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Cass Gilbert Society Begins Search for Missing Capitol Furnishings

(ST. PAUL, MN - April 27, 2017) The Cass Gilbert Society (CGS) has kicked off a new research project: Furnishings of the Historic 1905 Minnesota State Capitol. Designed to increase awareness and appreciation of the Minnesota State Capitol and architect Cass Gilbert, the project will locate missing, original furnishings from the 1905 Capitol Building.

Of the roughly 1,600 pieces of furniture that Cass Gilbert designed or selected for the Capitol interior, many have been in continuous use since 1905. By 1989, about 800 pieces of furniture were known to exist. In addition to furniture, CGS seeks missing architectural fragments, photographs, and light fixtures.

Building off the energy of the Capitol Building's restoration and grand re-opening this August, this initiative will trace the stories of lost and found objects, from their original purpose in the Capitol to their current use and location. The goal is not to obtain items and return them to the Capitol. Instead, CGS will publish the data and stories on their website (www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

CGS invites anyone with knowledge of Capitol Building furnishings to contact Project Manager Natalie Heneghan at natalie.heneghan@cassgilbertsociety.org. This project has been financed with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. It runs through the end of 2017.

About the Cass Gilbert Society

The Cass Gilbert Society's mission is to preserve and enhance the nation's cultural heritage through advancing scholarship and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's contribution to American architecture. Its research and documentation of Gilbert's buildings, not only in Minnesota, but throughout the U.S., have served as important resources for the public, scholars, and preservationists.