

**Documentation of the Nordheimer Family Mausoleum
Glen Edyth Drive,
City of Toronto, Ontario**

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**Documentation of the Nordheimer Family Mausoleum
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Services Inc. was retained by JTF Homes to document the remains of an unidentified subterranean brick structure encountered during the redevelopment of the detached residence located on Glen Edyth Drive in the City of Toronto (Figure 1).

This project was undertaken upon the Ministry of Culture stating, in a letter of January 27, 2006, that it had been determined that the feature constituted an archaeological site within

the meaning of Ontario Regulation 170/04 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

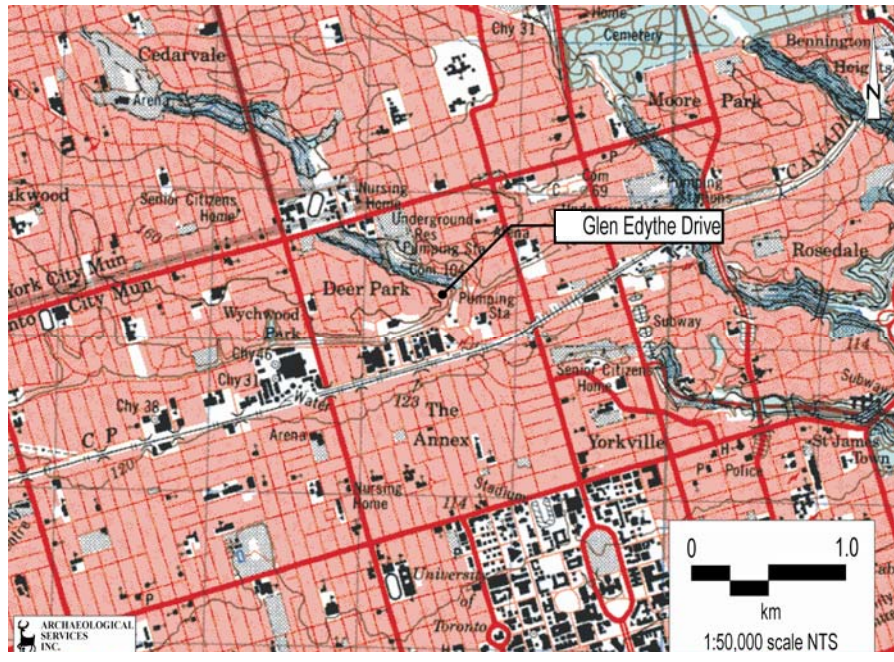


Figure 1: The location of Glen Edyth Drive study area
NTS Sheet 30M/11 (Toronto), edition 7, 1985

The documentation of the physical remains involved the completion of several tasks, including: (1) the exposure of the exterior of the structure to the degree possible given the constraints imposed by the property limits on the one hand, the tree preserve on the other as well as the exceedingly poor drainage of the site; (2) recording the stratigraphic context of the feature as it could be determined on the basis of the profile revealed by the face of the cut representing the edge of the tree preserve; (3) the preparation of detailed measured drawings of the interior and exposed exterior of the structure; and (4) the identification of the approximate location of the buried end of the structure. The field investigations were complemented by archival research aimed at determining the function of the feature and its historical context relative to the development of the property. Together, these efforts established that the structure represented the remains of the Nordheimer family mausoleum, built in 1885 and closed in 1923. The property is located within the former estate of Glen Edyth, built by Samuel Nordheimer, a prominent Toronto businessman in 1871.

This project was conducted under the project management of Dr. Ronald Williamson and project direction of Mr. Andrew Clish under archaeological license P046 (MCL CIF P046-027-2006) issued to Mr. Clish pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act.

2.0 LAND USE HISTORY

The land upon which Samuel Nordheimer built his Glen Edyth (Glenedyth, Glen Edythe) estate was originally part of York Township Lot 23 Concession 2 From the Bay (hereafter cited as FB).

Lot 23 Concession 2 FB was patented on May 6, 1796, and formed part of an extensive land grant made to the Hon. Peter Russell (1733-1808), who served as receiver general of Upper Canada between 1792 and the time of his death. He was also elected as president of the Executive Council, and was temporarily administrator of Upper Canada from 1796 until 1799, following the departure of John Graves Simcoe. Due to his high rank within the government and also on account of his former military service during the American Revolutionary War, Russell was ultimately entitled to free land grants totaling 6,000 acres. Russell augmented his free grants with additional purchases of land and, by the time of his death, it was estimated that he owned an estate in excess of 50,000 acres. His farm, which included the Glen Edyth site, was named the “Petersfield” farm. Part of this land is watered by Castle Frank Creek, and the ravine has long been known as the “Nordheimer Ravine.”

Upon the death of Peter Russell, Lot 23 was willed to his half-sister, Elizabeth Russell (1754-1822). Miss Russell during her lifetime commanded respect within the elite society of government officials at York, although this was undoubtedly more on account of her half-brother’s influence. Following Peter Russell’s death, Elizabeth became the object of affection for two gentlemen: her cousin William Willcocks, and her late brother’s physician, Robert Baldwin. There is little doubt that these men courted her on account of her large land holdings since both were elderly widowers, and Elizabeth herself was a middle aged spinster beyond child bearing years. Both gentlemen proposed marriage in 1808, and although her reply to Dr. Baldwin is not known, she referred to Willcocks in her *Diary* as “the Old Fool” whose behaviour, in her opinion, was filled with “impudence and folly” (Thompson 1975:56).

Elizabeth Russell made her last will in August 1811. In it she left her entire estate to her cousins Maria and Phoebe Willcocks, daughters of her former suitor William Willcocks. Phoebe Willcocks (1771-1851) had married Dr. William Warren Baldwin (1775-1844) in 1803. He was the son of Dr. Robert Baldwin. William Warren Baldwin was appointed the executor of Elizabeth’s estate.

In 1817, prior to her death, Miss Russell sold Lot 23 for £200 to Augustus Warren Baldwin, R.N. (1776-1866), who was the second son of Dr. Robert Baldwin. It was here during 1818-19, on tableland situated on top of the promontory known as “Sugar Loaf Hill”, that Augustus Warren Baldwin built his two story frame house known as “Russell Hill” (Figure 2). This was to be Baldwin’s home until his death, and his widow Augusta Jackson Baldwin continued to reside here for a few years following her husband’s death.

In January 1871, a 25½ acre parcel of this farm lot was purchased by Samuel Nordheimer from the Baldwin family for \$8100 (York deed #1997). Nordheimer demolished the old Baldwin house and began construction on his mansion named Glen Edyth in 1871. It is believed that Nordheimer’s new home was built either directly upon or just slightly west of Russell Hill.

Nordeimer was a native of Memsdorf, Bavaria where he was born in 1824. He was educated there and in New York where he had emigrated in 1839 before coming to Canada West in 1840. He initially settled in Kingston with his older brother Abraham (1816-1887), who came to Canada West in order to become music teacher to the daughter of Sir Charles Bagot, the Governor General. Following Bagot's death, the Nordheimer brothers moved to Toronto in 1844 where they began the manufacture and sales of pianos in a store on the north side of King Street East (Speisman 1979:14). The brothers were enumerated in the *City Directory* of 1846-7 for the first

time. Their firm (Figure 3) relocated to the south side of the street in 1850 (Robertson 1914:128, 130). During the early years Samuel "undertook the outside work, traveling a great deal, and to this firm is due to a great extent the credit of having educated the taste of the people of Canada up to its present high musical standard" (Taylor 1892:46). He was said to possess "universal courtesy, polished manners and pleasing address" by which he won the "golden opinions" of the people (Taylor 1892:46). A photograph of Samuel, taken in later life, shows a congenial looking gentleman with a fashionably long set of whiskers (Figure 4).

Following Abraham's return to Germany in the early 1860s, Samuel became the President of the Nordheimer Piano and Music Company. On November 15, 1871, Nordheimer married Miss Edith Sarah Louise Boulton (1847-1912), who was the daughter of James and Margaret Boulton and niece of D'Arcy Boulton who constructed the "Grange." Nordheimer had converted to Anglicanism prior to his marriage and became a parishioner at St. James'. He quickly rose to social prominence, undoubtedly aided by the connections he made through the Boulton family, and as result he



Figure 2: A view of Russell Hill (1819-1871).



Figure 3: An early advertisement for A. & S. Nordheimer (Mackay 1851:452).

was appointed to a number of important positions. He served as the Imperial German consul in Toronto, appointed to this office by Emperor Wilhelm I in 1887, and was also awarded the Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle. He was president of the Federal Bank, vice president of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Co, and director of the Confederation Life Association and the Toronto General Trusts Corporation. Nordheimer was a member of several German societies such as the German Benevolent Society, and was also president of the Philharmonic Society. Nordheimer was a noted gardener who had the grounds at Glen Edyth beautifully landscaped. The garden design included an artificial waterfall.

Edith Boulton Nordheimer was an accomplished woman, described as a philanthropist and imperialist who occupied an elite position in society. When she married she was described as a twenty-five year old blonde, “considered one of the most beautiful women of the day. Eleven children later, she was still beautiful” (Martyn 1984:198). She served as president of the women’s branch of the Red Cross Society during the South African (Boer) War, and was one of the founders of the Female Immigrants Receiving Home in Toronto, and contributed to the efforts of the Children’s Aid Society and the Working Boy’s Home. She was president of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE), and she was appointed lady of grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. She was presented to Queen Victoria in 1873, and attended the coronation of King George V in 1911 (Smith 2000).



Figure 4: A photo of Samuel Nordheimer which accompanied a June 29, 1912 article in the *Toronto Globe* reporting on his death.

During their 34 year marriage, the Nordheimers raised a family of eleven children who were all born in quick succession. They were: Stuart Fitzroy Boulton Nordheimer (b. London, England, December 16, 1872), Julia Melina Boulton Nordheimer (December 30, 1874), Samuel Max Boulton Nordheimer (May 20, 1876), Athol Gordon Boulton Nordheimer (June 11, 1877), Adela (Adeline) Matilda Boulton Nordheimer (July 10, 1878), twins Edith Vera Boulton Nordheimer and Errol Louisa Boulton Nordheimer (July 11, 1879), Cecil Evelyn Boulton Nordheimer (September 23, 1881), May Estelle Boulton Nordheimer (April 25, 1883), G. Roy Boulton Nordheimer and Albert Boulton Nordheimer.¹

Glen Edyth, formerly located at 476 Davenport Road, was described as “once the finest private house in Toronto, perhaps even in Canada” (Martyn 1984:198). Before their wedding, a pre-nuptial contract was signed in which Nordheimer granted the land to his wife and agreed to build and furnish a home there at a cost of not less than \$25,000. The resultant three-storey, Second Empire style mansion (Figure 5) was built out of buff coloured brick, and contained 35 rooms. The house was enclosed by a number of

¹ Exact birth dates for nine of these children were found during a search of the Ontario Vital Statistics Index (Births) at the Archives of Ontario, microfilm MS931 reel 5.

verandahs and porches, a *porte-cochere* and also contained two towers. The flat roof was enclosed by a cast iron balustrade, which created an area where family and guests could promenade and enjoy the views over Toronto and Lake Ontario. The interior of the home contained both formal and informal rooms. It boasted a library, smoking room, billiard room, and a large ballroom illuminated by a large crystal chandelier. The house also contained a private schoolroom for the children. This structure was enlarged in May 1882, undoubtedly in part to accommodate Nordheimer's



Figure 5: A view of Nordheimer's Glen Edyth mansion (Seton Thompson 1984:138).

growing family as well as being a statement of their standing within the community. Drawings and architectural specifications for this enlargement were prepared by Toronto architect David B. Dick,² and are preserved in the Horwood Collection at the Archives of Ontario (C11-202-0-1 project 207.) The house was occupied by the family until 1924, after which it stood vacant until 1928 with the exception of a resident caretaker. The house was finally demolished to make way for new residences in 1929.

A brick "Gate Lodge" at Glen Edyth was designed by D.B. Dick in January 1884, which provided an impressive entrance into the estate grounds as well as being a residential space for the gardener and coachman (C11-202 project 229). A map of York Township, printed in Mile's *Atlas* of 1878, showed the position of the existing structures on the estate (Figure 6), and a plan of subdivision prepared in 1923 showed the final configuration of the major buildings on the estate (Figure 7).

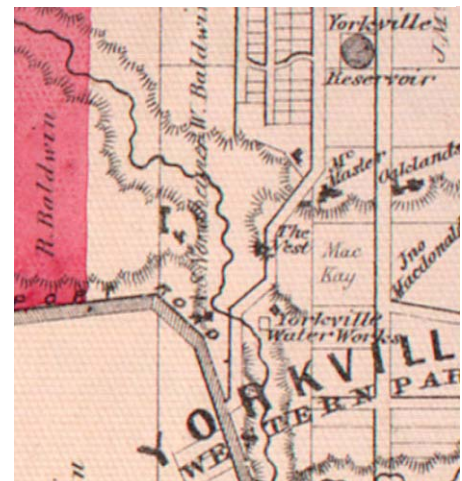


Figure 6: Detail from the 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of York County* showing the Nordheimer property.

² David B. Dick entered into a partnership with Robert Grant, a firm which was known as Grant & Dick. This business remained in existence from 1846 until 1877, and the two men designed some of the most notable structures in Toronto during that time period. Among their best designs were the Consumer's Gas Company addition at 17-19 Toronto Street, the Quebec Bank Building on Toronto Street and the United Empire Club at 110 King Street West. Dick on his own account was responsible for the restoration of University College following the destructive blaze of February 1890 (Dendy 1978:103, 108, 117; Arthur 1964:136, 172). Dick was an inaugural member of the Toronto Architectural Guild in 1888, and president of the Ontario Association of Architects in 1893 (Simmins 1989: 29, 260).

The grounds contained ornamental trees, formal flower beds and “delightful paths... similar to the private parks which surrounded English estates.” There were also two summer houses, a kitchen garden, orchard with fruit trees and grape vines, a greenhouse, icehouse, cowshed and pigpen. Two roads led to the house from the gate lodge one of which, now Glen Edyth Drive, was the carriage road. It crossed the stream over three rustic bridges, and passed a duck pond and the artificial waterfall (Martyn 1984:200, 202).

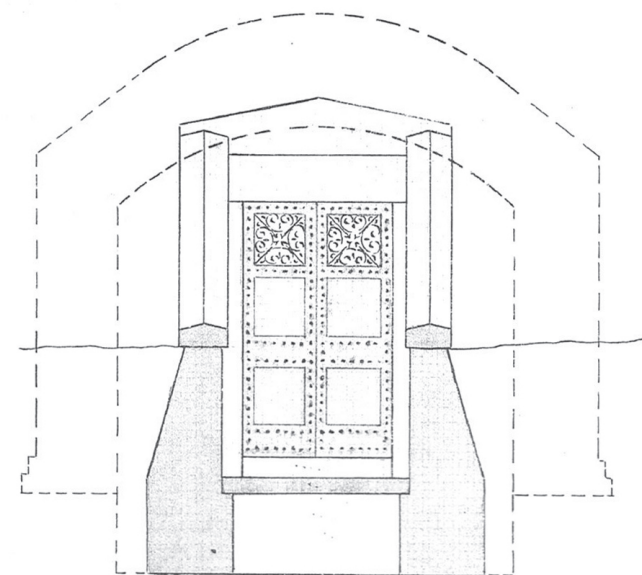
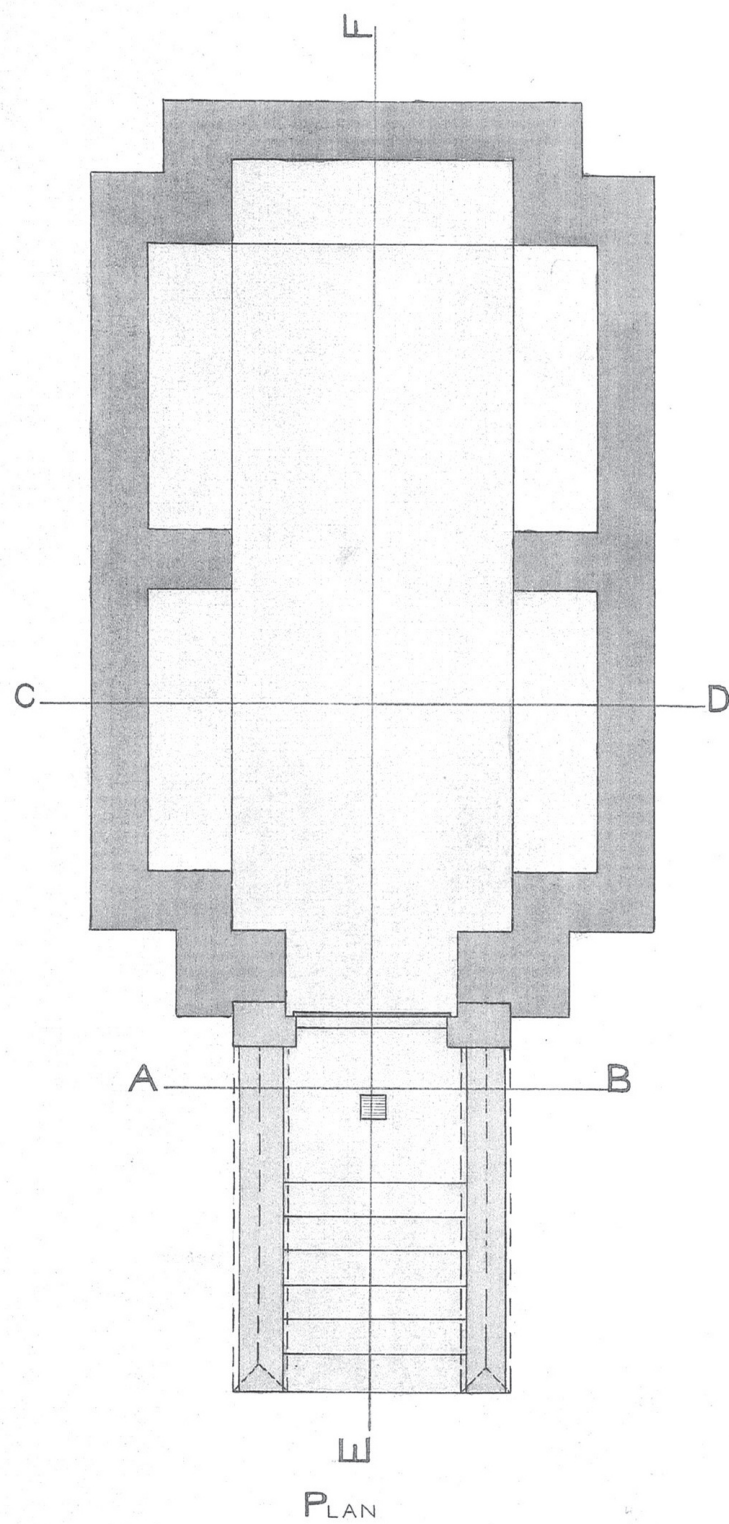
Family Mausoleum

Martyn noted that “the family vault was placed in the side of the bank overlooking the glen” (Martyn 1984:202), although until recently its exact location had been lost and forgotten. This structure was designed in May 1885 by David B. Dick, the architect who had designed the Gate Lodge and house enlargements in 1882-1884. Architectural drawings for the mausoleum (Figures 8 and 9) are preserved in the Horwood Collection at the Archives of Ontario (C11-230-0-1 project 245 sheets 1 and 2.) These plans show somewhat different designs for the front façade of the structure: one at which the entrance was reached via six steps led down to a stoop which contained a shallow floor drain (Figure 8) and one at which the entrance was more or less at grade (Figure 9). Based on the sand fill encountered at the north end of the structure (Section 3.0) it seems more likely that the configuration presented on Figure 8 was that which was ultimately built, and that the sand was used to block the stairway and entrance. Nevertheless, the front façade may also have incorporated some design elements of the Figure 9 plans in terms of the form of the door jamb and reveal. These suggestions cannot be confirmed on the basis of the information recovered during the field investigations, due to the constraints imposed by the tree preserve.

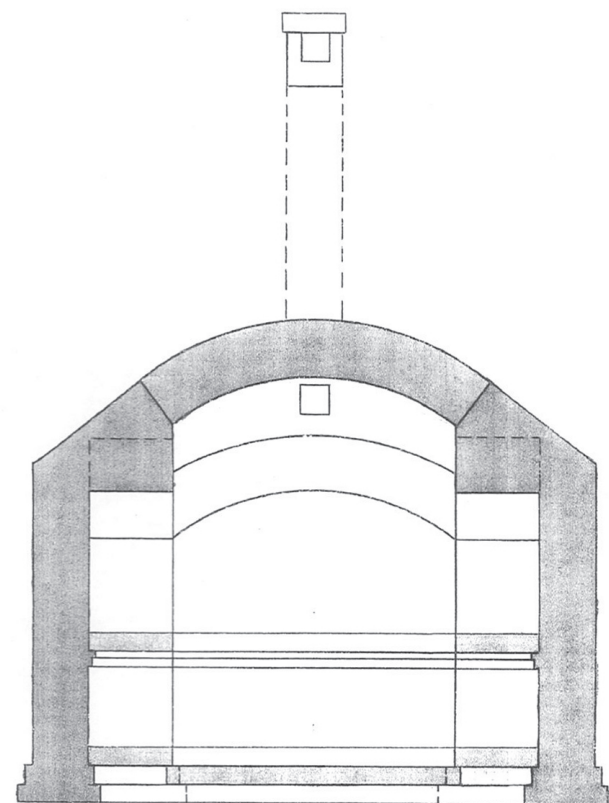
The structure was built during the summer of 1885 with arched buff brick vaulting and cut Credit Valley red sandstone. The drawings show that entrance was to feature a heavy, bolted metal clad door that contained ornamental grills in the upper panels. Inside, the mausoleum contained two chambers or bays. Upon entry, the first chamber contained arcades of two blind arches on either side wall, while the inner chamber contained arcades of two blind arches along the side walls and a single blind arch built into the end wall. The arches along the side walls were seven feet two inches wide, six feet six inches tall and two feet three inches deep. A small ventilation flue was built into the ceiling of the inner chamber above the rear arch. Each blind arch was furnished with two cut sandstone slab lintels upon which coffins were to rest, on just above the floor and the other at a height of three feet three inches. The plans show that the original mausoleum was built partly into the natural slope of the hill, and that additional earth and fill was conveyed there once the structure was built to completely cover it over. In July 1912, the mouth of the mausoleum was surrounded by “wild flowers in profusion” and a syringa tree “in full bloom.”



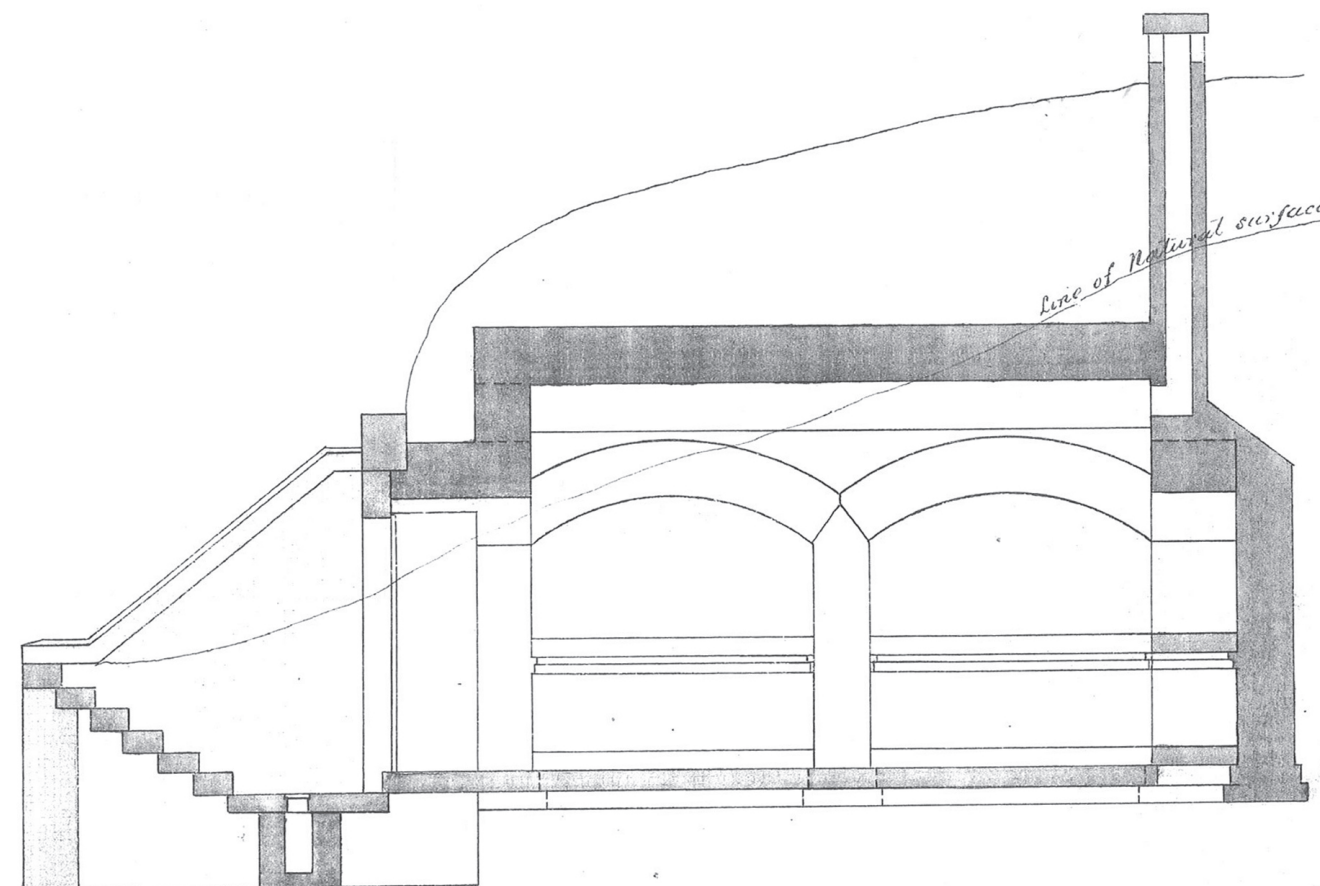
Figure 7: Detail from Plan 608E showing the position of structures at Glen Edythe at the time of re-subdivision. The mausoleum is not depicted.



ELEVATION AND SECTION ON THE LINE A-B

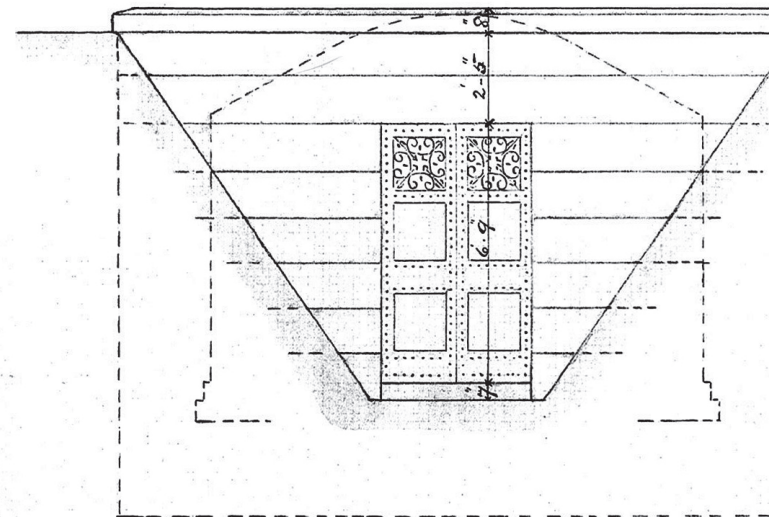
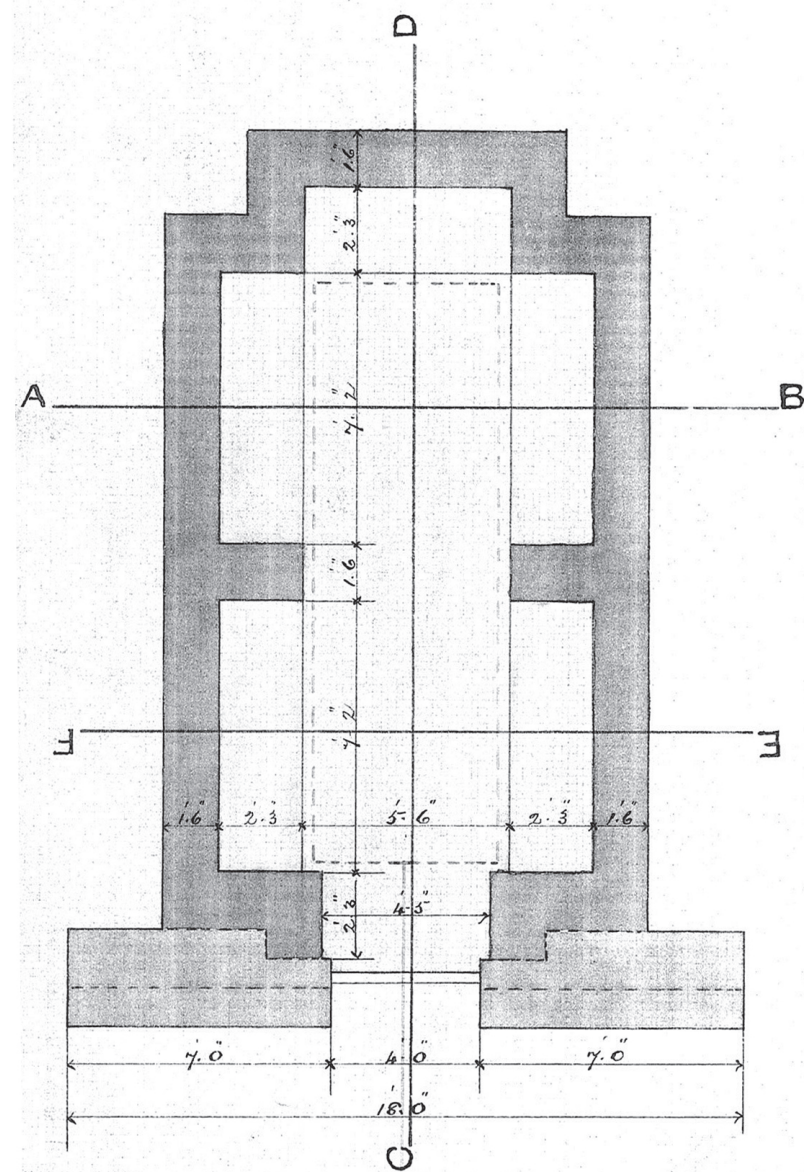


SECTION ON THE LINE C-D

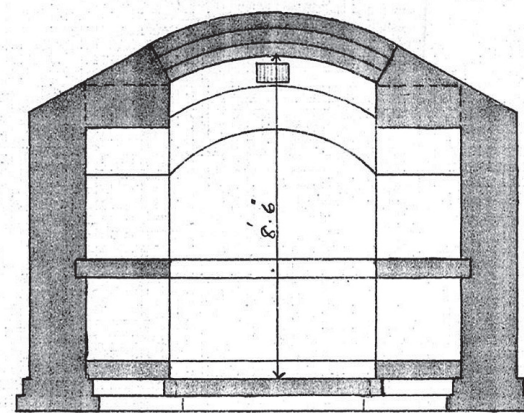


SECTION ON THE LINE E-F

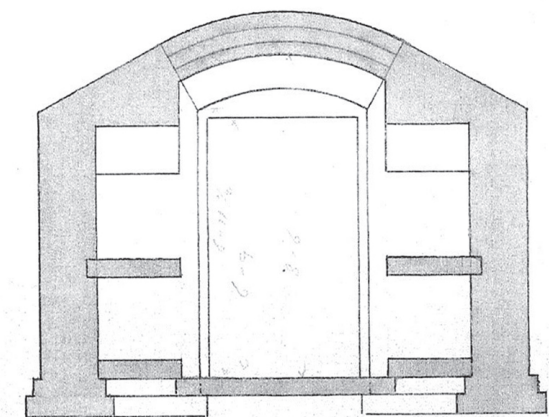
Figure 8: Reproductions of the 1885 plans and elevations prepared for the mausoleum (sheet 1).



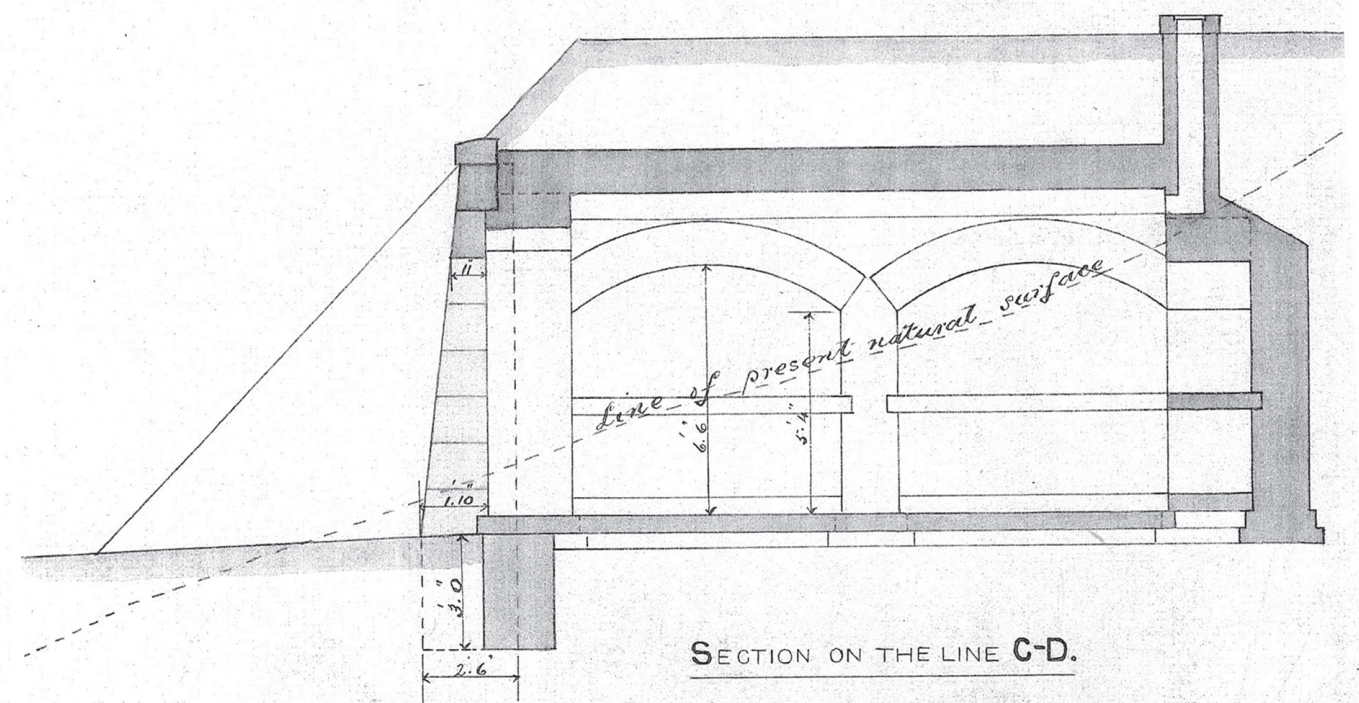
FRONT ELEVATION.



SECTION ON THE LINE A B.



SECTION ON THE LINE E-F.



SECTION ON THE LINE C-D.

Figure 9: Reproductions of the 1885 plans and elevations prepared for the mausoleum (sheet 2).

Records clearly show that the family vault contained five burials:

1. Fitzroy Boulton Nordheimer, died January 29, 1885 aged ten years. The cause of death, certified by family physician Dr. Arthur Jakes Johnson, was diphtheria suffered by the child for eight days (*Ontario Vital Statistics, Death Registration #20085*, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS935 reel 42).
2. Samuel Max Nordheimer, died February 3, 1885 aged seven years. The cause of death, certified by Dr. A.J. Johnson, was “disease of stomach after diphtheria, 3 weeks” (*Ontario Vital Statistics, Death Registration #20086*, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS935 reel 42). A death notice appeared in the *Toronto Globe* on February 4, 1885 page 4 (Archives of Ontario microfilm N11 reel 96).
3. Julia Melina Nordheimer, died December 3, 1899 aged 24 years. There was no registration found for the death of this daughter in the *Ontario Vital Statistics*. However, entries in the burial register and a card for the Nordheimer family plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery records that her burial was one of those transferred from the mausoleum. One of the obituaries printed in 1912 for Samuel Nordheimer also referred to “a daughter” who predeceased her father and was buried in the family vault.
4. Samuel Nordheimer, died June 29, 1912 aged 88 years. The primary cause of death, certified by Dr. A.J. Johnson, was “probably an injury by a fall-- about 11 months [ago]” while the immediate cause of death was a “malignant abdominal tumor” with which he had suffered for “some months.” The funeral arrangements were entrusted to A.W. Miles at 396 College Street (*Ontario Vital Statistics, Death Registration #4317*, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS935 reel 172). The interment took place on Tuesday July 2, 1912 at 4 o’clock p.m. A death notice and several obituaries and tributes were published in the *Toronto Globe* in early July, 1912.
5. Edith Boulton Nordheimer, died November 14, 1912 aged 64 years. The primary cause of death, certified by Dr. A.J. Johnson, was “*angina pectoris*, 5 hours” while the immediate cause of death was “last spasm, short time.” The funeral arrangements were entrusted to A.W. Miles at 396 College Street (*Ontario Vital Statistics, Death Registration #6637*, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS935 reel 173). The interment took place on Saturday afternoon, November 16, 1912. A death notice, obituary and tributes were published in the *Toronto Globe* in November, 1912.

Based on contemporary practices, it is likely that these deceased were placed in wooden coffins that were in turn placed within metal or wooden coffin boxes.

In his last will and testament, Samuel Nordheimer made express provision that “I direct that the vault or burying ground at Glen Edyth shall be preserved as far as possible for the use of my family; and that if Glen Edyth should pass out of the hands of my family, proper provision be made by my Executors, in consultation with the last occupant thereof belonging to my family, if living, for the protection or disposal of remains buried there” (*Last will and testament of Samuel Nordheimer*, paragraph 14, Archives of Ontario microfilm MS583 reel 19).³

When G. Roy Boulton Nordheimer had the Glen Edythe estate surveyed for re-subdivision by Plan 608E in 1923, he followed the instructions contained in the will of his late father. The family remains contained in the mausoleum were transferred to Mount Pleasant Cemetery on May 18, 1923, where they were re-interred in Plot 14 Lot 108.

³ The total value of Nordheimer’s personal estate at his death, according to the estate inventory, was the considerable sum (in 1912) of \$1,560,310.47. His widow, Edith, died intestate and letters of administration were filed for her estate (Administration #27802, December 3, 1912).

3.0 DOCUMENTATION OF THE MAUSOLEUM

The Nordheimer family mausoleum was discovered in late January 2006 during the course of the redevelopment of a residential property on Glen Edyth Drive (Figure 10). The existing house on the lot, which was likely built in the later 1920s, had been demolished, the grade of the property had been lowered and a new foundation had been partially excavated. The mausoleum itself, which straddles the western property line of the lot (17T 0628483 4837360 \pm 10 NAD27), was found while driving piles to support the shoring being installed along the property line. The barrel vaulted roof was breached by the pile driver and a backhoe was then used to expose a portion of the roof. This work resulted in the definition of the south (rear) end of the structure, but the north end, which included the original entrance



Figure 10: The location of the mausoleum plotted on 2004 orthoimagery prior to the demolition of a house on Glen Edyth Drive (to the right of the mausoleum). Orthoimagery by City of Toronto Survey and Mapping Services.

was not exposed since it was located below a mature tree that the City had required be preserved during the redevelopment of the property.

The discovery of the feature was reported to the City of Toronto and ultimately the Ontario Ministry of Culture. At this time its function was not known and early reports suggested that it was some form of “tunnel.”

On February 3, 2006, field work was carried out in order to expose the exterior of the structure to the degree possible given the constraints imposed by the property limits on the one hand, the tree preserve on the other as well as the exceedingly poor drainage of the site; record the stratigraphic context of the feature as it could be determined on the basis of the profile revealed by the face of the cut representing the edge of the tree preserve; prepare detailed measured drawings of the interior and exposed exterior of the structure; and establish the approximate location of the buried end of the structure. On the basis of these investigations it can be seen that the mausoleum was built in accord with the design plans prepared by David Dick.

At some point following the abandonment of the mausoleum, the stairway leading to the entrance was filled with a massive quantity of sand to prohibit entry. The entrance is now located below a large locust tree that is to be preserved. Based on the variety of graffiti present in the interior of the structure, the blockage of the entrance likely took place in the 1960s, following which the tree was deliberately planted or took root naturally and was allowed to remain.

The Exterior

Using shovels and trowels, all loose soil was removed from the roof of the structure east of the property line and south of the tree preserve and the soil fill was excavated to expose the uppermost course of bricks along the east side and south end walls (Figure 11:a-e).

The mausoleum was built from buff-coloured, frogged bricks. The crown portion of the barrel vaulted roof was three layers thick, with the bricks having been laid sideways as stretchers (Figure 12). The exposed east haunch of the roof vault and its south end were formed through the use of nine off-set or corbelled courses of bricks laid alternately as stretchers and headers. The southeast exterior corner of the structure (Figure 11f) had been damaged during the construction of the previous house on the property. The walls were laid in the English garden wall bond manner, in that three courses of stretchers alternated with one course of headers.

Based on the partial soil profile that was preserved on the southern edge of the tree preserve, it is possible that the earth covering for the mausoleum was deposited in a series of episodes as the construction progressed (Figure 13). Once the walls were laid, soil (Layers 9, 10, and probably 7) was built up against their exterior faces up to the approximate middle line of the haunches of the vault, which would have been shored to permit the construction of the rest of the roof. The use of a fill embankment along the walls early in the construction sequence may have obviated the need for exterior buttresses. Once the structure was completed, it was further buried (Layers 5 and 6 and possibly 3 and 4). Layer 2 almost certainly represents a deposit associated with the subdivision development. While the earth mound over the mausoleum was almost certainly covered by grass or plantings of some form, no buried sod layer was



(a) View north along the length of the structure.



(b) View of the corbelled courses of brick rising to the crown of the vaulted roof.



(c) View of the corbelled courses of brick rising to the vaulted roof and the uppermost course of the wall.



(d) Detail of iron staples incorporated into the brickwork. Their placement corresponds to the location of the interior pier between the interior arches on the east wall of the north chamber. No staples were used in the corresponding location on the east wall of the south chamber.

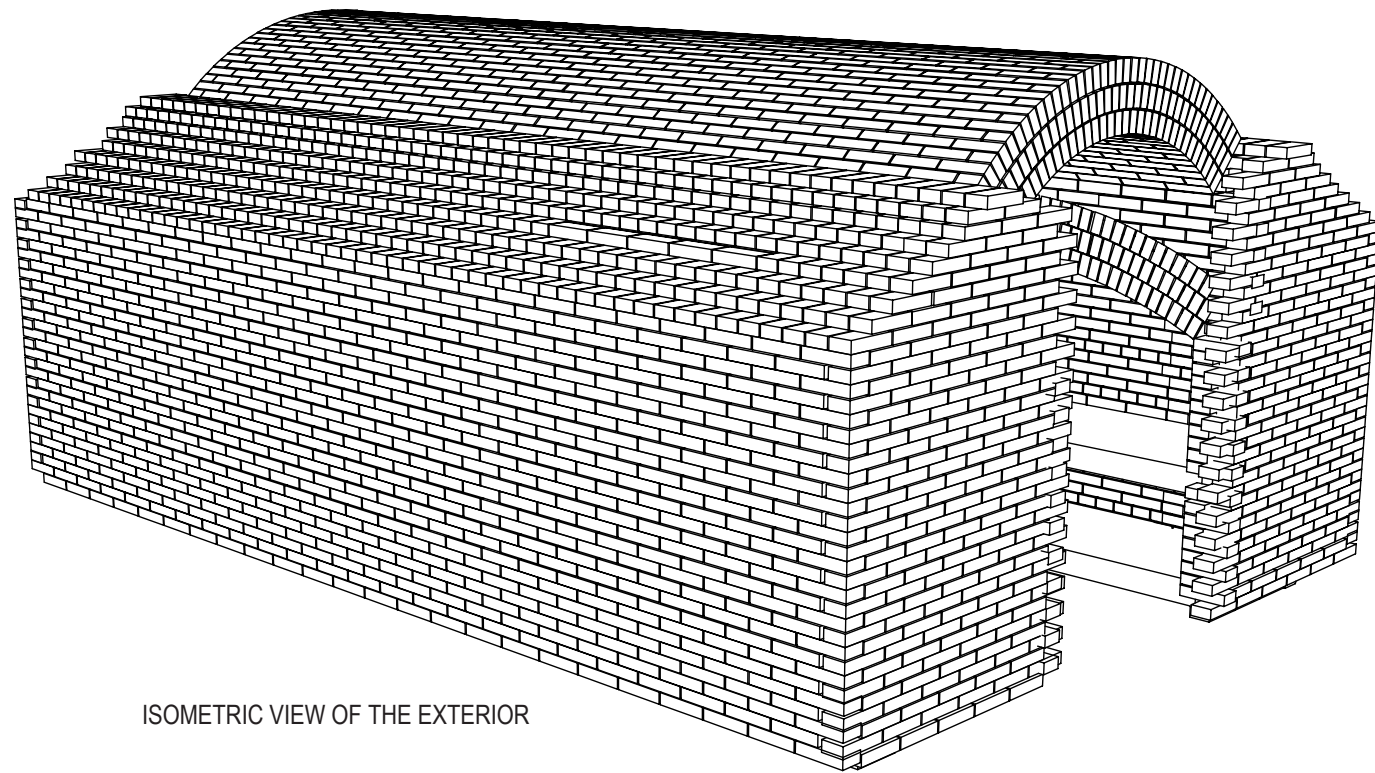


(e) Detail of the construction of the barrel vaulted roof.

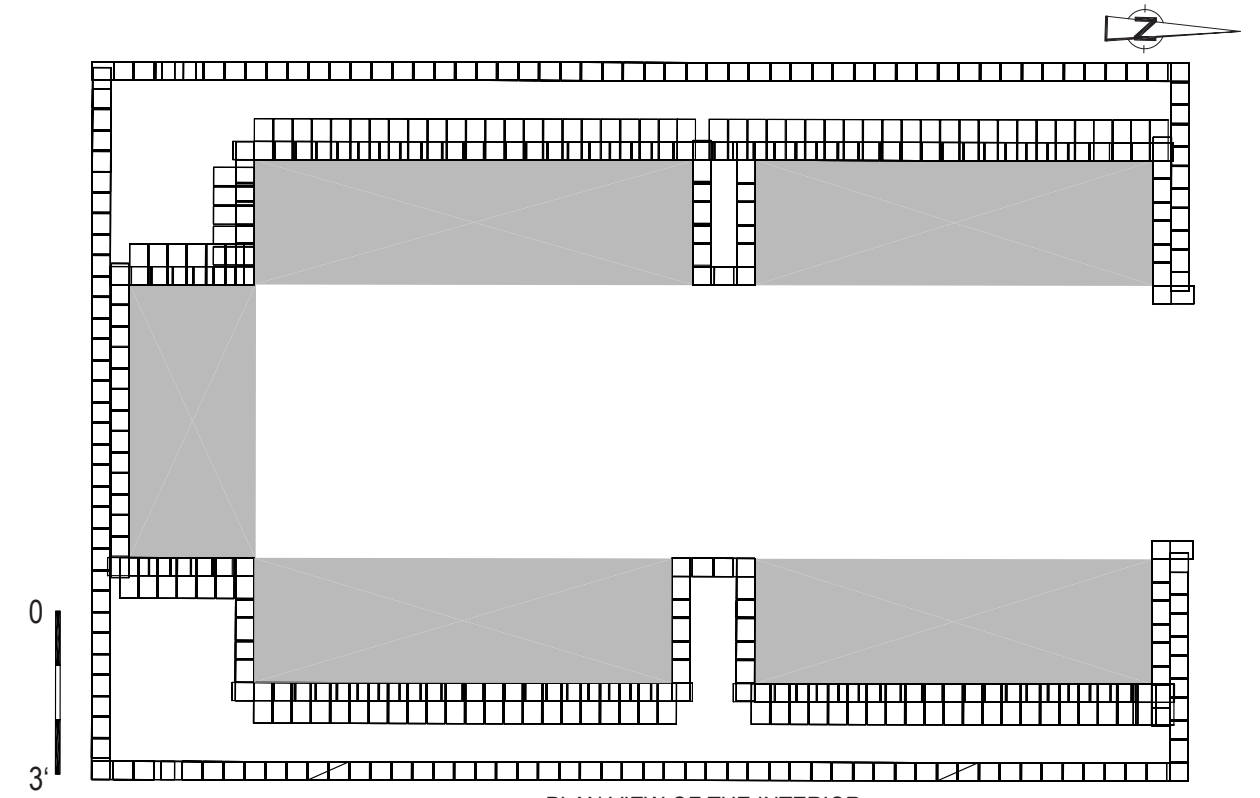


(f) View of damage to the corbelled courses of brick at the southeast corner of the structure that likely resulted from the construction of the 1920s house.

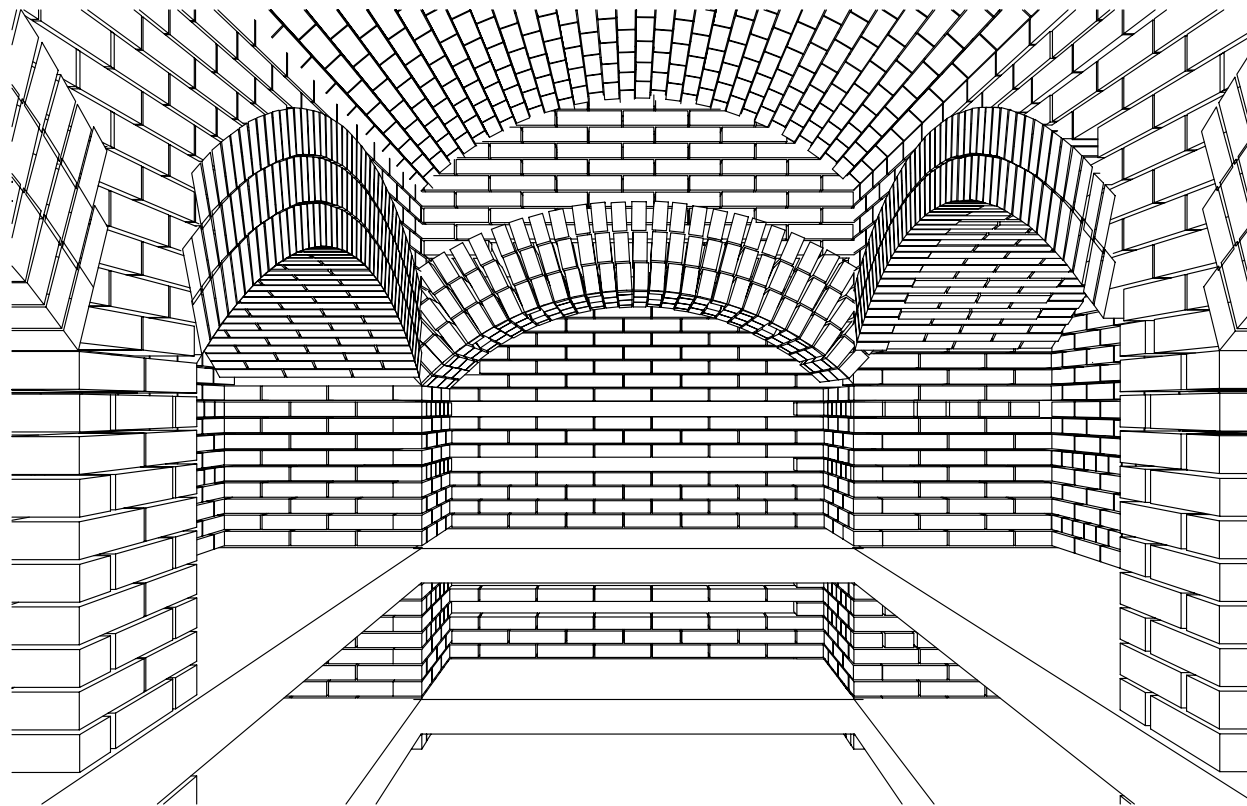
Figure 11: Attributes of the exterior of the mausoleum.



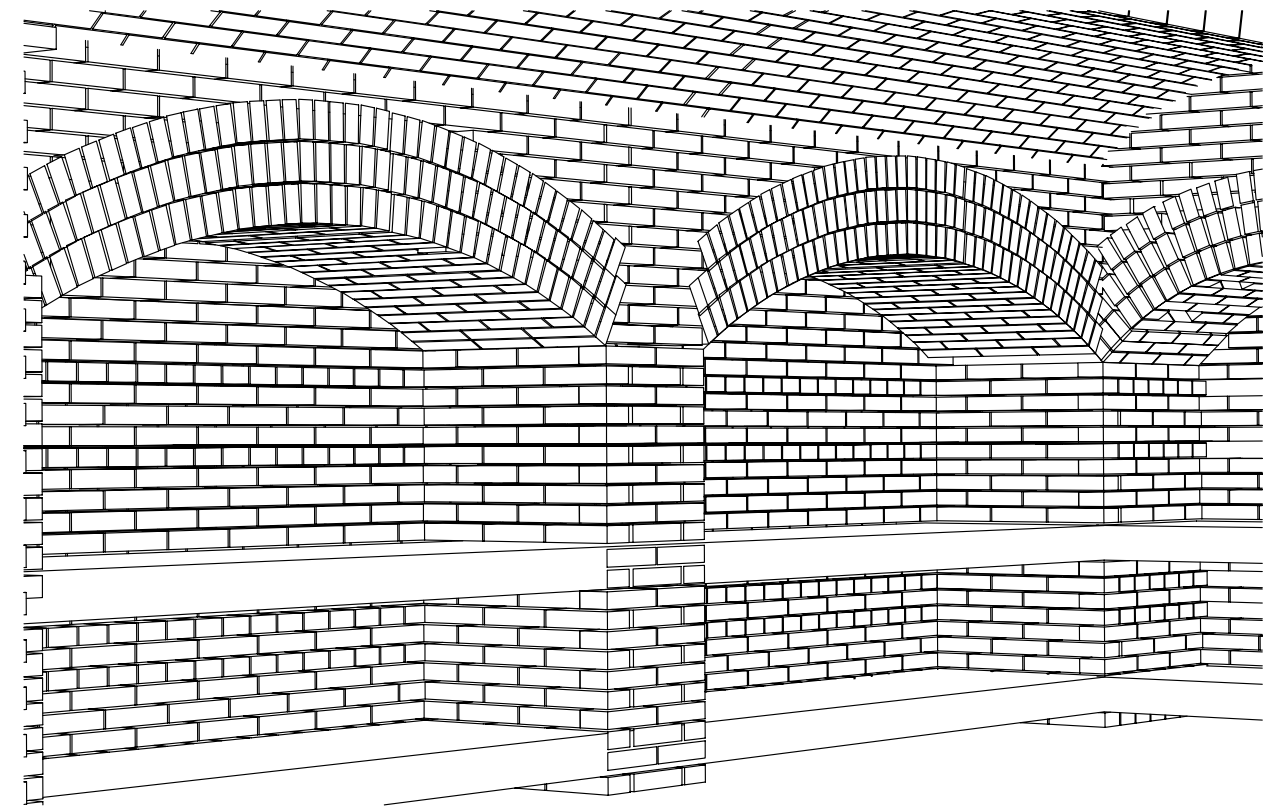
ISOMETRIC VIEW OF THE EXTERIOR



PLAN VIEW OF THE INTERIOR



ISOMETRIC VIEW OF THE SOUTH CHAMBER TO THE SOUTH WALL



ISOMETRIC VIEW OF THE EAST ARCADE IN THE SOUTH CHAMBER

Figure 12: Details and views of the mausoleum based on the field documentation. The sandstone elements are reconstructed.

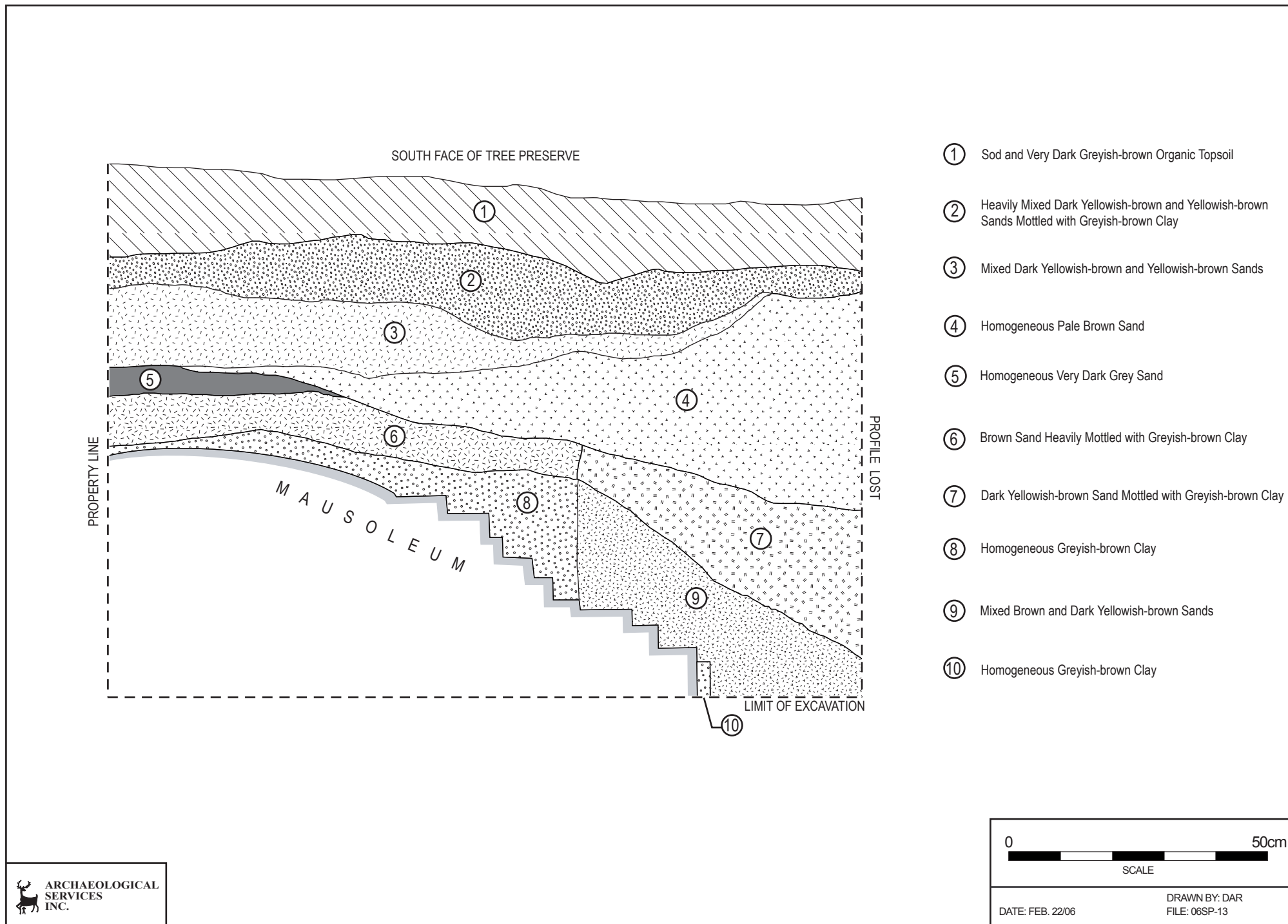


Figure 13: The east-west profile along the face of the tree preserve.

discerned that would lead to greater certainty in the identification of the associations of the various upper layers in the stratigraphic profile. The uppermost portion of the covering mound was likely removed during the twentieth century redevelopment of the property. Likewise, no vestiges of the “natural surface” depicted on the architectural plans were encountered. Given the location of the profile, it is possible that this surface lay below the excavation limit, assuming that it was indeed natural rather than an earlier artificial landscape feature, in which case Layer 9 may represent a portion of the topography indicated on the architectural plans.

The Interior

The investigation of the interior of the mausoleum (Figures 12 and 14) entailed exposure of the footings along the south and east walls of the innermost chamber, the preparation of measured plan and elevation drawings, and limited exploration in the area of the sand fill blocking the entrance to the mausoleum.

Exposure of the footings proved that the structure had been built on a levelled surface dug into native clay subsoil. Once the superstructure had been built, a layer of homogeneous yellowish-brown sand was laid to form a subfloor to the height of the third course of bricks. The floor would then have been laid on this bed. No vestiges of the floor were encountered; it is likely that they were salvaged upon the abandonment of the structure.

The 5½” thick lintels that had been set into the blind arches for the coffins also had been removed. These slabs were red Credit Valley sandstone, which was a very expensive material. It seems less likely that they had been salvaged for re-use as they had been extracted by roughly chiselling or simply smashing their margins along the walls to extract them from the brickwork. It would have been easier, and less damaging to the sandstone, to simply chop away the surrounding bricks. Traces of a 1½” (4.0 cm) thick layer of mortar were found below the remnants of the sandstone slabs and the sand subfloor under the pier between the blind arches on the east wall of the inner chamber, but were not seen elsewhere. It is possible that this material was used simply to fill a gap between the original slab floor and the lower lintel in this area rather than constituting the remains of a continuous surface throughout the interior.

The bricks making up the three course thick voussoirs of the interior arches were laid as stretchers, as was the main vaulted roof of the structure. The piers were necessarily laid in a hybrid English-Flemish bond pattern of alternating headers and stretchers within each course, while the balance of the walls were laid in an English garden wall bond pattern. The lower course of bricks making up the voussoir of the southernmost arch on the west wall had apparently failed. This course, together with a portion of the piers had been removed and the newly exposed surfaces refaced with mortar. Apart from this modification, the masonry is of high quality and the internal design and dimensions are essentially those specified on the original plans.

The exact configuration of the entrance remains unknown. An attempt was made to tunnel through the sand fill blocking the entrance. This resulted in identification of the north wall and former line of the door jamb. It was possible to feel the presence of stone work beyond this point, suggesting the presence of the stone facing of the stairwell as would be consistent with the entry design reproduced on Figure 8. Such stonework would not have been required if the flanking earthworks had been ramped as indicated on the Figure 9 plan.



(a) View of the south chamber of the mausoleum, including the south end and southeast and southwest bays of the lateral arcades of blind arches.



(b) View of the south west bay. Note remnants of the sandstone lintel in the corner.



(c) Exposed pier footing between the south end and southwest bays.



(d) View of the southeast chamber. Note that a course of bricks has been removed from the arch and the interior face of the pier and the areas resurfaced with mortar.



(e) View from the south end of the mausoleum north to the blocked entry.



(f) View of the northwest chamber partially choked with sand fill used to block the entry.



(g) View from the easternmost portion of the north wall and door jamb exposed by removing sand fill from the blocked entry.



(h) Views of the ventilation flue in the south end of the mausoleum.

Figure 14: Attributes of the interior of the mausoleum.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The former Nordheimer family mausoleum was encountered during the redevelopment of a residential property located on Glen Edyth Drive. This feature was built during the summer of 1885, overlooking Castle Frank Creek on the Nordheimer Ravine at Glen Edyth and had been designed by eminent Toronto architect, David B. Dick, who Samuel Nordheimer had commissioned for other designs in 1882-1884.

Five members of the Nordheimer family were buried in this vault between 1885 and 1912. Agreeable to the provisions of Samuel Nordheimer's will, when the Glen Edyth estate was surveyed and sold for subdivision development, the remains were removed from the site to Mount Pleasant Cemetery in 1923.

The remains of the mausoleum were documented in detail on February 3, 2006 and a notice that these activities had been completed was submitted to City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services and the Heritage Operations Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Culture on February 6, 2006. Clearance of outstanding archaeological concerns with respect to the feature was provided by those agencies on February 6, 2006. It was anticipated that the roof of the structure would be removed and its interior filled with concrete in order to permit the redevelopment of the property.

This final report constitutes fulfilment of licensing commitments (CIF P046-027-2006) pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act.

In the event that deeply buried archaeological remains are found on the property during construction activities, the Heritage Operations Unit of the Ministry of Culture should be notified immediately.

In the event that human remains are encountered during construction, the proponent should immediately contact both MCL, and the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services (416) 326-8404.

The documentation related to this archaeological assessment will be curated by Archaeological Services Inc. until such a time that arrangements for their ultimate transfer to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, or other public institution, can be made to the satisfaction of the project owner(s), the Ontario Ministry of Culture, and any other legitimate interest groups.

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