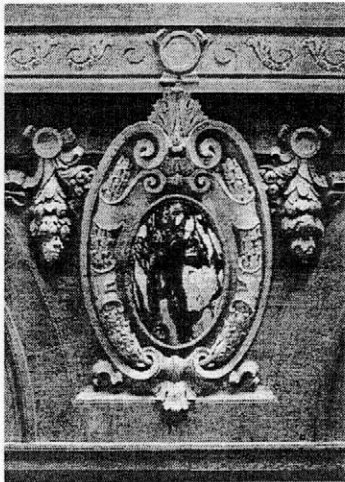




Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.

PROFESSOR SALLY WEBSTER TO SPEAK ON OCTOBER 14 AT THE COMMODORE HOTEL

Join the Cass Gilbert Society when Professor Sally Webster presents **Signs of Civilization: Cass Gilbert and the Decorative Program of the Minnesota State Capitol**. When Minnesota's state house opened in 1905, it was the pride of the state and the talk of the nation. Lavishly decorated with gilded sculpture, exotic marbles, and superb mural paintings, the Minnesota State Capitol is, arguably (unless you are from Wisconsin), the most beautiful in the country. This lecture will focus on the symbolic program devised by Cass Gilbert which, with its two related themes of westward expansion and pioneer settlement, expressed Minnesota's new stature in the world and its civic aspirations.



Although less than 50 years old when the Capitol opened, the state of Minnesota had become very prosperous. The lumber of the forests, the iron ore of the Mesabi Range, and the grain of the prairies were shipped all over the world and returned as cash.

Such wealth could buy a new state capitol with a well-mannered face that would ameliorate the state's frontier image. To design such a structure, Minnesota architect Cass Gilbert was hired. Gilbert, a skilled designer, was an even better administrator and cultural guide. Along with securing approval of his plans and supervising the myriad details of construction, he gave the Board of State Capitol Commissioners lessons in refinement. The result was a dignified, beautifully appointed structure, one of the most outstanding Beaux-Arts monuments in America.

Sally Webster is professor of American art at Lehman College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She has focused her academic research on American mural painting, particularly of the Gilded Age period. Her essay on the mural program for the Minnesota State Capitol has been published in *Cass Gilbert Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain* (Norton, 2001). Support for this lecture is provided in part by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Join us at the Commodore Hotel, 79 Western Avenue North, St. Paul, on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, at 7:00 P.M. Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. The Commodore's famous Art Deco bar will also be open.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Marjorie Pearson

It is always a pleasure to encounter Cass Gilbert buildings under unanticipated circumstances. Earlier this summer, Jean Velleu received a request for information from the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa, about the American Embassy designed by Cass Gilbert. Neither she nor I knew about the building, but I was delighted to learn more in an article on the U.S. and Canadian embassies in Ottawa and Washington, D.C. (*Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, December 2002). Cass Gilbert had indeed designed the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. Built in 1928-32, it was replaced in 1999 by a much larger facility. The old embassy is to become the new home of the Portrait Gallery of Canada. See www.portraits.gc.ca for more information.

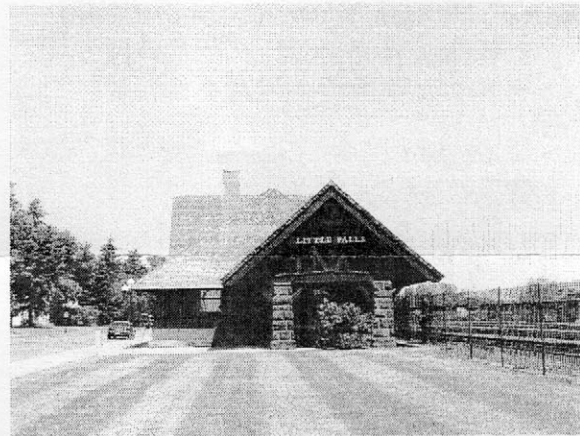
A business trip took me to Little Falls, Minnesota, in July, so I took the opportunity to view the handsomely restored Northern Pacific Railroad Depot, designed by Gilbert and built in 1899-1900.

Two Cass Gilbert buildings were featured on the recent Ramsey Hill House and Garden Tour. The George Freeman House, 505 Summit Avenue, was built in 1896. Freeman took over management of the Gotzian Shoe Company in Lowertown after Conrad Gotzian's death. The Virginia Street Church, built in 1886, is a charming Shingle style building that was one of the highlights of our Cass Gilbert church tour in 2001.

I am pleased to report that the Society has received full 501c3 status from the Internal Revenue Service, after three years of provisional status.



Former U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, Canada. Photo: Isabelle Gournay



Little Falls Railroad Depot. Photo: Marjorie Pearson

We note with sadness the death of Charles Erickson in a plane crash on August 28, 2003. Chuck was the owner of the Allen Building, one of the buildings we visited on our Lowertown tour.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, including our tour on October 25 and a Cass Gilbert birthday celebration at our November 18 lecture.



Gilbert's chapel at Roselawn Cemetery in about 1903. Photo: Minnesota Historical Society

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY FALL TOUR, OCTOBER 25

The Fall Tour is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, October 25, 2003. Among Cass Gilbert's lesser known works are the chapel and office building (c. 1902) he designed for the picturesquely landscaped Roselawn Cemetery in Roseville. We will meet at Roselawn Cemetery at 9:30 AM, 803 Larpenteur Avenue West, near Victoria, where we will tour the two buildings. After our visit, we will distribute directions to our next stop, the Tarbox House on Manitou Island, White Bear Lake. This is one of the houses that Gilbert designed in the 1890s for the summer colony there. We will then go on to lunch in White Bear Lake. The Society would like to thank Larry Hudella, manager of Roselawn Cemetery, and Ellen and Tom Fridinger, present owners of the Tarbox House, for opening their buildings for our Fall Tour. The cost of this event is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Lunch is optional at additional cost. No reservations are necessary.

For further information, call Linda Bjorklund at 651-291-1541 (evenings) or Marjorie Pearson at 612-338-1987 (days).

See the State Capitol in a New Light

The Minnesota Historical Society is offering its ever popular **Shadows and Spirits of the State Capitol** on October 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25, at half-hour intervals between 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. Participants will have a chance to view the eerily lit building on special evening tours. Reservations are required. Call 651-296-2881.

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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 Form – 2003

_____ I would like to become a **new member** of the Cass Gilbert Society *

_____ I would like to **renew** my membership for 2004.

_____ I would like to make a **tax deductible contribution** of \$ _____

_____ I am a member but would like a **gift membership** for a friend, listed below

Enclosed is my check for _____ \$25.00 / Household or _____ \$50.00 / Business made out to Cass Gilbert Society, Inc.

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Send check and form to: Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, MN 55104-4066