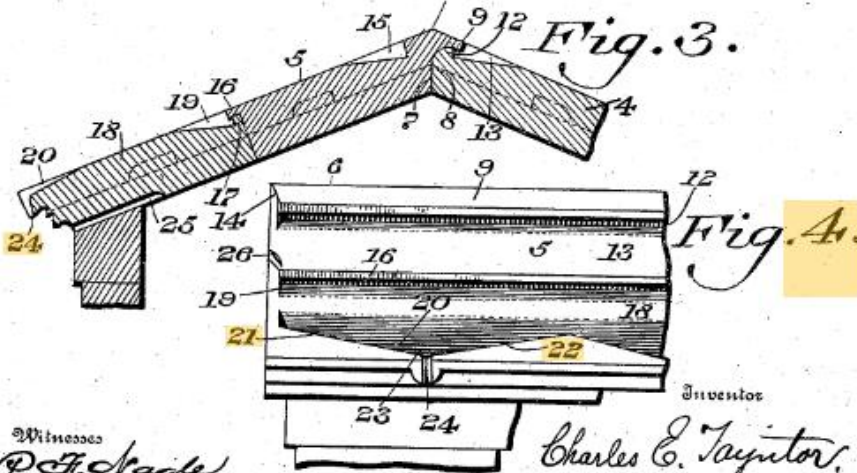
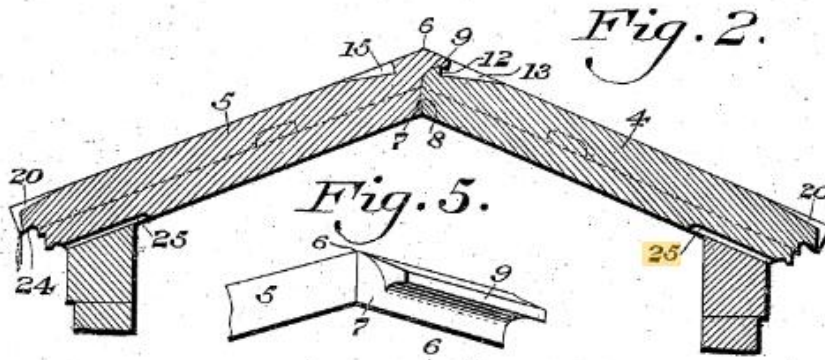
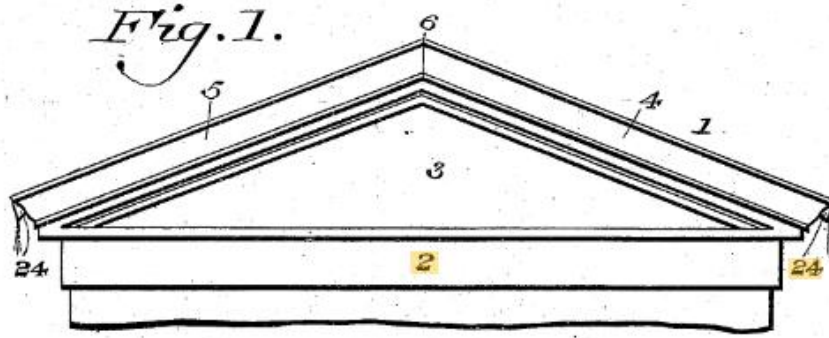
PATENTED MAY 14, 1907.

O. E. TAYNTOR.

ROOF FOR MAUSOLEUMS, TOMBS, VAULTS, &c.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 26, 1906.

2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.



Witnesses
P. F. Orade
C. S. McVay

Inventor
Charles E. Tayntor.
Wiederstein & Leibknecht
 Attorneys

Figure 6. The two slabs roof design. Courtesy of the Tayntor Granite Company

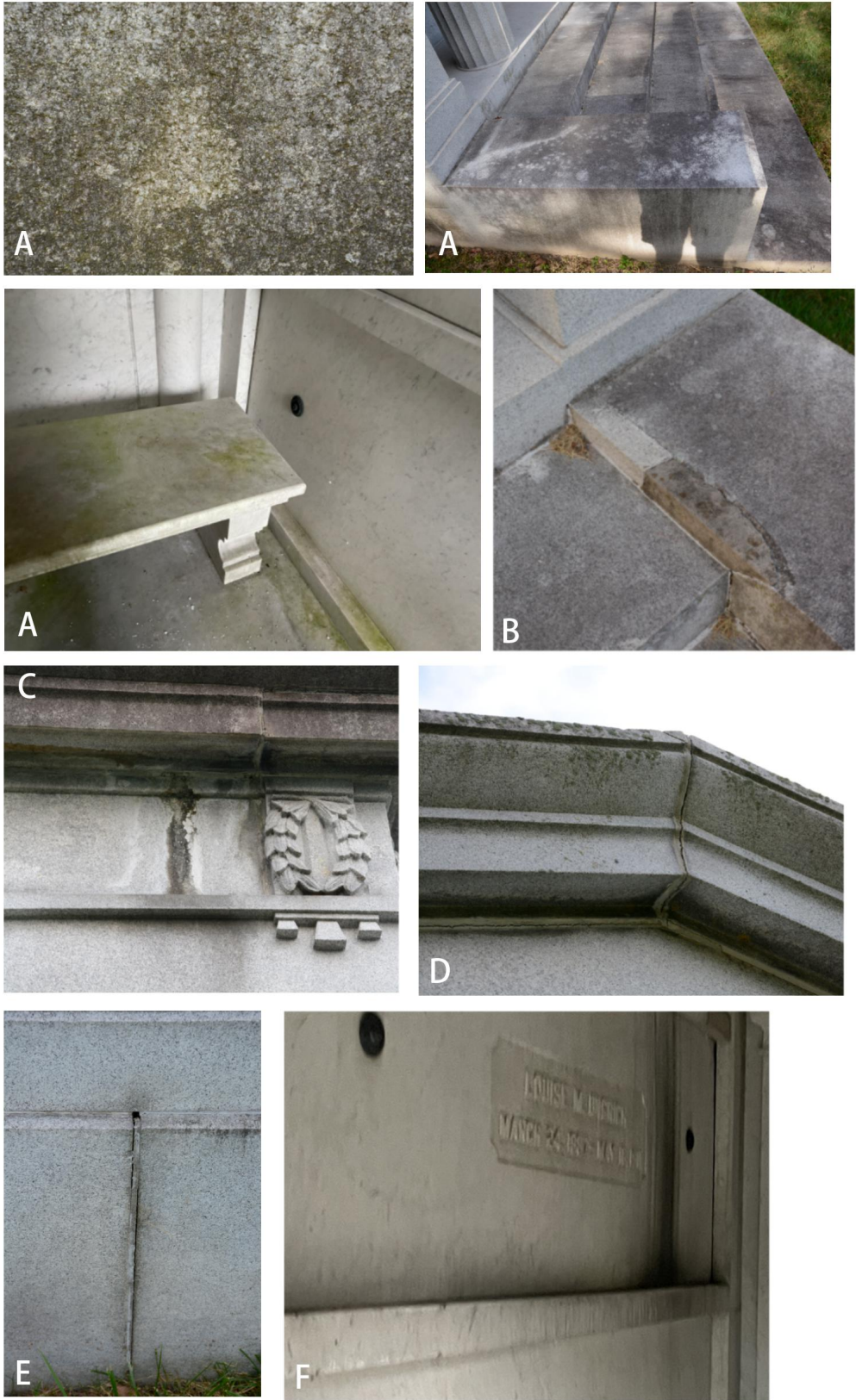


Figure 7. The existing material issues, photo taken by author.

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