

The Andrew Marré Mausoleum: Present Structure & Narrative Past



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The Andrew Marré mausoleum, named for its first interred member, peacefully stands on 10101-10104 Pine Avenue, looking across the street into the ornate expanse of Woodlawn Cemetery. Purchased by Marré's wife, Mary "Maggie" McCloud Marré in the late 19th century, this lot now acts as the final resting place for ten people: six inside the mausoleum and four in surrounding graves.¹ The Marré lot at Woodlawn tells the stories of Mary's loved ones, including her beloved Italian husband, her Scottish mother, and her fugitive brother-in-law. As biological growth encroaches on the outside stones and the marble cladding inside falls in to reveal the brick wall beneath the marble, it is clear that this mausoleum is slowly falling into disrepair. By studying the history of the mausoleum's construction, as well as the history of its namesake inhabitant, their stories can both come alive and be preserved on paper, hopefully inspiring a restoration in the future.

Construction, Materials, & Ornament

Although the construction date of the Marré mausoleum is unclear, it was built by Robert Caterson and can be found in Caterson's trade catalogs. Caterson was a highly praised monument artist who designed many mausoleums of varying levels of ornament and size across Woodlawn Cemetery and the broader United States. Caterson's office adjoined Woodlawn in the Bronx, allowing for direct access to the grounds and the plots where his customers would eventually be laid to rest.² In the September 27, 1896 edition of *The World* newspaper in New York City, the author raves about Caterson's "genius," noting that his expertise can be attributed to how "he has visited nearly all the cemeteries of the world and is thoroughly familiar with

¹ Scan of Lot No. 10101-10104, Woodlawn Cemetery Scans/Lot Scans, The Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY, FDN 95700.

² Robert Caterson Firm, *Robert Caterson : general monumental work : mausoleums, vaults, monuments, etc* (New York: Robert Caterson, 1905), 1, <https://archive.org/details/robertcatersonge00robe/page/1/mode/2up>.

monuments everywhere.”³ In addition to Caterson’s knowledge and talent, he also co-owned the Texas and New York Granite Co. from 1903 to 1926 with Thomas Darragh.⁴ Although Caterson owned the Texas quarry, he also sourced materials from New England states and other countries, such as Scotland.⁵ Because little information remains regarding the Marré mausoleum’s planning and construction, the granite of its outer elevations could have originated in the Texas quarry; however, it is more plausible that the granite originated in quarries geographically closer to Woodlawn.



ROBERT CATERSON, OPPOSITE NORTH ENTRANCE TO WOODLAWN CEMETERY. WOODLAWN.

Image of Robert Caterson’s Office⁶

Turning to a more focused discussion on materials, the Marré mausoleum is clad in honed and hewn granite on all four outer elevations. The mausoleum is an 11’x11’ square with a projecting pediment and entryway formed by two polished granite columns on the front facade.

³ “Modern Mausoleums. Some of the Stately Edifices Erected to the Memory of the Dead in Woodlawn Cemetery,” *The World*, September 21, 1896.

https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/3146249/?terms=%22robert%20caterson%22&pqid=tIPrsQtCLFywK_z37ypoog%3A278558%3A1342447532&match=1.

⁴ Susan Freeman, “Rocky Histories: Granite Mountain Chipping Away,” *Picayune Magazine*, November 5, 2019, <https://www.dailytrib.com/2019/11/05/rocky-histories-granite-mountain-chipped-away-piece-by-piece/>

⁵ Caterson Firm, *Robert Caterson : general monumental work : mausoleums, vaults, monuments, etc, 1*.

⁶ “(King1893NYC) Pg872 Robert Caterson, Opposite Northern Entrance To Woodlawn Cemetery, Woodlawn,” World Archive/Alamy Stock Photo, accessed September 28, 2023, <https://www.alamy.com/king1893nyc-pg872-robert-cateron-opposite-north-entrance-to-woodlawn-cemetery-woodlawn-image207944379.html>.

The capitals on the columns are Corinthian, and the acanthus leaves carved into the capitals are echoed in the finial that decorates the mausoleum's roof. The pediment projects from the north-facing front wall of the mausoleum, and a rosette adorns its peak. The honed granite is repeated above to form the roof of the mausoleum. The color and texture of the granite on the mausoleum matches that of the granite quarried from Morgan's Bay in Hancock, Maine; however, the use of this specific quarry cannot be confirmed to the Marré structure.⁷ Beneath the granite cladding on the exterior, there is a five-inch brick wall adjoined to a one-inch marble cladding on the interior, as depicted in drawn sections found in the Avery Library archives.⁸ No original plans or details of the mausoleum are in the Avery collection; however, two separate sections detailing alterations to the mausoleum's catacombs survive and give insight to the materiality of the mausoleum.



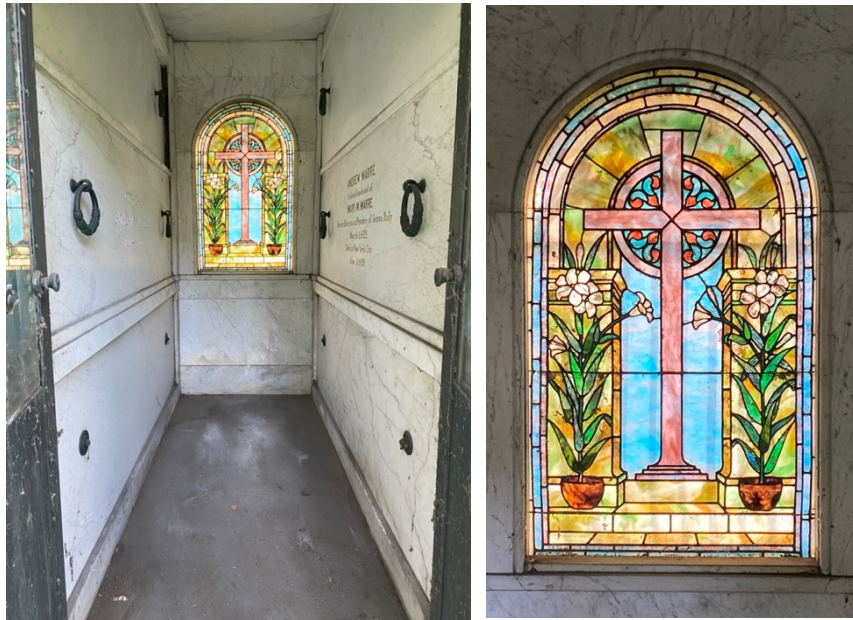
*The Andrew Marré Mausoleum*⁹

⁷ "Morgan Bay Granite," Samples at Columbia University: Avery Library, accessed September 27, 2023, <https://materialorder.org/collection/materials/material/95338188-65bd-4468-bc80>.

⁸ Mary M. Marre "Robert Caterson Company: Plans for the addition of One Catacomb," Major Monuments Folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive. Avery Architecture Library Columbia University. Box 12, Folder 4. Reference 2006.009.

⁹ Photo by Sophie Hass, September 2023

Six catacombs demarcate the left and right walls of the interior, stacked one on top of the other respectively in a symmetrical fashion with three on either side. The motif of acanthus leaves from the exterior finds its way inside as the same handles that appear on the exterior bronze double doors of are repeated on the top and center catacombs on both sides of the mausoleum's interior. The metal looks as if the leaves wrap around a circular handle. These handles are quite heavy, and their heaviness leads to a certain amount of pause as someone opens the doors to the mausoleum, creating space and time for quiet and reverence. Once inside, the bronze handles on the catacombs weigh heavy as well, implying that though they could be pulled to open the catacombs, they should remain as they are so the dead can rest. The bottom catacombs on either side have decorative bronze rosette handles with designs similar to the rosette on the mausoleum's pediment. Only two of the catacombs have inscriptions: the center catacombs containing Catherine McLoud and Andrew Marré. Their engraved names and subsequent information, including birth and death dates, are gilded.



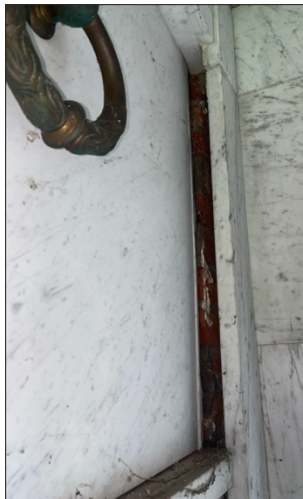
Interior of the Mausoleum and Stained-Glass inside the Mausoleum¹⁰

¹⁰ Photographs by Sophie Hass, September 2023

Looking straight to the back of the interior elevation from the double bronze doors, there is a leaded stained-glass window with opalescent glass. The window sits in the center of the marble-clad wall on a recessed sill and features a central cross and lilies on either side. Lilies are a flower rife with symbolism specifically related to peace, tranquility, and remembrance—all of which are fitting emotions in the mausoleum setting.¹¹ Moreover, the lilies in the stained glass are depicted at different stages of bloom, likely symbolizing birth, life, and death. On the exterior, a bronze grill protects the stained-glass window.

Conditions

The Andrew Marré mausoleum seems to be in good shape from a distance, but upon close inspection, certain materials and details are deteriorating. The bronze doors have begun to oxidize in an irregular, splotchy pattern, revealing the blue of the copper within the metal alloy. Biological growth of different kinds appears on the front step, stone base, and roof of the structure, encroaching to cover most of those surfaces. Both the honed and hewn granite of the mausoleum have a fair amount of soiling, especially on the roof and the honed base of the



*Falling-In Catacomb, Biological Growth, and Soiling*¹²

¹¹ Emma Dibdin, “The Poignant Symbolism of the Lily Flower,” *Town and Country Magazine*, May 18, 2022, <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/style/home-decor/a39982524/lily-flower-meaning/>.

¹² Photographs by Sophie Hass, September 2023

mausoleum that extends four inches from the hewn stones that form the first section of the mausoleum's exterior walls. On the interior, the stained-glass window is bowing outward, which may eventually result in the window breaking. The glass itself is covered in a film of biological growth as well, with thinner and thicker layers of growth on different pieces of the glass.

Most striking in terms of conditions is the falling in of the top left catacomb on the east side of the mausoleum. Containing the remains of Donald McLoud, this catacomb has shifted to the left and down, revealing the structural brick wall behind the decorative marble cladding inside the building.¹³ Though this deterioration helps demonstrate the materials of the mausoleum as there are few existing documents, the shifting of the catacomb and its weight may disrupt the structural integrity of the mausoleum and lead to more damage later as the pressure of the catacomb pushes against the walls and catacomb beneath.

Andrew Marré's Life

Along with Andrew Marré, nine other people are interred at the plot on Pine Avenue: Catherine McLoud, Donald McLoud, Herbert T. Irvine, Harry H. McLoud, Marry M. Marré, Catherine McLoud Irvine, Herbert Berkely Irvine, Margt. Jean Wilson, and George Wilson.¹⁴ These individuals are all related to Mary Marré either through blood or through marriage. Although these individuals' lives were significant and interesting for a number of reasons, including the story of a mining-broker turned wanted fugitive, there is only space here to discuss the complicated life of Andrew Marré.¹⁵ As indicated in the inscription on his catacomb, Marré

¹³ Scan of Lot No. 10101-10104, Woodlawn Cemetery Scans/Lot Scans.

¹⁴ Scan of Lot No. 10101-10104, Woodlawn Cemetery Scans/Lot Scans.

¹⁵ "Herbert Irvine, Mining Broker, Taken By Death. Fugitive From Justice Passes Away at Mexico City From Operation," *Spokane Chronicle*, May 24, 1920, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/562254144/?terms=%22herbert%20t%20irvine%22&pqsid=w2KfqAshq0Axjvxkiwk47A%3A14962%3A651738862&match=1>

was born in Italy on March 1, 1829. Other than this inscription, few documents tie Marré to Italy. In Elmore County Alabama's 1867 voter registration records, Marré is noted as hailing from Italy yet being naturalized into the United States in 1851 in Richmond, Virginia.¹⁶ The only available naturalization documents for Marré are from 1874 in New York City. In the Index to Petitions for Naturalization filed in New York City, Marré indicates his former nationality as "King of Italy" on October 22, 1874.¹⁷ Based on this information, Marré potentially came to the United States, entering somewhere around Virginia before moving to Alabama and potentially re-documenting his naturalization in New York City. Though he is buried in New York, much of Marré's life and prominence is in Alabama.

The first existing archive documenting Marré in the United States is an 1858 legal document in Alabama entitled "Pardon of Andrew Marre from Andrew B. Moore; May 8, 1858." Marré was initially held by a court of law for participating in gambling but was eventually pardoned for the crime in Coosa County, Alabama.¹⁸ After the gambling incident, the next time Marré appears in the historical record is as a private in the Confederate army fighting in the 1st Battalion Alabama Artillery, Company E.¹⁹ No other information is available related to his service in the Civil War, yet Marré is addressed as "Major Andrew Marre" in many later

¹⁶ *Book recording voters registered in Elmore County, Alabama, in 1867 and 1868 Volume 2* (Elmore County, Alabama, June 1867-January 1868), 11, <https://digital.archives.alabama.gov/digital/collection/voter1867/id/1645>.

¹⁷ *Soundex Index to Petitions For Naturalizations Filed in Federal, State, and Local Courts in New York City, 1792-1906 (M1674)*, The National Archives in Washington, DC, Microfilm Serial: M1674; Microfilm Roll: 182.

https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/6462674:1629?tid=&pid=&queryId=f39d6e4a3f5d5e70f35e11d8ee89b500&_phsrc=UVQ20&_phstart=successSource.

¹⁸ "Pardon of Andrew Marre from Andrew B. Moore; May 8, 1858," Alabama Department of Archives and History Governor A. B. Moore Collection, Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Alabama, <https://adhc.lib.ua.edu/cwrga/s/home/item/105>.

¹⁹ *U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 (Database Online)*. National Park Service. Provo, UT, USA. Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/2491361:1138?tid=&pid=&queryId=e1fd0bcdde8eac67ae83b04c569f1b7&_phsrc=UVQ23&_phstart=successSource.

newspapers, implying that he increased his rank from a private to a major during the war.²⁰ Following his Confederate service, Marré is praised in many Alabama history books as the first settler of Birmingham, Alabama.²¹ More specifically, the Alabama News Center claims that Marré, despite his absence from recognition in contemporary Birmingham, was “Birmingham’s First Settler.”²² As a member of the Experimental Coke Company, which specialized in a specific type of iron, Marré is credited with helping in the conception of Birmingham as it eventually became a major hub for iron and other minerals.²³ What is peculiar, though, is all of the accounts that describe how Andrew Marré bought the first lot of land in Birmingham from the Elyton Land Company note that he came from New Orleans, Louisiana.²⁴ No records, at least digitized or online-referenced records, exist that point to Marré spending time in New Orleans before or after the Civil War. Moreover, none of the books that document how Marré was the first buyer and therefore first settler in Birmingham have any kind of footnote or reference to where the information came from that ties Marré to New Orleans. Despite this gap in information, Marré spent his life making quite a name for himself in Birmingham. In 1874, he was elected to the municipal government as an alderman.²⁵ Four years later, Marré also helped

²⁰ “We are Authorized to Announce...” *Birmingham Iron Age*, May 25, 1876, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/356200027/?terms=%22major%20andrew%20marre%22&pqid=UW1O7fK1wrzkRraqrQVreg%3A3498536%3A1592252030&match=1>.

²¹ Lyn Wilkerson. *Slow Travels-Alabama* (Alabama: Lulu Press Incorporated, 2010), 39, https://www.google.com/books/edition/Slow_Travels_Alabama/EWNnAgAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0.

²² Bob Blalock, “Birmingham birthed from ‘weeds and briars’ 150 years ago today,” *Alabama News Center*, June 1, 2021, <https://www.alabamanevcenter.com/2021/06/01/birmingham-birthed-from-weeds-and-briars-150-years-ago-today/>.

²³ “Mineral Wealth of the District,” *The Birmingham News*, July 15, 1911, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/606174394/?terms=%22andrew%20marre%22&pqid=W66mqiYtolYVuhUVXaLeSA%3A16023%3A483229176&match=1>.

²⁴ Federal Writers’ Project, *Alabama: A Guide to the Deep South* (Alabama: Best Books on, 1941), 168. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Alabama_a_Guide_to_the_Deep_South/FqoikVyYs4wC?hl=en&gbpv=0.

²⁵ “Municipal Election,” *Birmingham Iron Age*, December 10, 1874, https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/356196604/?terms=%22andrew%20marre%22&pqid=RCB9_lm5lmp3ndkk8PyPeQ%3A85554%3A1727475665&match=1.

found the Birmingham lodge of Freemasons.²⁶ In addition to social actives, Marré was involved in many business ventures and had a growing fortune in the city; beyond initially being part of the iron industry, Marré co-owed a general store, invested in property, rented major retail spaces, and was a member of the board of directors for an insurance company.²⁷

Along with Marré's aforementioned naturalization documentation from 1874 in New York City, a May 1876 edition of the Birmingham Iron Age newspaper reported that he would spend his summer in New York City, establishing his connection to northern states, as opposed to his deep history in Alabama and unclear connection to Louisiana.²⁸ In 1877, amidst Marré's great successes in Birmingham and travels to New York, multiple newspapers reported his marriage to Mary "Maggie" McCloud. First, the Bryan Press in Bryan, Ohio reported on May 3, 1877 that Andrew Marre and Mary M. McCloud received a marriage license.²⁹ In a similar fashion, Mary's name appears eight days later in the Times-Argus newspaper in Selma, Alabama, announcing her Ohio wedding to Andrew.³⁰ It is unclear as to how Marré met his wife. Yet, Mary's family appears in the 1870 census in Ohio, which makes sense as to why the two married there.³¹ Other than census records, Mary's name only appears in the historical record in newspaper articles in which she is associated with her husband. Despite the wedding in Ohio and

²⁶ Bob Blalock, "Birmingham birthed from 'weeds and briars' 150 years ago today,"

²⁷ Bob Blalock, "Birmingham birthed from 'weeds and briars' 150 years ago today."

²⁸ "We are Authorized to Announce..." *Birmingham Iron Age*.

²⁹ "Leave to Love," *Bryan Press*, May 3, 1877,

https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/987897759/?terms=%22andrew%20marre%22&pqsid=RCB9_lm5lmp3ndkk8PyPeQ%3A85554%3A1727475665&match=1.

³⁰ "Married in Alabama," *The Times-Argus*, May 3, 1877,

https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/571398914/?terms=%22andrew%20marre%22&pqsid=RCB9_lm5lmp3ndkk8PyPeQ%3A85554%3A1727475665&match=1.

³¹ 1870 United States Federal Census, Cleveland Ward 15, Cuyahoga, Ohio; *Roll*: M593_1192; *Page*: 224A,

https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/38206873:7163?tid=&pid=&queryId=f73389cda28d56ace102f57d3490ae41&_phsrc=UVQ89&_phstart=successSource.

summer trips to New York City, Marré continues to appear in Birmingham city directories until 1897.³² In the same years, his name does not appear in New York City directories.³³

The potentially last available record of Marré, other than the Birmingham city directories, is the purchase of his home at 565 West 185th Street in Manhattan. The *1895 Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* remarks that the “three-story brick dwelling” was sold to “A. Marie for \$17,000” in 1895.³⁴ Although the record says “Marie” and not “Marré,” it is quite feasible that this record relates to Andrew Marré because, four years later, he passes away at this address, as noted in Woodlawn’s information on Marré’s last residence.³⁵ Twenty-six years later, Marré’s widowed wife died at the same address. Interestingly, in 1948, the Marrés’ previous home and last residence was falling into disrepair. *The New York Times* reported that 565 West 185th Street was “abandoned” and “boarded up.” When a woman went into the property to feed stray animals, a “400-pound flagstone slab” collapsed and crushed the woman to death.³⁶ The tragic and dramatic death of this woman, in a way, closes a chapter on Andrew Marré’s story. As he is safely tucked away in a serene, marble-clad mausoleum, the remnants of his life in New York City collapsed in the 1940s.

By studying the materiality and conditions of the Marré mausoleum, alongside Andrew Marré’s intriguing life story, it is apparent that Andrew Marré and his wife Mary were a wealthy

³² *Birmingham, Alabama, City Directory, 1897. U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995*, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 201,. https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/991851915:2469?tid=&pid=&queryId=e1fd0bcddde8eac67ae83b04c569f1b7&_phsrc=UVQ23&_phst=art=successSource.

³³ Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, The New York Public Library, “New York City directory” New York Public Library Digital Collections. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/cad3d9e0-79d4-0134-130c-00505686a51c>.

³⁴ *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide Volume 56*, 1895 page 186. Digitized by Princeton University in 2010. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Real_Estate_Record_and_Builders_Guide/XJ9RAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0.

³⁵ Scan of Lot No. 10101-10104, Woodlawn Cemetery Scans/Lot Scans.

³⁶ “Woman Dies As Stone In Old House Falls,” *New York Times*, June 19, 1948.

couple that fared well both in Alabama and New York City. Though their mausoleum may be considered modest compared to the towering domes of its neighbors at Woodlawn, the lives of the people within it are just as important and worthy of storytelling as those that inhabit the other mausoleums. Furthermore, as the stones of the exterior soil, the stained glass bows out, and a catacomb falls out of place, the mausoleum's current conditions shed light on the Marré's future. Beyond this place being capable of preservation through storytelling, it may inspire a more hands-on preservation approach to keep the mausoleum in good condition—both so its inhabitants may rest peacefully for eternity and so people can continue to learn the stories of those within.

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