

Barton Dam and Powerhouse under construction, December 29, 1912.

A lot of water has spilled over the dam since 1912, when the Barton Powerhouse was erected by the Eastern Michigan Edison Company, which also developed the adjacent residential subdivision — now Village — of Barton Hills (see cover photo). As a power station, this picturesque early specimen of poured-concrete construction was obsolete by 1963, when Detroit Edison sold its Huron River dams and water rights to the city of Ann Arbor for development of a chain of riparian parks. Praised by architectural historians for its fortress monumentality and awesome "cathedral" interior, the Barton Powerhouse is destined to become a museum of local history, under terms of a lease arrangement between the city and the Washtenaw County Historical Society.



Barton Power House from Bird Hills