

Jay G. Wilbraham Mausoleum:
Biographical Research and Mausoleum Conditions

The Jay G. Wilbraham mausoleum is located at Woodlawn Cemetery within the Butternut lot, in New York City. The plot was purchased by Jay Goheen Wilbraham and construction on the mausoleum commenced in 1920. The structure houses a total of eight of his immediate and extended family members, depicting their lineage from 1830 through to 1988. This paper will follow the recorded census history of the Wilbraham family-direct and their family-by-marriage using the head of the household as the focus of the research. This paper will examine the family's history and movements, the design elements, material choices and quality, and the current conditions of the structure including material degradation.

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Studio 1
Woodlawn Cemetery
Jay G. Wilbraham Mausoleum

The earliest records found of the Wilbraham family appear in the 1880s through census data collected in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.¹ Of the eight members laid to rest in the mausoleum, these records show the Wilbraham family in its entirety: the father, John Jones Wilbraham; mother, Sarah Elizabeth Goheen Wilbraham; eldest daughter, May Wilbraham; middle child, Juliette Wilbraham, and youngest, Jay Goheen Wilbraham. (See Appendix: Figure 1)

Prior to 1880 both Sarah and John lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as early as the 1860's as a married couple without children.² Listed later in the 1870s, John's occupation was recorded as a liquor dealer³, and later in the 1880s was listed as a photographer.¹ Being the first to pass away in 1897 at the age of sixty-seven, John Jones Wilbraham was originally laid to rest in Mount Peace Cemetery (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).⁴

The son of Sarah and John- Jay Goheen Wilbraham, is followed through census data over the years from 1900 onwards, which indicate that he married a woman Named Jennie from Canada⁵ and remained married to her up until his death in 1929. Between 1915 and 1917, Jennie and Jay moved to New York City, and Jay was recorded to hold the position of Hotel Proprietor. His first recorded occupation in New York City was found to be Hotel Imperial, with data supporting this from 1917.⁶ Jay's longest occupational data found is that of his time as the proprietor of the Broadway Central Hotel, often listed as the Bway Central located on Broadway at 3rd Street, supported by data found from the years from 1917 to 1923.⁷ Jay seems to have been the Managing Director of several hotels in the city, and was known for writing classified's in local papers such as The New York Herald or Tribune as it was later known, as a form of marketing. Classified's found mentioning Jay G. Wilbraham's name included hotels such as the Wyndham (W 58th Street, near 5th Avenue), the Navarro (112 Central Park South at 6th Avenue (See Appendix: Figures 2&3) , The Broadway Central (See Appendix: Figure 4), and the Gladstone (E 52nd Street at Park Avenue). (See Appendix: Figure 5) This work led to his reputation of being

1 1880; Census Place: Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1167; Page: 335B; Enumeration District: 022

2 1860; Census Place: Fairfax, Culpeper, Virginia; Page: 786

3 1870; Census Place: Philadelphia Ward 6 District 17, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1391; Page: 148AB

4 Woodlawn Cemetery, Wilbraham Mausoleum Interment Records. 2021. Access by Susan Olsen.

5 New York State Archives; Albany, New York; State Population Census Schedules, 1915; Election District: 20; Assembly District: 15; City: New York; County: New York; Page: 35

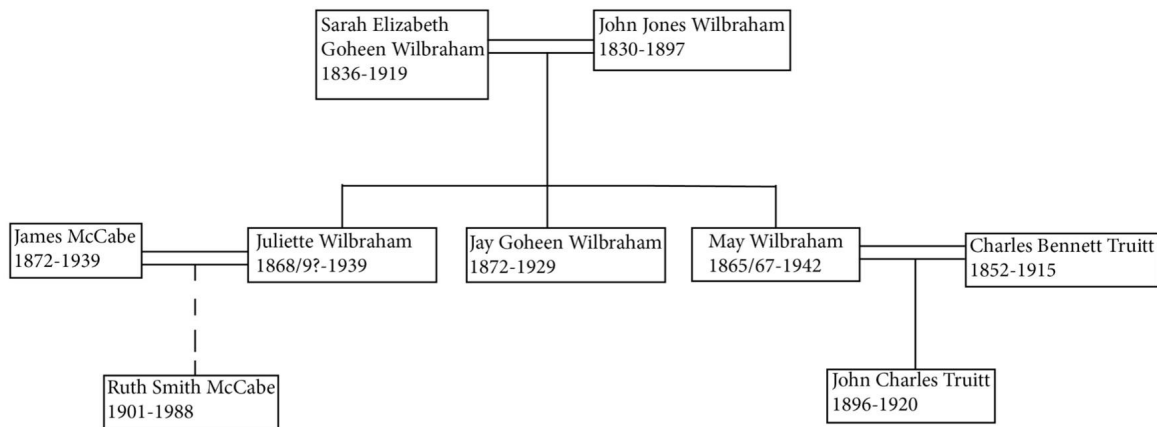
6 "Sues Woman for \$350,000." *New York Times* (1857-1922), Jan 25, 1917.

7 "Kramer Gets Old Broadway Central Hotel: Deal for Hostelry Arranged by Cable Marks the First Sale of Real Estate Owned by Higgins Family." *New - York Tribune* (1923-1924), Jan 27, 1923.

known as *The Father of Modern Hotel Advertising*.⁸ The Gladstone is one of the last hotels on record which Jay G. Wilbraham works for, and he is listed as the President of the Hotel in an advertisement from 1924.⁹ Wilbraham was interred into the family mausoleum in 1929 after committing suicide in a hotel room due to suspected financial worry.¹⁰ His Wife Jennie wrote an obituary in the Herald Tribune¹¹, however is not interred with the family.

Wilbraham's two siblings, May Wilbraham and Juliette Wilbraham both left Pennsylvania. May Wilbraham married Charles Bennett Truitt in 1892¹², who was a Hotel Keeper. Together they moved to New Jersey and had one child, John Charles Truitt who died at the age of twenty four.⁴ The Wilbrahams youngest daughter, Juliette Wilbraham married James McCabe in 1898 and moved to Brooklyn, New York.¹³ They had one child, Ruth Smith McCabe, who lived to the age of eighty seven years.⁴ Below (Figure 6) depicts the familial connections, both family-direct and family-by-marriage, explaining how the Truitt's and McCabe's came to lie in the Jay G. Wilbraham Mausoleum. See Appendix Figure 7 for the final resting places of each of the eight members.

Figure 6:



8 "Jay Wilbraham, Ex-Hotel Owner, Takes Own Life: 'Father of Advertising' for Hostelrys a Suicide After Suffering Financial Losses." *New York Herald Tribune* (1926-1962), Jun 06, 1929.

9 "Display Ad 28 -- no Title." *New York Herald Tribune* (1926-1962), Sep 11, 1927.

10 "Ends Life by Shot at The Baltimore: J.G. Wilbraham, Former Hotel Man, Tells Bellboy to Call at Room, Then Fires Gun. Morose on Stock Losses Operator of the Broadway Central for Seven Years Despondent on Tuesday, Says Physician." *New York Times* (1923-), Jun 06, 1929.

11 "Deaths (2)." *New York Herald Tribune* (1926-1962), Jun 07, 1929.

12 *New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Records, 1670-1965* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

13 *U.S., Marriage Records, 17/ Oct/ 1898; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA*

4 Woodlawn Cemetery, *Wilbraham Mausoleum Interment Records*. 2021. Access by Susan Olsen.

In 1919, Wilbraham's mother, Sarah Elizabeth Goheen Wibraham, who still lived in Philadelphia at the time, passed away at the age of 83.⁴ She, like his father, was laid to rest at Mount Peace Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Due to the proximity of his mothers' passing, and the date of purchase of the lot in Woodlawn Cemetery, it could be inferred that the passing of his last remaining parent pushed Jay G. Wilbraham to purchase the lot, and begin construction on a family resting place.

The Mausoleum was constructed by the Tayntor Granite Company and was completed in under a year.¹⁴ Typical of Tayntor Granite Company, the Wilbraham Mausoleum was completed "...in first class condition, inside and outside", through the use of fine materials, such as fine grained, light grey, Mount Airy granite from North Carolina.¹⁴ Due to the granular structure of the stone, and the evidence of discolouration, I find this to be accurate. The details for stone finish were quite simple, with smoother finishes on the facades below the tabature down to the water table and rougher finishes for the roof structure. The ornamentation was particularly noticeable. While simple in its finish, the Tayntor Granite Company incorporated a dome, Acanthus leaf carvings at the corners and center of the north elevation, Doric pilasters, Corinthian columns, and stone urns- all framing and giving depth to the entrance. (See Appendix: Figure 8) The door frame and door detailing are suspected to be of bronze (copper containing) metal with a fixed pane of glass behind. The suspected bronze doors allow for cleaning through a hinge system, allowing for the panels to rotate away from the glass however the doors seem to not be regularly looked after, resulting in an uneven patina forming on the metal of the doors and dirt collection between the glass and suspected bronze. The detailing of the doors consists of a border of Greek Keys, with simplified scrolls and the intertwined initials of Jay G. Wilbraham centered on each door.

The interior of the mausoleum is in good condition, finished in what is speculated as rose light pink Tennessee 'marble' with a noted consideration for the grain of the cut by the Tayntor Granite Company.¹⁴ The interior of the catacombs are noted on the original drawings to be Pennsylvania ribbon slate which I was unable to confirm or examine, however it seems accurate to the time and method of construction. Centered on the south elevation is a stained-glass

⁴ Woodlawn Cemetery, *Wilbraham Mausoleum Interment Records*. 2021. Access by Susan Olsen.

¹⁴ Tayntor Granite Co. Inc. "Speculations for the Manufacture and Completion of a Mausoleum to be Erected in Woodlawn Cemetery by Tayntor Granite Co. Inc. for Jay G. Wilbraham." 1920. *Avery Archives and Drawings*. Page 1-8.

window, which seems to have gone through a few repairs, as there are painted-on portions, and portions which seem to be fixed in a plastic based material as opposed to glass and lead. (See Appendix: Figure 9&10) On the stained-glass window is an inscription: “The Rose Still Grows Beyond The Wall”, which is pulled from a framed poem entitled *The Rose Beyond the Wall*, left to Sarah Elizabeth Goheen by her daughter, Juliette Wilbraham McCabe. (See Appendix: Reference 11)

I find there is symmetry in this poem, and the mythology of Corinthian columns which were used on the front facade to hold up the entablature. Vitruvius once wrote that the Corinthian column came about after the death of a maiden on Corinth. After she passed, her nurse collected items which gave the maiden pleasure while she was alive and placed them in a basket with a tile so they would last longer in the open air. This basket happened to be placed right about the root of an acanthus tree, and when the tree started growing, the basket lifted and splayed the contents against the roof, creating the Corinthian column essence.¹⁵ This notion of growth is echoed in the poem through versus two and three, (See Appendix: Reference 11) along with the imagery of the stained-glass window. (See Appendix: Figure 9)

The material degradation of the mausoleum is quite minimal. (See Appendix: Figures 12, 13, 14&15) Having been exposed to the elements for over one hundred years, it shows very little signs of decay. On my first visit, there were many spiderwebs, along with a pile of dirt directly below the bronze grille and fine bronze screen of the ventilation system in the ceiling. This could be due to the ventilation voids above the entablature and below the dome's base.

Surrounding the mausoleum are two large coniferous trees, reaching approximately three and a half times the height of the mausoleum Due to this shade covering, there are various forms of biological growth, forming on the exterior which thrive in damp, shadowed places. Along the edges of the dome and the Frieze, the surface shows signs of soiling. On the underside of the architrave there seems to be signs of the early stages of lichen, ranging from the colours of bright to dark green. Along the length of the Corinthian columns there is substantially more biological growth, in the form of late stage lichen, protruding from the columns. It seems that due to the architrave there is little to no water which reaches the north elevation. This lack of exposure

¹⁵ Vitruvius 1960, 104-106 [book iv, chapter ix-x]. Jacobs, Jane & Cairns, Stephen. *Buildings Must Die: a Perverse View of Architecture*. 2014. Page 27.

allows for substantial early and late stage lichen at the base of the wall. In the interior, there is no water leakage, nor signs of cracking or exposure. Overall the mausoleum is in great condition for its age.

Appendix:

Figure 1:

13. [7-2106.]

Page No. 18. Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.
 Supervisor's Dist. No. 1 Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
 Enumeration Dist. No. 22 Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.






SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Philadelphia, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Penna.
 enumerated by me on the 5th day of June, 1880. A. S. Wilson

No. in Family	Name	Sex	Age	Personal Description	Relationship to Head of Family	Profession, Occupation or Trade of each person, male or female	Health										Education		Nativity		
							10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Egan Kate	w	38		daughter	at school													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
2	" Martin	w	36		son	at school													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
3	" Edward	w	4		son	at home													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
4	" John	w	2		son	at home													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
5	" Mary	w	2 1/2		both daughter	at home													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
6	161 298 Jerome	l	22	10	brother	at school													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
7	161 298 Egan Mary	w	34	14	daughter	at home													Penna.	Ireland	Ireland
8	1405 162 298 M. E. Brown	w	36	36	daughter	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
9	" Ann	w	30	30	wife	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
10	" John	w	12	12	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
11	" William	w	17	17	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
12	" Peter	w	21	21	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
13	1405 165 246 John	w	31	31	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
14	" Ellen	w	26	26	wife	at home													Scotland	Ireland	Scotland
15	" William	w	8	8	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Scotland
16	" John	w	15	15	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Scotland
17	" Robert	w	2	2	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Scotland
18	163 247 Robert	l	18	18	brother	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Scotland
19	1407 164 248 Robert	w	45	45	wife	at home													England	England	England
20	" Maria	w	45	45	wife	at home													Virginia	Penna.	Virginia
21	" William	w	18	18	son	at home													Virginia	England	Virginia
22	" Madeline	w	10	10	daughter	at school													Virginia	England	Virginia
23	" Joseph	w	13	13	daughter	at school													Virginia	England	Virginia
24	" Albert	w	8	8	son	at school													Virginia	England	Virginia
25	1407 165 249 Hyatt	w	61	61	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
26	" Joseph	w	26	26	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
27	" Edward	w	13	13	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
28	" John	w	21	21	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
29	165 250 Mary	w	63	63	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
30	171 166 251 William	w	47	47	brother	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
31	" Frank	w	45	45	wife	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
32	" Mary	w	16	16	daughter	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
33	" Elizabeth	w	12	12	daughter	at school													Wash D. C.	Penna.	Penna.
34	" John	w	6	6	son	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
35	170 167 252 William	w	42	42	brother	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
36	" Ann	w	42	42	wife	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
37	" Harry	w	15	15	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
38	" Ada	w	7	7	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
39	" Richard	w	16	16	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
40	" Adeline	w	4	4	daughter	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
41	" Edward	w	3	3	son	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
42	147 253 Susan	w	23	23	daughter	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
43	" Amanda	w	20	20	wife	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
44	171 168 254 Taylor	w	36	36	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
45	" Anne	w	2	2	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
46	168 255 Susan	w	32	32	daughter	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
47	" Jacob	w	30	30	brother	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
48	168 256 Robert	w	14	14	brother	at home													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
49	171 169 257 Susan	w	15	15	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.
50	" Kate	w	21	21	daughter	at school													Penna.	Penna.	Penna.

NOTE D.—In making entries in columns 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 to 21, an affirmative mark only will be used—check, except in the case of divorced persons, column 11, when the letter "D" is to be used.
 NOTE E.—Question No. 12 will only be asked in cases where an affirmative answer has been given either in question 10 or to question 11.
 NOTE F.—Question No. 14 will only be asked in cases where a partial occupation has been reported in column 13.
 NOTE G.—In column 7 an abbreviation in the name of the month may be used, as Jan., Apr., Dec.

Census showing the Wilbraham family in full as of 1880.

Figure 2:

<p>21 East 87th St. Corner of Madison Ave.</p>	<p><i>The</i> Wyndham 58th St. West, near 5th Ave.</p>	<p><i>The</i> Navarro 112 Central Park South at 6th Ave.</p>	<p>28 East 70th St. Corner of Madison Ave.</p>	<p>65 Central Park West Corner of 66th St.</p>
				
<p>Apartment House <i>On the Peak of Carnegie Hill Overlooking Fifth Avenue and Central Park</i></p>	<p>New Apartment Hotel NOW OPEN <i>In Mid-town Location</i></p>	<p>25 Story Apartment Hotel <i>Unobstructed View of Central Park</i></p>	<p>15 Story Apartment Hotel <i>Located in a Smart Residential Section of the City</i></p>	<p>Apartment House <i>On Central Park and the Promised Beautiful Boulevard</i></p>
<p><i>An entire block front. 6-7-8-9 rooms. Living rooms 28 x 16 feet. Fireplaces. Also roof suites. October 1st occupancy. Apartments to meet every requirement. Rentals from \$3500. An inspection will convince the most exacting, and those who demand the best.</i></p>	<p><i>Inspection invited — unfurnished or furnished apartments of one room — and more. Serving pantries with central refrigeration — spacious rooms and closets. Delightfully arranged. A few furnished suites now renting for 6 and 8 months.</i></p>	<p><i>Convenient for all purposes. Occupancy October 1st. 1-2-3 or more rooms. Tiled serving pantries with central refrigeration. Individual terraces and sun parlors. Hotel service included in rentals.</i></p>	<p><i>Ready for October 1st. A personal inspection of the bright sunny rooms, the arrangement and moderate rentals will insure an early decision. One to four rooms. Serving pantry in every apartment.</i></p>	<p><i>Facing South and East conveniently located for all purposes. October 1st occupancy. Flooded with sunlight and fresh air — a beautiful park view and the apartments grouped to please the most fastidious. 3 to 6 rooms, 2 and 3 baths. Roof suites 1-2-3 rooms. No detail or appurtenance is missing to make this an ideal home.</i></p>
<p><i>Renting Agents on Premises</i> Douglas L. Elliman & Co 15 East 49th St. Plaza 9200</p>	<p><i>Desirable Pent House to Lease</i> RESTAURANT <i>Moderate Rentals Include Full Hotel Service</i> Jay G. Wilbraham Managing Director</p>	<p><i>Unfurnished or Furnished</i> RESTAURANT Jay G. Wilbraham Managing Director <i>Renting Agent on Premises, or</i> Brown, Wheelock Harris, Vought & Co., Inc. 20 East 48th St. Van. 0031</p>	<p>RESTAURANT <i>Renting Agent on Premises, or</i> Sutton, Blagden & Lynch, Inc. 631 Park Ave., Rhineland 2600</p>	<p><i>Renting Agent on Premises</i> L. J. Phillips & Co. 148 W. 72nd St., Tra. 9300</p>

Advertising campaigns for the Wyndham and Navarro hotels by Jay G. Wilbraham, noted as “Managing Director”.

Figure 3:

IN THE MID-TOWN SECTION
*Offering Every Detail of Ap-
pointment and Refinement
to be found in the New
Apartment Hotels*

The WYNDHAM
58th St. West, near 5th Ave.
NOW OPEN

Occupancy now with room
rentals starting October 1st
Pent House To Lease

The NAVARRO
112 Central Park South, at 6th Av.
September Occupancy
25 stories unobstructed
panorama view of Central
Park and upper 5th Ave.

*Unfurnished or Furnished
Restaurants Ownership
Management*

*Moderate rentals include hotel
service, serving pantries,
central refrigeration*

Jay G. Wilbraham, Man. Dir.

Advertising campaigns for the Wyndham and Navarro hotels by Jay G. Wilbraham, noted as "Managing Director".

Figure 4:

**LOWEST HOTEL RATES IN NEW YORK
ACCOMMODATIONS BETTER
THAN RATES INDICATE**

BROADWAY CENTRAL HOTEL
Broadway at Third St., New York



A Hotel with Comfort—Without Extravagance, and Within Reach of All.
CAPACITY 1,000 GUESTS
NOW THOROUGHLY RENOVATED.
Special Attention to Women Traveling
Alone or in Parties.
Modern Improvements Throughout
Sample & Show Rooms Unequaled in N. Y.
Latest List's eye view and map of New
York City sent on application.

100 Cheerful Rooms. Free Use of Tub or Shower Bath	\$.75
150 Cheerful Rooms. Free Use of Tub or Shower Bath	1.00
100 Cheerful Rooms. Free Use of Tub or Shower Bath	1.50
150 Cheerful Rooms. Private Baths.	1.50 up

Two and Three Room Suites in Proportion.
Special American Rates
**JAY G. WILBRAHAM, President & Managing
Director. J. J. JORDAN, Manager.**

Advertising campaign for the Broadway Central hotel by Jay G. Wilbraham, noted as “President” and “Managing Director”.

Figure 5:

A Definite Departure in
Apartment Hotel Arrangement
Now Entering on Its
Second Year of Success—

Gladstone

114-122 EAST 52D STREET
at PARK AVENUE

Apartments One to Six Rooms
Furnished or Unfurnished. Hotel Service
AN artistic and distinctive home.
A The utmost in every detail. The
center of social activities, yet con-
veniently distant from traffic in-
trusion. It has the most accessible
location in New York.

Automobile Parking NOT pro-
hibited on this thoroughfare by the
New City Traffic Rules.

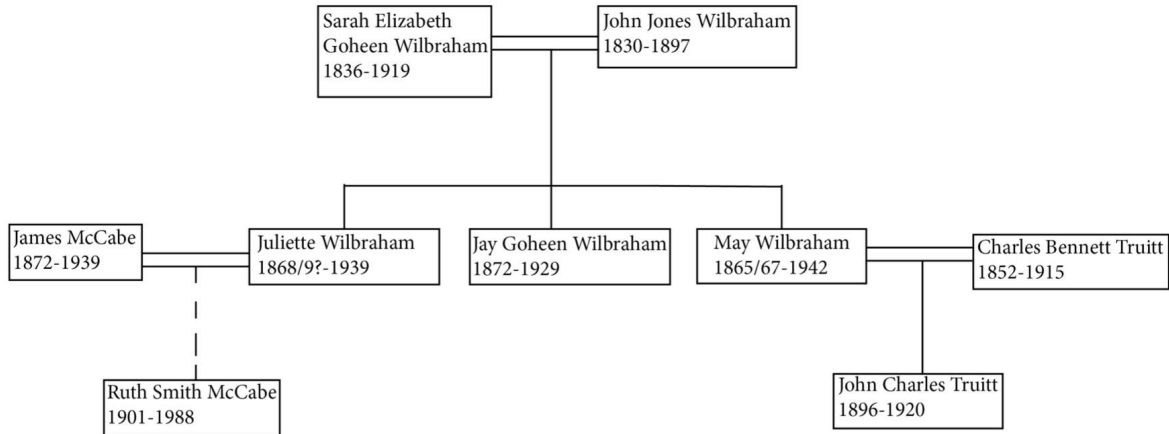
The Gladstone is not too large,
and therefore yields to the intimate
touch of service. Possesses features
never before obtained in a hotel.

The dining room, under owner-
ship management, is an example of
rare charm and beauty and cuisine
equal to the finest standard.

JAY G. WILBRAHAM, Pres.
EDW. S. WILTBANK, Res. Mgr.

Advertising campaign for the Gladstone by Jay G. Wilbraham, noted as "President".

Figure 6:



Wilbraham-McCabe-Truitt Family tree.

Created by Mimi Vaughan

Figure 7:

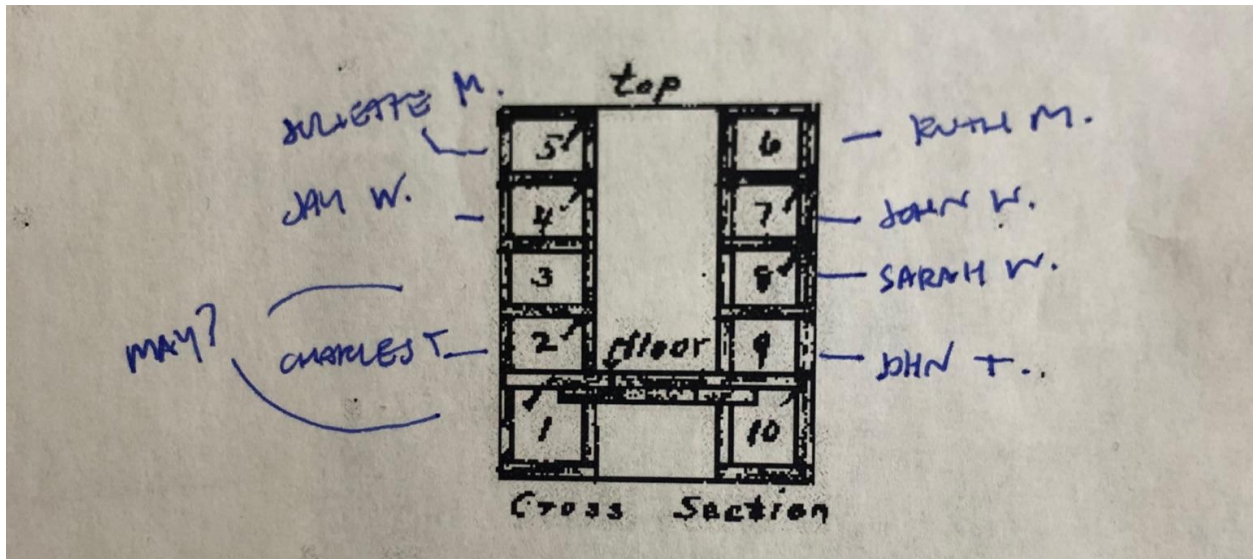


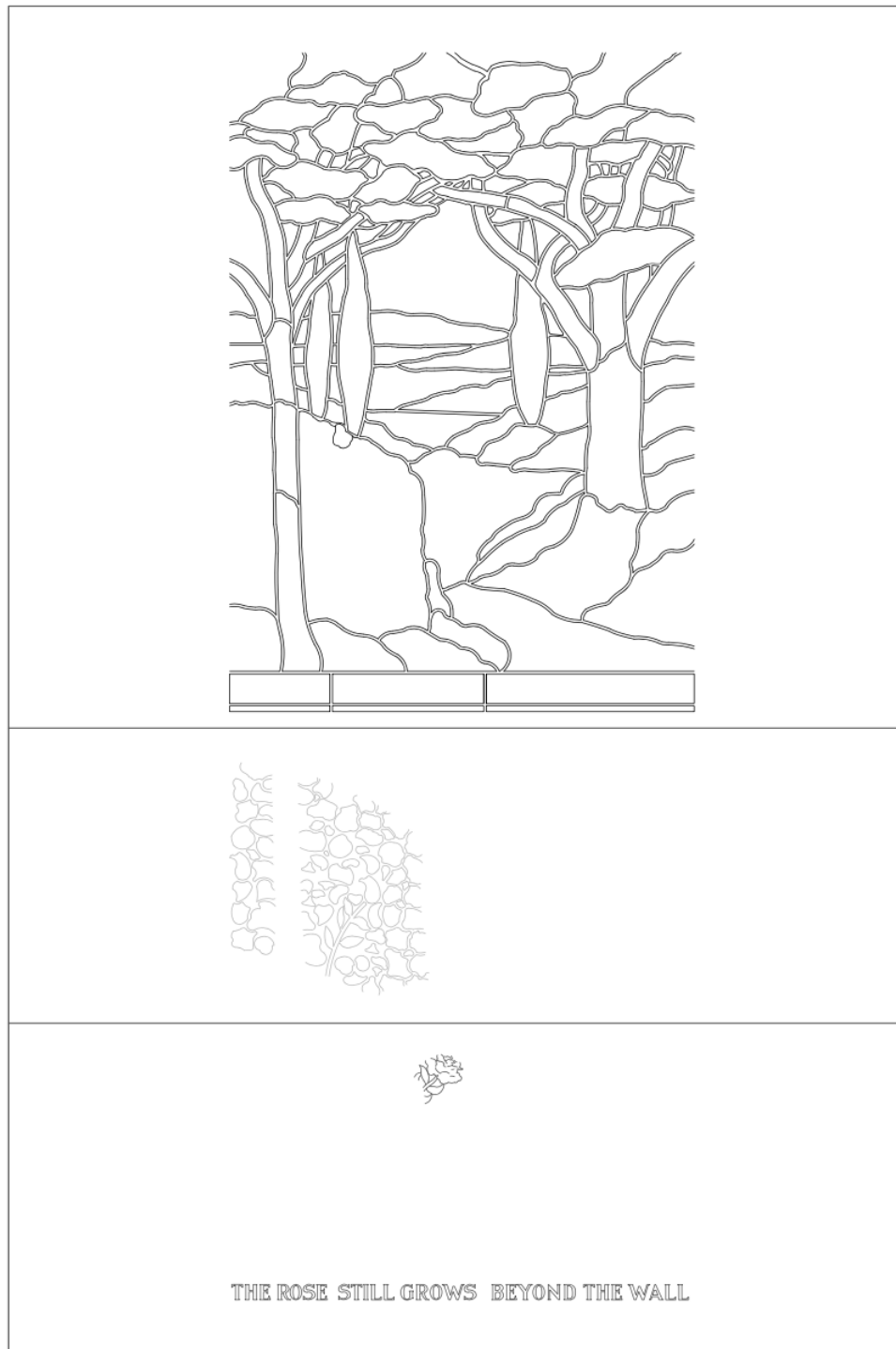
Figure 8:



Figure 9:



Figure 10:



Reference 11:

The Rose Beyond *the* Wall

Near shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to a loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength,
with never a thought of fear or pride;
And it followed the light through the crevice's length,
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view,
Were found the same as they were before;
Breathing its fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage faint or fail?
Nay, let us faith and hope receive-
The rose still grows beyond the wall.

Scattering Fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in the days ol' yore;
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will forevermore.

Figure 12:

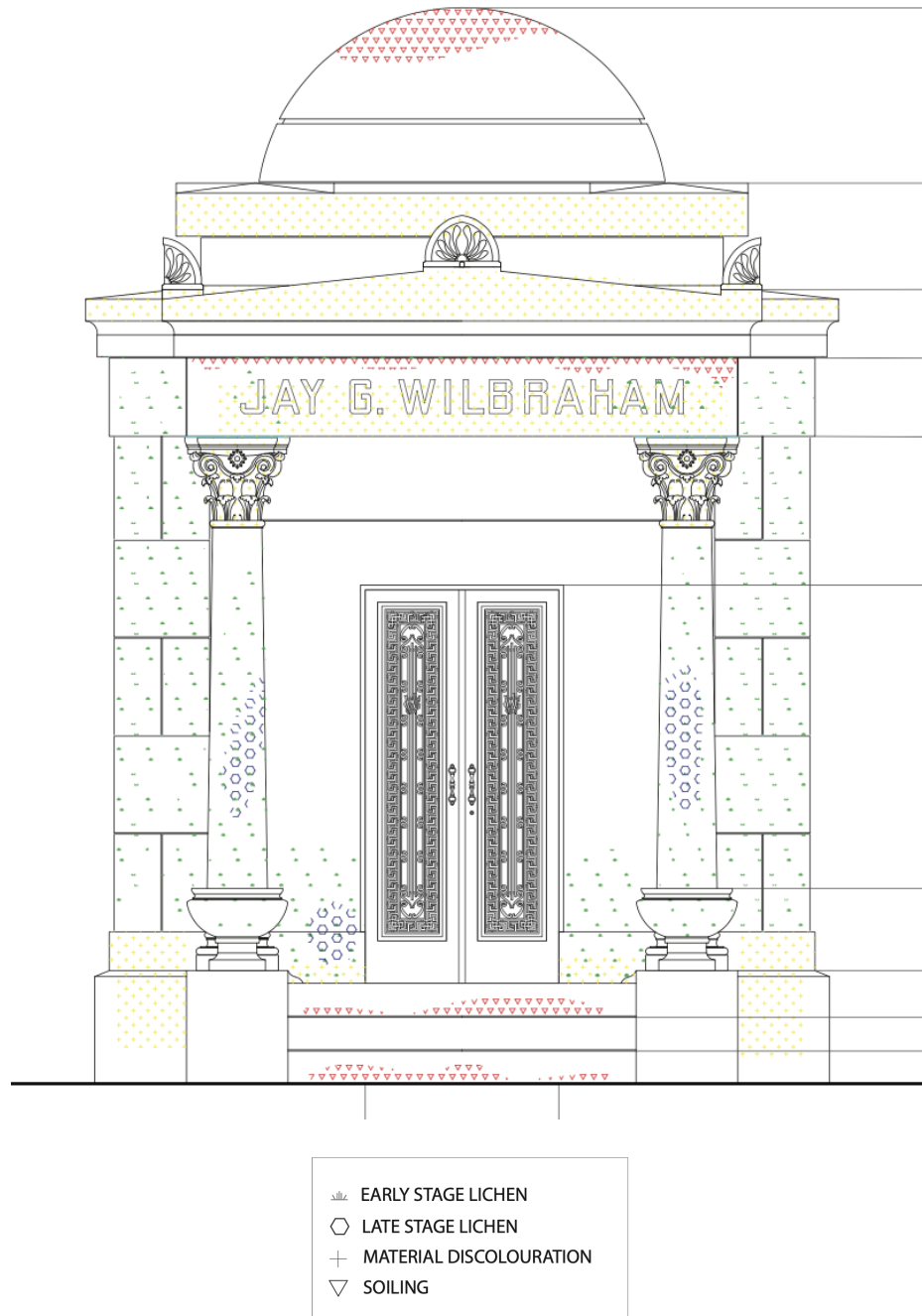


Figure 13:

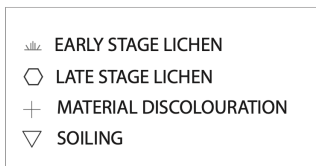
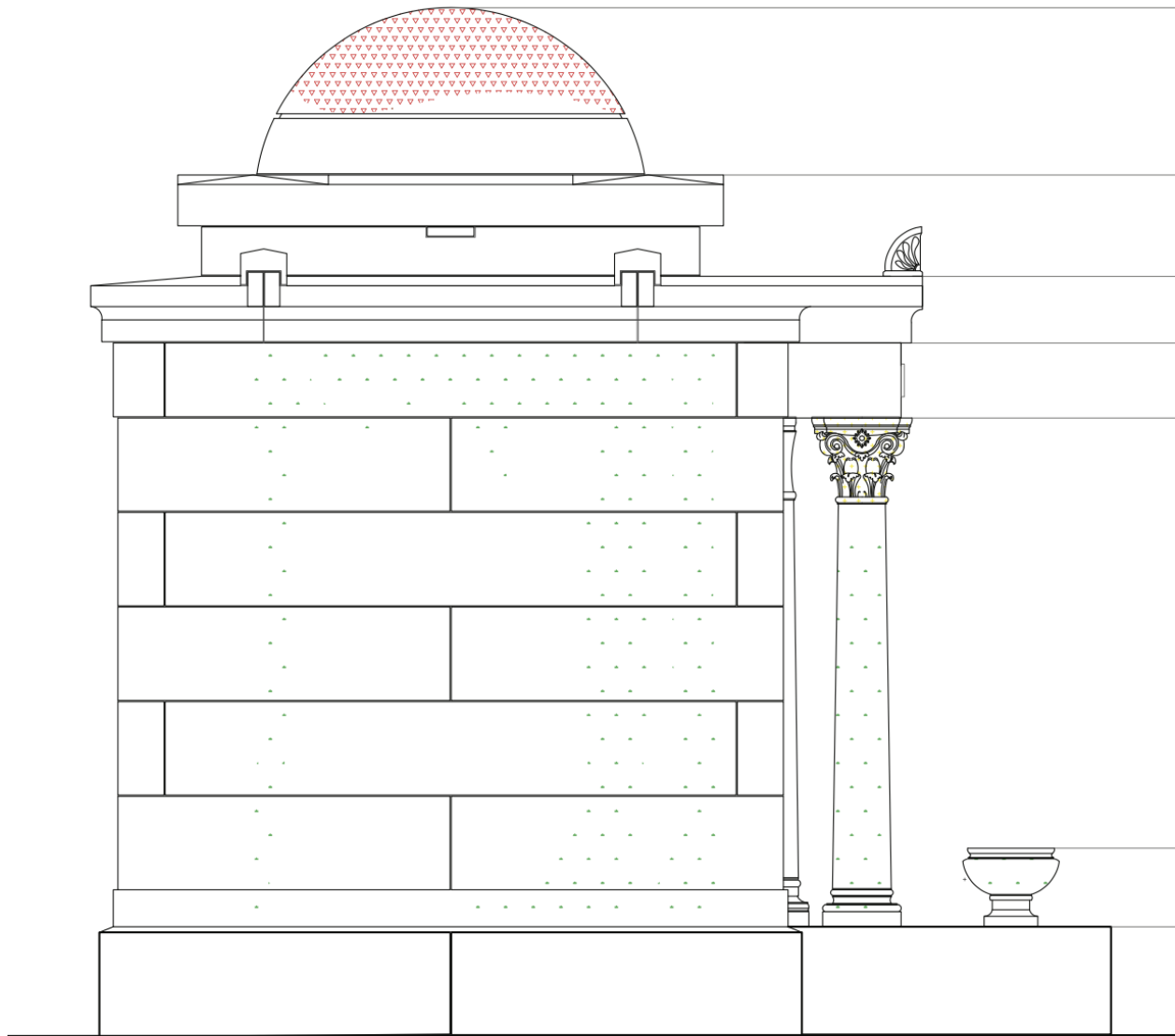
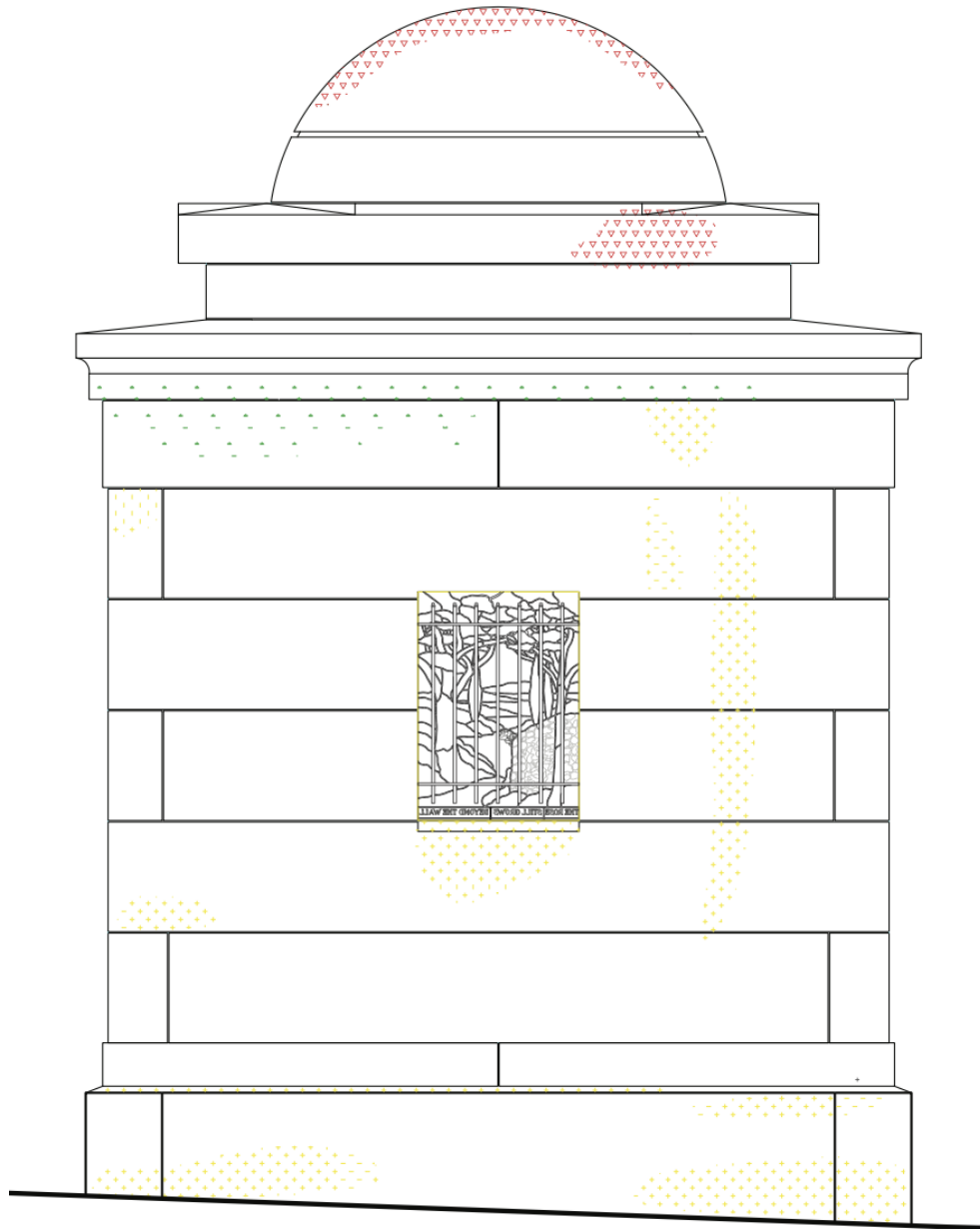


Figure 14:







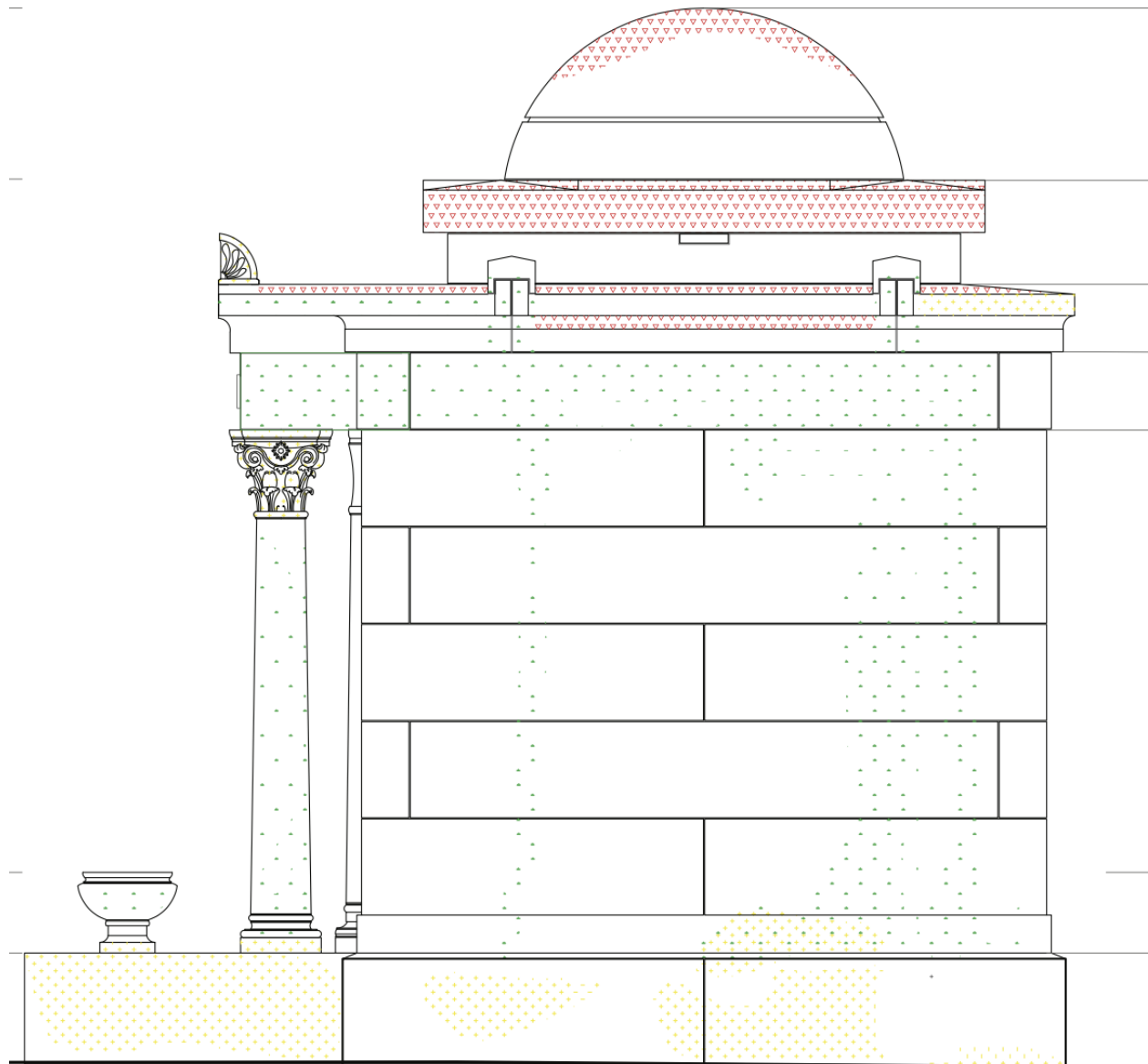
-  EARLY STAGE LICHEN
-  LATE STAGE LICHEN
-  MATERIAL DISCOLOURATION
-  SOILING

Figure 15:



- ▣ EARLY STAGE LICHEN
- LATE STAGE LICHEN
- + MATERIAL DISCOLOURATION
- ▽ SOILING

Bibliography:

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"Ends Life by Shot at the Baltimore: J.G. Wilbraham, Former Hotel Man, Tells Bellboy to Call at Room, Then Fires Gun. Morose on Stock Losses Operator of the Broadway Central for Seven Years Despondent on Tuesday, Says Physician." *New York Times (1923-)*, Jun 06, 1929.

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