



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment  
Hurricane Agnes Flood Maps 14473**

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## Table of Contents

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Overview of the Records .....	3
Arrangement .....	3
Administrative History .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Related Information .....	5
Use of Records .....	5
Access Terms .....	5

## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	The State Board of Equalization and Assessment used these maps indicating flooded areas as reference sources in their inspection of, and determination of tax abatement or state assistance for, flood-damaged areas resulting from the hurricane. In addition to noting flooded areas, the maps show land contours, waterways, and a few man-made features such as schools, hospitals, roads, and railroads. Annotations on the maps indicate specific flooding problems such as "water over railroad bridge."
<b>Creator:</b>	Genealogical Society of Utah
<b>Title:</b>	New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment Hurricane Agnes flood maps
<b>Quantity:</b>	2 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	9 oversize folders
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1972
<b>Series:</b>	14473

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Arranged roughly by general geographic area mapped, then by type of map (Provisional or printed).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative History

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Flooding resulting from Hurricane Agnes in June 1972 caused real property damage in 26 Hudson Valley, Central, and Southern Tier counties of New York. The following year, the Legislature passed a law providing tax relief for affected property owners and localities.

Property owners applied to the State Board of Equalization and Assessment for tax abatements for damaged real property. As the supervising agency for assessments on taxable real property, the Board's responsibilities include coordinating assessments for use in distributing state aid and advising localities on real property tax problems. Upon receipt of an application for tax abatement for flood-damaged property, the Board inspected the property and determined the percentage of loss. Local assessors then calculated the actual tax abatement. The Board also determined the amount of additional state aid to be paid to municipalities and special districts to compensate for the tax loss (except for school districts, for which the amount was determined by the Commissioner of Education).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content Note

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The State Board of Equalization and Assessment used these maps indicating flooded area as reference sources in their inspection of, and determination of tax abatement or state assistance for, flood-damaged areas.

The maps are sections of United States Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps annotated to show the impact of the flooding. Aerial photography and field surveys were carried out immediately after the flooding, and the maps were then prepared by the U.S.G.S. in cooperation with New York State and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The maps show land contours, waterways, and a few man-made features such as certain buildings (e.g. schools, hospitals), roads, and railroads. Heavy lines are drawn in indicating flooded areas. Annotations on the maps indicate specific flooding problems such as: "water over railroad bridge"; "3' in restaurant"; "6'-8' deep at underpass"; "water over dike"; "water 6'-8' deep on Rte 17"; "road washout"; "bridge collapsed from erosion"; "approaches washed out on both sides"; and "5'-6' deep at school".

There are multiple versions of many of the maps. One version has the handwritten heading, "Provisional - Subject to Revision;" these occasionally include brief notes in the margins as well as on the maps. Another version has the printed heading, "Flood of June 1972" and the location; these lack the marginal notes and many of the map annotations but do highlight the location of gaging stations and note the flood elevation at each station.

The series also includes a map produced by the Chemung County Planning Board showing state, county, and town roads, county and town boundaries, and incorporated areas. Color coding in flooded areas indicates commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, and public or semi-public areas. There are also two separate maps for the towns of Elmira and Big Flats (Chemung County) with flooded areas marked in red.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

B0925Series B0925, Applications for State Assistance for Flood Damage (Hurricane Agnes, 1972), contains applications and related documentation for tax abatement for property damaged by Hurricane Agnes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

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## Access Terms

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- Contour maps
- Quadrangle maps
- Maps (documents)
- New York (State)
- Hurricanes--New York (State)
- Topographic maps
- United States Geological Survey maps
- Floods--New York (State)
- Assessing
- Hurricane Agnes, 1972
- New York (State). Department of State. Office for Local Government Services
- New York (State). State Board of Equalization and Assessment
- New York (State). Division of Equalization and Assessment
- Geological Survey (U.S.)