

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, GUARD GATE 15 (MEDINA)
(Erie Canal, Guard Gate 15 (Medina))
West of Bates Road bridge
Medina
Orleans County
New York

HAER NY-496
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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

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NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, GUARD GATE 15 (MEDINA) Erie Canal, Guard Gate 15 (Medina)

HAER No. NY-496

Location: West of Bates Road bridge, Medina, Orleans County, New York

Guard Gate 15 is located at latitude: 43.2300796, longitude: -78.3707670. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: Guard Gate 15, located on the Erie Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. It is vital to controlling the flow of water through this section of the canal.

Description: Guard Gate 15 spans the Erie Canal and is typical of the guard gates on the Barge Canal.¹ The guard gate consists of a two-span, riveted-steel superstructure on concrete center piers and abutments. The 55'-wide steel gates are offset and are frame with steel skin plates on the upstream side. The guard gate operates with cables and steel and reinforced-concrete counterweights running over sheaves on steel lattice towers. A modern steel mechanical cabinet sits on top of each gate. Guard Gate 15 is in good condition.

Nearby is a boat launch, consisting of a concrete slip with a wood dock along one side. It is in good condition.

History: Guard Gate 15 (also referred to as Hastings Guard Gate) was built as part of Contract 65, awarded on March 26, 1913, to Maryland Dredging & Contracting Company of Baltimore. The work was carried out under the supervision of State Assistant Engineer Arthur S. Whitlock. The contract called for the improvement of the Erie Canal for 2.31 miles. Alteration No. 2, approved September 24, 1914, called for widening the sill of the guard gate. The concrete work and erection of the guard gate had been completed by the end of September 1914.²

The guard gate was cleaned and painted in 1958 as part of Contract 58-11.³

Sources:

Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1914, Vol. 1. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1915.

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

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

² *Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1914, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1915), 323-24; Barge Canal, State of New York, Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 4913 to Sta. 4945, December 3, 1924, revised 1966, Sheet 166.

³ Maintenance Contracts, 1963.

Maintenance Contracts, 1963.

Series B1762, New York State Archives, Albany, New York. "Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 4913 to Sta. 4945." Approved December 3, 1924, 166.

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.

Appendix: Image of Current Conditions



Image: Guard Gate 15. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.