

St. Louis Public Library
Olive Street between 13th and 14th Streets
St. Louis
St. Louis (independent city)
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1835

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96-SALV,
125-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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- Location: Olive Street between 13th and 14th Streets
- Significance: Building is an example of the monumental structures associated with the turn-of-the-century "city beautiful" movement and architect Cass Gilbert.
- Description: Built in the Italian Renaissance style, the Library's exterior walls are of Maine granite, with carved medallions memorializing noted authors and printers. Interior decoration includes painting by Elmer E. Garnsey.
- The George Fox Steedman Architectural Library (added 1929; Mauran, Russell, and Crowell, Architects) is in the sixteenth-century English style, mostly designed by Oscar Mullgardt. Sculptor Victor Berlendis executed the carved plaster ceilings and woodcarving; Louis LaBeaume selected furnishings.
- History: Gilbert's design for the Library won a national competition. Gilbert designed numerous public structures in the monumental style, including the Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. and many state capitol buildings around the United States.
- The present site of the St. Louis Public Library once belonged to J.B.C. Lucas, U.S. Judge for the Northern District of Louisiana under President Jefferson.
- Source: McCue, George. The Building Art in St. Louis, Two Centuries: A Guide to the Architecture of the City and its Metropolitan Region. St. Louis: Marilynne Bradley Knight Publishing Company, 1981.
- Historian: Robert Buerglener, HABS, August 22, 1988.

ADDENDUM TO
SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
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