

Memento Mori at The Haunted Mansion

For over thirty years "foolish mortals" have experienced The Haunted Mansion from the safety of their Doom Buggies, but all of that is about to change as the 999 happy haunts "unearth" one of the darkest realms of that old house on the hill. Curiosity seekers will soon have the unique opportunity to explore part of the mansion on foot...in Memento Mori, a merchandise shop located inside the newly opened Gracey family crypt.

Friends and family members wishing to pay their respects to members of the Gracey clan find something amiss as they make their way past the pet cemetery toward the family crypt at the side of the house. They discover one of the three vaults to be wide open, revealing a dark passageway leading into the burial chamber. The simple epitaph above the open tomb reads, "Memento Mori." Equally curious and alarmed, visitors are likely to do one of two things: proceed into the crypt and investigate, or alert one of the servants to the disturbance.

Braver souls head for the almost irresistible open door and disappear into the shadows. More sensible mortals continue on through the archway of the mansion's clearly marked "Servants' Entrance" in search of an explanation.

But the mystery of the open sepulcher only deepens as concerned mourners head for the door marked "Servants Quarters" on the left side of the corridor. Directly across from the servants quarters is the mansion's wine cellar, a deep recess in the stone wall filled with racks of wine and spirits and barrels of ale. The cellar's crumbling back wall has fallen in to reveal a dimly lit passageway leading down into the earth. This time the temptation to explore is too much to resist.

Curious souls move past the racks and barrels to the rear of the wine cellar, where a wide fissure in the stone wall admits them into a chamber beyond. A thick layer of earth separates the wine cellar from the adjacent sanctum, but it, too, has fallen away to permit passage. Visitors emerge from the short earthen tunnel to find themselves deep within the Gracey family crypt.

The subterranean chamber is a sight to behold. Torches held by sculpted human hands attach by their arms to the stone walls, dimly illuminating the cavernous space. Hard shafts of sunlight (and moonlight) also pierce the gloomy darkness, emanating from fissures in the earth, and gnarled roots jut into the chamber from the hillside above. Water can be heard dripping somewhere in the distance, along with a flurry of barely audible whispers. And every now and again, a soft and decidedly feminine moan echoes through the space, as though a young bride still pines for her lost love.

The focal point of the space is a shiny black casket-sitting on a pedestal in the "dead center" of the tomb, the final resting place of EDWARD GRACEY himself. A freshly cut rose lies atop the coffin. A simple plaque marks the sites



Dear Master Gracey, Our Patriarch Dear, Whose Earthly Remains Rest Peacefully Here...



Behind the cashwrap is a wall memorial consisting of several objects that offer cryptic clues to the circumstances of Gracey's life – and death: a small treasure chest with a silver key stuck in the lock, a hatbox, and an engagement ring.

Master Gracey isn't the crypt's only resident. Cobweb-draped caskets sit in niches that line the catacombs and antechambers surrounding Gracey's central resting place. Additional coffins sit and stand throughout the tomb, some of the lids open wide enough to reveal slowly decomposing occupants. Others are empty and awaiting their eternal residents. A number of mildew-streaked marble statues stand watch over the interred, and literally keep an eye on anyone else who dares to enter. Skulls, a number of full skeletons, and other boney odds and ends litter the crypt.

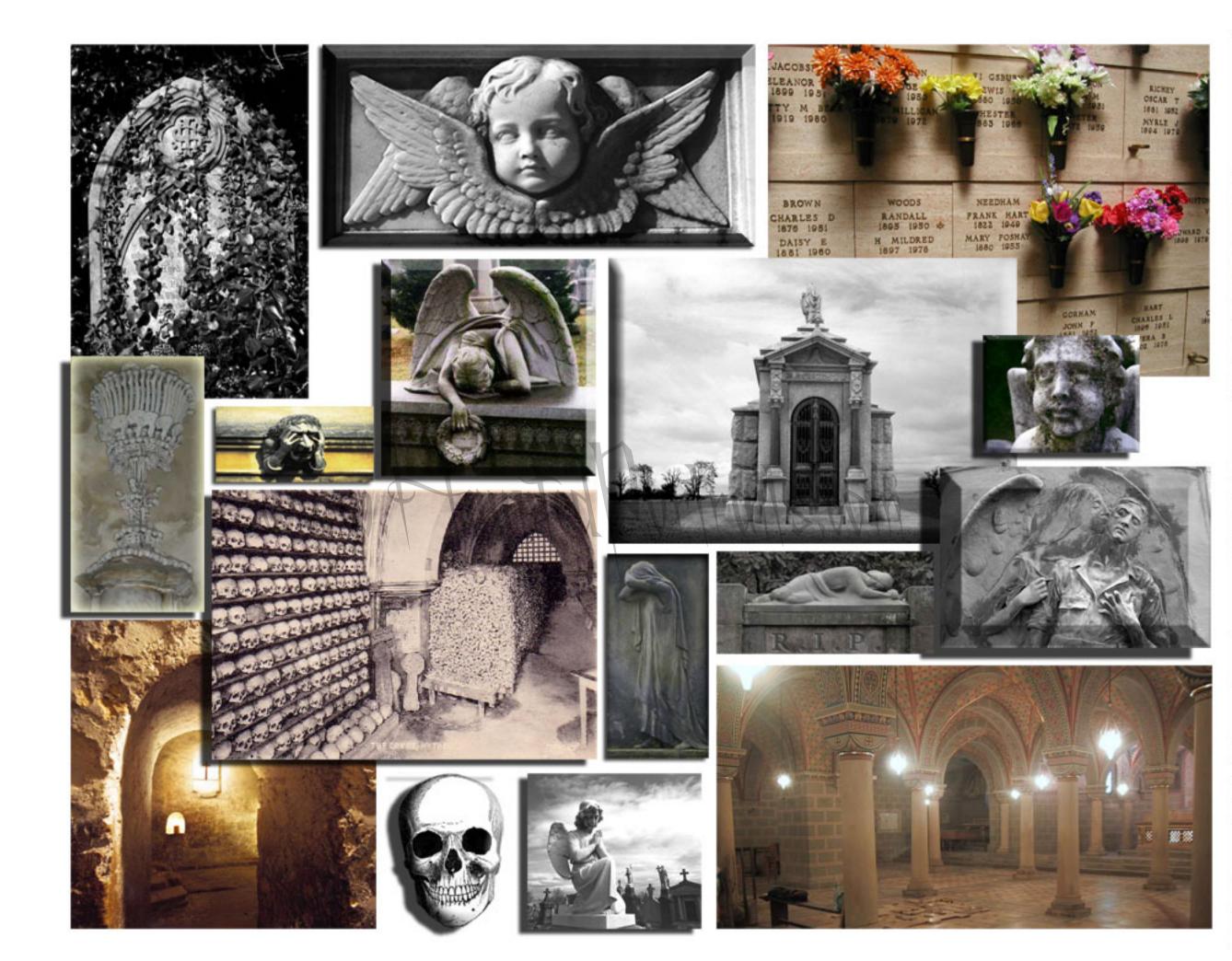
Even if guests don't stop for hitchhikers, they are likely to pick up something before they go. Family "mementos" and all sorts of other material memorials can be found displayed throughout the tomb – inside caskets, stacked in niches, on statues, even hanging from clasped skeletal hands. Such a keepsake is the perfect way to commemorate a visit to the Gracey family crypt.

The catacombs eventually lead guests back to the "surface" and the tomb's open door. Guests emerge from the burial chamber to find themselves in the family crypt at the side of the mansion. They make their way back into the land of the living and Liberty Square, grateful that their stay in a crypt wasn't permanent...at least not yet.

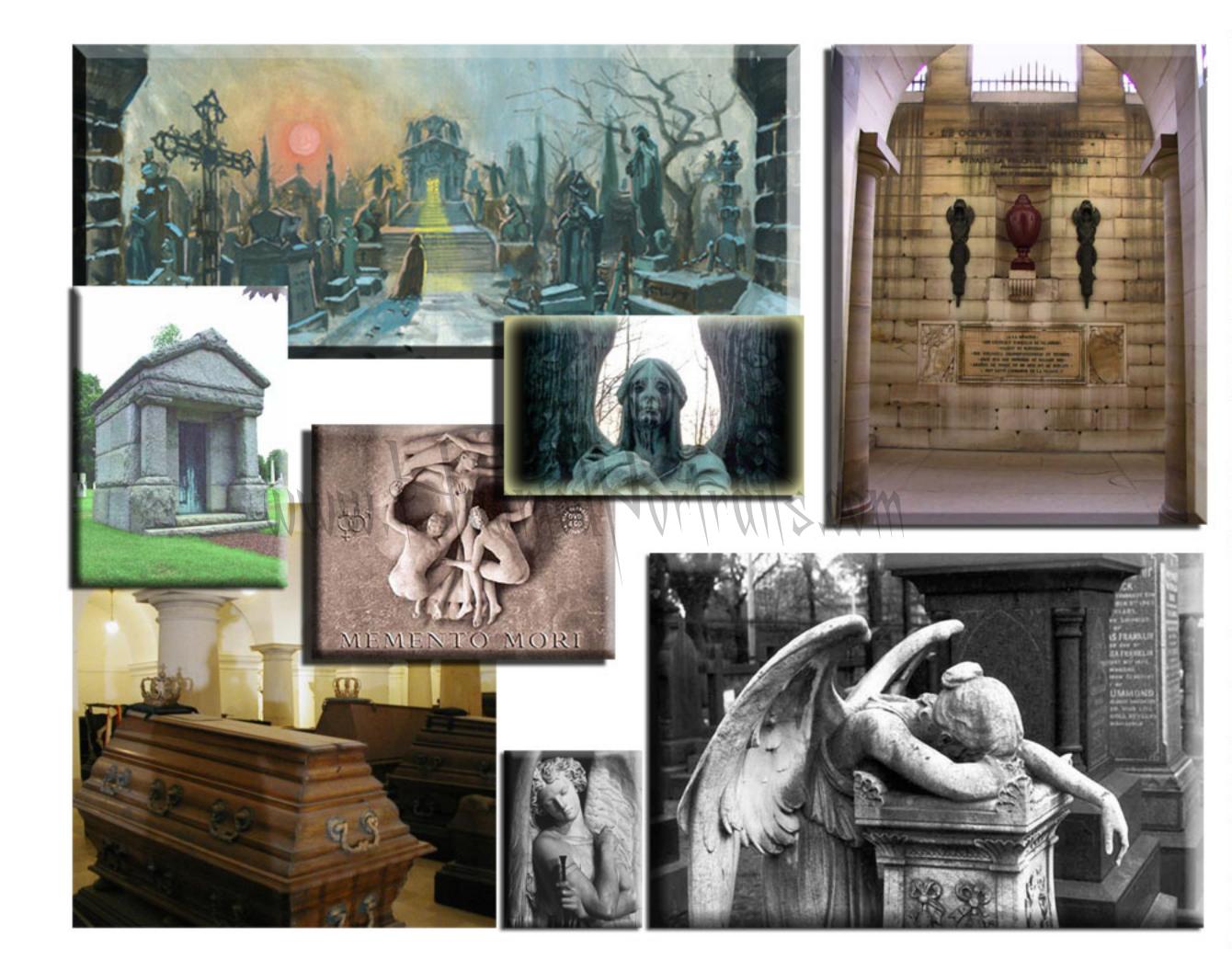
Guests leave the mansion with their arms filled with earthly mementos as well as a few lingering questions. Why has the Gracey family crypt been opened? Was someone trying to get in?

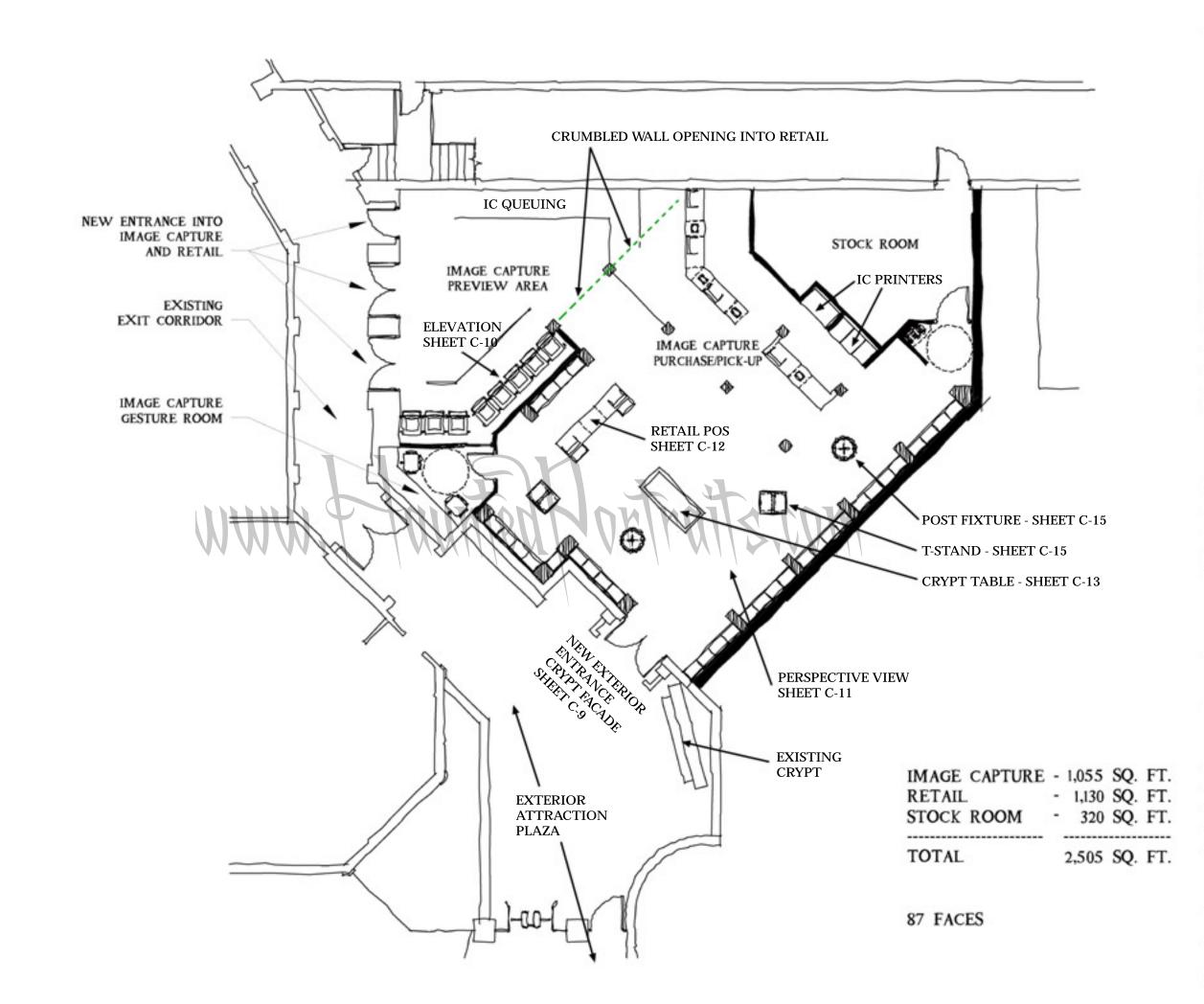
Or was something trying to get out? Those questions, along with the crypt, remain open, adding still another mystery to The Haunted Mansion.

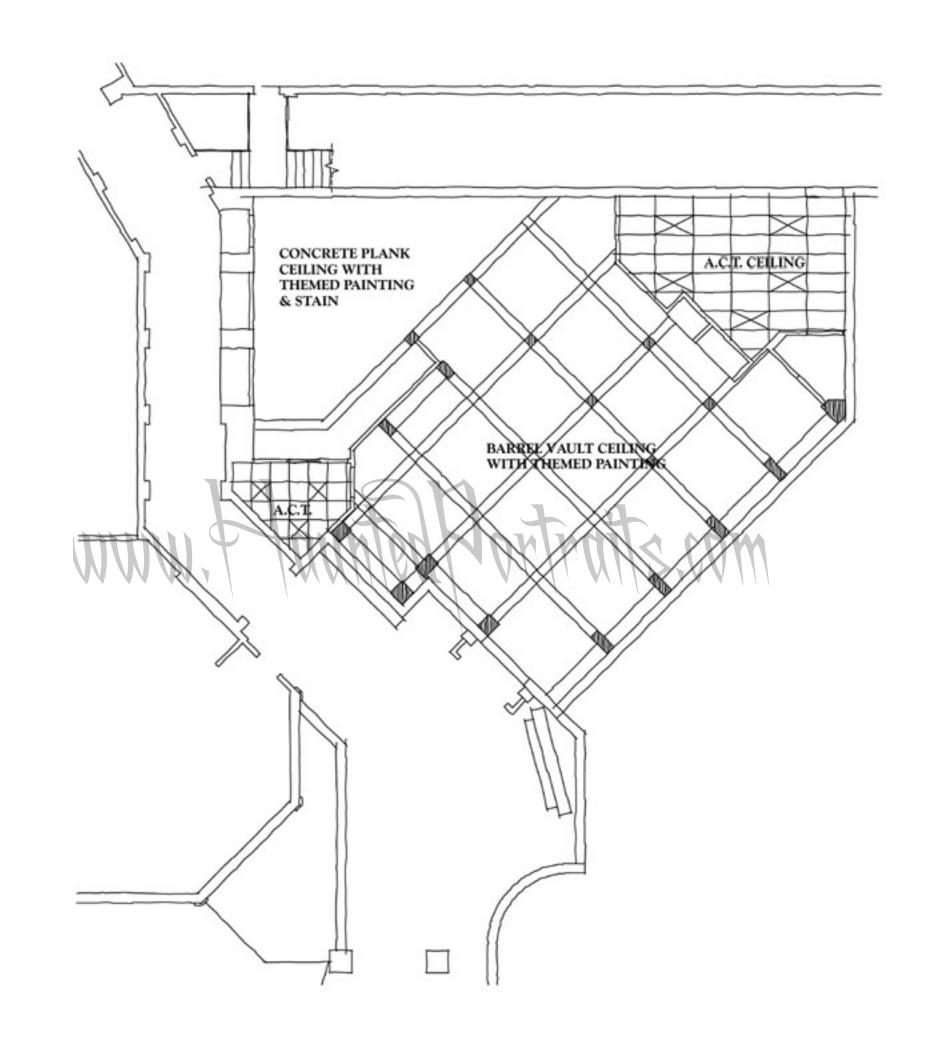














EXTERIOR CRYPT ENTRANCE CONCEPT

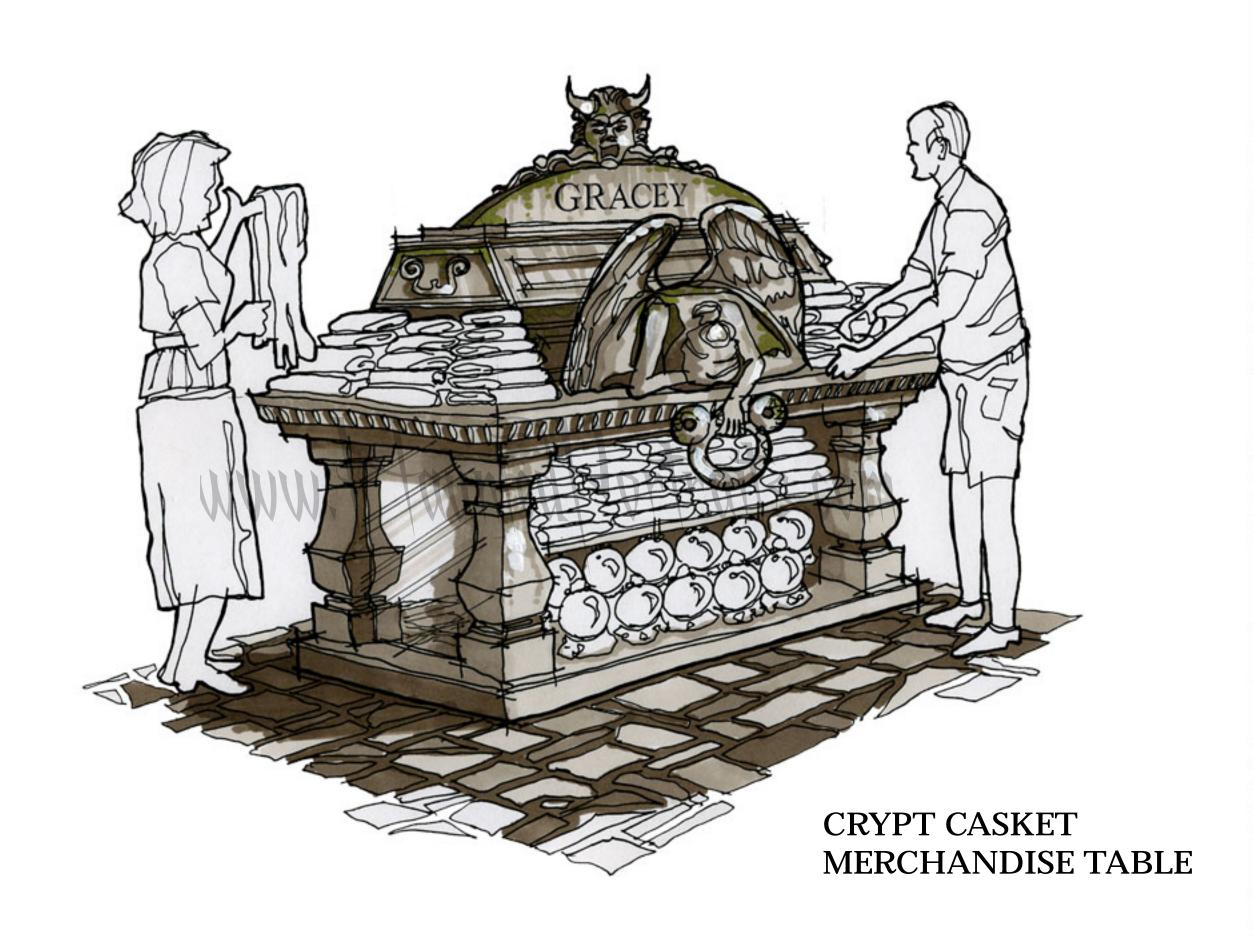


IMAGE CAPTURE PREVIEW ELEVATION "THE WHINE CELLAR"



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE







LOGO CHARACTER CONCEPT

