

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives Guide to the Frank Trezza collection 1840 – 2010, 1972 – 1989 MC/24

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77, 141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Finding aid produced on: March 6, 2026
Description is in English.

Title

Frank Trezza collection

Date

1840 – 2010

Description

Seatrain Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Seatrain Lines, was in operation at the Brooklyn Navy Yard from 1969 to 1979. During its operation the company produced four Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), eight barges, one ice breaker barge and two roll-on/roll-off ferries (Ro-Ros). They also began work on a repair and conversion a final ship, the Sea Witch, into a chemical tanker, which was ultimately completed at Newport News, Virginia. Facing economic difficulty, on January 20, 1975 Seatrain laid off half of its 3,200 workers. The remainder of the staff received layoff notices only a few days later. The company declared bankruptcy and shut down its operations in Brooklyn in 1981. The closure of Seatrain marked the end of large-scale shipbuilding at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Frank J. Trezza was hired by Seatrain Shipbuilding as a Mechanic Helper at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1973 as a Marine Electrician Helper and eventually worked his way up to the position of First Class Marine Electrician. Trezza worked at the Navy Yard until 1978 when he was injured on the job and told by doctors that he would never work in the shipbuilding profession again. He remained on the books up until Seatrain operations ceased at the Yard in 1979. Following rehabilitation from his injuries, Trezza relocated to Maine where he resumed working as a First Class Marine Electrician at Bath Iron Works and at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Later he worked in Europe for a Massachusetts defense contractor as a Supervising Installation Technician and in South America as a project advisor. In 1999, Mr. Trezza earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Southern Maine, and in 2007, he published the book, *Brooklyn: Steel-Blood Tenacity*, a memoir of the years he spent working at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Admin Notes

The materials in this collection were compiled as part of the research interests of Frank Trezza. The collection consists primarily of articles and web resources pertaining to the period Seatrain Shipbuilding Corporation operated at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and its subsequent failure and closure. Other topics include the closure of the Yard as a Federal shipbuilding facility and the sale of the former Commandant's house (Quarters A). Materials include copies of abstracts, correspondence, court proceedings, journals, oral history transcripts, reports, tax documentation, photos, and video material surrounding activities at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Seatrain itself. A copy of Frank Trezza's autobiography, *Brooklyn Steel-Blood Tenacity*, and a related appendix is also included in this collection.

Creator

Frank Trezza

1840 – 2010

1972 – 1989

Quantity

2 boxes

Language Of Materials

English.

Call Number

MC/24

Administrative/Biographical History

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Scope And Content

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials: See Frank Trezza's oral history in the Brooklyn Navy Yard Oral History Project (SC/3).

System Of Arrangement

The original arrangement of the collection has been maintained with the exception of folders 161 – 170, which entered the archive at a later date. Folder titles are Trezza's own and in most cases reflect the titles as shown on the accompanying container list. Folder titles are changed only to improve access and content detail.

Administrative Information

Related Lots: 2011-D-001

Access And Use

Conditions Governing Access This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Frank Trezza collection; MC/24; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Related Collections

Susan Detrich collection

Brooklyn Navy Yard Oral History Project

Frank and Vincent Faiella collection

Collection Contents

Collection: Frank Trezza collection, MC/24 (63 records)

Seatrains Shipbuilding Corporation Sign , 14717
Electrical Worker at Lunch Time, 14718
Three Seatrain Pipe-fitters on Their Lunch Break , 14719
Two Seatrain Workers, 14720
Two Seatrain Electrical Helpers on the Main Deck, 14721
Two Seatrain Electrical Lead Men, 14722
Pump House Control Panel, 14723
Seatrains Electrical Supervisor, 14724
Seatrains V.P. of Construction and Chief Engineer, 14725
Captain of the Supertanker T.T. Manhattan, Slated to be Captain of the T.T. Stuyvesant, 14726
General Overview of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, from the Roof of Building 294 , 14727
Seatrains Employees at the Control Panel Inside the Engine Room, 14728
Saul Sherman, First Class Electrician for Seatrain , 14729
Head of the Seatrain Electrical Department and Electrical Supervisor, 14730
The Main Deck of the T.T. Stuyvesant from the Bow, looking Aft towards the Stern, 14731
Anchor Chain Winches, 14732
Main Deck Bow Section of the T.T. Stuyvesant, 14733
Bow Shot of the T.T. Stuyvesant, 14734
Bow Shot of T.T. Stuyvesant at Pier J, 14735
Stern, Propeller, and Rudder of the T.T. Stuyvesant at Pier J, 14736
T.T. Stuyvesant Aft Deck Smoke Stack Installed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, 14737
View of the Brooklyn Navy Yard from the Roof of Building 294, 14810
Pump House and Deck House Aft, T.T. Stuyvesant, 14811
T.T. Stuyvesant Leaving the Brooklyn Navy Yard , 14812
T.T. Stuyvesant Leaving the Brooklyn Navy Yard, 14813
Stern of the T.T. Stuyvesant Leaving the Navy Yard, Almost Touching Manhattan, 14814
The T.T. Stuyvesant Leaving the Brooklyn Navy Yard, with Tugboats, 14815
The T.T. Stuyvesant leaving with tugboats, 14816
Sign Schedule of Float Off for Roll-on/Roll-Off (Ro-Ro) and Delivery Date, Dry Dock 6, Seatrain Shipbuilding Corporation, 14817
Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Ship Being Built at Dry Dock 6, 14818
Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Ship Being Built at Dry Dock 6, 14819
Two Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Ships Being Built at Dry Dock 6, 14820
Seatrains Crane by Dry Dock 5, 14831
Ship Being Built in Dry Dock, 14832
S.S. Sea Witch Moored at Pier G, 14833
Bow of the S.S. Sea Witch, 14834
Bridge of the S.S. Sea Witch, 14835
S.S. Sea Witch, 14836
Melted Life Boat, S.S. Sea Witch, 14837
Stern of the S.S. Sea Witch, 14838
Railroad Transfer Bridge, Brooklyn Navy Yard, 14839
Crane No. 306, 14840
Crane, 14841
Seatrains Shipbuilding Crane Next to T.T. Bay Ridge in Dry Dock 5, 14842
Two Original Navy Yard Cranes, 14843
High Pressure Steam Boiler, 14844
Captain Pray, Commander of the New York Naval Station, 14845
Captain Prey, Yard Commander, Giving a Speech for the 115th Anniversary of the USS Monitor, 14846
Officers Quarters E, F, and G - Admirals Row, 14847
Building Exterior, Small Boat Landing, 14848
U.S. Navy Boat Shed with Navy Launch Inside, 14849
Three Generations, Reliable & Frank's Uniform Store, 14850
Interior, Reliable and Frank's Uniform Store, 14851
Natale Faiella Inside Reliable and Frank's Uniform Store, 14852
Tailor at Work, Reliable & Frank's Uniform Store, 14853
Natale and Vincent Faiella Inside Reliable & Frank's Uniform Store, 14854
USS Savannah (AOR-4), 14855
USS Garcia (FF-1040) at Pier D, 14856
USNS Mount Baker (T-AE-34) and M/T Jet Trader at Coastal Dry Dock & Repair, 14857
USNS Mount Baker (T-AE-34), 14858
Looking Down the Main Deck of the T.T. Stuyvesant from the Pump Room, 14859

Seatrain Shipbuilding Workers on the Main Deck of the T.T. Stuyvesant, Just Before Noon, 14860
Three Seatrain Shipbuilding Welders on Break Loading Their Camera, 14861