



# CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

*Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.*

## “WORK-IN-PROGRESS” TOUR OF CASS GILBERT MANSIONS ON SUMMIT AVENUE, SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

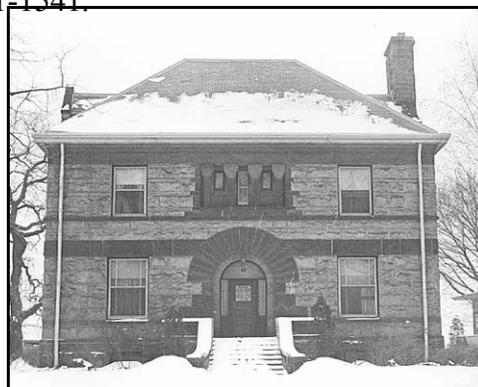
Members and friends of the Cass Gilbert Society are invited to take a self-guided tour of two important Cass Gilbert-designed houses on Sunday, September 24, 2006, between 3 and 6 P.M. The Lightner-Young House, 322-324 Summit Avenue, and the W. H. Lightner House, 318 Summit Avenue, have been sold within the past year and are undergoing renovation and restoration. Enjoy a rare behind-the-scenes look at the interiors of the residences. The Lightner-Young House, built in 1886 as two residences for attorneys William H. Lightner and George Young, is being converted to three condominium apartments. Lightner was so satisfied with Cass Gilbert's work that he commissioned the adjoining house at 318 Summit in 1893. The two buildings are connected by an underground tunnel at basement level.



322-324 Summit Avenue  
*Minnesota Historical Society*

The second Lightner house is being restored as a single-family residence.

This event is being held to raise funds to further the mission of the Cass Gilbert Society: *To preserve and enhance the nation's cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's contribution to American architecture.* Tour admission is \$20.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased on site, or make reservations in advance by mailing a check to the Cass Gilbert Society, P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, MN 55104. In addition, six stone brackets from 322-324 Summit (suitable for garden ornaments) will be available for sale. Light refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon. For more information, contact Linda Bjorklund, 651-291-1541.



318 Summit Avenue  
*Minnesota Historical Society*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**A Talk by William Seale**, Tuesday, October 31, 2006, 7:30 P.M. at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue. Seale, a historian and architectural restoration specialist, has been involved in the restoration of historic buildings across the nation including state capitols and other public buildings. He is part of the historic restoration team for the Minnesota State Capitol. For more information on Seale see: [www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/publications/CRM\\_Vol1\\_02\\_Spotlight.pdf](http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/publications/CRM_Vol1_02_Spotlight.pdf) Another announcement will be sent closer to the date of the talk.

**Cass Gilbert Society Tour to Austin, Texas**, November 17-19, 2006. Note the change in date. See the insert for more information.

## NOTICE

Due to budget cuts, the **Minnesota Humanities Commission**, which has funded our lecture series, has dissolved its Grants and Community Programs areas and will focus on elementary and secondary education and literacy programs. The Cass Gilbert Society will continue to seek grant funds from other sources as well as the financial support of our members to continue our programming.

If you are interested in purchasing **DVD copies** of previous lectures, see the inserted order form. Our thanks to Herb Grika for providing this service.

*Cass Gilbert: Standing the Test of Time* has been nominated for three regional Emmy awards in the categories of Best Documentary—Cultural, Best Editor—Program, and Best Photographer—Program. The awards ceremony will be on October 21, 2006, in Minneapolis.

## WANTED!

The Cass Gilbert Society is always looking for new members for our committees (Membership and Marketing, Lectures, Tours and Special Events, Fundraising) and new members for the board. For more information contact Linda Bjorklund, 651-291-1541.

### Welcome to the following new members:

Susan Flynn  
Tom Mohr, Mohr Construction  
Robert and Ann Nye  
Ron Zweber

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## PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Patty Dean's lecture on the Montana Club has been published in *Drumlummon Views*, the online journal of Montana arts and culture. It can be found at:  
[http://www.drumlummon.org/images/PDF-Spr-Sum06/DV\\_1-2\\_Dean.pdf](http://www.drumlummon.org/images/PDF-Spr-Sum06/DV_1-2_Dean.pdf).

Cass Gilbert Society member Dave Fritz recommends the following website for photographs and information about Cass Gilbert buildings in New York City. [www.nyc-architecture.com/ARCH/ARCH-CassGilbert.htm](http://www.nyc-architecture.com/ARCH/ARCH-CassGilbert.htm).

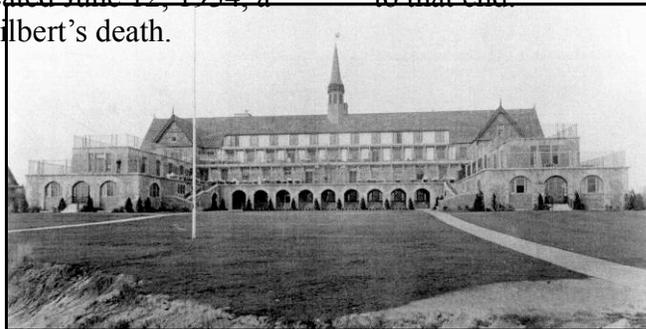
The University of Minnesota Press in conjunction with the City of Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission has recently published *St. Paul's Architecture: A History* by Jeffrey A. Hess and Paul Clifford Larson. Chapter 2, "St. Paul's Architecture Comes of Age," discusses the work of Cass Gilbert and Clarence Johnston, among other of their architectural contemporaries.

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has created Endangered Buildings Online at <http://ebo.nylandmarks.org>. Among the listings is a station in the Bronx, designed by Cass Gilbert for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. It survives in ruinous condition, a remnant of its original state.

## SEASIDE SANATORIUM: CASS GILBERT LANDMARK FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The Seaside Sanatorium in Waterford, Connecticut, one of the last works designed by Cass Gilbert, is threatened with demolition by neglect. The complex was designed for the treatment of children with bone and glandular tuberculosis by prolonged exposure to the sun, a procedure called heliotherapy. The state of Connecticut began purchases of the site facing Long Island Sound in 1930 and selected Cass Gilbert as the architect because of his national renown. Gilbert designed the main hospital building and staff residences in an institutional Tudor Revival style that evoked a seaside estate. The hospital, named the Stephen B. Maher Building after the long-time chairman of the Tuberculosis Commission, was dedicated June 12, 1934, a few weeks after Cass Gilbert's death.

Successful treatment of tuberculosis by antibiotics led the state to shift the use of the facility to the treatment of mentally retarded patients in 1961. With deinstitutionalization in the 1990s, the complex has stood vacant and the buildings have been deteriorating. A plan to sell the site to a condominium developer who hopes to retain the buildings has been caught in larger political scandals over state contracting procedures. Robert Nye, Waterford town clerk and municipal historian, points out that Gilbert designed the buildings to last. They could be restored, although it would be very expensive. Nye wants to see the buildings put into use and hopes that greater public awareness may lead to that end.



Seaside Sanatorium in Waterford, Connecticut  
*Smithsonian Institution*

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## WEST VIRGINIA CAPITOL DOME RESTORED

Swanke Hayden Connell Architects of New York have successfully restored the dome of the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston. The building was designed by Cass Gilbert in 1922 and constructed in 1930-1932. The dome is constructed of lead-coated copper sheathing nailed to a structural reinforced-concrete dome shell. Modeled after the seventeenth-century dome of the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, the capitol dome was finished with a field of exposed lead highlighted with gold leaf applied to the ornament, ribs, and lantern. The applied surface coatings continued to fail after four different restoration campaigns. In the recent campaign, hands-on inspection and laboratory testing determined that improper

application technique contributed to the failure of the gilding. Corrosion also was discovered in the structural steel and sheet-metal armatures and the concrete lantern deck. The project returned the dome to its original appearance using a durable coating system, while making necessary repairs to correct underlying architectural and structural deficiencies.



West Virginia State Capitol Dome  
*NTHP Solutions Database*

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 4066  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066  
www.cassgilbertsociety.org



The  
**minnesota**  
**humanities**  
COMMISSION

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Our Mission**

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

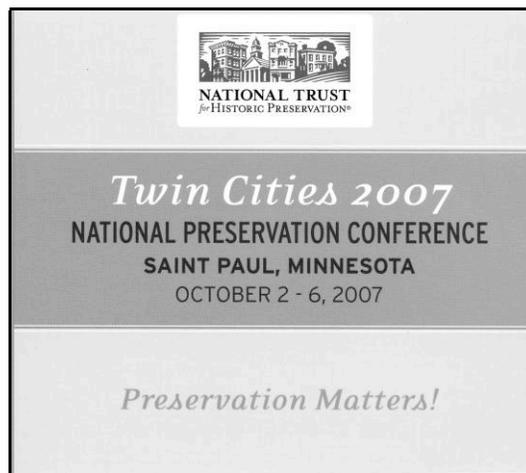
The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Officers and Board**

Marjorie Pearson, *President*  
Wendy Weimer, *Vice President*  
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Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*  
Joan Wilkosz  
Linda Bjorklund, *Fundraising*  
Jim Hirsh, *Legal Advisor*  
Lana Mahoney, *Programs*

Have you renewed your membership for 2006? Would you like to renew your membership or join the Cass Gilbert Society?

See the Cass Gilbert Society website, [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org), for more information and a membership form, or send a check for \$25.00 for an individual/household membership to the Cass Gilbert Society, P.O. Box 4066, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**National Trust Preservation Conference**  
**October 2-6, 2007**



## CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

**WE'RE OFF TO TEXAS!!!**

**Join Cass Gilbert Society members for a weekend in Austin:  
November 17-19, 2006.**

Cass Gilbert designed the campus plan for the University of Texas at Austin; a trip to Texas is on our agenda. You will make your own travel and hotel arrangements. We are negotiating a group rate with the Double Tree Club Hotel near the University of Texas Campus. Northwest Airlines flies to Austin. American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines (via Chicago Midway), and Amtrak are also possibilities.

**Tour highlights include:**

- Friday:** Informal gathering at the Iron Cactus in the evening (after 5 PM)  
**Saturday:** A guided coach trip to San Antonio where we will visit the Alamo and other historic sites; there will be time for exploring the River Walk.  
**Hill Country:** Our trip back to Austin will include a drive through the and a stop at the Salt Lick for Texas barbeque.  
**Sunday:** A guided tour of the Texas Capitol building in the morning.  
A noon meeting with Chancellor Mark Yudof.  
A guided walking tour of the University of Texas campus with the former Dean of School of Architecture, Larry Speck.  
Dinner together at a local restaurant.

Registration is \$300 per person and includes guided tours at the University, the Capitol, and San Antonio, two dinners and one lunch, coach bus transportation to and from San Antonio. Call Linda Bjorklund (651-291-1541) with questions you may have regarding this trip.

Complete the form below and send it, along with a check for \$300.00 per person made out to the Cass Gilbert Society Inc., to PO Box 4066, St. Paul, MN. The deadline is October 15, 2006.

**NAME/S:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE IN AUSTIN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL WHERE YOU HAVE RESERVED A ROOM** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADD \$25 FOR MEMBERSHIP IF NOT A CGS MEMBER**

**PO Box 4066 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066**

**Cass Gilbert Society Lecture Presentations**

Herb Grika 4821 Elliot Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55417 Fax or phone 612-822-2747

Order **now** – at this event  
 Or **email** order: [herb@grika.com](mailto:herb@grika.com) or fax

To avoid paying shipping / handling, please pick items up at Grika's house (call first); or pick items up at the next Cass Gilbert event. (See s/h costs below \*)  
 Orders must be received at least 5 days before pick up.

**ORDER FORM**

Your name printed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ n.b. • video not (yet) available  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lecturer	Topic	Date	how many		each	total	
			VHS	DVD			
• Herb Grika	<i>A Book: Minnesota's Stately Capitol</i>	1-12-99					
• O'Sullivan: MN Capitol -Kompelien:	<i>Politics, Preservation</i>	3-23-99					
• Geoffrey Blodgett	<i>C.G.: Early Years, From His Start</i>	5-8-99					
• Gail Fenske	<i>C.G: Woolworth Building, NYC</i>	10-19-99					
• Tom Blanck	<i>Bethlehem Presbyterian Church</i>	11-16-99					
• Paul Larson	<i>C.G.: Lost Early Work - 1883-86</i>	2-22-00					
• Sharon Irish	<i>Modern Traditionalist: His Esthetics</i>	4-25-00					
• Steven Flanders	<i>C.G. Life &amp; Work: the Public Domain</i>	10-3-00					
• Geoffrey Blodgett	<i>The Young Cass Gilbert, 1880-82</i>	11-14-00					
• Sanchez-Coulter	<i>The Seligman House, Helena, Montana</i>	2-20-01					
• William Morgan	<i>C.G.: Politics of Business, 1874-1905</i>	4-17-01					
• Charles Lock	<i>C.G. MIT, Europe, MM&amp;W, St. Paul RR</i>	9-25-01					
• Neesse & Thomas	<i>Their Cass Gilbert House, West St. Paul</i>	11-13-01					
• Barbara Christen	<i>MN Capitol Approaches &amp; UM Planning</i>	2-5-02					
• David Lanegran	<i>St. Paul, Context of Cass Gilbert</i>	4-30-02			\$15.	.	
Mary Beth Betts	<i>Cass Gilbert's Architectural Esthetics</i>	9-24-02			\$15.	.	
(10 CGS Members)	<i>Cass Gilbert Soc. 10 Bldg Tour, NYC</i>	2-25-03			\$15.	.	
Paul Larson	<i>Cass Gilbert's Art and Life Abroad</i>	4-29-03			\$15.	.	
Sally Webster	<i>Minnesota Capitol Design &amp; Decoration</i>	10-14-03			\$15.	.	
C. Ford Peatross	<i>C.G.: Collection in Library of Congress</i>	11-18-03			\$15.	.	
Lance Neckar	<i>C.G. at the UM – Models, Expos, Plans</i>	4-20-04			\$15.	.	
Patricia Murphy	<i>Cass Gilbert's Origins and Early Career</i>	9-14-04			\$15.	.	
Helen Curry	<i>Cass Gilbert's Family in Connecticut</i>	10-5-04			\$15.	.	
Shiela Smith	<i>Collecting Minn. Capitol Memorabilia</i>	2-15-05			\$15.	.	
Leigh Roethke	<i>Minnesota Capitol: Centennial Story</i>	9-20-05			\$15.	.	
Patty Dean	<i>Cass Gilbert in Montana</i>	2-28-06			\$15.	.	
Morgan: Kerr Block Redo & Pearson: Archit. Ambassador		5-9-06			\$15.	.	
Lyndel King, Thomas Fisher, Mark Yudof	(9 min.) <i>C.G.: His Vision of the University of Minnesota Mall 1910-13</i>	6-2-2000			\$10.	.	
(We apologize, but a few earlier videos have some poor images or sounds.)						<b>Sub total</b>	\$ .
* shipping/handling: 1st item \$5, plus \$2 for each add'l item (on same order) (i.e. 3 items = \$9)							\$ .
(NB. Nearly 47% of the price goes to the Cass Gilbert Society)						<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ .

(modified 5-10-06)

PO Box 4066 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066