





Zeeland Historical Walking Tour






 To continue the tour, turn left on Central Ave. at the First Reformed Church

 You may shorten your tour by turning right on Elm St. to return to the Huntington Bank Building

 At the intersection of State St. and Central Ave., you may continue the tour by walking an additional half block on Central Ave. and then looping back to S State St.

 Or turn right on State St. and continue to E Main Ave. to shorten the tour

 Turn right on Main Ave. to pass by North Street Church. The tour ends at the Dekker Huis Museum



101 E MAIN AVE

1 Huntington Bank Building

Originally the headquarters of Den Herder's Bank, established in 1878 by Jacob Den Herder. The cornerstone was laid in 1908, and construction finished in 1909. Through a series of mergers, the building is currently owned by Huntington Bank. Although the interior has undergone a series of renovations, the exterior facade looks much as it did in 1909.

The Zeeland Historical Museum houses a gallery dedicated to the bank's history that recreates the lobby as it would have looked in 1924.



122 E MAIN AVE

2 Zeeland Artists Working Gallery

Built by Zeeland's Postmaster, Ben Kamps, in 1916, this building served as a post office until 1934. When the new post office was built in 1934, the space was used by Ben's sons for Vita Products, including a pill called Vita Kelp (for vim and vigor.) Later the building was occupied by the Orange Store, a hardware store run by John and Ella Nagelkirk, a Sears Roebuck and Co. catalog sales office, and briefly by a pinball arcade called the Land of Oz. **The building now houses an artist gallery, workspace, and a framing business run by Elly Butler.**



145 E MAIN AVE

3 Zeeland Print Shop

In 1919 Abe Van Hoven, also known as "Abe the Printer," opened a print shop above the Shoemaker Shoe Store at 111 E Main. In 1924, Abe moved his print shop into its current location. **Fourth generation Brian Van Hoven now runs the family-owned Zeeland Print Shop with help from the fifth generation of Van Hovens.**



1 S CHURCH ST

4 Michigan's "Chick Center" Historical Marker

In 1906, farmer Douwe Wyngarden purchased an incubator, which didn't arrive on time. Wyngarden canceled the order and ordered an incubator from another company. To his surprise, both incubators were delivered, each with a capacity of 300 eggs. Wyngarden loaded up both incubators with his eggs and eggs from his neighbors and soon hatched 600 chicks. **By the 1920s, baby chicks were Zeeland's biggest export, growing until its peak in the 1940s, when more than 60 hatcheries were in the Holland-Zeeland area**, with about 45 in Zeeland Township alone. Although hatcheries no longer dominate Zeeland industry, the legacy lives on in the names of the mascots of the two Zeeland High Schools: the Chix and the Dux.



148 E CENTRAL AVE

5 Vande Luyster Square

The town of Zeeland was founded by Jannes Vande Luyster, Reverend Cornelius Vander Muelen, and 452 people who traveled from the province of Zeeland, the Netherlands, and settled in what would become the village of Zeeland.

In 1847, Vande Luyster purchased three parcels of land (1,680 acres) from the U.S. government. **He designated 80 acres in section 19 to be set aside for the village of Zeeland**, and within the 80 acres, four half-acre lots in the center were designated as the village square, with plots assigned for the church, school, and marketplace. Today this quadrant is known as Vande Luyster Square and contains a monument to Vande Luyster, a monument to those once buried here, First Reformed Church, and a public park space.



214 E CENTRAL AVE

6 Parkview Home

Built by Henry DeKruif in 1899, this beautiful example of Queen Anne-style architecture is constructed of Veneklasen brick. **Dr. Paul de Kruif once lived there, and his 1926 book “Microbe Hunters” became an international bestseller and inspired a generation of scientists and medical professionals.** Later, after the home was purchased by Herman and Nellie Miller, their son Howard Miller, founder of the Howard Miller Clock Company, spent his teenage years there. Now the home of Parkview Adult care, it features a grand front porch, stained-glass windows, a turret, and bay windows.



240 E CENTRAL

7 240 E Central

This immaculately restored Folk Victorian-style home was commissioned by Rev. Seine Bolks and completed in 1876. Reverend Bolks was the leader of the congregation that founded the village of Overisel in 1847. In 1871 he accepted a call to preach in Orange City, Iowa. Because he left before the completion of the home in 1876, the first resident was likely his son, Gerrit Bolks. Other owners have included Hendrick Dekker, John De Kruif, Thomas Wyngarden, and most recently, William and Mary Elhart, who went to great lengths and did meticulous research to restore this home as close to its original design as possible. The result is a charming home that retains its historic value.



312 E CENTRAL

8 312 E Central

Built for Johannes P. De Pree and his new bride, Barentje Brower. **In 1865, the beautiful farmhouse is believed to have been built by Johannes’ father, Jan De Pree, a carpenter.** It was occupied by Johannes, Barentje, and their five children until the couple passed away. One of the oldest homes in Zeeland still standing, its symmetrical exterior facade was perhaps influenced by the earlier, Federal style architecture of the early 1800s.



336 E CENTRAL

9 336 E Central

This Veneklasen brick home was built in 1885 by Anthony Baert, who arrived in Zeeland with the second wave of immigrants in 1849, eventually becoming Zeeland's postmaster. **Built of red Veneklasen brick in the Gothic Revival style mixed with Dutch influences** that can be seen in the window designs, the house features two porches on the front and side of the house, and the interior boasts high ceilings and seven-foot doorways.



345 E CENTRAL

10 345 E Central

Built in 1853 by the Hendricks family soon after they arrived from the Netherlands, this Greek Revival style home reflects a popular style of architecture between 1825 and 1860. Although a simplified version, the house has all the characteristics of that style, such as pediments above the windows, dental molding, and classical columns.

This home was also the site of Zeeland's first hospital. In 1921, nurse Emma Hendricks performed surgery on a seriously injured man in the home, which became known as "the emergency ward." Soon, she was treating many patients and performing surgeries in her kitchen. The home remained the town's hospital until Huizinga Hospital opened across the street in 1927.



350 E CENTRAL

11 350 E Central

Built in 1902 and designed by Tennessee architects Barber and Klutz for Evert J. Pruim and his family. **Constructed in the popular American Foursquare style**, it features a Palladian window on the second story, a wide front porch, and dormer windows in the attic. Originally, the home contained two large main rooms, the parlor, and the living room. In later years, a railing on the second-floor porch was added for safety.



360 E CENTRAL

12 360 E Central

Built in 1898 for the Jan De Pree family. The De Pree family outgrew their original home yet lived in it while this home was built on the same property. After its completion, De Pree moved the original home down the street to W Central. De Pree was the last president and the first Mayor of Zeeland after it became a city in 1907.

Designed by Grand Rapids architects **Thomas Benjamin and Sons** and built by **Josias Baarman and Abe Post** in the **Queen Anne style**, it features quintessential style elements, such as its turret, asymmetrical roofline, bold paint colors, leaded glass windows, and art glass windows.



59 S MAPLE

13 59 S Maple

The interesting history of this home is how it came to rest in its present location. Built by Johannes Van Haitsma on his farm in Drenthe, MI. In 1885, Van Haitsma became angered that the church in Drenthe, located adjacent to his farm, decided to move. Van Haitsma was so upset that he decided to move to Zeeland, house and all (a whopping four miles away). **The house was disassembled brick by brick and rebuilt at its current location** at 59 S Maple. When Central Ave. was extended to the east, the house was not to be moved a second time, which is why it does not align with the other houses on the street.



Did you know?

Zeeland Historical Society offers a driving tour guide that explores the history of Veneklasen brick throughout Zeeland's beloved architecture.

Visit zeelandhistory.org for more information.



14 131 & 119 S Maple

The John D. Werkman home was built in 1895 in the Queen Anne style with red Veneklasen brick. **The original “gingerbread” trim can be seen in the front facing gable.** The characteristic asymmetrical configuration is highlighted by the recessed side entry and bay window.



131 & 119 S MAPLE

Willem Wichers built this remarkable Gothic Revival-style home in 1879. Wichers successfully operated multiple businesses in Zeeland, including a lumber yard, a blacksmith shop, and a manufacturing company that made wagons, sleighs, and carriages (One of Wicher’s wagons is displayed in the barn at the Dekker Huis Museum). A central walkway leads to a double carriage house with a centered Gothic window, flanked by a hooded window on either side and carved scroll in the gables. The original architectural details of this home are delightful.



15 338 E Lincoln

Barend Kamps purchased the plot of land that this house stands on from Jannes Vande Luyster in 1848. **Kamp’s first home on the site was a log cabin, but eventually, Kamps hired Dirk Poest to build this Veneklasen brick home,** constructed in 1885. The gable features a striking pattern made of yellow and red Veneklasen brick.

338 E LINCOLN



16 326 E Lincoln

Built in 1906 by Johannes De Pree as a family home for himself, his wife Nellie, and their two daughters. **The house is designed in the Prairie Style,** a popular architectural style in the Chicago Suburbs at the time.

326 E LINCOLN



155 S CENTENNIAL

17 155 S Centennial

This home, designed by George Nelson in 1946 for then Vice President of Herman Miller, Hugh De Pree, is perhaps one of the finest examples of mid-century architecture in Zeeland. Nelson was a New York architect who worked with Frank Lloyd Wright. In 1945, he began working for D.J. De Pree at his Zeeland company, Herman Miller as design director from 1945–1972. Nelson hired brought in many iconic Herman Miller designers, such as Charles and Ray Eames, Alexander Girard, Irving Harper, and Isamu Noguchi. Nelson designed this. **The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as Japanese design, can be seen in the style of this home with its emphasis on horizontality.** Nelson also designed additions made to the home in 1961. The interior features Nelson-designed shelving, cupboards, sliding paper screens, and a window bench.



235 E LINCOLN

18 235 E Lincoln

In 1856, Rev. Cornelius Vander Muelen built this home for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Derrick Oggel in place of a log cabin that previously occupied the site. **This unassuming house, built in a vernacular-folk style, is one of the oldest house in Zeeland to be part of the Heritage Home Plaque Program.**



155 S CHURCH

19 155 S Church

Cornelius and Anna Boone built this Queen Anne-style home between 1900 and 1905. Anna owned and operated a dry goods store in town, while her husband was a lumber baron in the New Groningen area. **The interior of this home has been remarkably restored and renovated, and the exterior features an asymmetrical roof, three-story tall turret, curved porch, beautiful trim, and signature baby blue door.**



137 S CHURCH

20 137 S Church

Documents indicate that this home was built in 1897, but the builder and original owners are unknown. Eventually, it was bought by Frank Rybarczyk in 1923 and remained in the family for eighty years until it was sold in 2003. **The vibrant, red exterior sets it apart from other houses on the block.** The interior retains original woodwork, including trim, moldings, a staircase, and an intricately carved banister.



123 S CHURCH

21 123 S Church

This Prairie Style home was built between 1910 and 1920. The first known owners of the home were members of the Faber family. **This 100-year-old home features an off-center entrance and a wide front gable.**



120 S CHURCH ST

22 Baert-Baron Mansion

This Italianate-style home **was constructed in 1872 by Zeeland's first physician and village president Dr. Daniel Baert.** It was built of Veneklasen red brick three rows deep with air space in between to provide natural cooling. Originally, the home contained a family living space, an operating room, and a doctor's office. The extensive front porch and the fountain were added in 1880 when Baert added the custom-made windows of arched beveled glass imported from Paris. The home was used as a funeral home and residence by Mr. and Mrs. David Baron.



117 S CHURCH

23 117 S Church

This home built circa 1890 by Dr. Daniel Baert for his son, **is an unusual blend of Folk Victorian and Queen Anne style architectures.** Although not as elaborate as other Victorian Era architecture, it still includes intricate wood details, such as corbels, trim, and fretwork, a beautiful bay window, and the characteristic asymmetrical shape of the period. These details, often referred to as “gingerbread,” as well as the original wood plank siding, were uncovered in the early 2000s after homeowners removed its 1960s-era aluminum siding.



148 E CENTRAL AVE

24 First Reformed Church

Zeeland’s first church was a simple log cabin built in 1847 across the street from the current First Reformed Church site. In 1849, the original log cabin church was replaced by a larger one built in 1849 on the current site. In 1866, a more permanent wood frame structure was built, modeled after the church in Axel, the Netherlands. In 1929, red bricks were added to cover the wooden structure.



128 E CENTRAL

25 128 E Central

This elaborate Folk Victorian-style home was built in 1900 by Jan Van Eenenaam. Much like the home at 117 S Church, this home features intricate wood details in the molding and the gables. **It also features a side gable and asymmetric entrance, both characteristic of this style of architecture.**



122 E CENTRAL

26 122 E Central

The land that this house stands on was originally the site of a store owned by Klass Smits and later, the Old School Scotch Presbyterian Church, organized in 1863. The church dissolved in 1874, and the building was sold to the Reformed Church and moved to E Main Ave. The home on the site today was built by owner y Gerrit Van Lopik in 1902. Its style was originally a modified Queen Anne, although the exterior has been altered with brick and vinyl siding, giving it a more Craftsman style look to the front elevation.



62 E CENTRAL

27 62 E Central

This Colonial Revival-style home was built in 1908 by Frank Boonstra, who owned a men's clothing store on Main Ave. **Because Boonstra enjoyed the view of Main Ave. from his home, he refused to sell his easement of land to the city to widen the street, resulting in "jog" in the street at Elm and Central.** This home retains its original charm with its ionic columns, spindled porch railing, widows walk, and single-light windows.



59 E CENTRAL

28 59 E Central

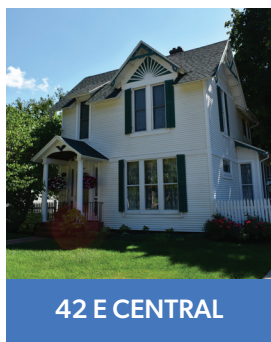
This American Foursquare was built in 1915, and previous owners include J. William De Pree, James Vande Luyster, David De Bruyn, and Charles Sligh. The current owners, Patrick and Ashley Warren working with builder John Vander Maas, have **restored this home to its original glory by refinishing the exterior and reopening the porch**, and the home received its resulting historic designation plaque in 2019.



50 E CENTRAL

29 50 E Central

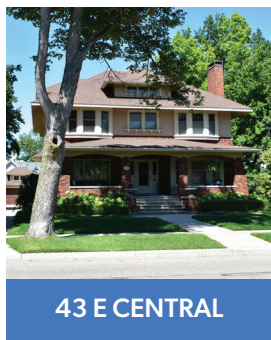
Built in 1892 by Dr. Thomas G. Huizinga it served as a residence for himself and his family and a place for his medical practice. It was passed to his son George Huizinga and wife Garrieta (Schaap). Although it has no particularly obvious architectural style, its features are a product of the Victorian era, with its asymmetrical roof and squared tower.



42 E CENTRAL

30 42 E Central

Although this Victorian Era home built in 1873 is known locally as the Van Loo house, it was built by Peter Vyn and his wife on a portion of the lot purchased and set aside by Jannes Vand Luyster for the original Village of Zeeland. Former state representative Cornelius Van Loo purchased the home in 1882, and he and his family resided there until 1927. Some gingerbread trim remains in the front gable of the home.



43 E CENTRAL

31 43 E Central

An exemplary example of American Foursquare, Prairie style architecture, this home was built in 1914 by Christian Den Herder, son of Jacob Den Herder, the founder of Den Herder's Bank (later to become the Zeeland State Bank). The symmetrical house has a central hall, with two rooms on each side. The layout repeats on the second floor. The original open front porch was enclosed in 1998.



27 E CENTRAL

32 27 E Central

This Craftsman-style bungalow was built in 1923 by John Goorman to accommodate his growing family. **In true Zeeland fashion, the home that previously occupied this site was moved slightly, as owners split the land parcel in two to allow for the new build.**



36 W CENTRAL

33 36 W Central

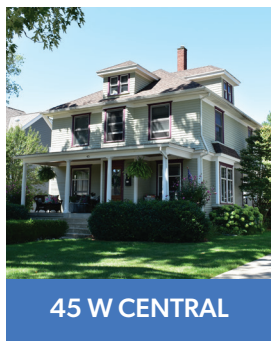
Built in the English Tudor style in 1927, this large home was built for Cornelius and Matilda Poest. It was designed by J. Vanden Bogert and built by Abe Post. **The Poest family was one of the original families to settle in Zeeland** with Jannes Vande Luyster, and Cornelius, a descendant of these settlers, made a name for himself as an executive at the Colonial Manufacturing Company in Zeeland. He and his wife lived in the house until they sold it to their daughter Esther and her husband August Kasten in 1957. The house has since gone through several owners but retains much of its original charms, such as the leaded windows and timber-trimmed gables.



46 W CENTRAL

34 46 W Central

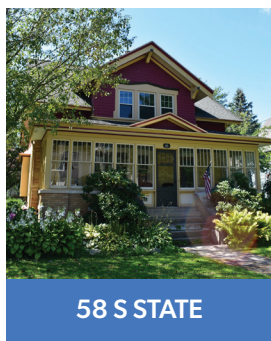
Right next door to 36 W. Central is another English Tudor Style home built in 1927, the same year as the Poest house. **Note the similarities between the two houses: Steep gables, asymmetric rooflines, and leaded windows.**



45 W CENTRAL

35 45 W Central

A classic example of an American Foursquare or Prairie Box house, consisting of equal-sized rooms on the first and second floors, this home was built in 1908 for the Edwin Glerum family. Glerum worked for the Derks and Butler Coal Company and moved his family into town to live in this home on Central Ave. Interestingly, in the early 1900s, many residents began building homes on the west end of Central Ave.



58 S STATE

36 58 S State

Built in 1915, this example of Prairie-style architecture is characterized by its broad, low-hanging eaves and horizontality, emphasized by its long expanse of windows on the main floor. Built by Peter Meeuwesen for his sister and her husband, Corey Poest, who was then Director of the Colonial Manufacturing Company in Zeeland, **it was sold to Third Christian Reformed Church just three years after it was built and used as the parsonage for over 74 years.**



50 S STATE

37 50 S State

Built in 1900 in the area known as Roosenraad's addition, the original owners are unknown. John and Gertrude Vanden Bosch purchased the home in 1913. Gertrude passed away in 1969, and John lived there until 1980. **Remarkably, the home's exterior had seen little change and looks much as it did when it was first occupied by the Vanden Boschs in 1913.**



37 S STATE

38 37 S State

This adorable home was built in 1882 for entrepreneur Peter Elenbaas and his wife. This cottage home is built of yellow-buff Veneklasen brick, with red Veneklasen brick used to create a pattern.

The enclosed front porch is a later addition, but the rest of the original facade remains intact.

Elenbaas invented and patented the “Humbug” washing machine, and one is on display at the Dekker Huis Museum.



20 E MAIN AVE

39 North Street Christian Reformed Church

You may wonder why a church named North Street Church is located on E Main Ave. Originally, the center of the village of Zeeland was the crossing of Central Ave, originally named Center St. and Church St. Originally, Main Ave. was called North St., and Lincoln St. was named South St. However, when the railroad was built directly to the north of then North St., the Zeeland business district moved from Center St. to North St., which was renamed Main Ave.

Regardless of its address, the main sanctuary of North Street Church was built in 1909 of Kalamazoo Red Brick and features stained glass windows and a bell tower. Several additions to the church have been made over the years.



40 Dekker Huis Museum

The Dekker Huis Museum was originally the home of Dirk and Leuntje Dekker, who settled in Grand Rapids after immigrating from Goes, the Netherlands, in 1874. The Dekkers moved to Zeeland after discovering so many people from Goes were living here. In 1876, Dirk and Leuntje built their home along with an attached store on Main St. Dirk passed away in 1907, but Leuntje continued to run the mercantile store until 1915, when her son, Henry Dekker, leased the building from her and moved Dekker's Jewelers from its previous location across the street into it. In 1929, the jewelry store moved downtown, and the storefront of the structure was rented to various occupants, the longest occupant being Doctor Russell Nykamp. Henry Dekker's wife Agnes was the last to reside in the house, and after her passing in 1974, her sons Randall and Deon sold the property to the Zeeland Historical Society to function as a museum. **The Dekker Huis Museum officially opened in 1976, fittingly, one hundred years after the Dekker family had built it.**



About Veneklasen Brick

Founded in 1848, the Veneklasen Brick Company started with a small clay field in Holland owned by Jan Veneklasen and his sons. By the 1890s, the company, then incorporated as the Zeeland Brick Company, had produced millions of bricks which were shipped as far as Chicago and Traverse City. Though the company no longer exists today, the distinctive architecture crafted out of the many colors of Veneklasen brick has left a lasting impact on the appearance of Holland. It is estimated that 100 homes with patterned brickwork still exist across West Michigan. At least one-third of the buildings on Holland's main street are made of Veneklasen brick, as well as Van Vleck Hall, Voorhees Hall, and the president's home on the Hope College Campus. The polychromatic brickwork remains one of the few distinctive examples of Dutch-American architecture.

