

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, SECTION 7 MAINTENANCE
SUB-HEADQUARTERS (LOCKPORT)
(Erie Canal, Section 7 Maintenance Sub-Headquarters (Lockport))
Access off Exchange Street
Lockport
Niagara County
New York

HAER NY-514
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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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Erie Canal, Section 7 Maintenance Sub-Headquarters (Lockport)

HAER No. NY-514

Location: Access off Exchange Street, Lockport, Niagara County, New York

The Lockport Shops are located at latitude: 43.1756188, longitude: -78.6878830. The point represents the freighthouse and was obtained in 2009. There is no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: The Section 7 Maintenance Sub-Headquarters at Lockport, located on the Erie Canal, are a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. The shops were used in the maintenance of this section of the canal and floating plant.

Description: The maintenance facility is located on the north side of the canal between the lower and upper Lockport terminals.¹ The facility is accessed by an asphalt road leading from Exchange Street to an asphalt parking lot.

Fronting the canal is the freighthouse, a single-story 32' x 100' elongated frame building on timber beams set on concrete footings. The gable roof has asphalt shingles with exposed rafter tails. The building is clad in shiplap siding and has modern vinyl casement windows, modern pane-and-panel doors, and wood freight doors. The window and door bays have been altered. The freighthouse is in fair condition.

Other buildings include the lube house, a single-story concrete block building on a concrete foundation with a ramp at the front façade. The gable-front roof is covered in corrugated metal, and there are steel entrance doors. This building is in good condition. A modern garage is located between the lube house and mechanics' building. A single-story standing-seam metal structure with a gable roof and modern garage doors serves as the mechanics' building. It is in good condition but is non-contributing due to its recent construction. The carpenter shop is a single-story frame building clad in standing-seam metal with a concrete addition at the rear. The main building has a gable roof and steel door, while the addition has one-over-one-light windows. It is in fair condition. The sandblasting building is a single-story frame structure with vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled gable-front roof. The fenestration is comprised of one-over-one-light vinyl windows, and there is a modern garage door as well as a pane-and-panel one. This building is in good condition. The gable-roof brick carpenters' shop on the west end of the yard has multi-light steel sash windows and roll-up doors at either end. The shop is in good condition.

There are also sheds for housing equipment. The mower shed is a single-story concrete block building with a corrugated-metal gable roof. It has steel doors and is in fair condition. The steel

¹ Description of current conditions is based on a site visit made by the HAER recording team in summer 2009.

bar shed is a single-story frame structure clad in standing-seam metal siding. The side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. It is in fair condition. A tractor shed is a single-story open bay frame building clad in standing-seam metal with an asphalt-shingled shed roof. The tractor shed is in good condition.

The dry dock is located west of the facility. The chamber has stone walls capped with concrete. A hinged steel gate is located at the eastern corner, and there are steel sluice gates and operating stands at either end. Timbers on concrete piers are ranged along the bottom of the dry dock chamber, which is overall in fair to poor condition due to heavy spalling and breaking.

History: The freighthouse dates to the 1917 completion of the Lockport Lower Terminal. In 1917, enlargement and reconstruction of the dry dock facility was underway. Unspecified improvements were made in 1940.²

Sources:

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

Series B1762, New York State Archives, Albany, New York. "Western Division, Erie Canal, Section 10, Sta. 5899 to Sta. 5931." Approved April 22, 1925, 197.

State of New York, Department of Public Works. *Report of the Superintendent of Public Works for the Year 1917*. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers 1918.

_____. *Annual Report of the Superintendent for the Year 1940*. New York: Publishers Printing Co., 1941.

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.

² State of New York, Department of Public Works, *Report of the Superintendent of Public Works for the Year 1917* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers 1918), 21; State of New York, Department of Public Works, *Annual Report of the Superintendent for the Year 1940* (New York: Publishers Printing Co., 1941), 23.

Appendix: Images of Current Conditions



Image 1: Lockport Sub-Maintenance Headquarters site overview with warehouse at foreground. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 2: Shop. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 3: Lube house at left and garage at right. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 4: Mechanics building. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 5: Sandblasting building. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 6: Steel bar shed. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 7: Tractor shed. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.



Image 8: Dry dock. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.