

NEW YORK STATE BARGE CANAL, OSWEGO TERMINAL  
(Oswego Canal, Oswego Terminal)  
Canal View Drive  
Oswego  
Oswego County  
New York

HAER NY-537  
*HAER NY-537*

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, OSWEGO TERMINAL**  
**(Oswego Canal, Oswego Terminal)**

**HAER No. NY-537**

**Location:** Canal View Drive, Oswego, Oswego County, New York

The Oswego Terminal is located at latitude: 43.4520896830, longitude -76.50577305. The point represents the terminal wall and was obtained in summer 2009. There is no restriction on its release to the public.

**Significance:** The Oswego Terminal, located on the Oswego Canal, is a component of the nationally significant New York State Barge Canal. It is one of several terminals built along the Barge Canal to provide points for freight transfer.

**Description:** Located south of Lock O8, the terminal consists of the concrete wall, which has modern metal cleats and concrete-filled cast-iron bollards on concrete pads.<sup>1</sup>

The “Oswego Eastside Esplanade Riverfront Park” is located nearby. The park has a modern picnic pavilion. The center stretch of the promenade has modern concrete covering a deteriorating concrete wall. There is a decorative metal railing and modern metal cleats. It is non-contributing.

**History:** The Barge Canal Terminal Commission recommended in its final report that the State of New York fund public terminals along the canal, including one at Oswego. The Terminal Act appropriated \$19.8 million, stipulated the locations of the terminals, and provided specific funds for buildings. According to Noble Whitford’s history of the canal, Contract T30 was for the dock wall, hydraulic canal wall and roadway approach, and river terminal. The contract was let to Henry P. Burgard on March 24, 1916.<sup>2</sup>

Repairs and alterations have been made to the terminal. In 1958, the terminal was rehabilitated under Contract M58-14, and the following year paving took place under Contract No. M59-6.

**Sources:**

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

Whitford, Noble. *History of the Barge Canal of New York State*. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922.

**Historians:** Laura S. Black and Jami Babb, 2009

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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> Noble Whitford, *History of the Barge Canal of New York State* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1922), 193, 197, 199, 273, 569.

**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 1: View of terminal wall. Field photograph taken by HAER recording team, summer 2009.