

Marker Text:

Architect Cass Gilbert

One of America's leading architects of the early 20th Century, Cass Gilbert (1859-1934) was born in a home that stood at this site. After studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gilbert apprenticed with prominent architectural firm McKim, Mead, and White. The critical success of his first major public building, the design of the 1895 Minnesota State Capitol, established his national reputation. His influential 1912 Woolworth building, at 792 feet, was then the world's tallest building, earning Gilbert's nickname of "Father of the Modern Skyscraper." Combining classical designs with modern technology, Gilbert also created the United States Supreme Court building (1932) in Washington, D.C., an enduring icon of American justice and democracy. His other achievements include the Arkansas and West Virginia capitols, the U.S. Custom House in New York, and several buildings at Oberlin College. Gilbert served as the president of the American Institute of Architects and the National Academy of Design.

Ohio Bicentennial Commission
Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County
The Ohio Historical Society
2003



Minnesota State Capitol by Cass Gilbert



The Woolworth Building (1911-1913)

Prepared by:
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Cass Gilbert



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The Ohio Bicentennial
Commission



Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer
Attorneys at Law

Cass Gilbert

Skyscraper Pioneer



Cass Gilbert was born on November 29, 1859, on the current site of the law firm of Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer. He was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and won a Gold Medal, Society of Arts and Sciences, in 1931. He died on May 17, 1934.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- 1900: Broadway Chambers Building, New York City
- 1902: Essex County Courthouse, Newark, New Jersey
- 1904: Festival Hall and Art Building, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1905: Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul
- 1907: U.S. Customs House
- 1908: Finney Chapel, Oberlin College, Ohio
- 1913: F.W. Woolworth Company Building, New York City
- 1921: Detroit Public Library
- 1928: Plans for George Washington Bridge, New York
- 1935: U.S. Supreme Court Building, Washington, D.C.



America's stately, neoclassical Supreme Court Building is designed to suggest order and democracy. Its sculpted pediment tells allegories of justice and mercy.

Program:

The Star Spangled Banner	Ron Warren
Welcome/Greeting	Scott D. Eickelberger Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer
Speakers	Dana Matz Manager, Downtown Association
	Dorothy Montgomery Ohio Bicentennial Commission
	Linda Smucker Director, Ohio Historical Society Local History Office
	Phil Ross Markers Program Coordinator Ohio Bicentennial Commission
	Kelly Ashby Zanesville-Muskingum County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Unveiling of Marker	R. William Geyer Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer
Beautiful Ohio	Ron Warren

Please join us after the ceremony for refreshments in the office of Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer.

Although Cass Gilbert's name is rarely mentioned today, he exercised enormous influence on the development of architecture in the United States. He is perhaps best known for his gothic skyscraper, the Woolworth Building, which was the world's tallest building at the time. Combining modern technologies with historic ideas, Gilbert designed numerous public buildings, including the state capitols of Minnesota, West Virginia and Arkansas. He was consulting architect for the George Washington Bridge which crosses the Hudson River in upper Manhattan, New York City.

Cass Gilbert was highly regarded by politicians and other luminaries of the day. President Theodore Roosevelt made him chairman of the Council of Fine Arts, and President Wilson reappointed him. Gilbert received many gold medals in the United States and Europe. The Society of Arts and Sciences awarded him for inaugurating the age of skyscrapers. He served as president of the American Institute of Architects in 1908 and 1909, and helped found the Architectural League of New York, serving as its president for two years.

By the 1950s, Gilbert's name slipped into obscurity. Modernism, which idealized sleek, unornamented forms, became fashionable and Gilbert's building were often dismissed or ridiculed. Today, however, a new appreciation for architecture based on historic themes has reawakened interest in the work of Cass Gilbert.



West Virginia Capitol Building