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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Erie Canalway News Release

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New York State Barge Canal Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

WATERFORD, NY- The National Park Service today announced that it has listed the New York State Barge Canal on the National Register of Historic Places. The designation recognizes the New York State Canal System as a nationally significant work of early twentieth century engineering and construction that affected transportation and maritime commerce for nearly half a century.

“This recognition from the highest levels of our nation reminds us once again of the essential role New York State and its waterways have played in our country's development and prominence,” shared **Mike Caldwell, regional director for the National Park Service’s Northeast Region**. “On behalf of the National Park Service, I am honored to recognize the New York State Barge Canal’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a nationally significant, historic transportation icon.”

The New York State Barge Canal National Register Historic District is remarkable in its scope and historical integrity. **It spans 450 miles and includes the four branches of the state’s canal system:** the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals– all much enlarged versions of waterways that were initially constructed during the 1820s. The nomination evaluated 791 features and included 552 contributing structures and buildings.

Congressman Paul Tonko and a representative from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s office joined leaders from the National Park Service, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, NYS Canal Corporation, and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation today at the eastern gateway to the Erie Canal in Waterford to announce and celebrate the designation.

“The listing is yet another Erie Canalway milestone achieved thanks to the diligent efforts of our staff and partners,” said **Bob Radliff, director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor**. “This recognition greatly enhances our ability to achieve our goals of promoting the Corridor as a world-class destination and fostering vibrant communities connected by our waterways.”

“It is an incredible honor to have the New York State Barge Canal listed on the National Register of Historic Places,” said **Brian U. Stratton, director of the New York State Canal Corporation**. “This fitting and well-deserved recognition further exemplifies the national significance of America’s most iconic, influential and enduring waterway: the Erie Canal and New York State Canal System.”

Built between 1905 and 1918, the Barge Canal is the direct descendent of the Erie Canal and a network of connecting waterways that have been in continuous operation since 1825, playing a pivotal role in the growth and development of the United States. Today, the canal system continues to allow commercial and pleasure vessels to pass from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

“Listing the Barge Canal Historic on the National Register of Historic Places is a huge step in preserving and celebrating a nationally important feat of engineering and construction,” said **Andy Beers, executive deputy commissioner, Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)**. “I commend the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor and New York State Canal Corporation for their work to honor this distinctive piece of New York’s heritage.”

Extensive research and documentation for the nomination was prepared by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, National Park Service Documentation Program, and NYS Canal Corporation, in partnership with OPRHP.

The **National Register of Historic Places** is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Since 1916, the American people have entrusted the National Park Service with the care of their national parks. With the help of volunteers and park partners, the National Park Service safeguards these more than 400 places and shares their stories with more than 275 million visitors every year. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. www.nps.gov

ABOUT THE ERIE CANALWAY

Established by Congress in 2000, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York, encompassing the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments, as well as more than 230 canal communities. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, in partnership with the National Park Service, works to preserve and share our extraordinary heritage, to promote the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and to foster vibrant communities connected by the waterway. www.eriecanalway.org

ABOUT THE NYS CANAL SYSTEM

The New York State Canal System is comprised of four historic waterways, the Erie, the Champlain, the Oswego and the Cayuga-Seneca Canals. Spanning 524 miles, the waterways link the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, Niagara River and Lake Erie with communities rich in history and culture. The system is owned and operated by the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York State Thruway Authority. www.canals.ny.gov