

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New York State Barge Canal Historic District
Albany, Cayuga, Erie, Herkimer, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery,
Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga,
Schenectady, Seneca, Washington, and Wayne Counties, New York

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10. NYS Barge Canal Geographic Data

UTM Coordinates

1. 182786/4771920
2. 358780/4762074
3. 376625/4814380
4. 396317/4787304
5. 606771/4738075
6. 628924/4825457

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the attached maps with scale.

The terminal points of this nomination are:

- 112th Street Bridge between the cities of Troy, Rensselaer County and Cohoes, Albany County at the eastern end of the Erie Canal and the southern end of the Champlain Canal.
- Lock C12 and the Clinton Street Bridge (bridge C-32), Village of Whitehall, Washington County, at the northern end of the Champlain Canal.
- Bridge Street Bridge (bridge O-14), City of Oswego, Oswego County, at the northern end of the Oswego Canal
- West Kirkpatrick Street Bridge, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, over Onondaga Creek at the head of Syracuse Inner Harbor.
- Railroad Bridge (Bridge S-2) at the confluence of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and Cayuga Lake, village of Cayuga, Cayuga County.
- Railroad bridge abutment opposite Seneca Lake State Park in the hamlet of East Geneva, Town of Waterloo, Seneca County at the confluence of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and Seneca Lake
- Court Street Dam, City of Rochester, Monroe County, at the northern end of the Genesee Arm of the Erie Canal.
- State Highway 265 Bridge (Bridge E-248) between the cities of Tonawanda, Erie County and North Tonawanda, Niagara County, at the western end of the Erie Canal.

Boundary Justification

The historic district boundary was drawn to include the canal itself and all adjacent features directly related to its maintenance and operation. The system includes approximately 179 miles of land-cut channel, 248 miles of canalized river, and 23 miles of lake crossing. In land-cut sections the district includes the watered section and a strip of land on either bank approximately 50' wide. The shore-side boundary is wider at locks, culverts,

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bridges, terminals, canal shops, and on the down-hill side of embankments. The boundary “flares” at these locations in order to include state-owned land that is essential for canal operations and is maintained as part of the system, as well as canal related buildings and features.

In canalized river sections (Tonawanda Creek and the Clyde, Seneca, Oswego, Mohawk, and Hudson rivers) the boundary includes that area wetted by the normal navigation pool and flares to include shore lands maintained as part of the system at locks, dams, terminals, canal shops, and bridge crossings. In Oneida, Onondaga, and Cross lakes, the district is confined to the navigation channel marked by buoys, fixed aids to navigation, and lighthouses and does not extend to the shoreline.

Although New York State constructed Barge Canal terminal walls, terminal buildings, and grain elevators on connecting waterways in Buffalo, Watkins Glen, Montour Falls, Ithaca, Rouses Point, Port Henry, Albany, Troy, Manhattan, and Brooklyn, those elements are not included in this district nomination because they are located at some distance from the spine of the system, are no longer managed as part of the system, and, in most cases, no longer retain historic integrity.

Delta Lake (Oneida County) and Hinckley Reservoir (Herkimer County) in the southern Adirondack foothills are included as discontinuous elements of this district because both were built to supply water to the summit level of the Erie Barge Canal. Forestport Reservoir and Feeder on the Black River, a 34-mile-long section of the Enlarged Erie Canal that now forms the spine of Old Erie Canal State Park, upland reservoirs in Onondaga and Madison counties, and a segment of the Chenango Canal and its feeder reservoirs in Madison and Oneida counties that supply water to the summit level and upper portions of the canalized Mohawk are not included in this district nomination because they were built for and are more closely associated with New York’s 19th century (towpath era) canal system.¹

¹ Jamesville Reservoir, DeRuyter Reservoir, Erieville Reservoir/Tuscarora Lake, and the dam at Cazenovia Lake feed the old Erie Canal by way of Butternut, Limestone, and Chittenango Creeks. Eaton Brook Reservoir, Lebanon Reservoir, Leland Pond, and Lake Moraine supply water to the Barge Canal via the Chenango Canal and Oriskany Creek.

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