

## Historical Marker - S684 - Croton Hydroelectric Plant / Hydroelectric Power (Marker ID#:S684)



### Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

**Registry Year:** 2004    **Erected Date:** 2005

### Marker Location

**Address:** Croton Hardy Drive.

**City:** Croton Township

**State:**            **ZipCode:**

**County:** Newaygo

**Township:** Croton

**Lat:** 43.43684000 / **Long:** -85.66162000

**Web URL:**

### Front - Title/Description

#### ***Croton Hydroelectric Plant***

The Grand Rapids - Muskegon Power Company (a predecessor to today's Consumers Energy Company) built the Croton Hydroelectric Plant in 1906 - 1907. The plant and its 110,000-volt transmission line (the highest voltage in use at that time) attracted international attention. Curious spectators rode excursion trains to the site, where they received a tour of the dam and powerhouse, as well as a grand dinner. When the plant went into full service in September 1907 it represented the latest advances in electric power generation and transmission. Engineers from Russia, England, France, Italy, Japan, and India came to tour the plant when it opened. The facility is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Back - Title/Description

#### ***Hydroelectric Power***

Flowing water has long provided power to mines and mills. With advances in electricity in the 1880s, waterpower was soon used to generate electricity. The first public demonstration of hydroelectric power in the country occurred on July 24, 1880, when sixteen carbon arc street lamps lit up Grand Rapids using a belt driven dynamo (generator) powered by a water turbine at the Wolverine Chair Factory. Michigan's extensive water resources were harnessed to power electric generating equipment, first at existing dams and mills and later at sites built expressly for hydroelectric generation. The electricity from these plants provided power for homes and businesses and helped fuel Michigan's growth as one of the nation's premier industrial states.