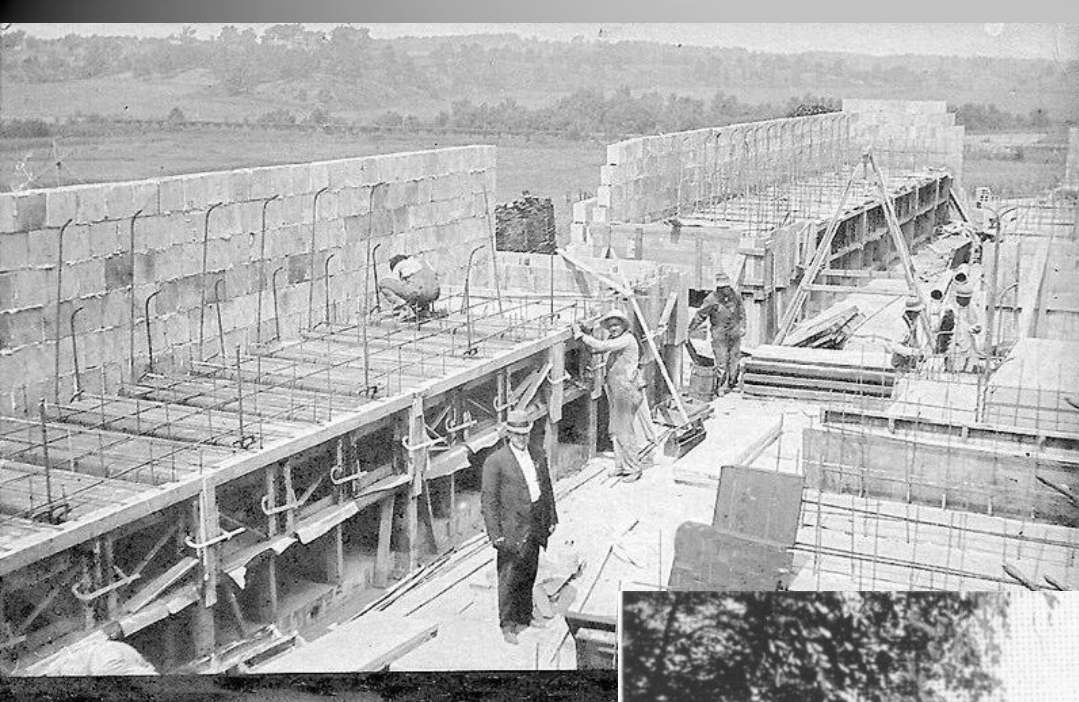


The Beecher Mausoleum



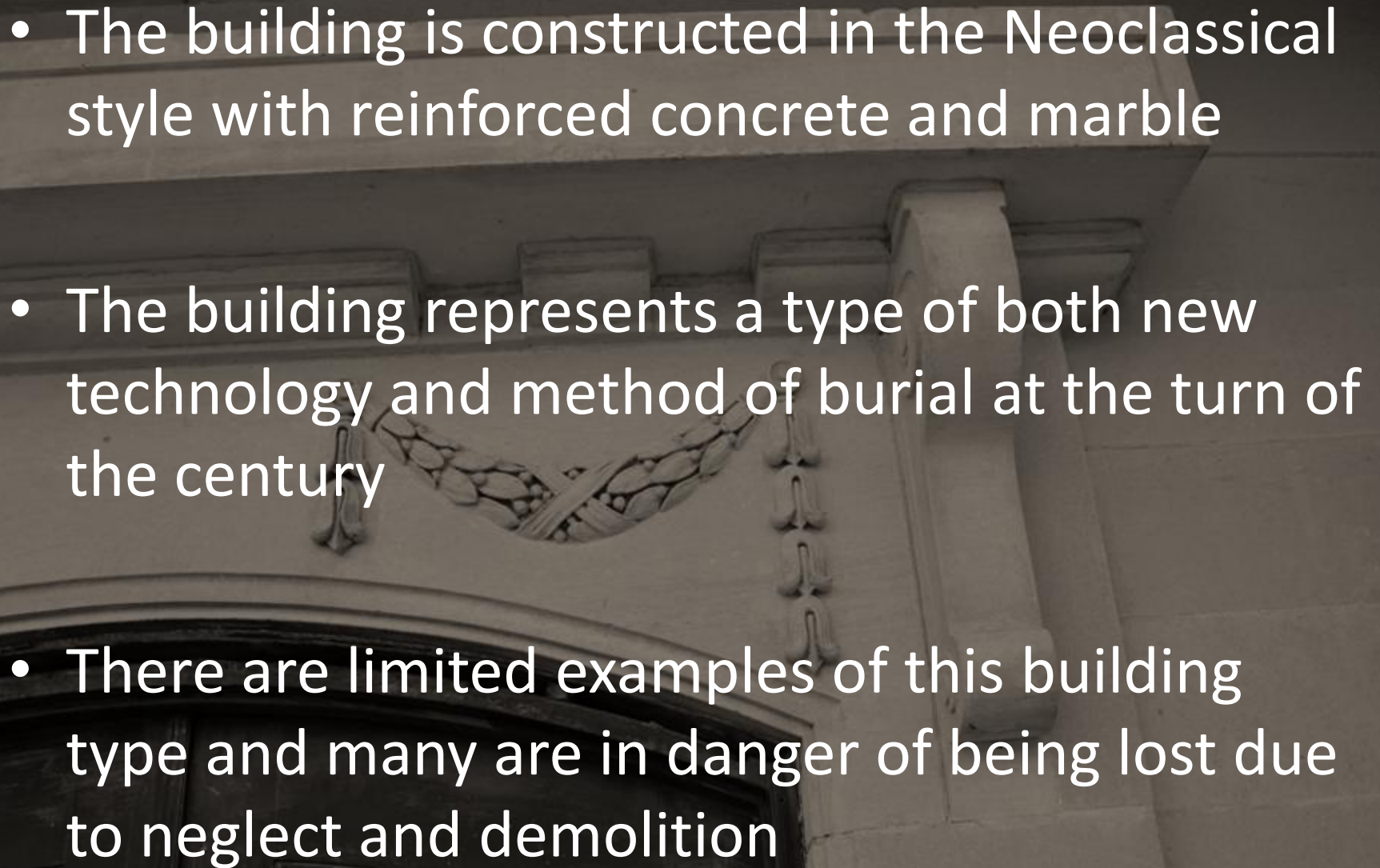
Constructed
1913

Cecil Bryan,
Architect



BEECHER, ILLINOIS, MAUSOLEUM

220 CRYPTS

- 
- The building is constructed in the Neoclassical style with reinforced concrete and marble
 - The building represents a type of both new technology and method of burial at the turn of the century
 - There are limited examples of this building type and many are in danger of being lost due to neglect and demolition



Front Entry
looking south



Front,
looking southeast

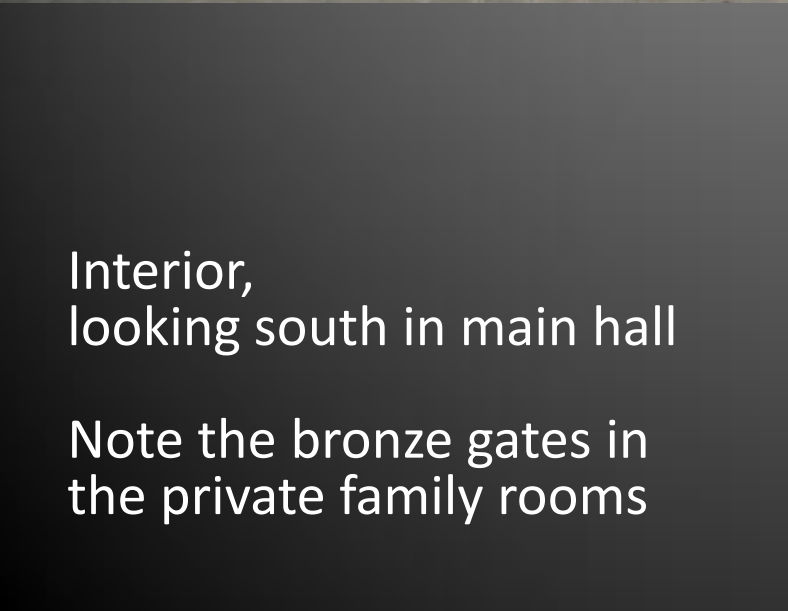
Exterior,
looking northeast



Exterior,
looking northwest



Interior,
looking north to front
entry in main hall
Note the vaulted ceiling
and trusses



Interior,
looking south in main hall

Note the bronze gates in
the private family rooms





Typical Vaults



Typical Side Hall

National Register Criteria

- Eligible under Criterion A:

Social History

The development of the community mausoleum was a new concept for burial in the United States when it was designed and promoted during the first years of the 20th century. The community mausoleum movement began in Ohio and expanded across the United States. The community mausoleum movement's early years found a receptive audience in Beecher where the idea was first promoted in 1912. This was only a few years after what is considered the first community mausoleum was constructed in Ohio in 1907.

National Register Criteria

- Eligible under Criterion C:

Architecture/Engineering

The Beecher Mausoleum is representative of a new architectural form: the community mausoleum. The building's style also represents a period of architecture that reflected permanence by the adaptation of historical precedents from the Classical period.

The Beecher Mausoleum also represents a new method of entombment used by communities in the United States. The community mausoleum movement was developed and promoted primarily by two men named Henry Sievert and Cecil Bryan, an Illinois native. The men introduced patents to protect their own methods of construction for ventilation and drainage. Several mausoleum companies were incorporated in Ohio, only to be absorbed into larger national companies and these men were often at the center of promoting, or defending, their mausoleum designs within these companies. The development of reinforced concrete provided the science to introduce the new building type.

BEECHER: *a place for...*

Community

Remembering

Education

Honor

History

Volunteering

