

DESCRIPTION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMPANY

Herman Gundlach, Inc. General Contractors was founded in 1896 at Houghton, Michigan by Herman Gundlach, Sr. Mr. Gundlach was employed as a journeyman and later a general superintendent by the Paul Mueller Construction Company of Chicago. Previous to this field training and immediately after graduation from Lake View High School in Chicago, he served for three years as an apprentice and draftsman in an architectural firm there. During his association with Mr. Mueller, this firm constructed a number of important structures in the Chicago area for the famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

In 1897, the Mueller Company sent Mr. Gundlach to Houghton as projects manager to build the Douglass House and other important Copper Country structures. About 1898, Herman Gundlach formed his own Michigan company in partnership with Mr. Paul Mueller. This Company constructed many of the original Michigan Technological University buildings but Mr. Mueller's interest in the partnership ended in a very short time, having accepted a commission from Mr. Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, to supervise construction of the famous Imperial Hotel in Japan. Mr. Mueller spent several years in Tokyo completing the hotel and then returned to Chicago to resume his business as a single proprietor.

In the meantime, Herman Gundlach had completed several additional buildings on the Michigan Tech campus, the Leopold Building in Houghton and a number of jobs in southern Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio, the Cleveland Athletic Club. From the inception of his building construction company, Mr. Gundlach insisted on high-quality workmanship and performance in a scheduled and efficient manner. He soon gained the reputation for impeccable honesty, integrity and fairness. The great volume of construction completed annually by this firm in the years 1898 to 1945, the year of Mr. Gundlach's death, testify to the quality of his work and the success of the business. Many of these structures stand today with a record of unbelievably low maintenance costs in the sixty years of use.

Herman Gundlach was an early pioneer in reinforced concrete construction and specialized in this form. His many buildings, attest to the public confidence in his firm. Herman Gundlach constructed schools, hospitals, housing and industrial buildings throughout the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well as many important structures in lower Michigan, especially in the Flint area in the Twenties.

Since 1945 Herman Gundlach, Jr. returning from service overseas in the Corps of Engineers, assumed the management and effected a continuity of building construction as well founded by the senior Herman Gundlach. The reputation for quality workmanship, responsibility and construction on schedule has been perpetuated in the State of Michigan and northern Wisconsin.

The company has long established a reputation as an authority in the field of winter construction. The home office located in the heart of the Copper Country in the Upper Peninsula experiences snow falls averaging 180 inches and actually more than 300 inches has been recorded. Temperatures fall to 20 degrees below zero and winter is not uncommon for six months of the year. It is, therefore, quite necessary to provide means for a continuous 12 month's work program and this is the policy of the organization.

The firm is now licensed to do business in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Colorado as well as Michigan. During the past six months a branch office has been opened at Denver, Colorado under the management of Paul B. Frair, Vice President. Officers of the Corporation are:

Herman Gundlach - President and Treasurer	Warren T. Monberg - Vice President
Charles R. Ahlstrom - Vice President	Henriette M. Gundlach - Vice-President
Paul B. Frair - Vice President	& Controller

Barbara K. Gundlach - Secretary

In the August 12, 1965 issue of Engineering News Record, Herman Gundlach, Inc. was listed as one of the 400 largest in the United States and also according to Engineering News Record of several years ago, Herman Gundlach, Inc. was listed in the category of General Building Contractors as the third oldest in Michigan and among the 100 oldest in the United States.