

Samuelson Mausoleum

The mausoleum takes the form of a temple with a ribbed dome, the design being based on one in the garden at Montacute (Sir Bernhard had rented this house for a time during Sir Henry's childhood). The columns support an entablature with inscriptions in English, Greek and Latin. The bronze chest tomb which used to stand under the dome was emblazoned with the Samuelson coat of arms and the family motto: Post Tenebras Lux (After darkness [comes] dawn [or light]) It was designed by the sculptor George Frampton.

Hatchford Park (in the grounds)
Hatchford
Surrey
KT11 1LR
England

Scan for Google Maps Link



Architects

Probably Roland Plumbé, the architect used by Samuelson to rebuild the mansion in Hatchford Park.

Year Built

1919

Style

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Listing

Grade II (England and Wales)

Condition

The surrounding trees have been cut back and the fabric is generally sound, but sections of the cornice and the little obelisks which used to stand on the canopy were lost some time ago (2003).

History

The mausoleum was built by Sir Henry Samuelson for his father, Sir Bernhard (1820-1905), mother Caroline (1821-86) and sister Florence (1857-81). All three were exhumed from Torquay cemetery and re-interred here in 1920. Sir Henry had wished to create a 'Temple of Sleep' where the whole family could rest together, though in the event he and his wife were interred elsewhere. In 1960-1 the bronze chest-tomb which had been brought from Torquay to stand under the dome was stolen. Although it was recovered on that occasion, it disappeared for good soon afterwards. In the years that followed, the mausoleum was stripped of its doors and panelling. The building and surrounding land were acquired by Surrey County Council in 1992.

Sources

BoE: Surrey (1971), 308;

J Grant, 'The Strange Story of the Samuelson Mausoleum at Hatchford Park', Surrey History, 5, 3 (1995), 76-83.

Photos



Location

SatNav Co-ordinates: 52.792982998, -0.7038252774