



Finding Aid for

SMITH SILO COMPANY RECORDS, CIRCA 1920-1978

Accession 76.16

Finding Aid Published: November 2020

Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 76.16

CREATOR: Smith Silo Company

TITLE: Smith Silo Company Records

INCLUSIVE DATES: Circa 1920-1978

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft. (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: A collection consisting primarily of photographs documenting concrete farm silos built by the Smith Silo Company of Paw Paw and Oxford, Michigan.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** Records are open for research.
- TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS:** Use of original audio tapes contained in the collection is restricted. Access may be unavailable due to lack of appropriate software and hardware, or use copies may need to be produced unless otherwise noted. Researchers interested in this material should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff (research.center@thehenryford.org).
- 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:** Donated to The Henry Ford by Smith Silo Company, 1976.
- ALTERNATE FORMS:** Selected material from this collection has been digitized and is available online at:
<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/search-results#advancedSearch=1&tab=artifact-results&s.0.in=collectionTitle&s.0.for=Smith%20Silo%20Company%20Records&years=0-0&perPage=10&pageNum=1&sortBy=relevance>
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Concrete Silo, 1914. Object ID 76.16.1. On exhibit in Henry Ford Museum.
<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/114746>
- Model of Silo, circa 1910. Object ID 76.16.2. On exhibit in Henry Ford Museum.
<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/107160>
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 76.16, Smith Silo Company Records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center, circa 1976, and by Brian Wilson, 2020.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid written by Brian Wilson, November 2020, and published in the same month. Prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Hiram Smith patented the concrete stave silo in the early 1900s. The Smith Silo Company produced concrete stave silos, first in Paw Paw and then in Oxford, Michigan, from circa 1909 to circa 1979.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Smith Silo Company Records consist primarily of photographic prints, both loose and in two albums, showing production of silo components at the Smith factory, construction of silos, and completed silos located around the state of Michigan.

Also included is an audio interview with members of the Smith Silo Company. There is no transcript for the interview. Please contact Benson Ford Research Center staff at research.center@thehenryford.org about access to the interview.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Smith, Hiram

Smith, Warren

Smith Silo Company

Subjects

Farms

Silos (Agricultural structures)

Geographic

Oxford (Mich.)

Paw Paw (Mich.)

Genre and Form

Audiocassettes

Brochures

Photographs

Photographic prints

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

General, 1930s-1970s (Black-and-white photographic prints; color 35mm slides; clippings; company brochures; single postcard)

Photograph Album, 1920s-1930s (Front cover inscribed, "Michigan Silo Co. / Kalamazoo - Peoria"; black-and-white photographic prints illustrating concrete silos installations and assembly, primarily on farms located in Michigan; small blueprint technical drawings of concrete pocket (silo) for coal or sand)

Photograph Album, 1930s-1960s (Three-ring binder, labeled "The F. C. Mason Company"; contains album pages holding black-and-white photographic prints of concrete silos as-built or under construction on farms located primarily Michigan; images of silo factory; includes Patz Company brochure that uses images of concrete stave barn in illustrations; includes "Peerless News" no. 25, published by Peerless Cement Company, which features a two-page illustrated article on the Smith Silo Company)

Audio Interview, undated (Interview conducted with members of the Smith Silo Company; two C60 audiocassette tapes; two duplicate tapes produced as access copies; NOTE: Access to original audio tapes is RESTRICTED - Please consult Research Center staff to discuss access to this material.)