

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, WASTE WEIR (MAYBEES)  
(Erie Canal, Waste Weir (Maybees))  
0.13 miles west of Bolton Road  
Royalton Center  
Niagara County  
New York

HAER NY-506  
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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, WASTE WEIR (MAYBEES) Erie Canal, Waste Weir (Maybees)

#### HAER No. NY-506

**Location:** 0.13 miles west of Bolton Road, Royalton Center, Niagara County, New York

The Waste Weir at Maybees is located at latitude: 43.2015730, longitude: -78.5606186. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** Maybees 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 on the north bank of the canal.<sup>1</sup> The weir consists of three central sluice gates flanked by approximately 42'-long concrete spillway segments. The structure is in good condition.

A pedestrian bridge spans the weir and spillways. The riveted-steel girder bridge has an open-grate deck and is lined with pipe railings and chain-link fencing. The abutments are concrete.

Culvert 113 is located east of Maybees Waste Weir. The original culvert is stone and there are concrete extensions, which are noted on a site map.<sup>2</sup> The arched headwalls are concrete, and the pipe is corrugated metal. The culvert is in good condition.

**History:** The waste weir and nearby culvert were built as part of Contract 64, awarded to Empire Engineering Corporation on August 6, 1908, and under the direction of R.H. Merrill, Assistant Engineer. The contract covered the improvement of the Erie Canal from a point 600' west of Prospect Avenue Bridge to a point 100' east of the Gasport bridge, a total distance of 9.91 miles.<sup>3</sup>

The sluice gates and bridge were replaced in 1973 as part of Contract M73-6.<sup>4</sup>

#### **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.

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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> Series B1762, New York State Archives, Albany, New York, "Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 5470 to Sta. 5503," December 3, 1924, 184. The map notes "Revised 1965 No Changes" indicating that the concrete extensions were in place in 1924.

<sup>3</sup> *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), 254.

<sup>4</sup> Maintenance Contracts 1971, 1972, 1973.

Series B1762, New York State Archives, Albany, New York. “Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 5470 to Sta. 5503.” Approved December 3, 1924, 184.

Maintenance Contracts 1971, 1972, 1973.

**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:** Concrete spillway and waste weir in background with bridge spanning both structures. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



**Image 2:** Culvert 113. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.