**NAME**

Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Thompson Road

CITY, TOWN  
Camillus

STATE  
New York

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DICTION</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
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<td>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Town of Camillus, Dept. of Parks and Recreation

STREET & NUMBER  
4914 West Genesee Street

CITY, TOWN  
Camillus

STATE  
New York

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
Onondaga County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN  
Syracuse

STATE  
New York

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><em>FEDERAL</em> <em>STATE</em> <em>COUNTY</em> <em>LOCAL</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CITY, TOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct was opened in 1844, and originally carried the Erie Canal across this stream. It was the largest of the second-class aqueducts on the enlarged canal, measuring 144 feet in overall length. The structure is located northeast of the present village of Camillus, and is set in a natural area one hundred yards east of Thompson Road. The orientation of the Aqueduct is northeast to southwest.

Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct is a four-span structure, each of its Roman arches having an interior span of thirty feet. Together these arches carried the canal towpath across the creek. On the south side of the towpath and parallel to it is a series of three stone piers and abutments which supported the wooden trunk of the canal. The interior width of each pier is forty-nine feet. The depth of the timber trunk within the piers was approximately seven feet. The abutments and towpath stand fifteen feet above the water level of the creek.

The structure is anchored to each bank of the creek by a pair of curved masonry wingwalls which rise to the height of the towpath and abutments, and conform to the curvature and slope of the banks.

The entire support system of the aqueduct is built of rough pointed dimension stone laid in plain ashlar courses. The structure is pointed with hydraulic cement which has withstood the effects of weathering. The principal building stones are approximately sixteen inches thick. Each of the abutments is capped with a coping of eight-inch thick stone.

The flow of Nine Mile Creek at the aqueduct is in a north-easterly direction. To counteract potential ice damage to the aqueduct the structure was designed with a semicircular ice breaker of stone masonry on the south end of each pier, curving around each base at the waterline.

---

The towpath is presently covered with grass, though its original covering may have been plank laid on wood stringers over masonry fill, built in accordance with canal specifications. A parapet of rough pointed stone runs parallel to the towpath on its north side to a height of approximately three and one-half feet. The parapet served as a protective railing for traffic on the towpath. The towpath itself is twelve feet wide and extends the length of the crossing.

The timber trunk of the aqueduct is no longer extant. The effects of the elements and possible removal of timbers at an undetermined date have left standing only the masonry portion of the aqueduct. A section of the rotted timber trunk remains in unstablized condition at the southeast end of the aqueduct. This is presumably not part of the first trunk, but rather a later replacement.

The alignment, fabric, and pointing of Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct remains generally sound, with no listing off center or serious structural decay. Vegetation rooted in joints may ultimately loosen stones on the piers and towpath, but at present does not adversely affect the structure.

---

### SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
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### SPECIFIC DATES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Begun 1841; Completed 1844</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attributed to Frederick C. Mills (1804-1850)</td>
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, located between locks 50 and 51 on the old Erie Canal near Camillus, is an arched stone structure of four spans erected between 1841 and 1844. Built during the first enlargement of the Erie Canal (1836 to 1862), this was the largest second-class aqueduct on the right-of-way. This structure eliminated the need for two sets of locks on the canal's Jordan Level, thereby expediting the flow of traffic to and from the west. The Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct is a remarkably well-preserved engineering and transportation landmark set in a natural area, little changed since the early nineteenth century. Presently, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Town of Camillus owns and preserves the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct as part of a local Erie Canal Park.

In 1835 the Canal Commissioners of the State of New York concluded that the Erie Canal must be enlarged. This decision was based both upon public pressure to increase the flow of commodities to and from the west, (especially salt from the Syracuse area) and upon the need to replace many structures built in haste on the original canal of 1817-1825. The Commissioners believed repairs and rebuilding ought to anticipate future needs; hence enlargement was desirable.

The middle section of the canal from Frankfort to Lyons was surveyed in 1836 by engineer Frederick C. Mills (1804-1850), who presumably submitted designs for the aqueducts and locks on the enlarged right-of-way. The design for Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct may be attributed to Mills.

Based upon the report of Frederick Mills, the Canal Commissioners in 1837 decided to eliminate a lock of eleven feet lift at each end of the canal's twelve-mile Jordan level, lower the level, and allow

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

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<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>EASTING</th>
<th>NORTHING</th>
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<td>39,52,8,0</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
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<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Raymond W. Smith, Program Assistant

ORGANIZATION
NYS Parks and Recreation Division for Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER
Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg. #1

CITY OR TOWN
Albany, New York 12238

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATExm LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE 3/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/13/76
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

CONTINUATION SHEET  Significance  ITEM NUMBER  #8  PAGE 2

the proposed aqueduct to carry the canal across Nine Mile Creek. The new aqueduct would replace an existing two-span structure on the original canal found to be "in a failing and unsafe condition." The improvements to the Jordan level would save one mile in distance, over $18,000 in construction costs, and annual repairs and attendance at the double locks at each end of the original course. In 1841, builders Denton and Cromwell were awarded the contract for the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, and paid the sum of $10,439.4

Work on the new aqueduct proceeded rapidly while the deteriorating two-span aqueduct remained in use. The old structure required repeated bracing and repair.

At last, in its Annual Report for 1845, the Canal Commission was able to state with regard to the Jordan level, that "work...is completed on the original plan of the enlargement, and the whole including the Nine Mile Creek...was brought into use at the opening of the navigation last spring." Completion of Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct in 1844 obviated the need for the "two old locks of unusual high lifts, rendered slow in their operation by being connected at the head with narrow trunks of aqueducts," and the expense of lock repairs and operations.

As the principal structure on the enlarged Erie Canal's Section Eleven (Jordan level), Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct continued in use until the abandonment of the old canal right-of-way by the Canal System of New York State in 1918. For more than half a century the aqueduct served the growing traffic of the enlarged canal, requiring none of the maintenance frequently necessary on the structure it replaced.

2New York State Canal Commissioners, Annual Report for the Year 1841: Assembly Documents, No. 24 (January 25, 1842), 41, 43.

3Whitford, I, 154.

4Notes on file, Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Onondaga Historical Association, Syracuse, New York.

In 1974, the town of Camillus acquired title to Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct from the State of New York. The aqueduct is to become the focal point of a proposed Erie Canal Park.

Expert design and substantial construction techniques make the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct a significant engineering and transportation landmark. Its survival is in part due to the use of hydraulic cement in its construction. Hydraulic cement was first developed in the United States by famed engineer Canvass White (1790-1834) in conjunction with Erie Canal masonry. After 1819, all aqueducts, culverts, and locks on the canal were mortared using White's hydraulic cement. Because few such structures survive, the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct is doubly worthy of recognition as an engineering monument.

Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Number</td>
<td>3.25.76.2872</td>
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**TECHNICAL**
- Photos: 5
- Maps: 1

**CONTROL**
- OK: 3.30.76

**HISTORIAN**
- Accept: 4.29.76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**
- Accept: 4.29.76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**
- Inventory: BNB
- Review: Accept

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**
- Accept: 5-12-76

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**
- 5-13-76

National Register Write-up: 7-6-76
Federal Register Entry: 7-6-76
Send-back: 
Re-submit: 
Entered: MAY 17 1976

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Camillus, Onondaga Co., N.Y.
Credit: Dr. David Booth - 1974
Camillus, N.Y.
NEG. Privately owned.
Abutments, piers, and wingwall from top/pain-view NE.

Property of the National Register

NPS Number 5/17/76
Title: Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Onondaga Co., N.Y.
loc. Abutments, piers and wingwall from top/pain-view N.E.

5/17/76
**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

**2 LOCATION**

**CITY, TOWN**

Camillus

**VICINITY OF**

- [x] 

**COUNTY**

Onondaga

**STATE**

New York

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT**

Dr. David Beebe, Camillus, N.Y.

**DATE OF PHOTO**

1975

**NEGATIVE FILED AT**

privately owned (above)

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Abutments, piers, and wingwall from towpath--view NE.
NINE MILE CREEK AQUEDUCT
CAMILLUS, ONONDAGA CO., NEW YORK
CREDIT - DR. DAVID BEEBE, 1974
CAMILLUS, N.Y.
NE6. PRIVATELY OWNED.
TRUNK TIMBERS - NE END OF TRUNK

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5/17/76
Title: Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Onondaga Co., N.Y.
Loc. Trunk Timbers - Ne
end of trunk

2/75
1 NAME
HISTORIC
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Camillus
VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Onondaga
STATE
New York

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
Dr. David Beebe, Camillus, N.Y.
DATE OF PHOTO
1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT
privately owned (above).

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Trunk timbers--NE end of trunk.
nine mile creek aqueduct
Camillus, Onondaga Co., New York

Photo Credit:
Dr. David Reese - 1974

Camillus, N.Y.

N.E. privately owned

South Elevation - view looking N.E.

Property of the National Register

NPS Number: 5/12/76

Title: Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Loc. North elevation - area

and even lower

area SW 3415
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Camillus
VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Onondaga
STATE
New York

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
Dr. David Beebe, Camillus, N.Y.
DATE OF PHOTO
1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT
privately owned (above)

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
North elevation--arcs and wingwall--view SW.
NINE MILE CREEK AQUEDUCT
CAMILLUS, ONONDAGA CO., N.Y.
CREDIT:
DR. DAVID BEEBE - 1974
CAMILLUS, N.Y.
NEG. PRIVATELY OWNED

NORTH ELEVATION - ARCHES AND WINGWALL - VIEW SW.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5/17/76

Title: Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Loc. South elevation -
view NE.


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES — ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Camillus  X VICINITY OF COUNTY Onondaga  STATE New York

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Dr. David Beebe, Camillus, N.Y.  DATE OF PHOTO 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT privately owned (above)

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

South elevation—view NE.
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Camillus, Onondaga Co., New York

Credit —
Dr. David Boede 1974

Camillus, N.Y.

Neg: Privately owned

Abutments, Piers, & Townpath — New looking SW.

Property of the National Register

NPS Number 5/17/76

Title: Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
Onondaga Co., N.Y.

Loc. Abutments, piers, and
Townpath — new looking
SW.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Camillus

X VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Onondaga
STATE
New York

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT
Dr. David Beebe, Camillus, N.Y.
DATE OF PHOTO
1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT
privately owned (above).

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Abutments, piers, and towpath--view looking SW

PHOTO NO. 5425
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Camillus

X VICINITY OF
COUNTY
Onondaga

STATE
New York

3 MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE
United States Geological Survey - 7.5 Minute Series.

SCALE
1:24,000

DATE
1955

4 REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES
March 17, 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington  
Chief of Registers  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.  20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

The staff of the Division for Historic Preservation wishes to call your attention to the level of significance presently recommended for the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Onondaga County, New York (see enclosed nomination form). At the time it was reviewed for nomination (May 6, 1975), the Committee on the Registers, New York State Board for Historic Preservation, recommended the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct for listing as a site of local significance. This decision was based upon the best available information at the time, and it is with this evaluation that we forward the nomination to you.

At some time in the future, the Division for Historic Preservation expects to survey and reassess the extant historic resources of the first Erie Canal (1817-1825) and the First Enlargement (1836-1862). It is this agency's opinion that the historic and engineering significance of the Erie Canal will be proved such that its extant remains will warrant a level of state or national significance. At such time as the State Committee on the Registers is able to review the historical evidence it may wish to reconsider the level of significance presently recommended for the Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct and other canal-related nominations. We wish merely to inform your office of these plans for a reassessment of the Erie Canal and its significance in the history of New York State and the early United States.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Beebe  
National Register and Survey Coordinator  
Historic Preservation Field Services

LAB/RWS/jf  
Enclosure
ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE New York

Date Entered MAY 17 1976

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct</td>
<td>Camillus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Onondaga County</td>
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</table>

Hon. Jacob K. Javits Also Notified
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. William F. Walsh
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner, Parks and Recreation
Agency Building 61
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12235

VF: H Mott: ale: 5/20/76
**NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET**

1. **NAME as it appears on federal register:** Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct
2. **LOCATION street & number:** NE of Camillus on Thompson Rd.
3. **vicinity of:** Camillus
4. **state:** NY
5. **county:** Onondaga
6. **NPS REGION:** North Atlantic
7. **OWNER:** Private
8. ** Existing SURVEYS:** HHL
9. **Congress. DISTRICT:** 33
10. **Source of NOMINATION:** Unrestricted
11. **WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT?:** Yes
12. **WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?:** Yes
13. **CONDITION:** Good
14. **ORIGINAL SITE:** Moved
15. **FEATURES:** Labrador
16. **EXISTING:** Unexposed
17. **ARCHITECTURAL:** Present
18. **ADAPTIVE USE:** Yes
19. **SALVATION?:** Yes
20. **IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?:** Yes
21. **AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**
   - Engineering: 11
   - Transportation: 25
   - Agriculture: 3
   - Architecture: 4
   - Landscape Architecture: 15
22. **DATES of initial construction:** 1841-1844
23. **ARCHITECT:** Frederick C. Mills
24. **MAJOR ALTERNATIONS:**
25. **MASTER BUILDER:** Denton & Cromwell
26. **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT/ GARDEN DESIGNER:**
27. **INTERIOR DECORATOR:**
28. **ARTIST:**
29. **ARTISAN:**
30. **BUILDER/ CONTRACTOR:**
31. **NAMES give role & date:**
   - Personal: Canvass White - invented hydraulic cement in conjunction with Erie Canal Masonry, ca. 1819
32. **INSTITUTIONAL:** Canal Commission of the State of New York
33. **NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP:**
   - Aqueduct 4 stone arches supporting 144’ tow path; 3 stone piers and abutments once supported wooden trunk on canal, now removed. Curved masonry wing walls, laid in plain ashlar with hydraulic cement, parapet follows towpath as railing. Constructed as part of first enlargement of Erie Canal. Abandoned, 1918; acquired by city, 1974.