

Woodlawn Cemetery: Waller Mausoleum
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Columbia GSAPP
Historic Preservation - Studio I
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Charles Waite Waller was born March 20, 1870 in Anderby, Lincolnshire, England. He arrived in the United States in 1885, at age 15, and he became a naturalized citizen.¹ Ten years after immigrating, Charles married Rose Anna Hutchcroft. She was born on July 1, 1875 in Carlton, Oregon. Her parents were Robert Hutchcroft and Elizabeth Throssel. They were both born in England, immigrated to the United States, and were married in Wisconsin in 1860. Rose was the youngest of six children. She was still living in Carlton, Oregon in 1880.²

Charles and Rose had their first child, a son named Lawrence Waite Waller, in 1895. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts.³ Their second child, Evelyn Waite Waller, was born in 1898 in Boston, Massachusetts. By 1900, the family had relocated to San Francisco.⁴ In 1910, Charles Waite Waller was the Vice President and general manager of the Great Western Power Company.⁵

After a few years, the family moved back to the East Coast. In 1917, when Lawrence was twenty-one years old, he joined the Navy as a Landsman Radio Electrician. He served in France during World War I. At the time of his enlistment, he recorded his residence as New York City, New York.⁶ Charles Waite Waller also served in the Navy during World War I; he was an appraiser for property taken over by the Navy Department and was also involved in radio

¹ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. United States of America, Bureau of the Census.

² Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. United States of America, Bureau of the Census.

³ *Massachusetts, Birth Records, 1840-1915* Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

⁴ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900.

⁵ "Charles W. Waller, Hotel Man, is Dead." *New York Times* (1923-Current File), Jan 20, 1927.

<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/104237755>

⁶ New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919.

projects. Charles had previously served in the Navy as an enlistment when he was a young man.⁷ By 1920, the family had moved to Westport, Connecticut. Charles Waite Waller was listed as head of household and owned their home. He was the owner of a machinery manufacturing company, and Lawrence was an employee of the company.⁸ Charles was also associated with General Electric for fifteen years.⁹

Evelyn Waller married Henry Seagrave Carrington of 80 Wall Street on March 1, 1922 in St. Thomas's Chantry in New York City. Carrington was a broker and the "president of Bliven & Carrington, dealers in oil, and of the Champion Motor Oil Company. He attended Yale, class of '11."¹⁰ He was a member of the Calumet and the New York Athletic clubs. In 1924, they had a daughter, Eda Audrey Carrington. They lived at 850 Park Avenue where their rent was upwards of \$5,000 per year. Evelyn filed for separation in 1927, received \$1,000 per month in alimony and also had custody of Eda.¹¹

During the 1920s, Charles Waite Waller expanded his professional profile to include finance and real estate. Charles started as the Vice President of United Hotels Company in 1925. The company operated a large hotel chain that included New York City's Hotel Roosevelt.¹² He made some of his fortune in banking and was an organizer of the Murray Hill Trust Company. Charles also became the Vice President of the United Hotels Company of America.¹³ He died

⁷ "Charles W. Waller, Hotel Man, is Dead." New York Times, 1927.

⁸ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. United States of America, Bureau of the Census.

⁹ "Charles W. Waller, Hotel Man, is Dead." New York Times, 1927

¹⁰ "Seeks a Separation Mrs. H. S. Carrington." New York Times (1923-Current File), Aug 19, 1927.

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² "Charles W. Waller, Hotel Man, is Dead." New York Times, 1927.

¹³ *ibid*

suddenly on January 19, 1927 in New York City when he was 56 years old.¹⁴ The cause of Charles's death was heart failure; he went into cardiac arrest while meeting with the Treasurer of United Hotels Company of America, Charles Doherty, in Waller's home at 270 Park Avenue.¹⁵ It was reported that about 250 friends and associates attended Charles's funeral.¹⁶ He left the entirety of his estate to Rose.¹⁷

Rose purchased a lot in in the Clover Plot located in the northwest corner of Woodlawn Cemetery by the summer of 1927. She hired renowned memorilist firm Farrington, Gould & Hoagland to design the mausoleum.¹⁸ Most of Farrington, Gould & Hoagland's mausoleum designs were characterized by ornate detail, and many were on a grand scale. This was particularly true of their work in Woodlawn, where they designed and built several mausoleums for very wealthy families (Figures 1-2).

¹⁴ New York City Department of Records. *New York, New York, Extracted Death Index, 1862-1948* Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

¹⁵ "Charles W. Waller, Hotel Man, is Dead." *New York Times* (1923-Current File), Jan 20, 1927.

¹⁶ "250 at Waller Rites." *New York Herald Tribune* (1926-1962), Jan 23, 1927.
<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1113517083>

¹⁷ "Charles W. Waller, United Hotels Co. Vice-President, Dies." *New York Herald Tribune* (1926-1962), Jan 20, 1927.
<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1129923219>

¹⁸ Major Monuments 1927-1928, Drawer 4.2, Folder 50, Lot Owner Waller, Rose A., Woodlawn Archives, Avery Library.



Figure 1. Woolworth mausoleum, Woodlawn Cemetery
Farrington, Gould and Hoagland, Inc. Farrington, Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated, Memorial Designers and Builders. New York, New York: Bartlet Orr Press, 1927. Avery Classics, Avery Library.

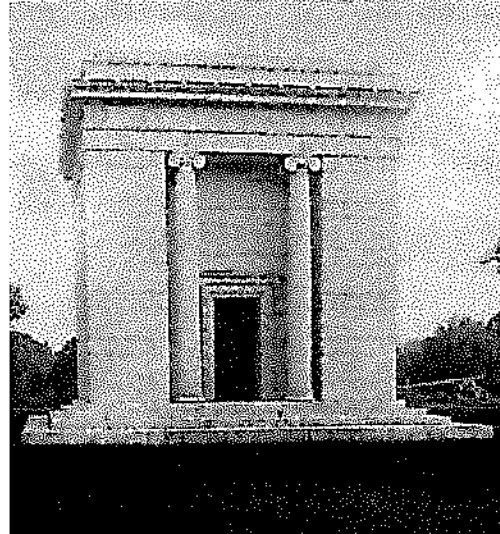


Figure 2. Woolworth mausoleum, Woodlawn Cemetery
Farrington, Gould and Hoagland, Inc. Farrington, Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated, Memorial Designers and Builders. New York, New York: Bartlet Orr Press, 1927. Avery Classics, Avery Library.

Comparatively, the Waller mausoleum design shows great restraint. The scale is relatively modest and more commonly found in Woodlawn, and is similar to the mausoleums built on adjacent lots (Figure 3). The exterior of the Waller mausoleum can almost be described as austere. The building is constructed of unpolished granite blocks and includes four small bronze vents on the side elevations. The front elevation includes a set of steps that lead to a cast bronze door depicting a woman, which is the building's most impactful decorative element. Charles's full name is engraved in the granite block above the door, and a curved pediment sits upon that block (Figure 4). This pediment is mirrored on the rear elevation. The Waller mausoleum has clean lines and smooth facades, but the thickness of the granite blocks give it weightiness and the Moderne style building conveys strength and beauty through its simplicity.



Figure 3

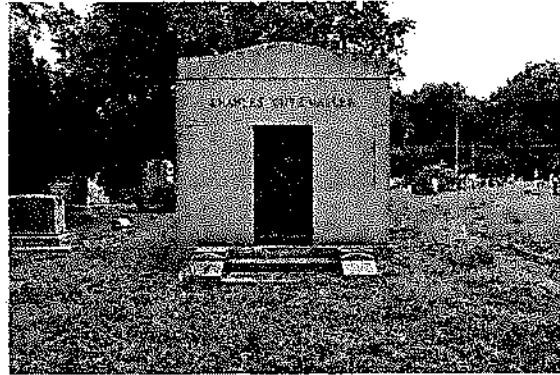


Figure 4

The interior walls and ceiling of the Waller mausoleum are covered in polished Pink Tennessee marble panels, and the floor is made of polished granite. Light enters the space through a window on the rear wall that was originally stained glass, and has since been replaced with a pane of glass that has an image of Jesus Christ printed on it (Figure 5). Three catacombs are on either side of a center aisle that runs from the door in the front to the window in the back. Two bronze rosettes are on the panel covering each of the six catacombs, and one bronze rosette on the ceiling. Farrington, Gould & Hoagland designed the ceiling rosette to cover a gap that would help air circulation. The interior materials of the mausoleum are lighter and brighter than the exterior granite, and there is space enough for two or three adults to stand comfortably inside.



Figure 5

Rose and her children continued to live in New York City for a couple of years.

Lawrence Waite Waller and Eleanor Fennessy were married in the autumn of 1929. Eleanor was

from Fenwood, Greenwich, Connecticut and her father was James H. Fennessy.¹⁹ Sometime after Charles's death and Lawrence's marriage, it appears the family relocated yet again; this time to the greater Washington, D.C. area.

Rose Anna Hutchcroft Waller died on January 9, 1963 in Easton, Maryland and is interred at Woodlawn in the family mausoleum she had built after her husband's death.²⁰ Evelyn Waite Waller died in 1980 in Easton, Maryland. Curiously, her panel in the mausoleum is engraved, "Evelyn, Beloved Wife of Henry Seagrave Carrington," indicating they may have reconciled at some point after their divorce. Carrington, however, was not interred in the Waller mausoleum. Evelyn's brother Lawrence also died in 1980, in Washington, D.C.²¹ He was interred at Woodlawn, with his parents and sister Evelyn. A year later, Lawrence's wife Eleanor was also buried in the Waller mausoleum.

¹⁹ "Greenwich Concert Season Scheduled to Open Oct. 24." New York Herald Tribune (1926-1962), Aug 18, 1929.

<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1112000667>

²⁰ Connecticut Department of Health. *Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2012*. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2003.

²¹ *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014*. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2014.

Appendix

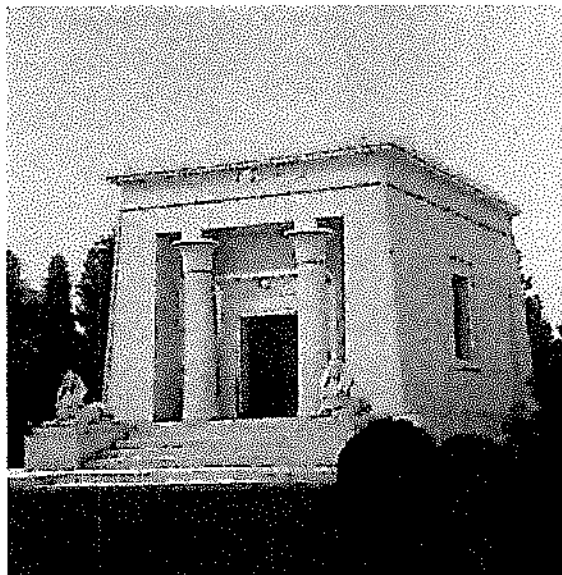


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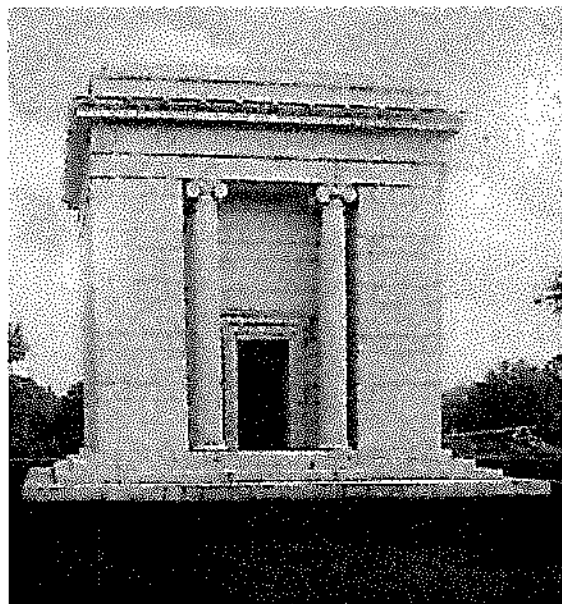


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Figure 3



Figure 4

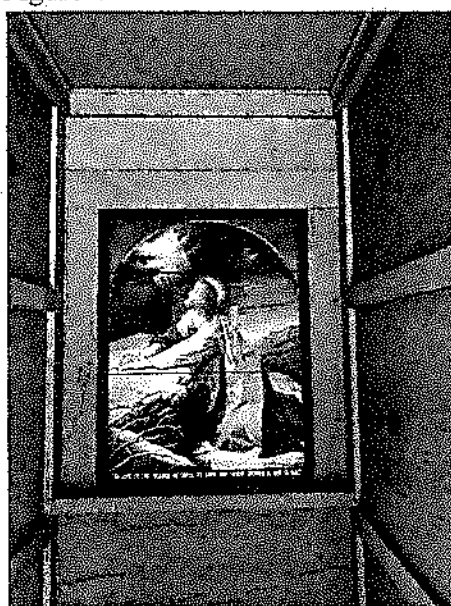


Figure 5

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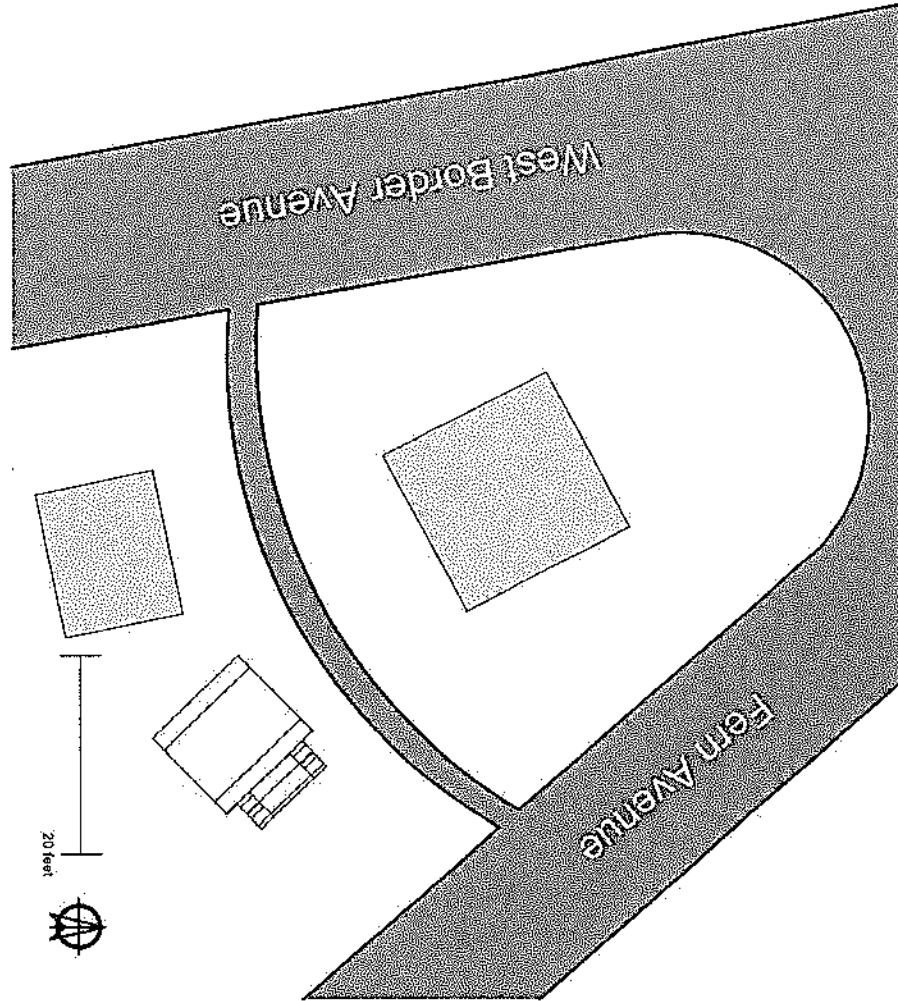
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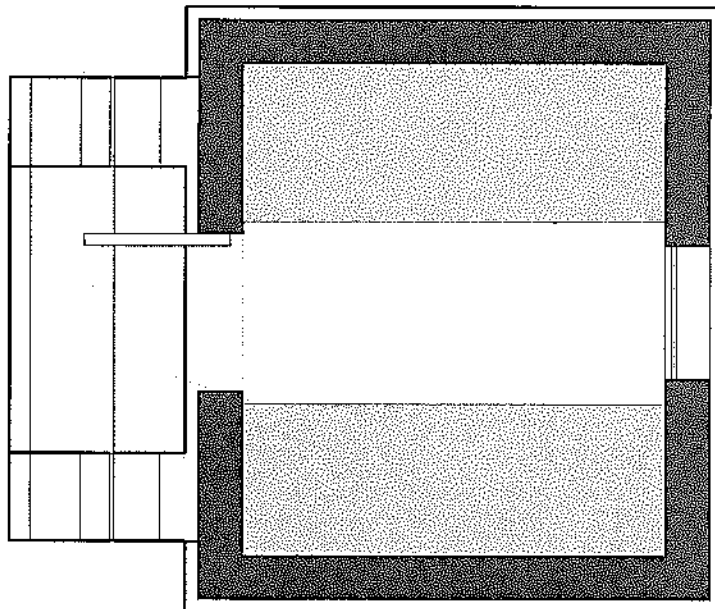
Site plan



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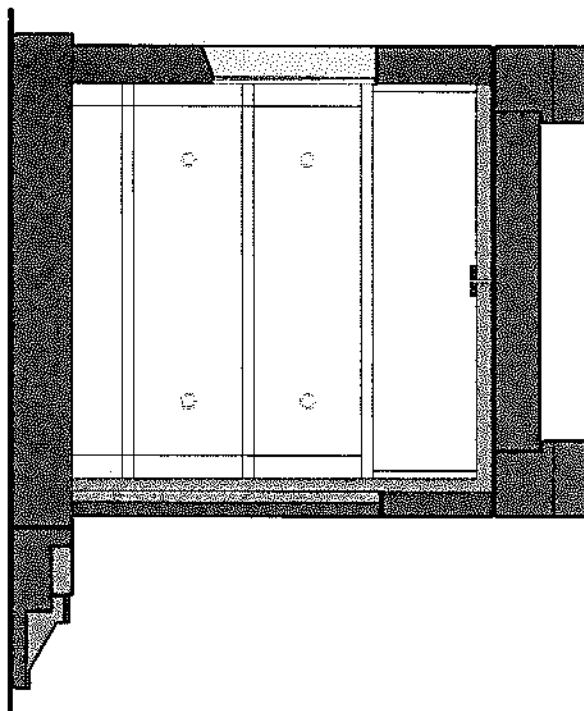
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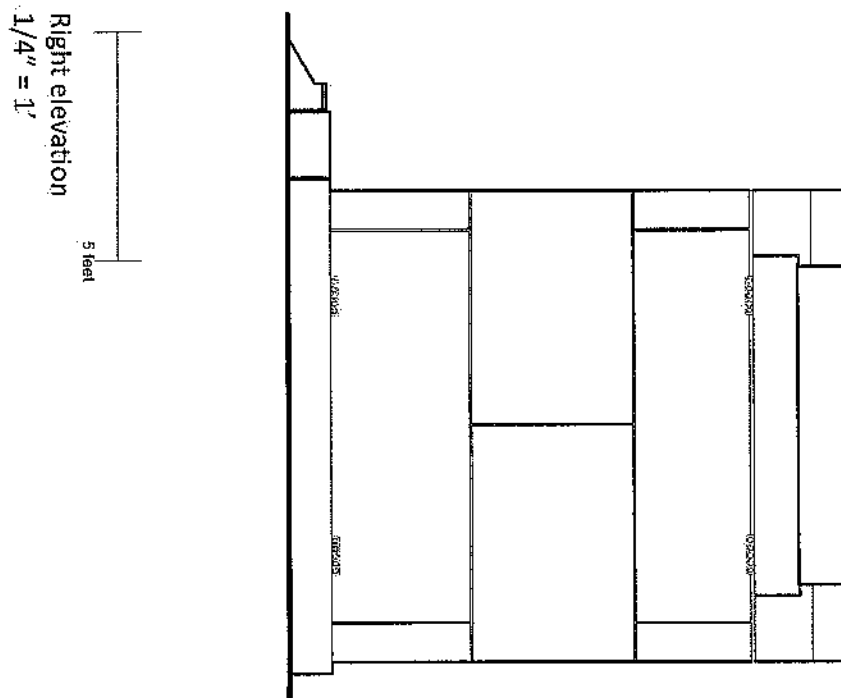
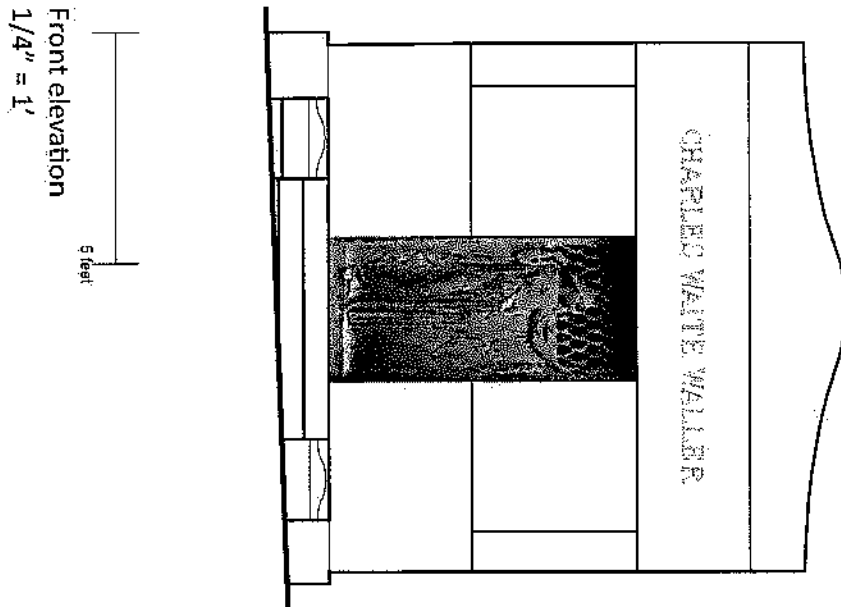


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5 feet

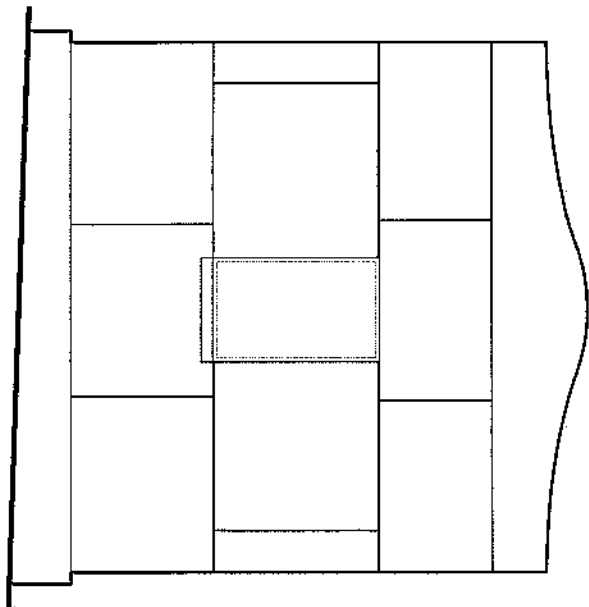


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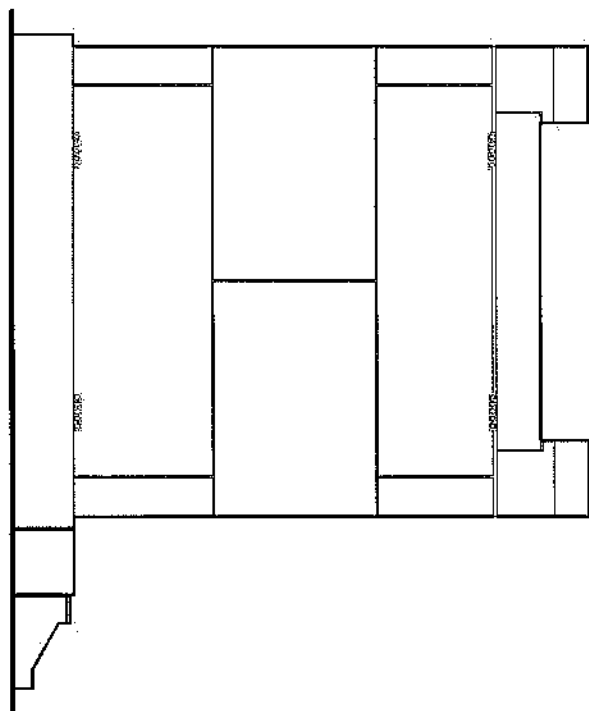
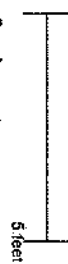


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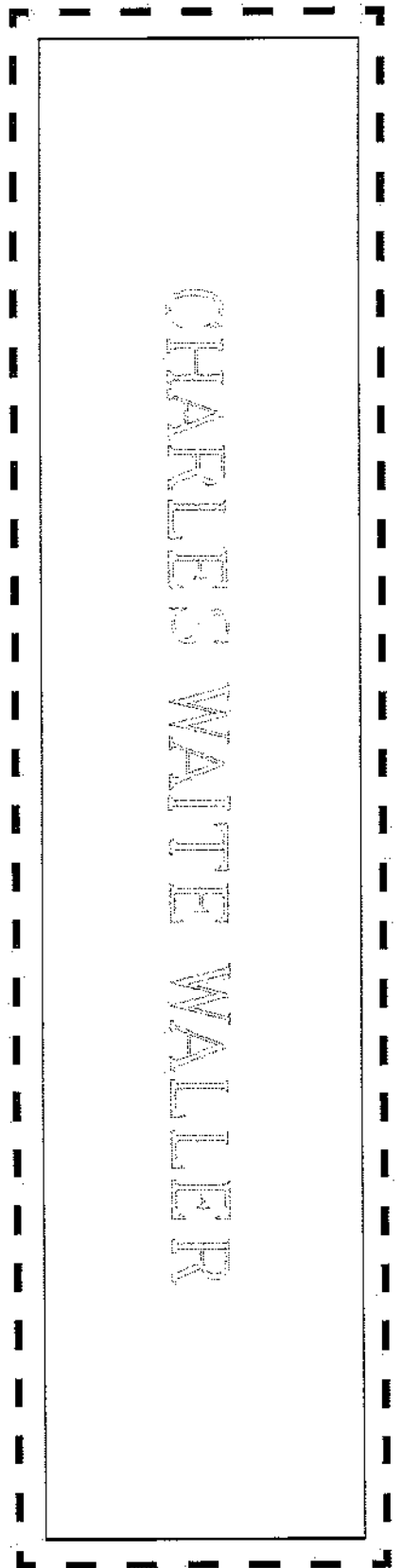
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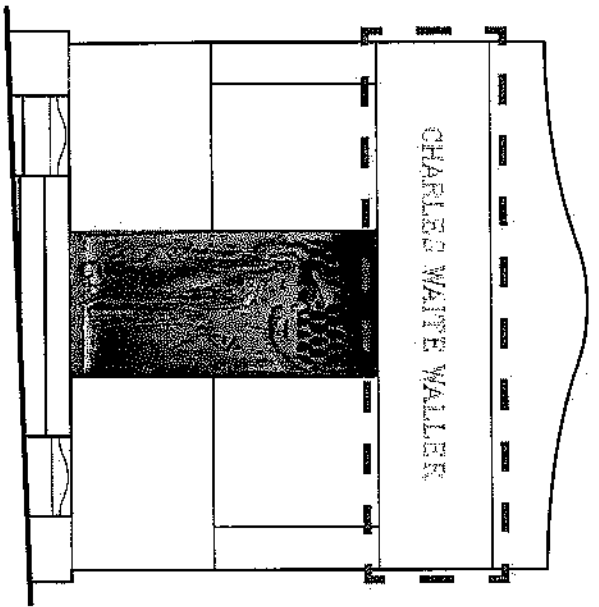
Left elevation
1/4" = 1'



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5 feet



Detail

