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: Kincaid, Taylor & Geyer (740) 454-2591

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Cass Gilbert



October 30, 2003

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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

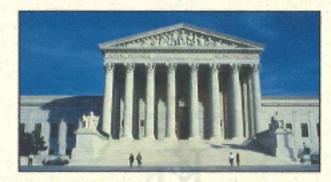
1908: Finney Chapel, Oberlin College, Ohio

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 metals in the United States and Europe. The Society of Arts and Sciences awarded him for inaugurating the age of sky scrapers. 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