



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

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

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH AUTHOR TO SPEAK ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

Join the Cass Gilbert Society on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at **St. Clement's Episcopal Church**, 901 Portland Avenue (at Milton), Saint Paul. **Please note the location.** **Hampton Smith**, a member of the parish and author of *The Spirit and the Bride: A History of St. Clement's Episcopal Church 1893-1996*, will discuss the relationship between architect Cass Gilbert and the congregation. Gilbert's design was inspired by English Gothic prototypes. The book title comes from a verse from Revelation 22:17 that is inscribed over the chancel arch. Smith did much of his

research at the Minnesota Historical Society where he is a reference librarian.

The event will take place in both the sanctuary and the church hall so we will be able to see first hand the results of the collaboration of architect and congregation. Admission is free to Society members. There is a \$5.00 charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served, and copies of Smith's book (\$60 in hardcover and \$25 in paperback) will be available for purchase.

Save the Dates!

October 11-15, 2007 Cass Gilbert Society Tour of New York City, New Jersey, and Connecticut. See story inside.

November 13, 2007 Talk by Larry Millett, author of *The ALA Guide to the Twin Cities*. More information in the next Newsletter.



St. Clement's Church
Photograph by Marjorie Pearson

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding its annual conference in Saint Paul October 2-6, 2007. All educational sessions, poster sessions, the exhibit hall, information sessions, the bookstore, and registration will take place at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. The Cass Gilbert Society is organizing a poster session titled **"Preserving the Work of Cass Gilbert,"** a visual presentation that will be on display between

Wednesday and Saturday. Members of the Cass Gilbert Society board will be on hand to meet conference attendees and answer questions on Thursday between noon and 1:30 P.M. The Society will also have an information table at the University Club during the **Candlelight House Tour** along Summit Avenue that evening. For more information on the conference see www.nthpconference.org.

CASS GILBERT NEWS UPDATES

Cass Gilbert's **Lightner House** at 318 Summit was the site of a very successful fundraising event, held on July 19, 2007. For those who had attended the Society's hardhat tour last October while rehabilitation and restoration work was underway, it was fun to see the finished result. Thanks to **Dick and Nancy Nicholson** for opening the house, to restoration architect **Tom Blanck** for leading tours, and to architectural historian **Marjorie Pearson** for her presentation on the history and architecture of the house. Proceeds will be used to match the Minnesota Historical Society Grant-in-Aid for the redesign of the Society's website. The new website is scheduled to be ready in time for the National Trust conference.

The **Waterbury City Hall** has a new future. In early June the Board of Aldermen voted to appropriate \$35 million to renovate the Cass Gilbert building. The April 21 symposium organized by the Connecticut Community Foundation and the Mattatuck Museum Arts and History Center undoubtedly helped the City make a positive decision. Cass Gilbert Society members **Barbara Christen** and **Helen P. Curry** were symposium participants.

The **West Virginia State Capitol**, Cass Gilbert's last state capitol design, is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. Both Helen Curry and Steven Flanders have visited Charleston, West Virginia, in conjunction with a documentary being made about the building by MotionMasters, Diane Dimoff, executive producer. Fred Armstrong, Director of Archives and History for the State of West Virginia, met with Helen on her July 20 visit.



Helen Curry at the West Virginia
State Capitol
Photograph courtesy of Helen Curry

Meanwhile the **Minnesota State Capitol** renovation has been sidelined due in part to differences between the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. The legislature appropriated \$250,000 to fund a Capitol Restoration Working Group to determine if the current renovation plan should be continued or if other strategies should be pursued for building upgrades and planning issues pertaining to the larger capitol complex.

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TRIP TO NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, AND CONNECTICUT

Cass Gilbert Society members Helen Curry, Steven Flanders, and Jean Velleu have organized a tour of Cass Gilbert sites in New York City, New Jersey, and Connecticut, October 11-15, 2007 (Thursday to Monday). The itinerary offers a combination of organized events and free time for touring on your own. Participants will make their own arrangements for travel to and from New York City and for hotel accommodations in New York for Thursday and Friday nights. A block of hotel rooms at special rates will be held until September 13 at the Waterbury Marriott Courtyard for Saturday night and at the Norwalk Marriott Courtyard for Sunday night. The registration fee for the tour, which includes the tour bus to New Jersey and Connecticut and several group meals, is \$400 per person, if received by September 10. Registrations received after that date will be \$500 per person. All participants must be current paid members of the Cass Gilbert Society.

Proposed itinerary: A more detailed itinerary will be provided to tour registrants

Thursday, October 11

7:00 P.M. Tour of U.S. Custom House, Bowling Green

8:00 P.M. Dinner on your own

Friday, October 12

10:00 A.M. Visit Brooklyn Army Terminal via subway. Meeting point to be announced

Noon Lunch on own and free time to visit other Cass Gilbert sites in Manhattan

4:00 P.M. Meet at 90 West Street, followed by tour of Woolworth Building and group dinner at Woolworth Kitchen Restaurant (former Rathskeller) (included meal)

Saturday, October 13

9:00 A.M. Depart for Newark, N. J., to tour Essex County Courthouse. Departure point to be announced

After courthouse tour, we will drive past two Gilbert train stations in the Bronx and stop for lunch on own on Arthur Avenue, an Italian enclave

3:30 P.M. Check in at Waterbury Marriott Courtyard

4:30 P.M. Walking tour of five Gilbert building in Waterbury

6:00 P.M. Cocktails at Connecticut Community Foundation

7:00 P.M. Dinner at the Waterbury Club (included meal)

Sunday, October 14

10:00 A.M. Depart for New Haven to tour New Haven Library and train station

Group lunch

After lunch, visit Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Gilbert bank building.

Continue to Norwalk Marriott Courtyard

6:30 P.M. Leave for dinner at the home of Helen and Robert Curry in New Canaan (included meal)

Monday, October 15

9:00 A.M. Depart for Ridgefield, Connecticut, to visit Gilbert town fountain and grave site.

Tour Cannonball House (the Gilbert summer home) and grounds

Noon Lunch in the Garden House with board members of the Keeler Tavern Museum (aka Cannonball House) (included meal). Remarks by Barbara Christen and Sharon Irish (invited)

2:00 P.M. Depart for New York City (airport or midtown)

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

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

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Have you renewed your membership for 2007? See the expiration date on your mailing label. 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.

The Ives Memorial Building of the Free Public Library of New Haven is the city's most important example of architecture and design influenced by the City Beautiful movement. Designed by Cass Gilbert, co-author with Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., of a visionary New Haven plan, the library, built in 1908-1911, was one of the very few recommendations in the plan to be fully realized.

Photograph by William Grego, HABS, Library of Congress



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

JOIN THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY FOR A WEEKEND IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, AND CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 11 – 15, 2007

Cass Gilbert Society members Helen Curry, Steven Flanders, and Jean Velleu have planned a weekend tour that includes visits to the U.S. Custom House, Brooklyn Army Terminal, 90 West Street, the Woolworth Building, the Essex County Courthouse, Gilbert buildings in Waterbury and New Haven, and concludes with a visit and lunch at the Cannonball House, the Gilbert summer home in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Participants will make their own arrangements for travel to and from New York and for hotel accommodations in New York for Thursday and Friday nights. (See the reverse side of this sheet for information on flights and New York City hotels.) A block of rooms is being held until September 13 at the Waterbury Marriott Courtyard (203-596-1000) for Saturday, October 13 (\$89), and the Norwalk Marriott Courtyard (203-249-9111) for Sunday, October 14 (\$79). Please make your own reservations directly with the hotels and refer to the Cass Gilbert Society to get the special rates. Those leaving for JFK airport on Monday, October 15, will be transported directly there. Others may go back to New York by train or with Helen Curry.

The registration fee is \$400 per person by September 10; \$500 per person if received after that date.

The fee includes the tour bus, entrance fees and gratuities, and four group meals. All participants must be current paid members of the Cass Gilbert Society. Membership is \$25 per year for individuals and \$35 per year for households.

Call Wendy Weimer at 651-646-2012 for more information.

Complete the form below and mail with your check made payable to the Cass Gilbert Society to:

Cass Gilbert Society, P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Number of participants: _____ x \$400 (by Sept. 10); _____ x \$500 (after Sept. 10)
Cass Gilbert Society membership: _____ x \$25 (individual); _____ x \$35 (household)

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone number/cellphone/email: _____

Date you will arrive in New York and flight information: _____

Hotel (or other accommodation) where you will be staying: _____

Flight Information

Both Northwest Airlines and Sun Country offer early morning flights from MSP to New York JFK with evening returns. The current quoted round-trip airfare is \$218. If you do not have much luggage, the easiest route to Manhattan is to take the Airlink train from JFK (\$5) and transfer to the subway to get into Manhattan (\$2).

American Airlines is currently matching that fare with an early morning nonstop flight from MSP to New York LGA and an evening return.

Continental offers three morning flights from MSP to Newark (EWR) and evening returns with a current quoted fare of \$275 round trip. The EWR Airlink train connects to NJ Transit which goes to Penn Station in Manhattan two or three times an hour.

New York City Hotels

The price of New York City hotels has been climbing steadily upward in the past year. The following websites often provide good rates: quikbook.com (most reservations do not require prepayment); aaa.com; expedia.com; orbitz.com; www.nycvisit.com or call 212-484-1200.

We are recommending the centrally located **Hotel Gershwin**, 7 East 27th Street, New York 212-545-8000, www.gershwinhotel.com North of Madison Square, near New York Life Building; rates from \$189 to \$259 depending on type of room.

Additional Possibilities

Hotel 17, 225 East 17th Street, New York, 212-475-2845, www.hotel17ny.com. East side between Stuyvesant Square and Gramercy Park; room with shared bath \$150.

Hotel Belleclaire, 250 West 77th Street, New York, 877-468-3522, www.hotelbelclaire.com Upper West Side location; room with shared bath \$159 (Thurs.), \$169 (Fri.).

Park Savoy, 158 West 58th Street, New York, 212-245-5755, www.parksavoyhotel.com Near Central Park and Carnegie Hall. Less than \$200 per night but may be sold out.

New Yorker Ramada Plaza, 481 Eighth Avenue, New York, 866-800-3088, www.newyorkerhotel.com. Near Madison Square Garden; rates from \$239 per night. This is where the Cass Gilbert Society group stayed on the last New York trip.

Milburn Hotel, 242 West 76th Street, New York, 800-833-9622, www.milburnhotel.com Upper West Side location; three-night minimum stay required; \$269 per night.