
Hope College
H04-1540.5. Zeeland Brick Company (1848-1925).
   Papers, 1848-2004.  3.50 linear ft.

Abstract

An 1847 emigrant from Overijssel, the Netherlands, to Holland, Michigan, Jan Hendrik Veneklasen and his son Berend J. founded and operated the most successful brick making company in the area. Founded in 1848 in Holland Township, the brickyard moved to Groningen in 1853 and eventually established a yard and a factory on the western edge of Zeeland in 1872. The company also owned and was interested in brickyards elsewhere in Michigan, including Hamilton, Cloverdale, and Rudyard. This collection consists of papers, photographs, and researcher materials relating to Veneklasen & Sons Brickyard (Zeeland Brickyard), the Veneklasen family, and Veneklasen brick houses in the greater Holland area. Michael Douma gathered these materials during the spring and summer of 2004 as a Joint Archives of Holland’s Annual Summer History Project.

Accession No:    H04-1540.5  
Provenance:      Michael Douma  
Donor:           Michael Douma  
Photographs:     483 images (323 images in Box 1, 160 images in Box 2)  
Processed by:    Michael Douma, August 2004

History

An 1847 emigrant from Overijssel, the Netherlands to Holland, Michigan, Jan Hendrik Veneklasen and his son Berend J. founded and operated the most successful brick making company in the area. Founded in 1848 in Holland Township, the brickyard moved to Groningen in 1853 and eventually established a yard and a factory on the western edge of Zeeland in 1872. The company also owned and was interested in brickyards elsewhere in Michigan including Hamilton, Cloverdale, and Rudyard. Incorporated in 1892 as the Zeeland Brick Company, it hit its peak of production in the 1890s and finally went out of business in 1924-1925, having been owned and operated by the Veneklasen family throughout. While many of their bricks were used in industrial and public settings, Veneklasen brick became well-known for its application in houses, particularly farm houses, where Dutch used traditional brickwork techniques to create polychromatic white-red patterns. These houses, many of which were lived in by person’s influential in the history of the area, have faced considerable threat of destruction.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of papers, photographs, and researcher materials relating to Veneklasen & Sons Brickyard (Zeeland Brickyard), the Veneklasen family, and Veneklasen brick houses in the greater Holland area. Michael Douma gathered these materials during the spring and summer of 2004 as a Joint Archives of Holland’s Annual Summer History Project.
Container List

Box 1

Articles

General, 1983-1995


“Veneklasen Brick: 40,000,000 bricks...a Century Ago,” by Randy Vande Water, *Holland Historical Trust Review*, n.d.


Cloverdale Brickyard History, 1897-2004

Cloverdale Houses, n.d. (7 images)

Factory Reports, 1894-1909

Grand Rapids Brickyards History, 1891-1901

Grand Rapids Buildings, n.d. (3 images)

Houses and Buildings Built from Zeeland Brick Company Bricks (some include images)

Unidentified houses, n.d. (15 images)

Allendale, n.d. (7 images)

Allegan City, n.d. (13 images)

Blendon Township

9194 Port Sheldon Road, 2004 (2 images)

Byron Township

2455 Prescott, 2004

2471 146th, 2004 (1 image)

2899 92nd, 2004 (1 image)

9832 Ivanrest (1 image)

McKenney School, 84th (4 images)

Byron Center

Saint Sebastians Church, 9408 Wilson Ave SW, 2004 (5 images)

Unidentified, n.d.

Dorr Township, St. Stanislans Church (Hilliards)

Dorr, 1853 136th (Hilliards)

Dorr, 4219 18th Street (Schoolhouse)

Fillmore, 3968 52nd

Fillmore, 4041 Blue Star Hwy

Fillmore Township, 4305 49th

Fillmore Township, 4781 52nd

Fillmore Township, 4782 52nd

Fillmore, 5065 146th
Fillmore, 5185 Russcher
Fillmore, 5185 140th
Fillmore, 5736 140th
Fillmore, Public Building, Nob Hill Antiques/Graafschap Hardware
Fillmore, 5958 Church
Graafschap, 5988 Church
Fillmore, 5984 Church
Fillmore, Russcher School
Georgetown, 3594 Bauer Rd. (Schoolhouse)
Heath, 3282 M-40
Holland, 8 E. 12th (Netherlands Museum)
Holland, 11 W. 14th
Holland, 12 W. 13th
Holland, 18 E. 12th
Holland, 36 E. 12th
Holland, 36 W. 12th
Holland, 51 W. 9th
Holland, 64 W. 64th St.
Holland, 78 E. 12th
Holland, 91 W. 10th
Holland, 92 E. 10th (President’s Home)
Holland, 105 W. 12th
Holland, 112 E. 12th St. (International Ed. Center)
Holland, 170 College Ave.
Holland, 177 College
Holland, 188 W. 13th
Holland, 192 W. 12th
Holland, 238 Washington
Holland, 241 Fairbanks
Holland, 268 Maple
Holland, 284 Maple
Holland, 318 Central
Holland, 324 Central
Holland, 330 Central
Holland, 334 Central
Holland, 350 E. 24th
Holland, 378 32nd
Holland, 751 Central
Holland, 827 Paw Paw
Holland, 940 Paw Paw
Holland, 10362 Adams
Holland, 10715 Paw Paw
Holland, 8th St.
Holland, Unknown (Van Goor)
Holland, Unknown (Schaap Family)
Holland, Public Building, Van Vleck
Holland, Public Building, Old Fire House (8th St.)
Holland, Building Padnos/WMFC
Holland, Public Building, Voorhees Hall
Holland 40th and Washington
Holland, Church, Hope Reformed
Holland, Public Building, Carriage House
Holland, Public Building, Armory
Holland Township, 264 96th Ave.
Holland Township, 376 N. Franklin
Holland Township, 1046 96th
Holland Township, 1448 96th
Holland Township, 11593 Greenly St.
Holland Township, 2791 104th
Holland Township, 3797 ? Beeline
Holland Township, 3810 Beeline
Holland Township, 3990 112th
Holland Township, 4155 120th
Holland Township, 9699 Ottogan
Holland Township, 10244 Perry
Holland Township, 10441 Mason
Holland Township, 10537 Paw Paw
Holland Township, 10720 James
Holland Township, 10967 Riley St.
Holland Township, 11045 Paw Paw
Holland Township, 11771 E. Lakewood
Holland Township, 11952 James St.
Hopkins (4 houses and 1 church)
Hopkins, Public Building, Water St.
Jamestown, 215 Riley
Jamestown, 595 24th
Jamestown, 955 32nd
Jamestown, 1385 Byron
Jamestown, 1389 Perry
Jamestown, 1630 32 Ave
Jamestown, 1754 Perry
Jamestown, 2294 Byron Rd.
Jamestown, 2400 Adams
Jamestown, 2465 32nd Ave.
Jamestown, 2995 24th (Schoolhouse)
Jamestown, 3420 Adams
Jamestown, 3426 Perry
Jamestown, 3690 Byron
Jamestown, 3950 40th Ave.
Jamestown, 5587 School Ave.
Jamestown, Forest Grove School
Laketown Township, 6187 147th
Laketown Township, 6215 146th Ave.
Laketown Township, 6300 147th Ave.
Monterey, 3215 128th
Monterey, 3408 30th
Monterey, Public Building, 2999 30th
Olive Township, 5321 112th
Olive Township, 6091 96th
Olive Township, 6297 96th
Overisel, 3841 44th
Overisel, 4029 47th
Overisel, 4071 45th
Overisel, 4088 47th
Overisel, 4109 142nd
Overisel, 4160 142nd
Overisel, 4283 142nd
Overisel, 4382 140th
Overisel, 4425 44th
Overisel, 4488 46th
Overisel, 4493 144th
Overisel, 4581 145th
Overisel, 4595 143rd (Schoolhouse, gone)
Salem, 3260 142nd
Salem Township, 3267 142nd
Salem Township, 3339 146th
Salem Township, 3365 142nd
Saugatuck (Ganges bolder), 6295 124th (Schoolhouse)
Zeeland, 4 E. Main
Zeeland, 37 N. State St.
Zeeland, 59 Maple
Zeeland, 120 S. Church
Zeeland, 227 E. Washington
Zeeland, 336 E. Central
Zeeland, 338 E. Lincoln
Zeeland, 501 W. Main
Zeeland, 644 E. Lincoln
Zeeland, 10219 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland, 10231 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland, 10263 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland, 10271 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland, 10283 Chicago Dr.
Zeeland Township, 170 72nd Ave.
Zeeland Township, 2215 48th
Zeeland Township, 2450? 64th
Zeeland Township, 3074 80th
Zeeland Township, 3471 64th
Zeeland Township, 3655 56th St.
Zeeland Brick Company
H04-1540.5

Zeeland, 5245 Adams
Zeeland, 5445 Adams
Zeeland Township, 6154 Adams
Zeeland Township, 6645 Adams
Zeeland Township, 6701 Adams
Zeeland Township, 6747 Adams
Zeeland Township, 6881 Byron Rd.
Zeeland Township, 7300? Byron
Zeeland Township, (Unknown Drenthe School)
Zeeland Township, Hatchery (Adams St.)
Zeeland Township, Public Building, New Quincy School
Zeeland Township, Vriesland School
Zeeland Township, 8015 Quincy
Zeeland Township, Beaverdam
Owner Survey Appeal, 2004
Misc. papers, articles, photocopied pictures
Holland Township-1811 112th
Veneklasen Brick, Map, House distribution, 2004
Zeeland Brick Company Research Correspondence, 2004

Box 2

Veneklasen Brick
Veneklasen Family

Eighth Street
Houses
Photographs (Digital CD), 2004
Photographs (negatives), 2004
Maps
Holland Area, 2002
New Groningen, n.d.
Overisel, 1895, 1913

Hamilton
Kalamazoo

Box 3

Muskegon/Montague
Newspaper Clippings
Sheboygan Nieuwsbode, n.d.
The Anchor
Zeeland Record
De Grondwet
De Hollander, 1852, 1855, 1858
Holland City News
Holland Sentinel
Ottawa County Times
Slides, Non-Veneklasen Local Brick Buildings, 1975, n.d.
Other Brick Companies in Michigan
Project Press, 2004
Research Correspondence, Michael Douma, 2004
Research Notes, Michael Douma, 2004
Rough Drafts, 2004
Survey Mailing, 2004
Veneklasen Family Photographs
   Veneklasen Family, n.d.
   Veneklasen, Christopher and Allen (A. J.) (Netherlands), n.d. (1 image)
Veneklasen Family, John Veneklasen Sr. Will, 1920
Zeeland Factory Reports, 1893-1908

Box 4

White Brick and brick pieces

Box 5

Brick

Box 6

Brick and Coal of Leonard Brick Co.
Red Brick and Brick pieces