



Finding Aid for

**LEONARD B. WILLEKE COLLECTION, 1916-1982 (BULK 1916-1924)  
Accession 1605**

Finding Aid Published: November 2011



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## OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center  
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1605

CREATOR: Brunk, Thomas

TITLE: Leonard B. Willeke collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1916-1982 (bulk 1916-1924)

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: Leonard B. Willeke was an architect who completed several commissions for Henry and Edsel Ford as well as other Ford Motor Company executives. The collection includes fire-damaged fragments of blueprints and sketches of Fair Lane as well as a guide to the records on microfilm.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research. Access to microfilm is available within the Research Center reading room.

**COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

**ACQUISITION:** Ford Motor Company donation, 1964 and additional donation by Thomas Brunk, 1982.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1605, Leonard B. Willeke collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, February 1982.

**DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared and published by Benson Ford Research Center staff in February 1982.

Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, November 2011, and published in November 2011.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Leonard B. Willeke (1885-1970) began his career as an architect by working in the offices of a Cincinnati architectural firm while attending school in 1900. After gaining additional professional experience in New York and California and studying in Europe, Willeke returned to practice in Cincinnati in 1911. In 1914 he relocated to Detroit and set up his own architectural firm. From 1916 to 1924, Willeke completed several commissions for both Henry and Edsel Ford, and for several top Ford Motor Company officials. The commissions included residential work and furniture design for the residences of Edsel B. Ford, Henry Ford, Ernest C. Kanzler, and Charles E. Sorenson, and an urban planning project known as the Fordson Village Project for Henry Ford. The Fordson Village Project, begun in 1918, was intended to provide ideal housing facilities for the thousands of Henry Ford & Sons employees. It was abandoned in 1921. Willeke remained professionally active until the early 1960s and died in 1970.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection comprises both primary and secondary materials relating to Willeke's work. The primary materials found in this collection consist of five folders of fragments of blueprints, sketches, and specifications created by Willeke for Henry Ford's Fair Lane residence. These fragments were part of the Ford Motor Company Archives' map and blueprint collection which was largely destroyed by a fire in the Henry Ford Museum on 9 August 1970. Additional records documenting Willeke's work for the Fair Lane residence as well as the other projects undertaken for Henry and Edsel Ford and several of their business associates are found in numerous other collections held by the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village Research Center. In 1982, a comprehensive guide to, and microfilm copy of, these records was prepared by Thomas Brunk. The secondary materials included in this collection consist of a copy of this guide, and the positive copy of the reel of microfilm. These two items are housed with this collection for convenience sake. The negative copy of the microfilm and an additional copy of the 1982 guide are housed in the reading room. Accessions cited by Brunk include 1, 6, 38, 47, 62, 93, 188, 284 and 833.

## **SUBJECT TERMS**

Names, Personal and Corporate  
Willeke, Leonard B., 1884-1970  
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947  
Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943  
Jensen, Jens, 1860-1951

Subjects  
Architects--Michigan  
Architecture--Michigan  
Architecture, Domestic  
Architect-designed furniture  
Buildings--Specifications  
Ford, Henry--Homes and haunts  
City planning  
Industrial housing--Michigan  
Historic buildings--Michigan

Geographic  
Fair Lane (Dearborn, Mich.)  
Fordson (Dearborn, Mich.)  
Indian Village (Detroit, Mich.)  
Kanzler Residence (Detroit, Mich.)  
Sorensen Residence (Detroit, Mich.)

Genre and Form  
Architectural drawings

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box no.</b>	<b>Description</b>
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### **Box 1**

Stable and garage at Fair Lane

Specifications, 1919

Plumbing specifications, 1919

Service buildings at Fair Lane - floor plans

Log cabin at Fair Lane - blueprints

Detail sketches for buildings at Fair Lane

"The Work of Leonard Bernhard Willeke, Architect, for Messrs. Edsel and Henry Ford  
and Their Associates, 1916-1924," Thomas W. Brunk, Compiler and Editor, 1982

Willeke papers (1 roll 35mm. microfilm, positive copy)