

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, WASTE WEIR (MEDINA)
(Erie Canal, Waste Weir (Medina))
West of Bank Street Bridge
Medina
Orleans County
New York

HAER NY-497
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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, WASTE WEIR (MEDINA) Erie Canal, Waste Weir (Medina)

HAER No. NY-497

Location: West of Bank Street Bridge, Medina, Orleans County, New York

The Waste Weir at Medina is located at latitude: 43.2216440, longitude: -78.3827555. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: The Medina Waste Weir, located on the Erie Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal.

Description: The waste weir is located at the point where the Erie Canal crosses Oak Orchard Creek.¹ This location had been problematic for the engineers of the Barge Canal, who eventually settled on building high retaining walls and the Oak Orchard Creek Aqueduct over the creek.²

The waste weir consists of a 144'-long spillway with six sluice gates and operating stands. Close inspection of the structure was not possible due to its location, but it appears to be in good condition. The waste weir allows water to spill from the canal into the forebay of the nearby Oak Orchard hydroelectric plant.

History: The waste weir at Medina was built as part of Contract 65, awarded to Maryland Dredging & Contracting Company of Baltimore on March 26, 1913. The contract covered 2.31 miles. The concrete work had been completed by September 30, 1914.³

The structure was rehabilitated in 1984 as specified in Contract M84-3 (D250875).⁴

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 of Historic Places Registration Form, 2014.

Maintenance Contracts 1984.

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

² See Noble Whitford, *History of the Barge Canal of New York State* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922), 483-85 for a discussion of this site.

³ *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.

⁴ Maintenance Contracts 1984.

Whitford, Noble. *History of the Barge Canal of New York State*. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922.

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: Medina Waste Weir. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.