



**HISTORIC NAME** Wichers House  
**OTHER NAMES**  
**ADDRESS** 267 Central Avenue

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS** Residential  
**CURRENT FUNCTIONS** Residential  
**OWNERSHIP** Private  
**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION** Colonial Revival

	<b>Main Building</b>	<b>Other buildings/features</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Concrete	
<b>WALLS</b>	variegated brick	
<b>ROOF</b>	Asphalt shingle	
<b>OTHER</b>		

**DESCRIPTION** Wichers House. Built in 1926. Two story variegated brick build in the Colonial Revival style with gable roof with wide cornice return. Multipane double sash over single pane windows. South bay window. First story porch enclosed.

**HISTORY**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1926  
**ORIGINAL OWNER** Edwin Heeringa

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** The home on this originally was demolished in approximately 1925 for the construction of the two story brick home with detached garage which currently stands on this property. The Breyman family owned the original home and the lot to the south. Otto Breyman owned a jewelry store on Main (8th) Street for a number of years and had several children, a daughter Alvena and another son. August Breyman may have been Otto's brother or son. Sometime between 1904 and 1910 Alevna married Percy Ray, who held a prominent position with West Michigan Furniture. The lot to the south was then given to Alvena and Percy Ray where they constructed what is now known as 275 Central Avenue. For several years the two lots were on and then eventually separated into two parcels.

In the mid 1920's the old home on the site was purchased and then removed by Edwin Heeringa. He constructed the two story brick home on the site. He resided there until sometime between 1945 and 1949 when the home was purchased by Nel and Willard Wichers. The home is now occupied by Tim DuMez, grandson of the Wichers.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT** This home is significant as Willard Wichers was a resident of the City of Holland. Mr. Wichers, who died in 1992 was the founder of the Netherlands Museum and its predecessor, the Holland Historic Trust. Mr. Wichers was originally from Zeeland, Michigan and worked during World War II for the Netherlands Information Bureau in conjunction with the Netherlands Consulate in Chicago toward the emancipation of occupied countries in Europe.

The home and its proximity to Centennial Park lend a historical perspective to the appearance of the City of Holland during its early years of development. This parcel was a prime piece of real estate and was held by the same family for a number of years

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Holland City Directories, Herrick Library.  
Sanborn Fire Maps

HISTORIC NAME Wichers House  
OTHER NAMES  
ADDRESS 267 Central Avenue

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS Residential  
CURRENT FUNCTIONS Residential  
OWNERSHIP Private  
ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION Colonial Revival

	Main Building	Other buildings/features
FOUNDATION	Concrete	
WALLS	variegated brick	
ROOF	Asphalt shingle	
OTHER		

#### DESCRIPTION

#### HISTORY

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1926  
ORIGINAL OWNER Nelson Bosman

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Wichers House. Built in 1926. Two story variegated brick build in the Colonial Revival style with gable roof with wide cornice return. Multipane double sash over single pane windows. South bay window. First story porch enclosed.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY



**HISTORIC NAME**

**OTHER NAMES**

**ADDRESS** 275 Central Avenue

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS** Residential

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS** Residential

**OWNERSHIP** Private, Rental

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION** Queen Anne

	<b>Main Building</b>	<b>Other buildings/features</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Concrete	
<b>WALLS</b>	clapboard	
<b>ROOF</b>	Asphalt shingle	
<b>OTHER</b>		

**DESCRIPTION** Queen Anne two story clapboard house build on a rock-faced cement foundation. Leaded glass first floor central window. New porch post and railings of wolmanized wood.

#### **HISTORY**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1902

**ORIGINAL OWNER** City Directories 1924 Percy Ray

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** This home was constructed on a parcel given to Percy Ray by his father-in-law, Otto Breyman sometime between 1902 and 1910. The home stayed in the Ray family and was occupied by Mrs. Percy (Alvena) Ray until 1966 when the house was acquired by Hope College.

Currently (1993) the home is owned by Mr. Max DePree and used as student housing for Hope College.

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT** The home is significant not so much for the actual architecture of the home but for the proximity to Centennial Park and the tone set for the homes surrounding the Park. When Mr. Breyman, Mr. Ray's father-in-law gave the property to the Ray's it was apparent this was a prime parcel of real estate directly across from the City Park.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Holland City Directories  
Sanborn Fire Maps

**HISTORIC NAME**

**OTHER NAMES**

**ADDRESS** 275 Central Avenue

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS** Residential

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS** Residential

**OWNERSHIP** Private, Rental

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION** Queen Anne

	<b>Main Building</b>	<b>Other buildings/features</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Concrete	
<b>WALLS</b>	clapboard	
<b>ROOF</b>	Asphalt shingle	
<b>OTHER</b>		

**DESCRIPTION**

**HISTORY**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

**ORIGINAL OWNER**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

Queen Anne two story clapboard house build on a rock-faced cement foundation. Leaded glass first floor central window. New porch post and railings of wolmanized wood.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**



**HISTORIC NAME**

**OTHER NAMES**

**ADDRESS** 279 Central Avenue

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS** Residential

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS** Residential

**OWNERSHIP** Private, Rental

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION** Queen Anne

	Main Building	Other buildings/features
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Concrete	
<b>WALLS</b>	Clapboard	
<b>ROOF</b>	Asphalt shingle	
<b>OTHER</b>		

**DESCRIPTION** Built prior to 1894. Queen Anne two story tan clapboard house with wrap around porch built on a rock-faced stone foundation. New steps, post and railings of wolmanized wood.

**HISTORY**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** Prior to 1894

**ORIGINAL OWNER**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** The home was owned by Saddle and Rose Clark in 1894, from the first City Directories. Saddle or Sarah was an elementary school teacher and Rose was a dressmaker. The Clark sisters resided in the home until presumably one sister married. Some time between 1916 and 1921 the home was sold to John and Helena Van Bragt. Mr. Van Bragt was one of the first park superintendents of the City. The park at the northern entrance to Holland bears Mr. Van Bragt name as a reminder of his efforts toward beautification of the City of Holland. Mrs. Van Bragt resided in the home until here death in 1979 when the home was acquired by Hope College.

Currently (1993) the home is owned by Mr. Max DePree and used as student housing for Hope College.

279 Central Avenue  
Page 2 of 2

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT** The location of the home in relation to Centennial Park is significant as this is one of three homes on the block between Graves Place and 12th Street on Central which front the park. They are characteristic of significant Queen Anne homes in the City of Holland, although more modest than some, they were constructed on a prime parcel of real estate.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** City Directories  
Sanborn Fire Maps  
Holland Sentinel Obituaries, Herrick Public  
Library

**HISTORIC NAME**

**OTHER NAMES**

**ADDRESS** 279 Central Avenue

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS** Residential

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS** Residential

**OWNERSHIP** Private, Rental

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION** Queen Anne

	<b>Main Building</b>	<b>Other buildings/features</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Concrete	
<b>WALLS</b>	Clapboard	
<b>ROOF</b>	Asphalt shingle	
<b>OTHER</b>		

**DESCRIPTION**

**HISTORY**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1896

**ORIGINAL OWNER**

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

Built in 1896. Queen Anne two story tan clapboard house with wrap around porch built on a rock-faced stone foundation. New steps, post and railings of wolmanized wood.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**