Redridge Dam Monument Collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2018-06-29

Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, , 49931

copper@mtu.edu
http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/
Table Of Contents

Summary Information ........................................................................................................................................... 3
Overview .......................................................................................................................................................... 3
Language of Materials ................................................................................................................................... 3
Conditions Governing Access ......................................................................................................................... 3
Historical Note .................................................................................................................................................. 3
Preferred Citation ........................................................................................................................................... 4
Processing Information ................................................................................................................................... 4
Collection Scope and Content Summary .......................................................................................................... 4
Conditions Governing Use ............................................................................................................................... 4
Administrative Information ............................................................................................................................... 4
Redridge Dam Monument Collection

Summary Information

Repository: Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator: Frohriep, Claire E.
Title: Redridge Dam Monument Collection
Identifier: MTU-231
Date: 1985-1986
Physical Description: 0.01 cubic feet (1 folder)
Container: SC_box MTU 2, Folder: 48 (Mixed Materials)

Overview

Materials, 1985-1986, pertaining to the creation of a Michigan Historic Civil Engineering Landmark monument at Redridge Dam.

Language of Materials

English

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Historical Note

The Redridge Steel Dam, constructed between June 1900 and November 1901, replaced a wood crib predecessor on the Salmon Trout River near Redridge. With copper production booming and the Copper Range Company jockeying to establish its dominance south of the Portage Lake, a dam that could serve both the Atlantic and Baltic mills nearby was critical. The peculiarities of the location, however—such as the presence of sandstone rather than solid bedrock—required an innovative approach. Under the guidance of consulting engineers John F. Jackson and Foster Crowell, the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company poured a concrete base to serve as surrogate bedrock. Upon that base, they built a gravity dam of structural steel, one of only three ever constructed in North America.

The dam was an unequivocal success and a remarkable accomplishment in hydraulic engineering. Both
mills were, until their closures in 1912 (Atlantic) and 1922 (Baltic), able to wash some 5,000 tons of rock with the water diverted daily from the structure. At the time of its nomination for historic status in 1985, researchers noted that the massive steel dam--the largest of its kind in the world--had not exceeded flood stage since 1939, a testament to the methodical civil engineers behind its construction.

---

### Preferred Citation

MTU-231, Redridge Dam Monument Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

### Processing Information

Emily Riippa, 6/25/2018

### Collection Scope and Content Summary

Materials, 1985-1986, pertaining to the creation of a Michigan Historic Civil Engineering Landmark monument at Redridge Dam. Michigan Technological University faculty and students were champions of the monument's installation, and MTU-231 includes their correspondence, research, and other documents supporting the nomination of the dam for landmark status. Photographs of the dedication ceremony are also part of the collection.

### Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

### Administrative Information

**Publication Statement**

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, , 49931

copper@mtu.edu
http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/

### Controlled Access Headings
• Civil engineering
• Michigan Technological University
• Monuments
• Redridge (Mich.)