Wood Mausoleum

Architecturally this is the most distinguished mausoleum in the cemetery. It is sumptuously decorated in a late seventeenth century English style, with fluted half columns and pilasters supporting a cornice delicately carved with cherubs’ heads and swags of fruit. In the centre of the pediment is the family crest with, to either side, the figure of a boy in contemporary dress wearing a short jacket and floppy bow tie.

Architect(s)
Not known

Year Created
1858

History
The mausoleum of the Wood family was built by George Wood (1813-1892). As a young man he inherited Ottershaw Park in Surrey, but he sold this estate in 1841 and moved to Potters Park. The construction of the mausoleum may have been prompted by the deaths in of two infant sons in 1852 and 1857. Alexander, the earlier child, was initially buried in St John’s Wood Cemetery but his remains were transferred to Brookwood in 1858. The commemorative inscriptions on the walls of the building refer to members of the family whose dates of death range from 1767 to 1924, not all of whom are buried here. They include Lt General Sir George Hay Wood (d.1824) and also Lt Andrew Wood "accidentally drowned while carrying despatches in an open boat to Lord Cornwallis's fleet, 1767". The last members of the family to be interred in the mausoleum were Andrew George Wood (1854-1916) and his wife, Leila Carnegie Wood, "who was accidentally killed" 20 June 1924, aged 44.

Condition
Poor and getting worse. This exceptionally fine monument is being destroyed by the plants with which it is overrun. They are lifting the stone from the roof and opening up cracks in other parts of the structure (2006).

Sources
Memorandum by Brookwood Cemetery Ltd to the Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs (CEM 64, October 2000 - updated Feb 2003);
J Clarke, An Introduction to Brookwood Cemetery (1992), 18; BoE: Surrey (1971), 120;
J S Curl, The Victorian Celebration of Death (2000), 145;
information supplied by Chris Bartlett (Brookwood Cemetery Society).
Notes compiled by Ian Simpson on burials in Brookwood Cemetery provided August 2007

Links
Brookwood Cemetery website
Location
Brookwood Cemetery (Plot 30),
Brookwood,
Surrey.
GU24 0BL