Yellin, with the help of 200 metalworkers in his Philadelphia workshop, created many different iron objects for the New York Fed — clocks, lanterns, gates, and even door hardware. While these iron pieces decorate the building, they perform jobs too. Some tell time, hold lightbulbs, or cover thermostats. Others protect the building and the spaces within it, like the door topper pictured above.
Below are plans Yellin drew for an iron door topper that would decorate and provide protection for the space above a doorway. His drawings include flowers, leaves, and the heads of many different kinds of creatures. How do you think these creatures could help protect the building?

Design your own door topper!
You can draw anything you’d like — animals, plants, even bugs — to decorate or protect your own space.

Now that you’ve learned about Samuel Yellin and his ironwork, why did you choose this design?