



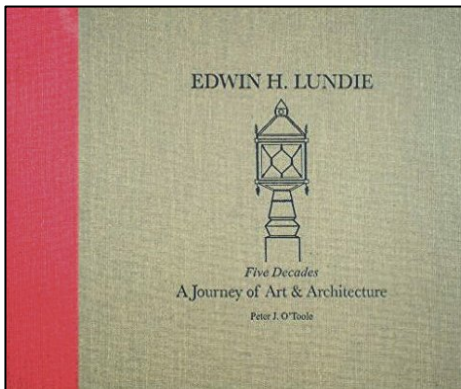
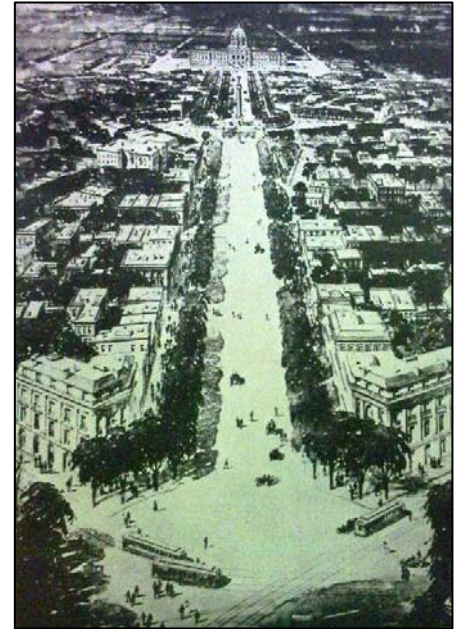
CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

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

JOIN THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY FOR UPCOMING TALKS AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, 420 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, 7 P.M.

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017, Marjorie Pearson, Ph.D., will present **Approaching the Capitol: The Story of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall**, based on her article of the same title published in the Winter 2017 issue of *Minnesota History*. Cass Gilbert began to envision a grand boulevard leading to the Capitol in about 1900 while the building was under construction. He spent almost the next 30 years, until the end of his life, advocating for an approach that would do justice to his building's design. The decades-long struggle to realize Gilbert's plans reflected the competing financial and political interests of the State of Minnesota, the City of St. Paul, and Ramsey County, as well as St. Paul business interests. A version of the plan was finally implemented in the 1950s as part of a massive urban renewal project to recreate the larger environment around the Capitol. Dr. Pearson, a past president of the Cass Gilbert Society and editor of the *Newsletter*, will provide an account of the Mall's convoluted history.

Cass Gilbert's grand boulevard plan of 1907 leading from Seven Corners to the Capitol. Published in The Plan of Saint Paul (1922).



On Tuesday, February 28, 2017, Peter J. O'Toole, will discuss the work of architect **Edwin H. Lundie, FAIA** (1886-1972), who began his career in Cass Gilbert's St. Paul office in 1904 and then became a draftsman in the office of Emmanuel Masqueray. After Masqueray's death in 1917, Lundie joined Fred Slifer and Frank Abrahamson to form a successor firm. Then he set up his own practice in the Endicott Building, specializing in residences for prestigious clients. Mr. O'Toole, a resident-owner of a Lundie-designed house, was so intrigued by the architect's work that he has published *Edwin H. Lundie, Five Decades: A Journey of Art and Architecture*.

NOTICE OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL

The Cass Gilbert Society has received a Legacy grant to undertake the **Furnishings of the Historic 1905 Minnesota State Capitol Research Project**. It is seeking a Project Manager and Website Manager to carry out this one-year project to increase awareness and appreciation of the original 1905 Capitol furnishings. RFPs are available through the Cass Gilbert Society website or by request to rfp@cassgilbertsociety.org. Proposals are due **January 25, 2017**.

SAVE THE DATES: The Minnesota State Capitol reopened for the 2017 legislative session on January 3, 2017. The Grand Reopening celebration will be held **August 11-13, 2017**.

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY NEWS

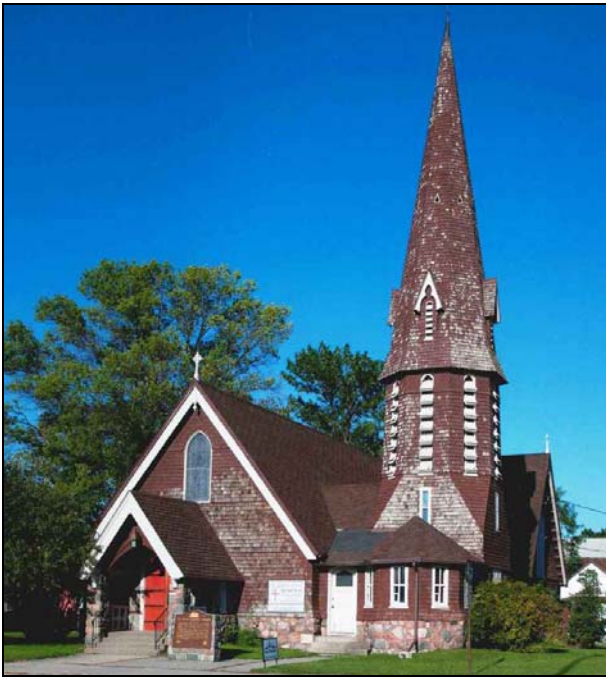
The board of the Cass Gilbert Society held its **annual meeting** for 2016 on December 11, 2016, at Carondelet Village. The following officers and board members were elected: John Yust, President; Marjorie Pearson, Vice President and Newsletter Editor; Ted Lentz, Recording Secretary; Art Weeks, Treasurer; Carolyn Kompelien, Sonja Mason, Social Media; Carolyn Nayematsu, Vincent Platt, Cindy Stephani, Jean Velleu, Linda Bjorklund, Fundraising Chair. Ted Lentz presented his annual report on the State of the Cass Gilbert Society that recounted key events of 2016 in support of the general purpose of the Cass Gilbert Society. The meeting agenda and President's Report are available at: <http://cassgilbertsociety.org/cgs/minutes.html>.

CASS GILBERT BUILDING NEWS

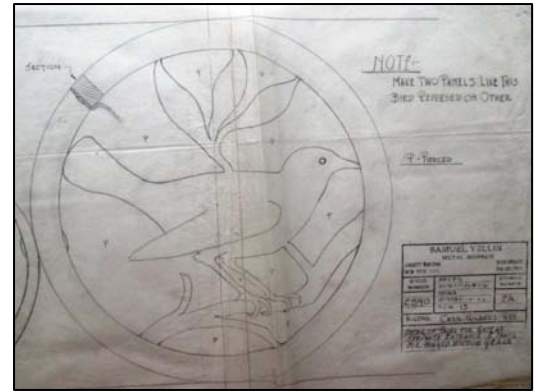
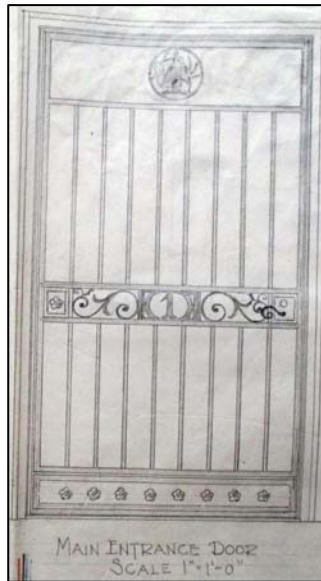
Two stories of the SJM Building, designed by Cass Gilbert and built in 1927-1928, have been converted for use by the Congregation Beit Simchat Torah. Located at 130 West 30th Street in New York, it is an eighteen-story loft building built on speculation to house fur businesses. The congregation, which was founded in 1973 and had outgrown its previous meeting space at Westbeth in Greenwich Village, calls itself the world's largest LGBT synagogue. The conversion was designed by Stephen Cassell of the Architecture Research Office. For more information see: <http://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/199082/cbst-the-worlds-largest-lgbt-synagogue-gets-a-new-home> and <http://www.curbed.com/2016/5/6/11609452/architecture-research-office-congregation-beit-simchat-torah>

Markus Krueger, Programming Director of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County (Minnesota), has provided news of the revitalization of the **Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine** in Moorhead, Minnesota. "The Divine Story of Cass Gilbert's Sudanese Church" in *The Hourglass* (Fall 2016), the Society's newsletter, describes the history and architecture of the church and how it has found new life under the leadership of a largely Sudanese immigrant congregation. Krueger recounts, "before he left for New York, while his masterpiece in St. Paul was being constructed, Cass Gilbert drew up the plans for an Elizabethan Gothic style church in Moorhead [for the small fee of \$175]. Inspired by Gilbert's studies of churches in England, St. John's would be built of choice western timber and field stone gathered from nearby Minnesota lakes country and would seat 425 people. The congregation busted the sod and placed the cornerstone on a new lot donated by W.H. Davy on August 1, 1898. The first service was held in February, 1899." The congregation had dwindled by the late twentieth century, and there was talk of consolidation with a Fargo parish. St. John the Divine was revived with an influx of Sudanese immigrants to the Fargo-Moorhead area, beginning over 20 years ago. As Christians in the Anglican tradition, they quickly found a church home in Moorhead. The building itself needs maintenance and upkeep. A recent report by architects from Moorhead's YHR firm, funded by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, says that the building is in need of a new roof estimated at \$150,000. Once it has the new roof, it will need \$3,000 to get new eaves and gutters and downspouts and \$25,000 to improve the drainage around the building. Krueger concludes, "It all sounds daunting, but the story is too inspiring to allow pessimistic thoughts. People from Sudan who experienced horrors and hunger like I cannot imagine were offered a safe haven among us. Rather unexpectedly, they find themselves as the heirs of an important piece of our local heritage, and they care for it on our behalf. One hundred and forty four years after [church founder] B. F. Mackall arrived in Moorhead and 117 years after Cass Gilbert's building opened, the congregation of St. John the Divine still gathers in this church to worship in English, Dinka, and Arabic."

Joseph Cunningham, Ph.D., curatorial director of the Leeds Art Foundation, based in Philadelphia, has provided information about the ironwork that the **Samuel Yellin Metalworkers** executed in 1926 for Cass Gilbert's townhouse at 1 East 94th Street, New York. The details included the main entrance doors, a letter flap with the number 1, a gate at the servants' entrance, three balconies for the front elevation, a balcony for the rear elevation, front window grille, and flower pot holders. Gilbert and Yellin shared correspondence and sketches on blueprints as the designs progressed. By the time Gilbert commissioned the ironwork, he had been working with Yellin for over ten years on a wide variety of public and institutional buildings, including those at Oberlin College, the University of Texas, the Prudential Insurance Company in Newark, and the Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C.



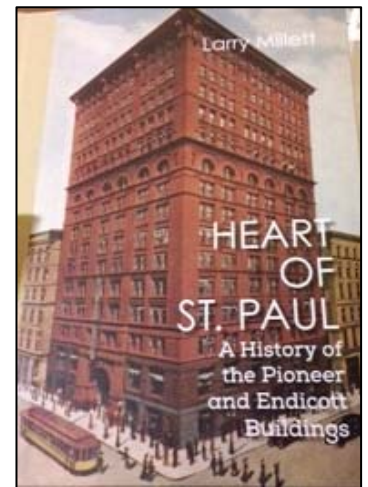
Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine, Moorhead, Minnesota *Photo: Carol Highsmith*



Details of main entrance door and gate ornament for Gilbert's New York City residence, from Samuel Yellin Metalworkers Archives. Courtesy of Joseph Cunningham.

In collaboration with the University of Minnesota Press, the Minnesota Museum of American Art has published Larry Millett's *Heart of St. Paul: A History of the Pioneer and Endicott Buildings*. This major new release tells the architectural history and rich human story behind downtown St. Paul's iconic Pioneer and Endicott Buildings, the epicenter of business in St. Paul for more than a century and now home to the museum. Journalist and architectural historian Larry Millett tells the story of the Pioneer and Endicott from conception to the present incarnation as a vibrant cultural and living space in the city's center. When the Pioneer Press Building opened its doors in 1889, the 12-story skyscraper was St. Paul's tallest building and featured the first glass elevator in the country. Its opening merited a 40-page special edition of the *Pioneer Press*, whose editors modestly proclaimed it "the greatest newspaper building mother earth carries."

A year later, another architectural monument, the Endicott Building—which wraps around the Pioneer—opened its doors. Designed by rising St. Paul architect Cass Gilbert, the Endicott included two office buildings linked by a one-story L-shaped shopping arcade, crowned by a stained-glass ceiling. Millett details how Chicago architect Solon Beman later added four floors to the Pioneer, enhancing the 16-story light court that remains one of Minnesota's great architectural spaces, as well as Gilbert's meticulous work in designing the Endicott Arcade. The Endicott is considered by many to be Gilbert's finest early office building. Both buildings are local St. Paul landmarks and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information: <https://mmaa.org/heart-of-st-paul/>.



For information on visiting the newly renovated and restored **Minnesota State Capitol**, see: <http://www.mnhs.org/capitol/activities>. Among the newly reclaimed spaces is the **Cass Gilbert Room** (the former Supreme Court library) in the east wing on the third floor. For more information on the restoration project and ongoing work during the legislative session, see: <https://mn.gov/admin/capitol-restoration/>.

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

John Yust, *President*
Marjorie Pearson, *Vice President, Newsletter*
Ted Lentz, *Secretary*
Art Weeks, *Treasurer*
Carolyn Kompelien
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Vincent Platt
Cindy Stephani
Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*
Linda Bjorklund, *Fundraising*

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We mail *Newsletters* to provide information about Cass Gilbert and his works and as a way of informing members about past and upcoming Society events.

The Society has established a Facebook page, administered by board member Sonja Mason, as a means of posting more timely information about items of interest to Society members. Click on the Facebook logo from the Cass Gilbert Society homepage:

www.cassgilbertsociety.org.

We are also seeking to use email more efficiently as a way of providing more timely notices. *Please provide us an email address when you send in your membership dues, so we can add you to our emailing list.*

Do not fear; the *Newsletter* will continue to be mailed to Society members and other interested parties.



Find us on Facebook.

January 2017

RENEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR 2017

Please use the enclosed form to renew your Cass Gilbert Society support in 2017. Our records are maintained on a calendar year basis, with the expiration date noted on your address label. **We encourage you to provide your email address.** It will be used to send out announcements between the publication dates of the Newsletters.

You can show your support at various levels and any contributions above the basic level are much appreciated. Your support ensures that you will receive our Newsletter via U.S. mail, free admission to lectures, reduced fees for local tours, and eligibility to participate in regional tours. Your contributions are the major source of funding for operating expenses for our all-volunteer organization. You may also support us through **GiveMn.org**.