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The Kalamazoo Region

Kalamazoo is an Indian word said to mean “boiling water.” Originally it was applied to the river that flows northwesterly to Lake Michigan. A trickle of settlers in the late 1820s became a torrent in the 1830s as the region’s fertile prairies, oak openings, bottomlands, and ample sources of waterpower became known. The village of Bronson, founded in 1829 by Titus Bronson, is now the city of Kalamazoo. Here Lincoln made his only known Michigan speech. J. Fenimore Cooper wrote about the area in Oak Openings. Kalamazoo College, founded in 1833, Nazareth College (1897), and Western Michigan University (1903) are here. Once famous for its celery and its stoves, Kalamazoo is now known for many products including paper and drugs. The nation’s first permanent pedestrian mall was opened in the downtown section in 1959.

Significant Date:

Statehood Era (1815-1860)

Registry Year: 1961 **Erected Date:** 1964

Marker Location

Address: Eastbound I-94 Rest Area

City: Oshtemo Township

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Kalamazoo

Township: Comstock

Lat: 42.27127500 / **Long:** -85.44320500

Web URL:

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