

Historical Marker - L824B - "The Thing" (Marker ID#:L824B)



Front - Title/Description

"The Thing"

Thomas Clegg (1863-1939) and his English-born father, John, built "The Thing," the first recorded self-propelled vehicle in Michigan (and perhaps in the country) in 1884-85. The Thing, driven by a single cylinder steam engine with a tubular boiler carried in the rear, seated four. The vehicle was built in the John Clegg & Son machine shop here in Memphis. It ran about 500 miles before Clegg dismantled it and sold the engine to a creamery. The shop was razed in 1936, just a short time before Henry Ford offered to buy it for Greenfield Village.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1980 Erected Date: 1981

Marker Location

Address: Boardman Road at East village limits

City: Memphis

State: MI ZipCode:

County: Saint Clair

Township: Riley

Lat: 42.89662000 / Long: -82.76405600

Web URL:

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