

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, MIDDLEPORT TERMINAL  
(Erie Canal, Middleport Terminal)  
West of North Main Street on north bank of canal  
Middleport  
Niagara County  
New York

HAER NY-501  
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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, MIDDLEPORT TERMINAL (Erie Canal, Middleport Terminal)

HAER No. NY-501

**Location:** West of North Main Street on north bank of canal, Middleport, Niagara County, New York

Middleport Terminal is located at latitude: 43.2127799, longitude: -78.4773030. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** Middleport 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 Middleport Terminal is on the north bank of the canal.<sup>1</sup> The western section of the terminal wall is concrete with some spalling. There are modern metal cleats and utility hook-ups. The eastern section of the terminal wall is also concrete and exhibits some spalling. Concrete-filled cast-iron bollards and modern utility hook-ups line this section. The terminal wall is in good to fair condition.

A concrete dock wall is located on the south bank of the canal. The western portion is lined with concrete-filled cast-iron bollards, modern metal cleats, and utility hook-ups. The eastern portion has modern metal cleats. The wall is in good condition, despite some areas of spalling.

**History:** The terminal was built in 1917, with the grading of the terminal site included in Contract T-54. Hammond-Tracey Construction Company, Inc. won the contract on March 27, 1917.<sup>2</sup>

**Sources:**

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

Terminal Contracts February 1936.

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

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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> Terminal Contracts February 1936; Noble Whitford, *History of the Barge Canal of New York State* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922), 265, 569.

**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:** Middleport terminal wall. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.