NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, WASTE WEIR
(MIDDLEPORT)
(Erie Canal, Waste Weir (Middleport))
Near Carolyn Street on the south bank of the canal
Middleport
Niagara County
New York

HAER NY-503
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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 (MIDDLEPORT)
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HAER No. NY-503

Location: Near Carolyn Street on the south bank of the canal, Middleport, Niagara County, New York

The Waste Weir at Middleport is located at latitude: 43.2118760, longitude: -78.4796547. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

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

Description: The waste weir at Middleport differs from the others along the Barge Canal because it is faced with rubble-faced cut stone.[1] The fixed-crest waste weir has two sluice gates and steel operating stands. A steel I-beam bridge with a wood deck and steel railings spans the weir. The waste weir is in good condition.

Adjacent to the waste weir is the outlet of Culvert 107. The arched headwall of the culvert is also cut stone, as is a nearby guide wall.

History: The Middleport Waste Weir was part of Contract 64, which encompassed the improvement of the Erie Canal from a point 600' west of the Prospect Avenue Bridge to a point 100' east of the Gasport bridge for a total distance of 9.91 miles. Empire Engineering Corporation, who won the contract on August 6, 1908, had completed the concrete work at the site by 1912.[2]

The "waste gates" and culvert were rehabilitated in 1977 as part of Contract M77-4 (D95664).[3]

Sources:

Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1912, Vol. 1. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1913.

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

Maintenance Contracts 1977.

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[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, 1912, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1913), 253-54.
[3] Maintenance Contracts 1977.

Series B1762, New York State Archives, Albany, New York. "Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 5252 to Sta. 5282." Approved December 3, 1924, 177.

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: Images of Current Conditions

Image 1: Steel operating stands. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.

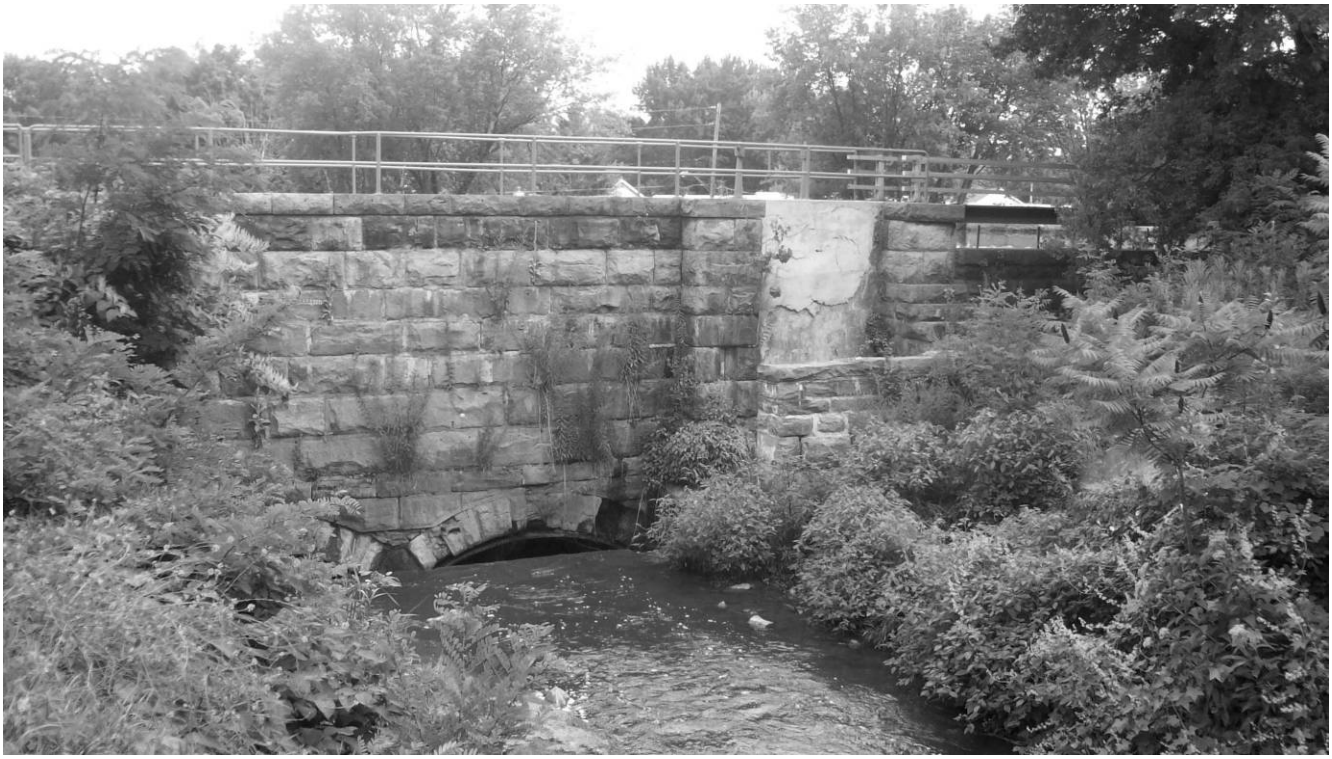

Image 2: Culvert 107 at left and waste weir at right. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.