



A CASS GILBERT TOUR FOR MOTHER'S DAY, May 10, 2009

Celebrate Mother's Day by joining the Cass Gilbert Society in a tour of Cass Gilbert's work on **Summit Hill** and **Ramsey Hill**. Gilbert and his family had long associations with the neighborhood, from his first independent commission, the house he designed in 1882 for his mother Elizabeth Gilbert on Ashland Avenue, to the house he designed for himself on Heather Place, to a wide variety of residences for prosperous clients in fashionable architectural styles. In addition, the tour will view the work of Gilbert's early partner, James Knox Taylor, and his chief draftsman and protégé, Thomas Holyoke.

The tour will be offered at two times. The first tour will begin at **2:00 P.M.**; the second tour will begin at **3:30 P.M.** The tours will follow the same route in both time slots. Architects Thomas Blanck and Sonja Mason and architectural historian Marjorie Pearson will be the tour guides. All tours will begin at **Lookout Park**, at the junction of Summit Avenue and Ramsey Street, east of the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul. The cost will be \$10 for members and \$15 for

non-members, payable at the beginning of the tour. Each tour participant will receive a tour book that combines information from two previous Cass Gilbert Society tours in the area. For further information, call Marjorie Pearson, 612-338-1987 (days).



The residence that Cass Gilbert designed for his mother Elizabeth in 1882.

This was his first independent work.

Photo: Marjorie Pearson

SAVE THE DATES:

Cass Gilbert Society to visit Oberlin, Ohio, September 19-20, 2009. More detailed information to follow in the next *Newsletter*.



Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, architect Cass Gilbert, 1917.

Photo: Oberlin College

CASS GILBERT TO TURN 150 ON NOVEMBER 24!

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Cass Gilbert's birth, November 24, 1859, in Zanesville, Ohio, State Senator Ann H. Rest introduced a resolution to mark this celebratory year.

It reads in part: "Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it recognizes the achievements of Cass Gilbert as essentials in the history of American architecture and in the history and culture of the state of Minnesota. It joins with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Cass Gilbert Society in special observances during 2009 and commends to all Minnesotans the celebration of Cass Gilbert's 150th birthday."

In cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society which manages the Minnesota State Capitol as a historic site, the Cass Gilbert Society is planning special tours of the Capitol on Saturday, November 21, and a two-week long exhibition on Gilbert, which will be installed in the Capitol.

We will be announcing more details in future *Newsletters*.

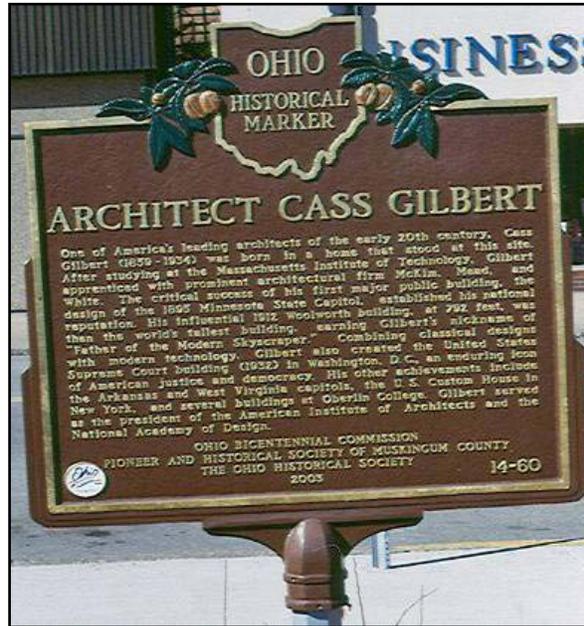


Photo: Patricia Murphy

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to all who have joined the Cass Gilbert Society or renewed their membership since the last issue of the *Newsletter* was published. The Cass Gilbert Society records membership on a calendar year basis (January – December). Your expiration date is printed above your name on the address label. If you are on our complimentary mailing list, the label reads COMP. Membership information is printed on the back of this Newsletter for members who want to renew but have not yet done so, or for those who want to join the Society.

The following are additions to the list published in the February 2009 *Newsletter*:

Bonnie and Brian Alton
Patricia L. Anderson
Michael J. Bjornberg
Ray L. Brovold
Darlene Carroll
Mary Sue Comfort
John and Eva Cross
Sandra S. Engquist
Mary Ann Finegan
Dave Fritz
Barbara Greenberg
Gar Hargens and Missy Thompson
Virginia Anne Housum
Merle and Ellen Johnson

Carolyn Kompelien
Alice M. Larsson
Linda Mack
John McNeil
Ray and Sheila Meyer
Jim Miller
Ardis and James Noonan
Don Ostrom
Nancy Peterson
Paul Schmidt, Restoration Window Systems
Nancy Tracy
Ken and Shirley Wahlborg
Donald Z. Woods

SOLOMONSON AND FENSKE LECTURES A GREAT SUCCESS

Members and friends of the Cass Gilbert Society enjoyed two excellent lectures recently. **Dr. Katherine Solomonson**, associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Architecture, College of Design, at the University of Minnesota, spoke November 11, 2008, on **Cass Gilbert: Reimagining the Western Landscape**. Her talk focused on Gilbert's work in Saint Paul and how he used Saint Paul as a base in the late nineteenth century to foster a national career in the context of increasing architectural professionalism.

On February 17, 2009, **Dr. Gail Fenske**, Professor of Architecture at the School of Art, Architecture and Historic Preservation, Rogers Williams University, spoke about her recently published book, *The Skyscraper and the City: The Woolworth Building and the Making of Modern New York*. Among other things, she spoke about her own early fascination with the Woolworth Building and her quest to discover how and why it was built.

Herb Grika recorded both lectures for transfer to DVD format. Copies of either or both lectures may be ordered directly from Herb for \$15 per DVD plus \$5 for shipping/handling. He may be contacted at herb@grika.com, or 612-822-2747.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The current state budget deficit is bad news for the Minnesota State Capitol and its deteriorating infrastructure. *Session Weekly*, a publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services, printed the following article by Nick Busse on March 9, 2009:

Don't let its gleaming white exterior fool you: Minnesota's State Capitol is in need of a serious makeover.

That was the message from Administration Commissioner Dana Badgerow, who told members of a House division that the 105-year-old building is deteriorating from top to bottom.

"We've got a situation here that is really depressing in the condition of our State Capitol," Badgerow testified before the House State Government Finance Division March 3. No action was taken.

Dave Fielding, plant management director for the department, said the Capitol has everything from water damage in its dome structure to crumbling ceilings in parts of the basement. He said the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in the building are old and inefficient, as is some of the technology and communications equipment.

Fielding stated the building is in need of a variety of updates to be brought into compliance with state building codes, and also failed a security vulnerability assessment by the Minnesota National Guard. He added the scale of work necessary would require "major disruptions" to daily activities in the building.

"We just ought not to be letting things deteriorate like this," said Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer (R-Big Lake), who suggested the state create a special fund for Capitol renovations that could carry over from year to year.

Chairwoman Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls.) said legislators are often reluctant to spend money on the Capitol, and noted that a recent effort to address some of the problems legislatively failed.

However, Kahn related the story of former Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells), who many years ago was having his picture taken with a group of constituents when the arm of a statue on the side of the Capitol came tumbling down and crashed on the steps beside them.

"Our committee did that reconstruction funding so fast," Kahn said.

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Our Mission

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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MEMBERSHIP

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Do you know that **2009** is the Sesquicentennial of Cass Gilbert's birth? The Cass Gilbert Society is exploring ways to celebrate Gilbert's birthday. **November 24** is the actual day.