**American Canal Society Canal Index**

**Canal:** Cayuga and Seneca

**State/Province:** New York State

**Counties:** Cayuga, Seneca, Tompkins, Schuyler

**Location (Endpoints of Canal):** Erie Canal at Montezuma-Seneca Lake at Geneva & branch to Cayuga Lake

**Topographic Maps:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES IN USE</th>
<th>CANAL</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>SLACKWATER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>LIFT LOCKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1828</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 90x15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862 (1st)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 110x18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918 (Barge)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 310x45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historical Significance:**

Construction was authorized Apr. 20, 1825 for the canal and on Mar. 25, 1826 for the branch to Cayuga Lake; completed Nov. 15, 1828. Cost of construction $214,000. for the canal and $18,000. for the branch. Locks were constructed of wood. Tonnage of boats 70-76, horse or mule drawn. Prism 40x28x4 ft.

Construction for the first enlargement was authorized May 25, 1836 and Nov. 10, 1847 for the locks and Feb. 15, 1854 for the prism. Construction was completed Sep. 1, 1862 at a cost of $1,133,149.26. Material of locks was composite Prism 70 and 52mx 7 ft. Tonnage of boats 210-240.

Work on the New York State Barge Canal was begun in 1905 and completed in 1918. Locks were built of concrete of uniform size as were prisms which were 25 ft. through earth sections, min. of 94 ft. through rock cuts, and at least 300 ft. through canalized rivers and lakes. Depth is 12 ft. in artificial channels.

**Physical Description:**

The Cayuga and Seneca Canal extends in a southerly direction from the Erie Canal at a point ¾ mi. west of Montezuma, or where the Seneca and Clyde Rivers join. The Cayuga branch follows the valley of the Seneca River to Cayuga Lake, Thence through Cayuga Lake 38 miles to the Cayuga Lake Inlet (Ithaca Inlet) at Ithaca. The Seneca branch of the canal utilizes the Seneca River in a westerly direction from the Cayuga Canal near the foot of Cayuga Lake and connects with Seneca Lake near Geneva. Navigation passes through Seneca Lake 33 mi. to Watkins with a 2½ mi. extension to Montour Falls. Through the Seneca River come the waters from the great natural reservoirs, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes.

**Names & Addresses of Groups Concerned with Canals Preservation/Restoration:**

**Bibliographical Summary:**


Finch, Roy G.-The Story of New York State Canals, 1925.


**Unpublished Records, Photos, Drawings (CEHR, IAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):**

**Existing or Recommended Landmark Status (LEHR, National Register, etc.):**

**Reported Name & Address:** Gerald Abendschein, 2132 Harris Rd., Waterport, N.Y.

**Date:** Feb. 24/85

**Return To:** Canal Index Committee, c/o T.K. Woods, 6939 Eastham Circle, Canton, Ohio 44718