

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, GUARD GATE 17 (GASPORT)  
(Erie Canal, Guard Gate 17 (Gasport))  
0.40 miles east of Gasport Road  
Gasport  
Niagara County  
New York

HAER NY-507  
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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, GUARD GATE 17 (GASPORT) Erie Canal, Guard Gate 17 (Gasport)

HAER No. NY-507

**Location:** 0.40 miles east of Gasport Road, Gasport, Niagara County, New York

Guard Gate 17 is located at latitude: 43.2007619, longitude: -78.5681136. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** Guard Gate 17, located on the Erie Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. It is vital to controlling the flow of water through this section of the canal.

**Description:** Guard Gate 17 spans the Erie Canal and is typical of the guard gates on the Barge Canal.<sup>1</sup> The guard gate consists of a two-span, riveted-steel superstructure on concrete center piers and abutments. The 55'-wide steel gates are frame with steel skin plates on the upstream side. The guard gate operates with cables and steel and reinforced-concrete counterweights running over sheaves on steel lattice towers. A modern steel mechanical cabinet sits on top of each gate. Guard Gate 17 is in good condition, although there is slight rusting on the superstructure.

**History:** The guard gate was built as part of Contract 64, awarded to Empire Engineering Corporation on August 6, 1908, 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. The location of the guard gate was fixed on August 30, 1911, as part of Alteration 10 to the contract. The concrete for the guard gate was poured in 1912, and it was completed that year.<sup>2</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.

*Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1913, Vol. 1.* Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1914.

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

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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, 1912, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1913), 254; *Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1913, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1914), 316.

**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:** Guard Gate 17. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.