

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, MEDINA TERMINAL  
(Erie Canal, Medina Terminal)  
Manilla Place at Terminal Park on the south bank of the canal  
Medina  
Orleans County  
New York

HAER NY-498  
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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

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

### NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, MEDINA TERMINAL (Erie Canal, Medina Terminal)

HAER No. NY-498

**Location:** Manilla Place at Terminal Park on the south bank of the canal, Medina, Orleans County, New York

Medina Terminal is located at latitude: 43.2210889, longitude: -78.3847061. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** Medina Terminal, located on the Erie Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. It was one of several terminals constructed along the Barge Canal to provide points for freight transfer.

**Description:** The Medina Terminal is located on the south bank of the Erie Canal at the east end of Medina Harbor.<sup>1</sup> At this location, the canal makes a sharp dip to the south creating a U shape, and the terminal wall is located along the bottom of this dip. The 485'-long concrete terminal wall has cast-iron quarter-round coping and is lined with concrete-filled cast-iron bollards. There are modern wood floating docks. The terminal is in fair condition due to the severe spalling of portions of the concrete wall.

A concrete dock wall is located to the west of the terminal wall. The concrete wall is equipped with wood bumpers, modern utility hook-ups, and reproduction light fixtures. There is modern brick hardscaping along the top of the wall. The dock wall is in good condition.

Opposite the terminal wall is a high concrete retaining wall lined with pipe railing. It is in fair condition because of the spalling concrete and encroaching vegetation.

**History:** The terminal was constructed under Contract T-51 by Fred H. Rhodey, who won it on February 16, 1916. Elwin G. Speyer, State Assistant Engineer, supervised the work, which included clearing buildings from the site, increasing the height of the dock wall, grading, constructing two approaches, and placing the gravel surfacing. An extra work order provided permanent bracing in a shed, as well as building steps and a railing from one of the approaches to the basement of an adjoining hotel. The terminal had been completed in 1916.<sup>2</sup>

A frame freighthouse was erected at the terminal in 1917 by W.F. Martens & Company, Inc., part of Contract T-211. The building is no longer extant.<sup>3</sup>

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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.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1916, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1917), 257-58.

<sup>3</sup> Terminal Contracts February 1936; Noble Whitford, *History of the Barge Canal of New York State* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922), 571.

**Sources:**

*Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1916, Vol. 1.* Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1917.

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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 terminal wall with floating dock. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.