

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, NORTH TONAWANDA
TERMINAL
(Erie Canal, North Tonawanda Terminal)
North bank of canal near East Niagara Street Bridge
North Tonawanda
Niagara County
New York

HAER NY-519
HAER NY-519

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, NORTH TONAWANDA TERMINAL (Erie Canal, North Tonawanda Terminal)

HAER No. NY-519

Location: North bank of canal near East Niagara Street Bridge, Tonawanda, Oneida County, New York

North Tonawanda Terminal is located at latitude: 43.0222765, longitude: -78.8742332. The point was obtained in 2009, and there is no restriction on its release to the public.

Significance: North Tonawanda 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 North Tonawanda Terminal is located on the north bank of the canal, with access by an asphalt road that leads to a small, circular driveway located next to an asphalt parking lot.¹ There are interior gravel drives. The area north of the terminal is paved with Medina sandstone blocks.

The section of the terminal wall near Main Street consists of large concrete blocks capped in concrete. It is lined with modern metal cleats, utility hook-ups, reproduction light fixtures, and brick hardscaping. A set of stairs leads down to the water. Recreational features include picnic benches and a pavilion.

The terminal wall near the railroad bridge is concrete capped with newer concrete and brick hardscaping. There are concrete-filled cast-iron bollards, modern metal cleats, and reproduction light fixtures. Utility hook-ups are available on the adjacent wood dock. This section is also in good condition.

The comfort station at the terminal is a modern single-story concrete block building with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. It is in good condition but is non-contributing.

History: The North Tonawanda Terminal was built as part of Contract T-51 by I.M. Ludington's Sons, Inc. of Rochester, New York. O.L. Burdett, Assistant Engineer, oversaw the contract, which was awarded on October 5, 1915. The contract called for increasing the height of dock walls, and grading and paving about 800' on both sides of the canal with stone block. The contractor started work in November 1915, removing buildings, grading, raising the dock walls, and completing about 60 percent of the base for the paving. The contract's completion

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

was delayed by problems obtaining the cast-iron nosing required for the walls. Nevertheless, the contract was completed in 1917.²

Sources:

Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1916, Vol. 1. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1917.

Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1917, Vol. 1. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1918.

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

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 *Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1916, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1917), 261; *Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyor of the State of New York for the Fiscal Year ended in September 30, 1917, Vol. 1* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1918), 335.

Appendix: Image of Current Conditions



Image: Overview of terminal. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.