

Form 10:300 (July 1959)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7.	DESCRIPTION		<u> I i se</u>						ologiji. Pro
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	CONDITION	X	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
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ſ	DESCRIBE THE OF								

The Wainwright Memorial in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri, was constructed in 1892. The Memorial is essentially a cubic structure with a hemispherical dome. The design was produced by Louis Sullivan of the Chicago architectural firm, Adler and Sullivan. The basic construction material consists of concrete, covered on the exterior with limestone slabs and on the interior with marble and mosaic.

The upright walls of the cubic main block are stepped in from the foundation with a course of convex molded stone forming the transition between the outer dimension of the foundation and the plane of the upright wall. A water table surrounds the southeast and northwest sidewalls, and the southwest rear wall of the structure.

The main facade (northeast) of the tomb has two lateral rectangular extensions, at its north and east corners, which form seats facing each other. There are three steps leading up to the entrance platform and a centrally located double-leafed bronze grill door. The upper half of the facade and door are bordered with Louis Sullivan's rich and inventive carved ornamentation. The two sides of the tomb, (northwest and southeast) have centrally located windows covered with ornate bronze grills. Carved decoration borders the upper half of these facades as well as the windows. The rear facade (southwest) is decorated solely by the carved border. The carved ornament, which is derived from botanical forms, was designed so that each side of the building has a unique pattern not repeated on the other sides.

The roof of the cubic main block has three circular stepped bands which form a base for the dome.

The interior mosaic floor has two centrally placed marble burial slabs. Above them the dome ceiling is covered with a deep blue mosaic. A gold star is in the center at the apex of the dome. The interior walls are lined on three sides by marble seats. The interior double doors, behind the bronze grill, are also of ornate design in cast bronze.

The tomb is presently in excellent structural condition. The ornament, however, is slowly weathering due to the physical nature of limestone and its interaction with the climatic environment.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ON	_Y
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(Number all entries)

7.

This summary description of the physical appearance of the building is based on data included in the field report by architectural consultant, W. Philip Cotton, Jr., A.I.A., received June, 1969. The report was contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and is filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century.
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	∑ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (Il Applicat	le and Known) 1892		<u> </u>
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch.	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abar iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
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☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

The Wainwright Memorial, significant as an architectural landmark, was designed in 1892 by one of the world's foremost architects, Louis Sullivan. The tomb has been described by Hugh Morrison as

...a memorial to a very beautiful woman, it is the most sensitive and the most graceful of Sullivan's tombs, distinguished alike in its architectural form and its decorative enrichment. In the writer's opinion, at least, it is unmatched in quality by any other known tomb. The construction is of gray limestone, finely jointed. The four sides are decorated by bands of rich and delicate carving, beautifully precise and clear, following the top and side borders and carried across the wall at the level of the projecting parapet. The ornamental motives are varied on each of the four sides. Above the main rectangular block rises a stepped circular base for the low dome. The interior of this dome is faced by a very dark blue mosaic with a gold star at the crown. ... There is an unmistakable Oriental quality in this tomb, but it resides more in the contrast of rich bands of ornament with plane surfaces than in the adoption of any specific forms or decorative motives. Altogether it is one of Sullivan's masterpieces. (Hugh Morrison, Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture, 1935, pp. 129-130.)

Louis Sullivan was a Chicago architect active during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His work made a lasting impact
on the history of architecture not only in the United States but over
the entire world. Sullivan's approach to architectural design differed
from that of most of his contemporaries in that he did not create
designs imitative of historical styles. Sullivan gave careful consideration to the intended purpose of the building and then derived
his design from the spaces and forms required to house the various
functions.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8.

According to Morrison, the architectural designs of Sullivan's tombs

• • • celebrate, not the permanence of death, but the permanence of life; they express in terms of lyric beauty that a man or a woman has <u>lived</u>, not merely that he or she has died. They are individual in form and they speak unmistakably of a personality, a personality that is immortal if only because it is enshrined in a living architecture. (Hugh Morrison, Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture, 1935, p. 128.

Sullivan's partner in Chicago was Dankmar Adler. The St. Louis member of the Adler and Sullivan firm was C. K. Ramsey.

Wainwright was a young St. Louis millionaire brewer who commissioned the tomb upon the death of his young and beautiful wife, Charlotte Dickson Wainwright. At the time of the death of Wainwright's wife, Sullivan was just completing a downtown office building in St. Louis for Wainwright. The Wainwright Building which was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1967, is an architectural masterpiece known throughout the world.

In 1901 Wainwright was indicted on the charge of attempted bribery of the Municipal Assembly by the St. Louis & Suburban line, a streetcar company of which he was director. He left the country for Europe in a lengthy, self-imposed exile. There he traveled widely and conducted his business in St. Louis by telegram. (William F. Woo, "Story Behind the Wainwright Building," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 23, 1968, p. 3J.)

In 1911 Wainwright returned to St. Louis and the charges against him were dropped. He died an ill and unhappy man in 1924, at the age of 74. The remains of Wainwright, his wife and his parents are now deposited in the mausoleum. (Woo, January 23, 1968, p. 3J.)

Ferm 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. #2

In the event of the tomb's destruction by earthquake or vandalism, plans for rebuilding it together with the necessary funds are deposited in a St. Louis bank. (Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. "Tombstone Talks, Landmarks Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery," October 17, 1965, brochure, p. 20.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. Cotton, W. Philip Jr., A.I.A. Architectural Consultant Field Report, received June 1969, contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
- 2. Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. "Tombstone Talks, Landmarks Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery," October 17, 1965, brochure.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Missouri	
COUNTY	
St. Louis	City
FOR NPS USE ON	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9.

- 3. Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture.

 New York: The Museum of Modern Art and W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1935.
- 4. Woo, William F. "Story Behind the Wainwright Building," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 23, 1968, p. 3J.

FINSTRUCTIONS

¹ Form	10-301
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

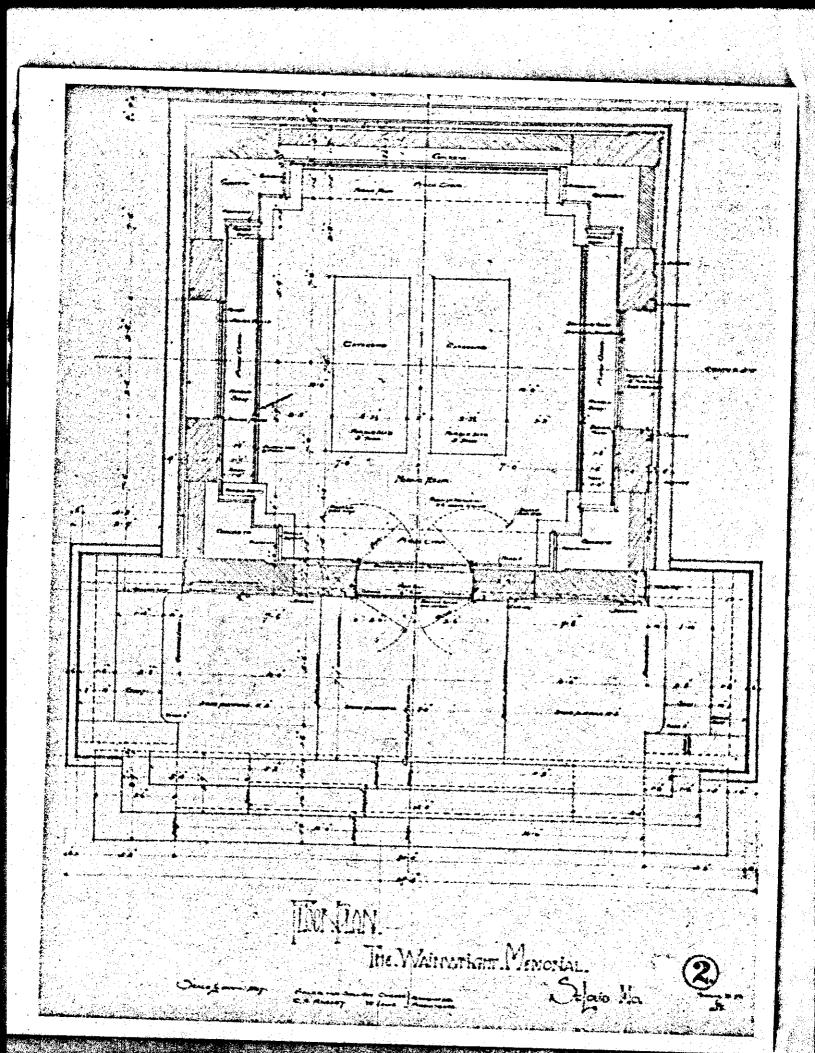
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE O	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	Wainwright Tomb			<u></u>
	ISTORIC: The Wainwright Memorial			
2. LOCATION				
STREET A	ND NUM BER:			
	Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947	West I	Florissant Avenue	
CITY OR T				
	St. Louis			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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Ferm 10-301 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STATE Missouri NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES COUNTY St. Louis City PROPERTY MAP FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map) ENTRY NUMBER DATE common: Wainwright Tomb AND/OR HISTORICE The Wainwright Memorial STREET AND NUMBER: U Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 West Florissant Avenue \Rightarrow œ St. Louis STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Missouri 63147 24 St. Louis City 510 POURCE: W. Philip Cotton, Jr., Architectural Consultant, Missouri State Park Board BCALE: photoreproduction not to scale DATE: June. 1969 TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS Photocopy of the original 1892 archi-1. Property broundaries where required. tectural drawing (ink on linen) of the 2. North arrow. floor plan, signed Adler and Sullivan, 3. Latitude and longitude reference. Chicago; C. K. Ramsey, St. Louis, Associated Architects.

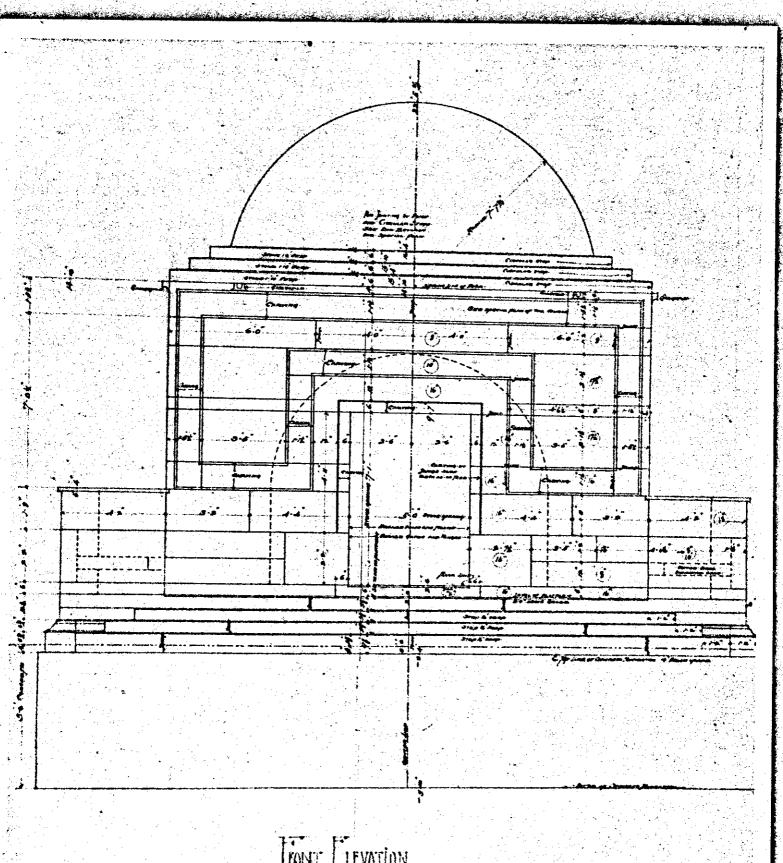
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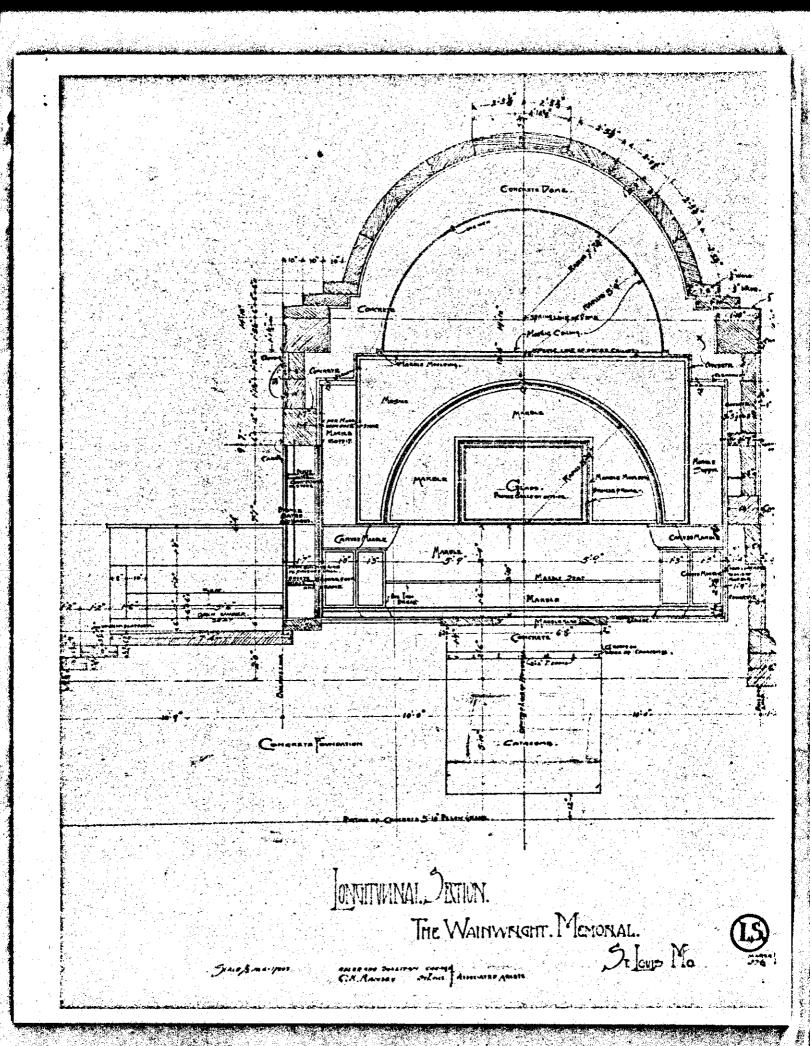
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR STATE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Missouri COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES St. Louis City PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) common: Wainwright Tomb AND/OR HISTORIC: The Wainwright Memorial TREET AND NUMBER: Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 West Florissant Avenue = œ St. Louis STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Missouri 63147 24 St. Louis City 510 A THUTTO BE PERFICE PHOTO CREDIT: W. Philip Cotton, Jr., Architectural Consultant, Missouri State рате от вното: June, 1969 Park Board RECATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri **EXPERIFICATION** DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Photocopy of the original 1892 architectural drawing (ink on linen) for the front (northeast) elevation. Drawing is signed Adler and Sullivan, Chicago; C. K. Ramsey, St. Louis, Associated Architects.

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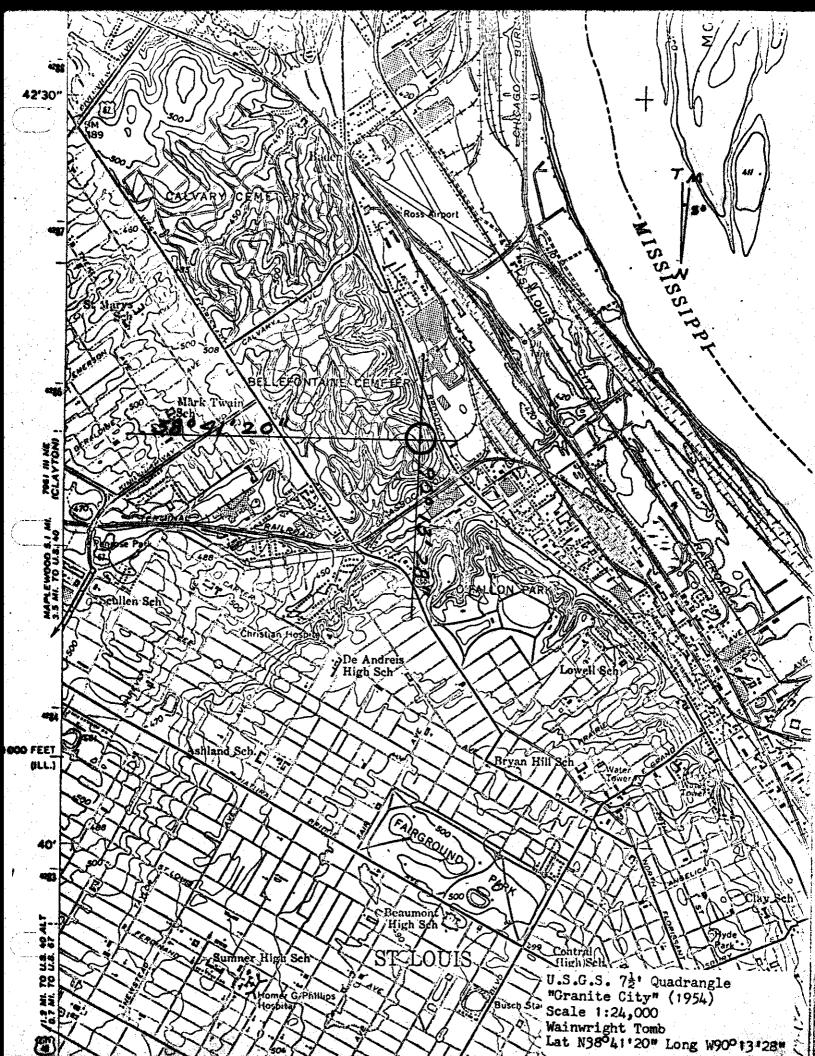


STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Missouri COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES St. Louis City PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) common: Wainwright Tomb AND/OR HISTORIC: The Wainwright Memorial TREET AND NUMBER: Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 West Florissant Avenue CITY OR TOWN: œ St. Louis STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE St. Louis City <u>Missouri</u> 510 Z PHOTO CREDIT: W. Philip Cotton, Jr., Architectural Consultant, Missouri State DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1969 Park Board Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 ш NEGATIVE FILED AT: 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri ш Photocopy of the original 1892 architectural drawing (ink on linen) for the longitudinal section (northwest-southeast) of the Wainwright Tomb. Drawing is signed Adler and Sullivan, Chicago; C. K. Ramsey, St. Louis, Associated Architects.

William Commence

et Protector MY-11

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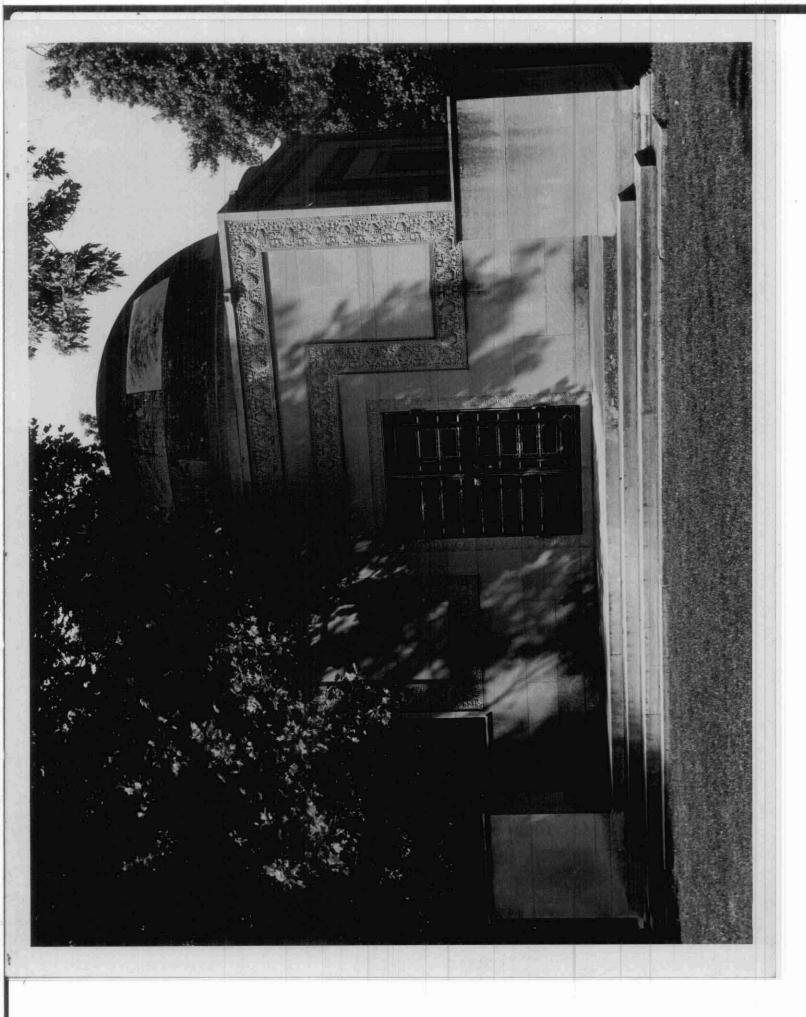
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From north, view to the south. Northeast (front) facade. Basic components of the mausoleum are the cubic main block topped by a hemispherical dome. The carved ornament and bronze door enrich the simple underlying forms. North (right) and east (left) corners of the structure are extended into enclosed seats facing each other.



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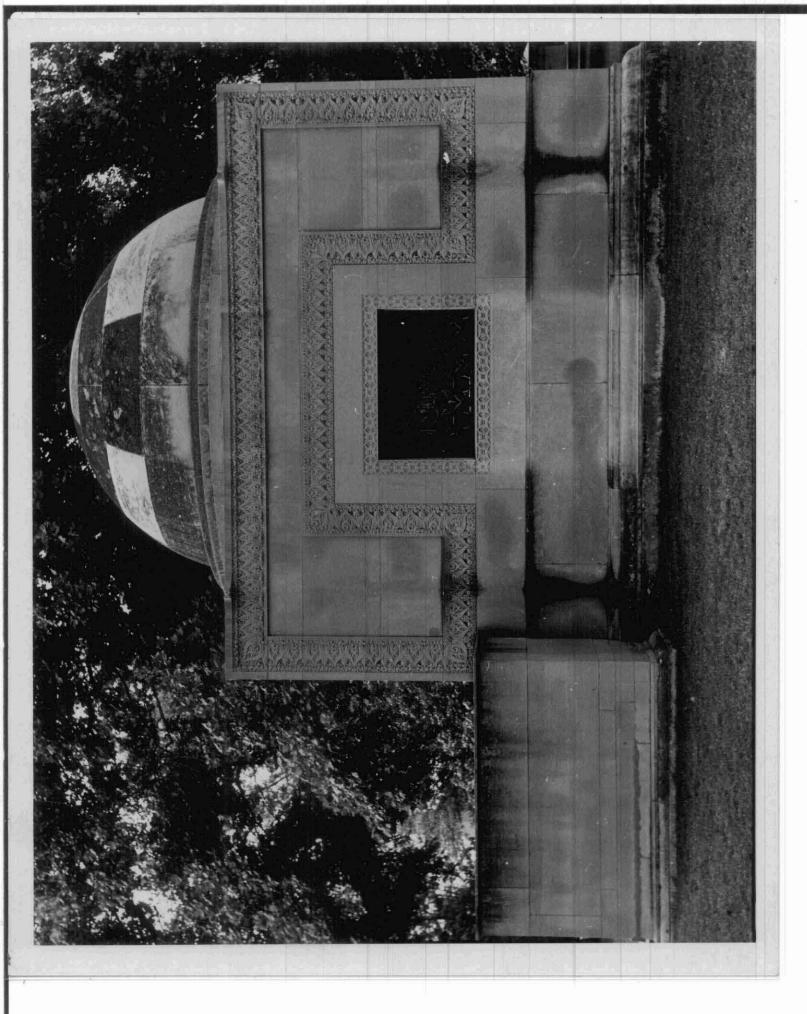
dark stains on the lower wall surface.

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drainspouts are molded into the coping. Water drainage has caused the



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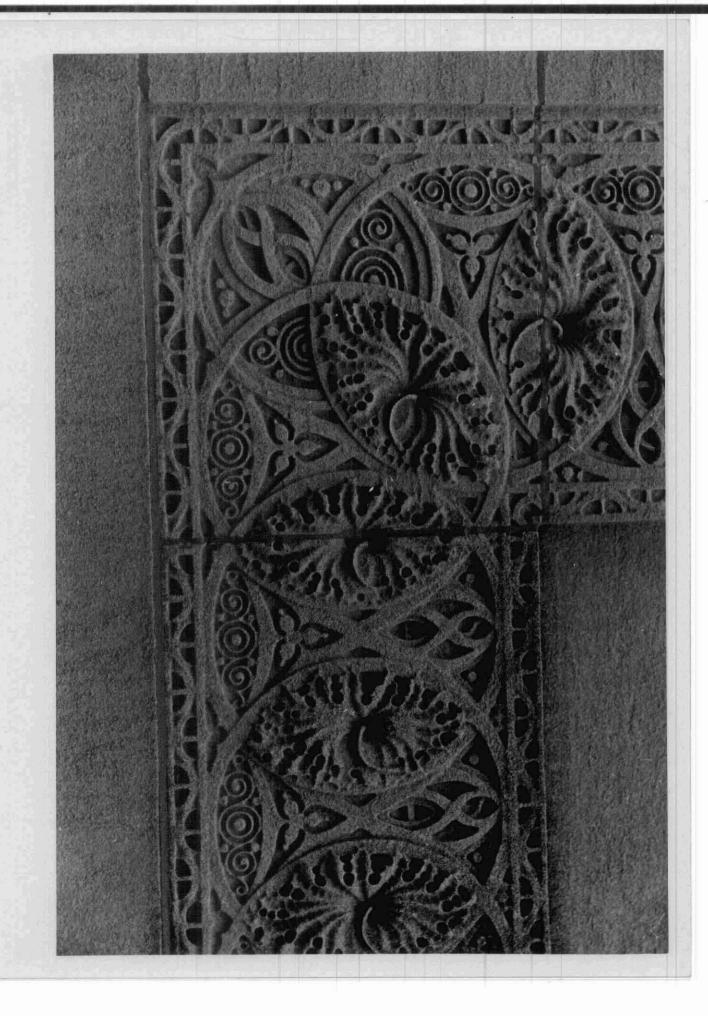
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			City, Missouri	62101
DENTIFICATION	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	IDENTIFICATION		
Detail of carried stone ornament on southwest (rear) facade.		betail of carved stone of hamono on bodonwess of	A	
Detail of carved stone ornament on southwest (rear) facade.	petall of carved stone of hamone on bodeminos a carv			
Detail of carved stone ornament on southwest (rear) facade.	petall of carved stone of nament on bodomico of carved			



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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER	DAT	
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соммом: Wainwright Tomb			
AND/ORHISTORIC: The Wainwright Memorial		······································	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 West Florissant Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
St. Louis			
STATE: CODE COUNTY:		co	
Missouri 63147 24 St. I	Louis City	51	
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рното скеріт: W. Philip Cotton, Jr., Architectural Co	onsultant, Missouri	State	
DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1969	Park B	oard	
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box	k 176		
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson	City, Missouri 65	101	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
From northeast, view to the southwest. Detail of bronze grill entrance doors open to a second dec double-leafed door.			

