

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, CULVERT ROAD  
(Erie Canal, Culvert Road)  
Northwest of Telegraph Road and Route 31 merger  
Ridgeway  
Orleans County  
New York

HAER NY-495  
*HAER NY-495*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**  
**NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, CULVERT ROAD**  
**(Erie Canal, Culvert Road)**

**HAER No. NY-495**

**Location:** Northwest of Telegraph Road and Route 31 merger, Ridgeway, Orleans County, New York

Culvert Road is located at latitude: 43.235286, longitude: -78.340411. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** Culvert Road, located on the Erie Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. This is the only point on the system where a road passes under the canal.

**Description:** In this area, the Erie Canal runs on a berm with a steep drop-off.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the Culvert Road (also known as the Medina Culvert) passes under the Erie Canal. The culvert and its arched headwalls are constructed of cut stone. The culvert, which has a 7'-6" clearance, accommodates one lane of traffic and is lined with concrete sidewalks for pedestrians. It is in fair condition with substantial water leakage.

**History:** A culvert has been at this location since 1823, as noted on a sign on the headwall that reads: "The Culvert Road/Only Road under the Erie Canal/in Ripley's Believe It Or Not/Culvert Built in 1823."

**Source:**

Hay, Duncan. "New York State Barge Canal." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2014.

**Historians:** Laura S. Black and Jami Babb, summer 2009

**Project Information:** The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) is a long-range program that documents and interprets historically significant engineering sites and structures throughout the United States. HAER is part of Heritage Documentation Programs (Richard O'Connor, Manager), a division of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The New York State Barge Canal Survey was undertaken in summer 2009 in cooperation with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (ERIE), Beth Sciumeca, Executive Director. Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, and Duncan Hay, ERIE, served as project leaders. The staff of the New York State Canal Corporation provided access to the sites. Craig Williams of the New York State Museum provided research materials and assistance. The HAER field team consisted of Jami Babb and Laura Black.

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<sup>1</sup> Description of current conditions is based on a site visit made by the HAER recording team in summer 2009.

**Appendix: Image of Current Conditions**



**Image:** Culvert headwall. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.