

JACOB DOLL MAUSOLEUM

Woodlawn Cemetery, Plot Wistaria No. 13195 Sec. 128/140



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1. About Jacob Doll and his Heirs

This mausoleum was built to commemorate Jacob Carl Friedrich Doll. He was born in Rohrbach, Sinsheim Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on November 14, 1849, and died in New York City, New York, on November 13, 1911.¹ He shares this mausoleum with some of his family members, namely his spouse Emma Doll, his daughters: Emma Koch, Elizabeth Hvass, Lillie Doll, and Elsie Doll, his sons: George Doll and Charles Doll, his grand-daughter Elsie Riehl, His son-in-law Carl Koch, and his daughter-in-law Alice Doll.² Otto Doll, his first son who ordered this mausoleum from Stone, Gould and Farrington Incorporated, for some reasons was not buried inside this building. Instead, his tomb is found in Valhalla, Westchester County, New York. Meanwhile, his spouse, Alice, was buried inside the Doll mausoleum.³ Before Jacob's death, this family residence was located in an apartment building at 309 East 118 Street, New York (figure 1).⁴

During his life, Jacob Doll was a successful piano manufacturer who owned three factories, located in Southern Boulevard 132-134th Street, East 30th Street, and one other seven-story building, as well as retail warehouses on 110 West 42nd Street, Newark, Jersey City, Pittsburgh, Pa., Braddock, Pa., East Rochester, Pa. McKeesport, Pa., and Fairmont, W. Va.⁵ The business was first started in 1871, when Jacob was twenty years old and was turned into a close corporation named Jacob Doll and Sons in 1904 when he admitted his five sons: Otto, George, Jacob, Frederick, and Charles, into the business

¹ Jacob Doll. *Historical Newspapers, Birth, Marriage, & Death Announcements, 1851-2003* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

² Doll, Heirs of Jacob, 2006, Box 5 Vol. 18, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive Major Monuments, 2006.009

³ Otto Doll. *Grave Index* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

⁴ Jacob Doll. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

⁵ "Death of Jacob Doll," *Music Trade Review Arcade Museum*, 1911, 21

partnership.⁶ After he died in 1911, he left a fortune of over two million dollars to his family. The business continued until 1931 and collapsed during The Great Depression.⁷

Jacob Doll was a very passionate person and showed great determination in his factory's development. He arrived in New York from his hometown in Baden, Germany, in 1865, at the age of 14 when he had just finished public school and started his career as an employee in a woodworking company that supplied lumber for piano manufacturers. He built his way to becoming a business owner within just six years and reached the point his company produced 15,000 pianos annually.⁶ He allowed all of his sons an opportunity to study in higher education and trained them thoroughly, not only as piano makers but also as business owners, conducting annual family meetings to discuss business matters, giving them the heavy responsibility that made them capable of carrying on the business after his death.⁵ This not only showed his resolve as a company owner but also as a father. He enjoyed seeing all his sons participate in the business enterprise and grow up as successful businessmen.

His spirit and devotion can also be seen in his working habits and schedule. He rarely took a break from his job, except in the summer, and even after he was diagnosed with a severe illness, he still spared the time to visit the factory every day until a week before his death.⁵ All of his determinations, resulting in an enviable reputation of his company that was well-known for its high-quality instruments that were continually improved to the small details.⁶

2. Architect

The building was designed and built by Stone, Gould, and Farrington Inc. Designer and Builder, which was located at 258 Broadway, New York. This company was notable for creating memorial tombs

⁶ Alfred Dolge. *Pianos and Their Makers: Development of the Piano Industry in America Since the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia* (Covina: Covina Publishing, 1876) 1913

⁷ "Antique Piano Shop," accessed October 10, 2021, <https://antiquepianoshop.com/online-museum/doll-jacob-sons/>

and mausoleums. Later, they merged with another company into Farrington, Gould, and Hoagland Incorporated, and by 1927 they had designed around 120 mausoleums and more than 500 monuments. Their work was found in many cemeteries all around New York, from Woodlawn (New York), Acacia (Queens), Mount Hope (Mount Hope), Gates of Heaven (Valhalla), Green-Wood (Brooklyn), Kensico (Valhalla), and many others.⁸

3. Building Siting

This building is located in Wistaria plot number 13195, section 128/140. From the Jerome Avenue entrance, visitors can walk through West Border Avenue, passing the Velma B. Woolworth Memorial Chapel, and turn right to Filbert Avenue at the first junction. After walking through another intersection, visitors will find a junction with Fern Avenue, where the Jacob Doll mausoleum is located. The Jacob Doll mausoleum can be found on the outer side of the Wistaria plot, across from the Silas Wright Eccles mausoleum and next to the Charles A. Bochner mausoleum (see figure 2).

Wisteria plot was configured to have bigger mausoleums on the edges and burial tombs in the middle. This makes the Jacob Doll mausoleum easily visible as the placement is precisely on the Fern Avenue roadside, facing the street, and there are almost no trees and buildings blocking it. The buildings in this area also have significant spacings, creating a more open-space configuration, making the mausoleum presence seem more prominent. A group of dense vegetation is found on the Eastside, possibly belonging to the burial tombs, but still gives a pleasant view and occasionally shelters a small part of the Jacob Doll mausoleum from the sun.

4. Exterior Design

⁸ Farrington, Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated, *Farrington Gould and Hoagland, Incorporated: Memorial Designers and Builders: Mausoleums, Monuments, Statuary* (New York: Farrington Gould & Hoagland, Inc., 1927)

Jacob Doll mausoleum is slightly bigger and taller than other mausoleums in its surroundings, with 18'-3" x 28'-10" in size and 19'-2" in height. Its exterior was fine axed bush-hammered granite, making up the flooring, wall, columns, and roof. The roof consists of three big granite stones to prevent leakage (visible in figure 3). Other than granite, the mausoleum has bronze doors (figure 7), vents, and window frames, as well as the patterned stained glass on the back of this building (figure 5).

This building was designed in a neo-Classical style, with a prominent Ionic order used on the façade. It has four columns on the front, placed and modeled in the Ionic order (see figure 3). Three levels of stairs act as a krepis (the first two levels), and stylobate (the third level) are found below the columns, which were placed all around the mausoleum and lift the main entrance to 3'-4" height. The primary column shafts were made with two granite pieces between the base and capital. The entablature contains an architrave, frieze, and pediment, following the general rules of the Ionic order.⁹ On the front part, the architrave and pediment consist of three pieces of stone, while the frieze was made only with one big cut.

The main entrance is framed with a 10" thick enframement made of three pieces of granite—two on the sides and one on top. Bronze was used as a material for the door, where it shows significant aging indicated by the green color from the copper composition (figure 8). It has a geometric molding on the top part, lion doorknobs, and egg-and-dart molding with acanthus carving on the bottom part. A casement window can be opened on the back of each door panel to provide ventilation. Most of the side walls are plain (Figures 4 and 6), one of the characteristics of the neo-Classical style, except for eight copper vents located on the bottom and top part.¹⁰ In the Northwest, stained glass with a female figure was installed, possibly portraying St. Philomena. Not much deterioration is found on the

⁹ Johann Georg Heck, *The Art of Building in Ancient and Modern Times, Or, Architecture Illustrated* (D. Appleton, 1856), 25.

¹⁰ Owen Hopkins, *Architectural Styles: A Visual Guide* (London: Laurence King Publishing Ltd., 2014)

exterior, excluding some biological growths (figure 7) on the stairs in the side and back of this building. This is possibly caused by the flat surface of the stairs that does not allow rainwater to fall and causes the formation of the puddle.

5. Interior Design

The inside part of the Jacob Doll mausoleum consisted of 20 catacombs, with ten catacombs placed on each side, stacked in five levels. The exposed surface of the catacombs was made with polished Italian marble with copper rosettes. From the archive, four underground catacombs are visible in the section drawing and possibly accessible by lifting the two pieces of polished granite floorings by unscrewing a copper rod attached to it. In the Northwest, the stained glass visible from the exterior sits above a projecting sill supported by two decorative brackets. A molded frame surrounds this tinted glass. An urn is also placed below the wall shelf.

In the center of the building's interior, deterioration is found on the floor (figure 9), possibly caused by water damage due to roof leakage, indicated by two circular discoloration. This might have been caused by the gap between two pieces of marble used on the ceiling linked only with a copper rod and ventilation hanger (figure 10).

6. Symbolism

The tinted glass on the backside of this building portrays a woman figure holding an anchor. This picture possibly depicts St. Philomena, a young virgin found in May 1802 inside the Catacomb of Pricilla, who is the saint of infants, babies, and youth.¹¹ She was killed by an emperor who forcefully wanted to marry her and survived multiple murder attempts, including drowning with an anchor attached to her.¹² Many of her figures portray her holding anchor(s) to represent her martyrdom.

¹¹ "St. Philomena," accessed October 11, 2021, https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=98

¹² "Santa Filomena di Roma Vergine e martire," accessed October 11, 2021, <http://www.santiebeati.it/dettaglio/65825>

Additionally, in Christianity, the anchor also acts as a symbol of safety and hope for all who believe, as two of Jesus's first disciplines are believed to be fishermen (Matthew 4:18).

7. Conclusion

Otto Doll commissioned this mausoleum to commemorate his father, Jacob Doll, a successful businessman who owned Jacob Doll and Sons piano. Stone, Gould, and Farrington Inc., Designer and Builder, conducted the design and construction. The mausoleum was built in Wistaria plot number 13195, section 128/140, with a neo-Classical style in the Ionic order, consisting mainly of bush-hammered granite in the exterior and polished Italian marble in the interior. It has 24 catacombs, intended for a burial monument for Jacob Doll's family members, but currently, only 11 of them are used. This building only has slight deterioration: biological growth on the exterior stairs and slight discoloration on the interior floor.



Figure 1: 309 East 118 Street in 1940 (source: 1940 tax photos)



Figure 2: Jacob Doll Mausoleum in Wistaria Plot



Figure 3: South East Elevation



Figure 4: South West Elevation



Figure 5: North West Elevation



Figure 6: North East Elevation



Figure 7: Biological growth in granite floor



Figure 8: Bronze deterioration



Figure 9: Water decay



Figure 10: Gap in the ceiling that possibly caused water leakage