

FIND — and — SHARE — the — STORIES

Cass Gilbert

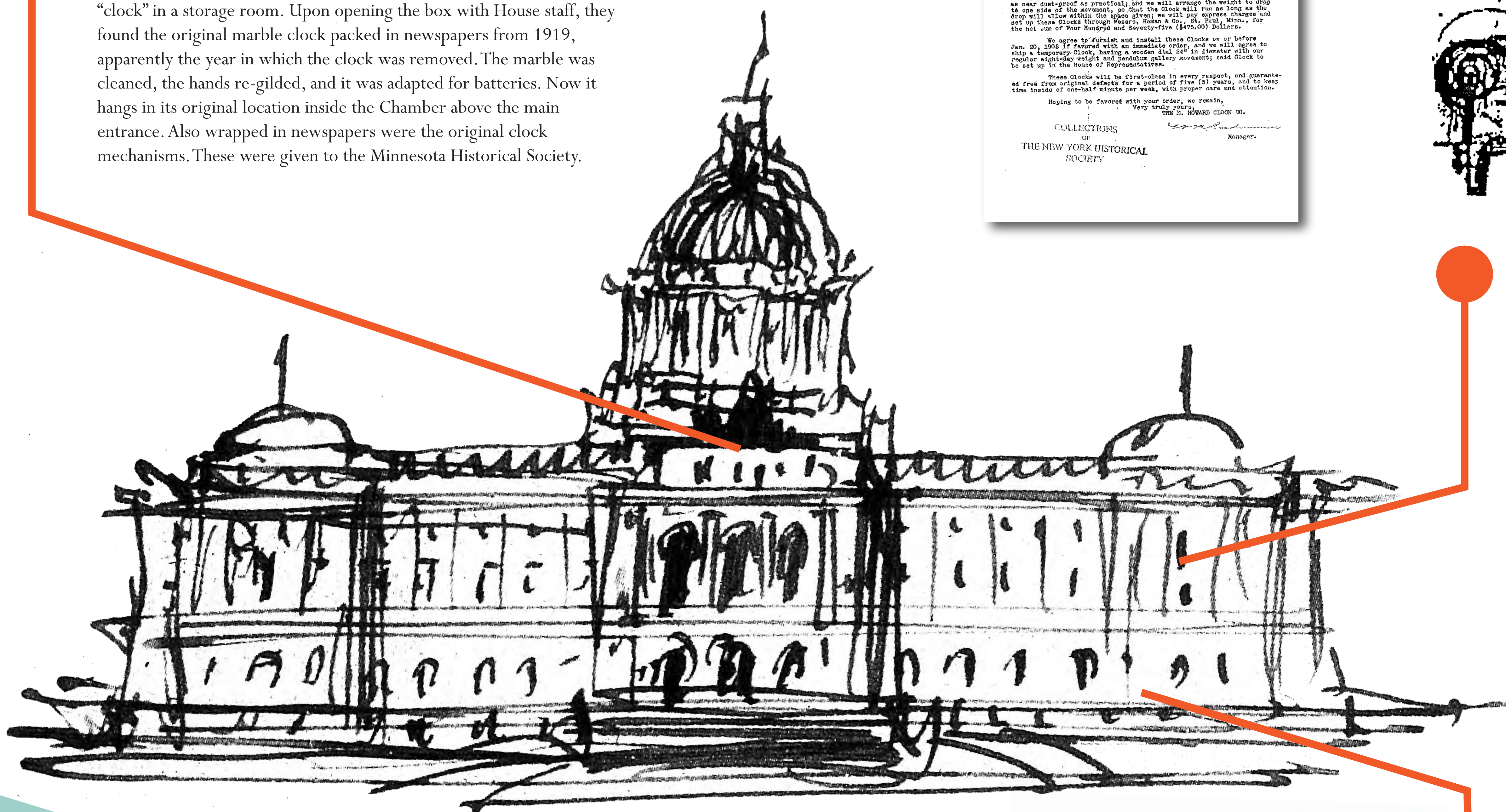
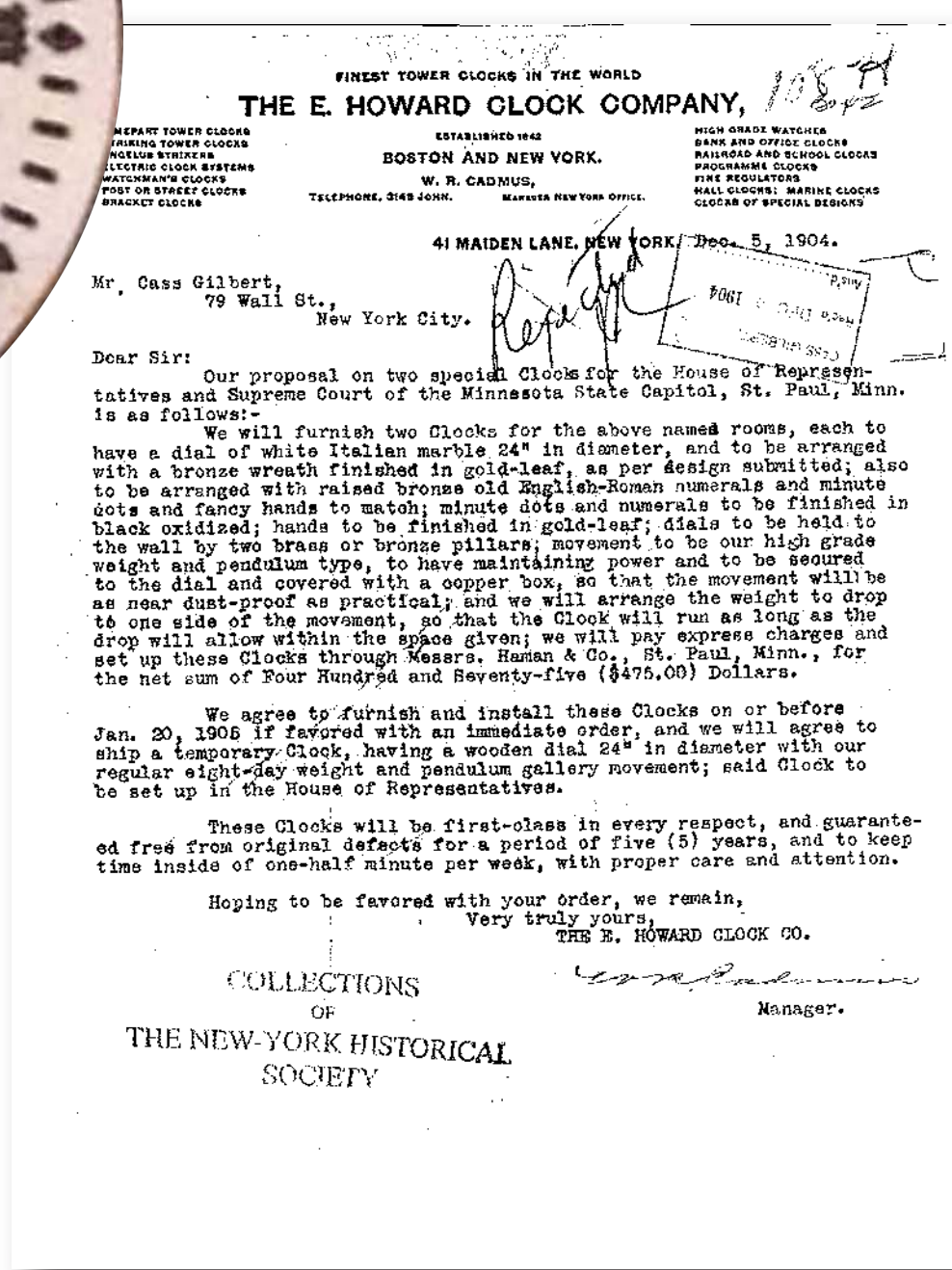
CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

THE MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL FURNISHINGS PROJECT

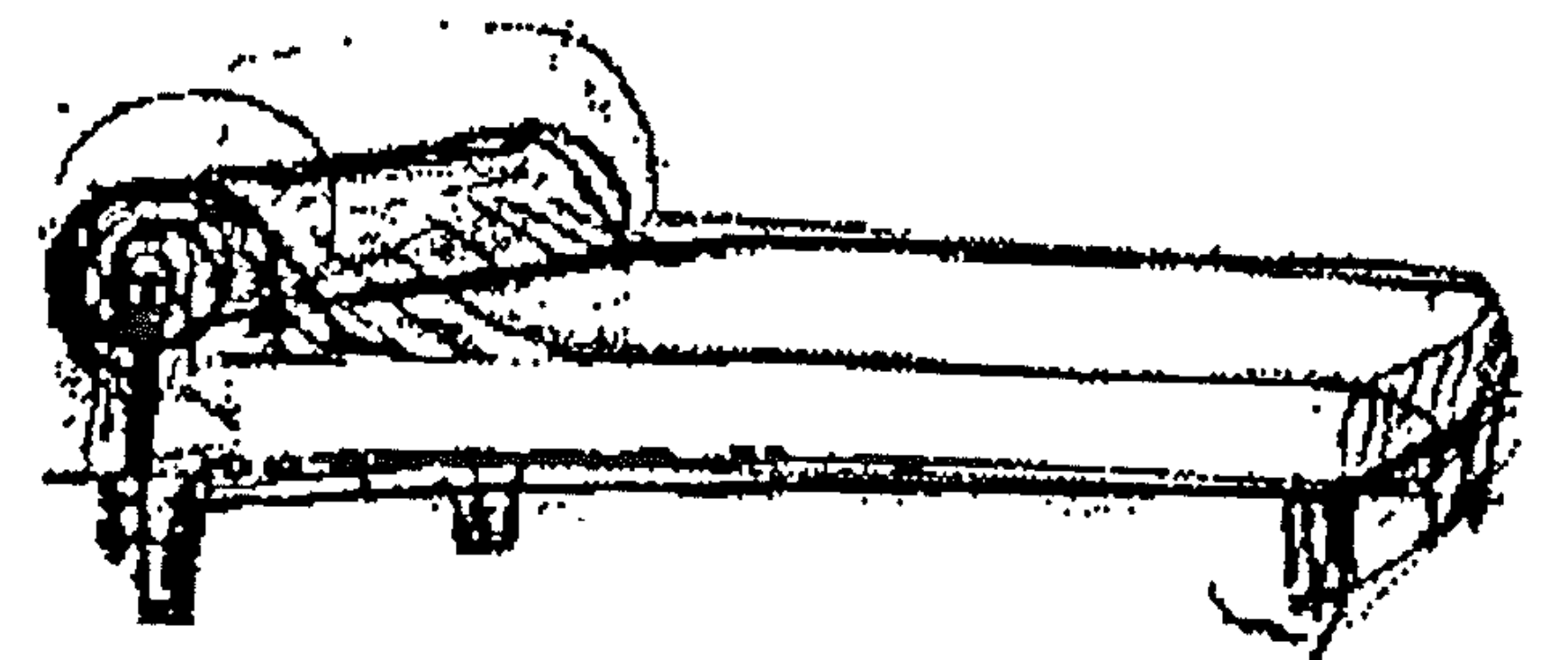
We seek to collect stories, anecdotes, and photographs related to the original furnishings and building parts designed or specified by Cass Gilbert for the Minnesota State Capitol Building.

MARBLE CLOCK

The E. Howard Clock Company made three clocks for the Chambers of the Senate, the House and the Supreme Court. The clocks have been in use in the Senate and Court since 1905, but the House had replaced their marble clock with an ordinary round clock. Research during the 1990 House restoration showed photos of the marble clock that once hung in the chamber. Ernie Hintze, House electrician, knew of an old box labeled "clock" in a storage room. Upon opening the box with House staff, they found the original marble clock packed in newspapers from 1919, apparently the year in which the clock was removed. The marble was cleaned, the hands re-gilded, and it was adapted for batteries. Now it hangs in its original location inside the Chamber above the main entrance. Also wrapped in newspapers were the original clock mechanisms. These were given to the Minnesota Historical Society.



MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL
AT ST. PAUL.
CASS GILBERT, ARCHITECT.



CHAISE LOUNGE

Shortly after the Capitol opened in 1905, Associate Justice E.A. Jaggard wrote a letter to Cass Gilbert saying that the Justice's offices required a chaise lounge. This rough sketch by Gilbert is dated 21 January 1905.

"I would like to have a moderately comfortable plain one, not as hard as a rock and not such a one as the Secretary of State has. That is stately but inadequate for my too too solid and ample frame. It does well to set on but is ill adapted for balmy sleep. I would rather have it without a back and certainly do not want a double ender."



CASS GILBERT

Recognized as one of the most accomplished and prolific architects in the United States, Cass Gilbert's work includes the U.S. Customs House in New York City, the F.W. Woolworth Building in New York City, the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, and the State Capitol Building in St. Paul, Minnesota.



#473 ARMCHAIR

Fifty-nine 473 chairs were purchased by Cass Gilbert in 1905 for the Law Library and Minnesota Historical Society Reading Rooms, which were once located in the Capitol. Only nineteen of the chairs remain. Designed as a comfortable chair for the public doing research, their size and simple design could make them a desired chair for many non-ceremonial locations in the restored Capitol.

Our hope is that the fruits of this project will provide citizens with a personal link to the Capitol during its restoration and after, and that it will heighten public interest in its preservation in the future.