



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

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

TEXAS TRAVELERS REPORT ON TOUR ON APRIL 24, 2007

Seven participants in the Cass Gilbert Society tour to Texas will speak at the next Cass Gilbert Society event, to be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7:00 P.M.

Members from Connecticut, California, Minnesota, and New York met in Austin, Texas, on November 18, 2006, for a four-day tour of central Texas. A bus trip to San Antonio with our local guide, Janie Cadena, provided enlightening information about the significance of that city to the history of Texas. Ed Vandevort guided the group through the interior and grounds of the Texas Capitol in Austin. Designed by Elijah E. Myers, architect of the Colorado and Michigan capitols, the building was constructed between 1881 and 1888. University of Texas Chancellor Mark Yudof,

former president of the University of Minnesota and Cass Gilbert enthusiast, met the group at lunch. The group then toured the university campus and the buildings on campus designed by Cass Gilbert with Larry Speck, former dean of the School of Architecture. Gilbert's buildings remain useful and are highly valued by the university. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, both on the campus, were also visited. The group left Texas with a deep appreciation of Austin and the contributions of Cass Gilbert to this part of the country.

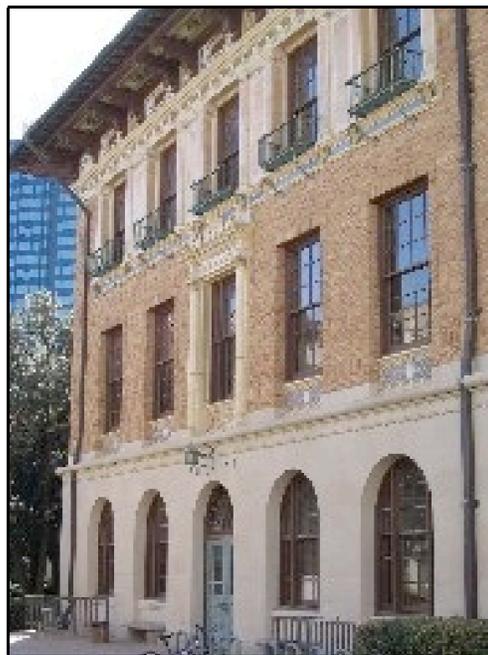
Admission to the event is free to Society members. There is a \$5.00 charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

UPCOMING DEADLINE

June 1, 2007 National Trust scholarship deadline; amino@landmarkcenter.org

The Cass Gilbert Society thanks Kitty Czarniecki and Kevin O'Brien for hosting the March 16 reception at the Emerson Hadley House, designed by Cass Gilbert in 1895.

Proceeds will support the website redesign.



Sutton Hall, University of Texas, 1917
Photograph courtesy of Linda Bjorklund

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR WATERBURY CITY HALL?

The City Hall of Waterbury, Connecticut, one of five buildings designed by Cass Gilbert in that city, faces an uncertain future. The Board of Aldermen held a public hearing on March 26, 2007, which presented various proposals for the building. The Cass Gilbert Society sent a statement supporting the restoration of the building.

To encourage public support and provide more information about the building, the Connecticut Community Foundation and the Mattatuck Museum Arts and History Center have organized a symposium on the architecture of Cass Gilbert and the restoration of Waterbury's City Hall. It will be held on April 21, 2007, at the Mattatuck Museum Arts and History Center. Guest speakers Barbara S. Christen, Ph.D., co-editor, *Cass Gilbert Life and Work*, and Alan J. Plattus, Ph.D., Professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Yale University School of Architecture will be joined by John Michaels, Chairman and CEO of Michael's Jewelers, who will lead the audience through the proposed budget and financing for restoration of City Hall.

The program focuses on Cass Gilbert's work and the importance of restoring City Hall as an important architectural landmark in downtown Waterbury. After the fire of 1912, the city commissioned Cass Gilbert, then the foremost architect of great public buildings in the country, to build a new City Hall. The vision of the Chase family and other civic leaders in Waterbury was to create a "Grand Street" with a majestic city hall as its centerpiece. Between 1915 and 1924 five buildings were designed by Gilbert in downtown Waterbury. These buildings form Waterbury's Cass Gilbert National Historic Register District with City Hall as the cornerstone.

Ann Burton, president of the Connecticut Community Foundation notes, "Cass Gilbert's buildings in Waterbury are a reminder of the national importance of this city, its architectural and economic contribution to the country and its future contributions in preservation and development."

Dr. Barbara Christen will review the importance of Gilbert's legacy both nationally and in Waterbury. Alan J. Plattus will discuss the importance of historic restoration and its benefits to the community. Dr. Plattus serves on the Board of Connecticut Main Street Center and is assisting the center with a design manual for Main Street communities. Waterbury's City Hall has suffered years of neglect and deterioration, but still maintains its elegant design and outstanding craftsmanship, attributes that could not be duplicated today. The challenge is to renovate the building, but stick to a prudent financial plan that will achieve its goal without undue burden on Waterbury's taxpayers. John Michaels, who will lead the audience through the budget and financing for the project, has been a dedicated community leader for Waterbury. The symposium will conclude with a walking tour of Cass Gilbert buildings in Waterbury.

Waterbury Municipal Building,
1914-1915
American Architect and Building News



ALEXANDER HAMILTON U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE 1907-2007

As part of the anniversary celebration of the U.S. Custom House in New York, **Lee Sandstead**, a scholar of the work of Daniel Chester French, will lecture at the U.S. Custom House on Thursday, April 26, 2007, on **“Daniel Chester French—The Consummate Idealist.”** French was the sculptor for the allegorical statues of the Four Continents at the U.S. Custom House. With the dedication in 1922 of the Lincoln Memorial and French’s great Lincoln statue in Washington, D.C., the United States saw its last great monument rooted in the Renaissance. The world was turning to the new aesthetic of Modernism. Sculptor Daniel Chester French is a fascinating transitional figure. His genius places him on par with the great Renaissance sculptors, but as the world was shifting to a new artistic era, French held fast to his artistic principles. While French was a household name in his day, today he is little known, even though his artistic work can be seen in almost every major American city. Besides the U.S. Custom House, French’s work can be seen throughout New York City. Gilbert favored him for many of his public building commissions. The gilded quadriga on the Minnesota State Capitol is a notable collaboration.

The centennial celebration is being presented by the U.S. General Services Administration in partnership with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

For more information about the lecture and the historic U.S. Custom House, see www.oldnycustomhouse.gov.

OTHER CASS GILBERT-RELATED EVENTS

Hampton Smith, a member of St. Clement’s Church, has published *The Spirit and the Bride: A History of St. Clement’s Episcopal Church 1893-1996*. The book discusses the relationship between architect Cass Gilbert and the congregation. The church will host a book reading and celebration on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at 7:30 P.M., at the church parish hall, Portland and Milton, Saint Paul. Call 651-228-1164 for more information.

Dr. Barbara Christen will lecture on *Cass Gilbert and History: The Past as Present*, on May 14, 2007, 7 P.M., at the New York County Lawyers’ Association, 14 Vesey Street, New York. Gilbert designed the neo-Georgian style building, based on eighteenth-century prototypes, to be a “Home of Law.” The building opened in 1930.

COMING SOON: REDESIGNED CASS GILBERT SOCIETY WEBSITE

Cass Gilbert Society board members Bonnie Alton, Nick Marcucci, Marjorie Pearson, and Cindy Stephani are working with Factor of 4 to redesign the website. We anticipate that it will provide better access, improved and more accurate content, more and better images, and more links to other sites and information pertinent to Cass Gilbert. We also anticipate that it will be easier for those with relevant information to submit it to us.

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

Place
Stamp
Here

www.cassgilbertsociety.org

Our Mission

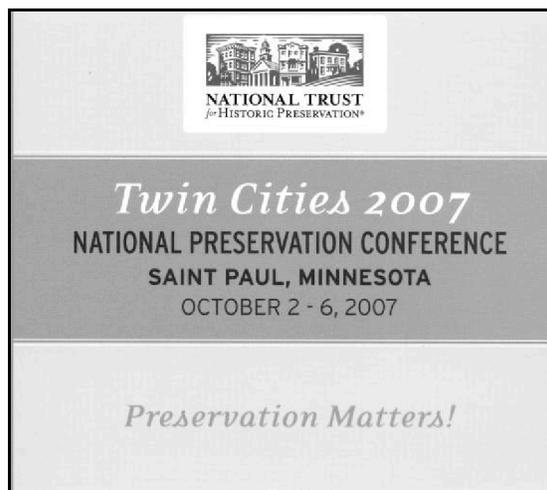
To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

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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Have you renewed your membership for 2007? Would you like to renew your membership or join the Cass Gilbert Society? See the form enclosed with this Newsletter or the Cass Gilbert Society website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org.



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



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY 2007 Membership Form

Mission Statement: To preserve and enhance the nation's cultural history through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's contribution to American architecture.

Benefits of membership in the society include regular lectures about Cass Gilbert and his work; a quarterly newsletter; the opportunity to become familiar with Cass Gilbert-designed buildings across the country, including the Minnesota State Capitol; an opportunity to meet others who are interested in architectural history and preservation; and so much more.

Please consider joining the Cass Gilbert Society at one of the following membership levels.
Annual membership runs from January - December.

_____ Individual \$25.00

_____ Household \$35.00

_____ Contributor \$50.00 - \$149.00

_____ Corporate \$50.00

_____ Sponsor \$150.00 +

Name _____

Address _____
Street City, State, Zip Code

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Please make check payable to Cass Gilbert Society and mail to Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066.

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

Check here if you don't want to be in the Cass Gilbert Society Directory.

Volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer, please check the committee(s) of interest to you.

_____ Lecture Series
_____ Newsletter
_____ Fundraising
_____ Research
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_____ Special Events
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www.cassgilbertsociety.org