

# Redridge Dam Monument Collection

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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](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)  
<http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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## Table Of Contents

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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

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## Summary Information

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**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 Information:** SC\_box MTU 2, Folder: 48 (Mixed Materials)

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## Overview

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

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## Language of Materials

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English

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## Conditions Governing Access

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

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## Historical Note

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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.

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## Processing Information

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Emily Riippa, 6/25/2018

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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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.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Civil engineering
- Michigan Technological University
- Monuments
- Redridge (Mich.)