

WOODLAWN CEMETERY, FAHNESTOCK MAUSOLEUM  
Webster Avenue & East 233rd Street  
Bronx  
Bronx County  
New York

HABS NY-6390-A  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WOODLAWN CEMETERY, FAHNESTOCK MAUSOLEUM

HABS No. NY-6390-A

Location: Woodlawn Cemetery, Webster Ave & 233<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx, Bronx County, NY

The coordinates for Woodlawn Cemetery are 73.522131 W and 40.531987 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in December 2011 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Significance: Harris C. Fahnestock, the patriarch of a wealthy banking family in New York City, commissioned this grand mausoleum to be built in 1895 by the well-known Boston-based firm of Peabody & Stearns. It sits within the grounds of the Woodlawn Cemetery as a tastefully grand structure, a reminder of the family's power and prestige.

Description: The granite mausoleum is circular in plan, with a domed top, pedimented entry, and grand staircase. Inside rest 12 bodies of the Fahnestock family, entombed in smooth white marble. Both interior and exterior belt courses are adorned with fine details, including egg & dart, Greek key, and beaded motifs, supplemented by floral patterns and a wreath in the pediment. The interior, reached through a double set of heavy bronze doors, is further ornamented by a domed Tiffany mosaic and two small Tiffany stained glass windows.

History: The mausoleum was designed in 1895 by Peabody & Stearns for Harris Fahnestock and his large family. Fahnestock was a banker, and his sons were bankers and stock brokers, contributing to the family's wealth and social prominence in turn-of-the-century New York. Their weekend home in Lenox, Massachusetts may have familiarized them with Peabody & Stearns' work, leading to the commission.

The mausoleum is still owned by the Fahnestock family and is maintained by the Woodlawn Cemetery, where it sits among hundreds of other mausolea of varying size and style. The latest member of the family was entombed in the 1980s, occupying the last available space.

Sources:

Crouch, Edith. *The Mosaics of Louis Comfort Tiffany*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Pub., 2009. Print.

"Fahnestock Dance for Lenox Colony." *New York Times* 31 Aug. 1913: 11. Print.

*Harris Fahnestock, Residence in Lenox, Massachusetts. General view from road.* Photograph. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Lenox, MA. *Library of Congress*. Web. 4 Oct. 2010. <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/gsc.5a04088/>>.

Peabody & Stearns, Architects. *Tomb for H C Fahnestock Esq.* 1895. Blueprints. Boston. Courtesy of Avery Library's Drawing & Archives collection.

Tiffany Studios. *A Partial List of Windows*. 2nd ed. New York, 1973. Print.

Wills, Charles T. "Sending Plans Furnished by Peabody & Stearns." Letter to The Woodlawn Cemetery. 15 Feb. 1915. MS. New York.

Year: 1880; Census Place: New York City, New York, New York; Roll 894; Family History Film: 1254894; Page: 166A; Enumeration District: 570; Image: 0326.

Year: 1930; Census Place: Manhattan, New York, New York; Roll 1567; Page: 7A; Enumeration District: 562; Image: 425.0.

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