

# IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT LAND DESCRIPTIONS

## TOWNSHIP SURVEY INFORMATION

DIAGRAM SHOWING HOW SECTIONS ARE NUMBERED IN A TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

A CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP  
CONTAINS 36 SECTIONS OF LAND  
1 MILE SQUARE

A CIVIL OR POLITICAL TOWNSHIP  
MAY BE LARGER OR SMALLER THAN  
A CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP.

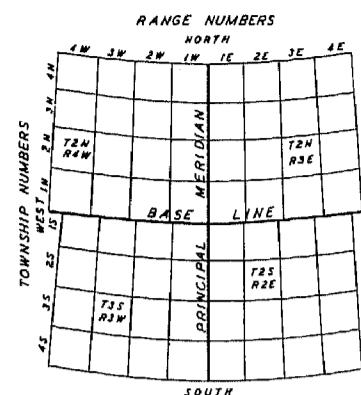


FIGURE 6  
TOWNSHIPS

Theoretically, a township is a square tract of land with sides of six miles each, and containing 36 sections, each one mile square. Years ago, when the original survey was made by the government engineers, they found it was impossible to keep a true north and south direction of township lines, and still keep getting township sections of 36 square miles. As they surveyed toward the north pole, they were constantly running out of land, because the township lines were converging toward the north pole. If you will turn to one of the township maps in this plat book, you will notice that on the north and the west of each township, there are divisions of land which show odd acreages. In some townships, these odd acreages are called government lots (because they were given a lot number). They are called FORTIES OR EIGHTIES. It was at the option of the original government surveyors as to whether they would call these odd acreages government lots, or fractional forties and eighths.

The reason for these odd acreages is that the government surveyors adjusted for shortages of land which developed as they went north, by making fractional forties, eighths or government lots out of the land on the west side of a township, and the same for the land on the north side

FIGURE 7

of a township to keep east and west lines running parallel. In other words it was impossible to fit full squares into a circle. Townships sometimes vary in size from the regularly laid-out township, (see figure 6). Suppose a river like the Illinois in figure 6 is a river separating two counties. The land north and west of the river could be a township in one county, the land south and east could be a township in another county. Which ever county the land is in, it still retains the same section, township and range numbers for purposes of land descriptions.

Each township has a township number and also a range number (sometimes more than one of each if the township is oversized, or a combination of more than one township and range). Government surveying of townships is run from starting lines called base lines and principal meridians. Each township has a township number. This number is the number of rows or tiers of townships that a township is either north or south of the base line. Also each township has a range number. This number is the number of rows or tiers of townships that a township is either east or west of the principal meridian (See figure 7). EVER DESCRIPTION OF LAND SHOULD SHOW THE SECTION, TOWNSHIP AND RANGE IT IS LOCATED IN.

TOWNSHIPS MAY BE EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH OF THE BASE LINE.  
RANGES MAY BE EITHER EAST OR WEST OF THE PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN.

## METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTIONS AND EXPLANATION OF DIRECTION IN TERMS OF DEGREES

WHAT IS A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION? It is a description of a tract of land by starting at a given point, running so many feet a certain direction, so many feet another direction etc., back to the point of beginning. EXAMPLE: In figure 1 notice the small tract of land outlined. The following would be a typical metes and bounds description of that tract of land: "Begin at the center of the section, thence north 660 feet, thence east 660 feet, thence south 660 feet, thence west 660 feet, back to the point of beginning, and containing 10 acres, being a part of Sec. No. etc."

IMPORTANT: To locate a tract of land from a metes and bounds description, start from the point of beginning, and follow it out (do not read it backwards as in the case of a rectangular description).

The small tract of land just located by the above metes and bounds description could also be described as the SW 1/4 SW 1/4 NE 1/4 of the section. In most cases, the same tract of land may be described in different ways. The rectangular system of describing and locating land is shown in figures 2, 3, 4 and 5. The most simple and almost always used when possible.

A circle contains 360 degrees. Explanation: If you start at the center of a circle and run 360 straight lines on equal angle apart to the edge of the circle, so as to divide the circle into 360 equal parts, THE DIFFERENCE OF DIRECTION BETWEEN EACH LINE IS ONE DEGREE.

In land descriptions, degree readings are not a measure of distance. They are combined with either North or South, to show the direction a line runs from a given point.

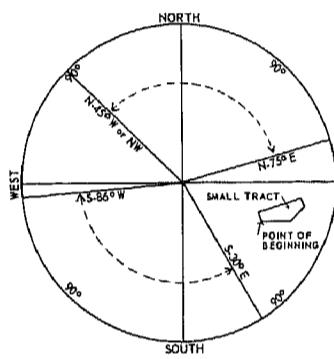


FIGURE 8

PED

## EXAMPLE OF A LAND DESCRIPTION IN TERMS OF DEGREES

At this time, study figure 8 for a minute or two. In figure 8, notice the small tract. The following metes and bound description will locate this small tract. "Begin at the beginning point, thence N 20 degrees west-200 feet, thence N 73 degrees east-1320 feet, thence S 30 degrees east-240 feet, thence S 45 degrees west-420 feet, thence west-900 feet back to the point of beginning, containing so many acres, etc.

Also, see page 5

# TRIENNIAL ATLAS & PLAT BOOK

## PORTAGE COUNTY

OHIO

1973

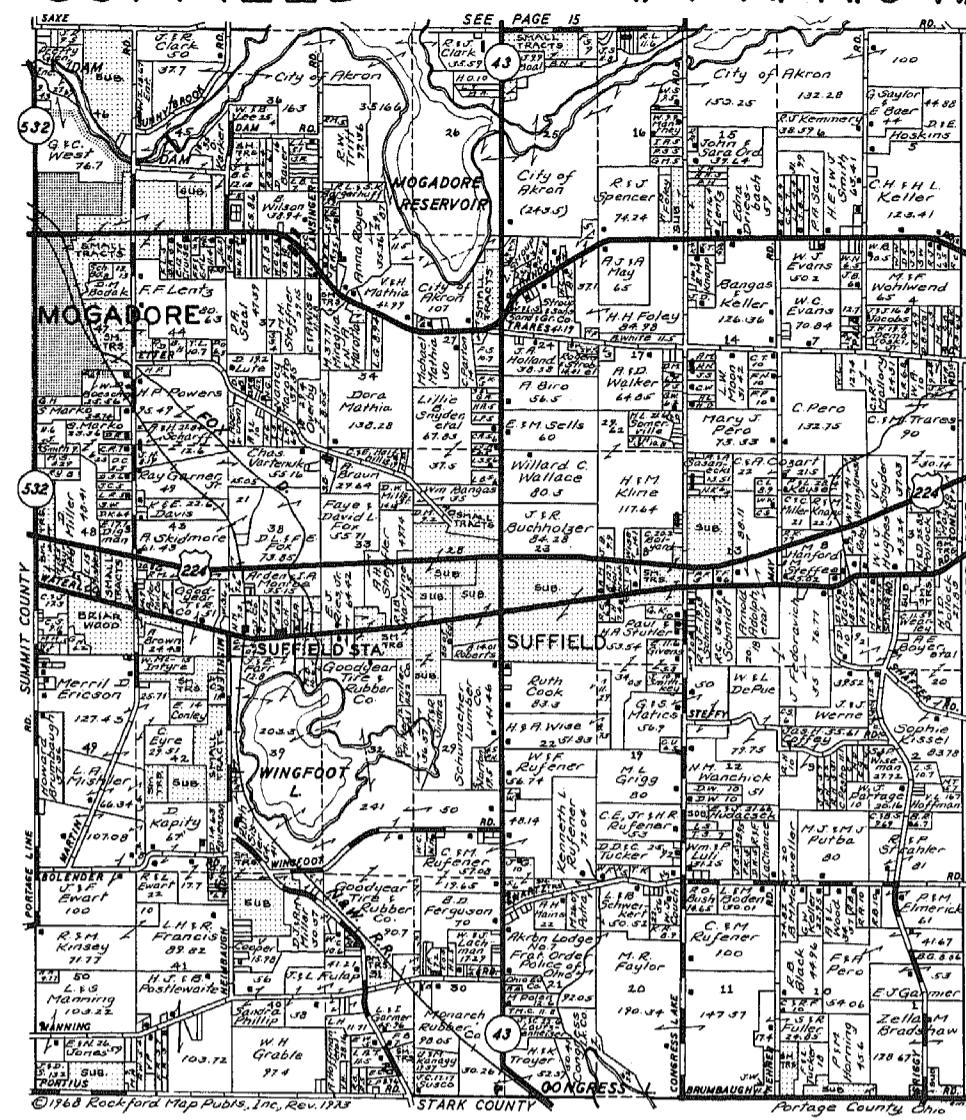
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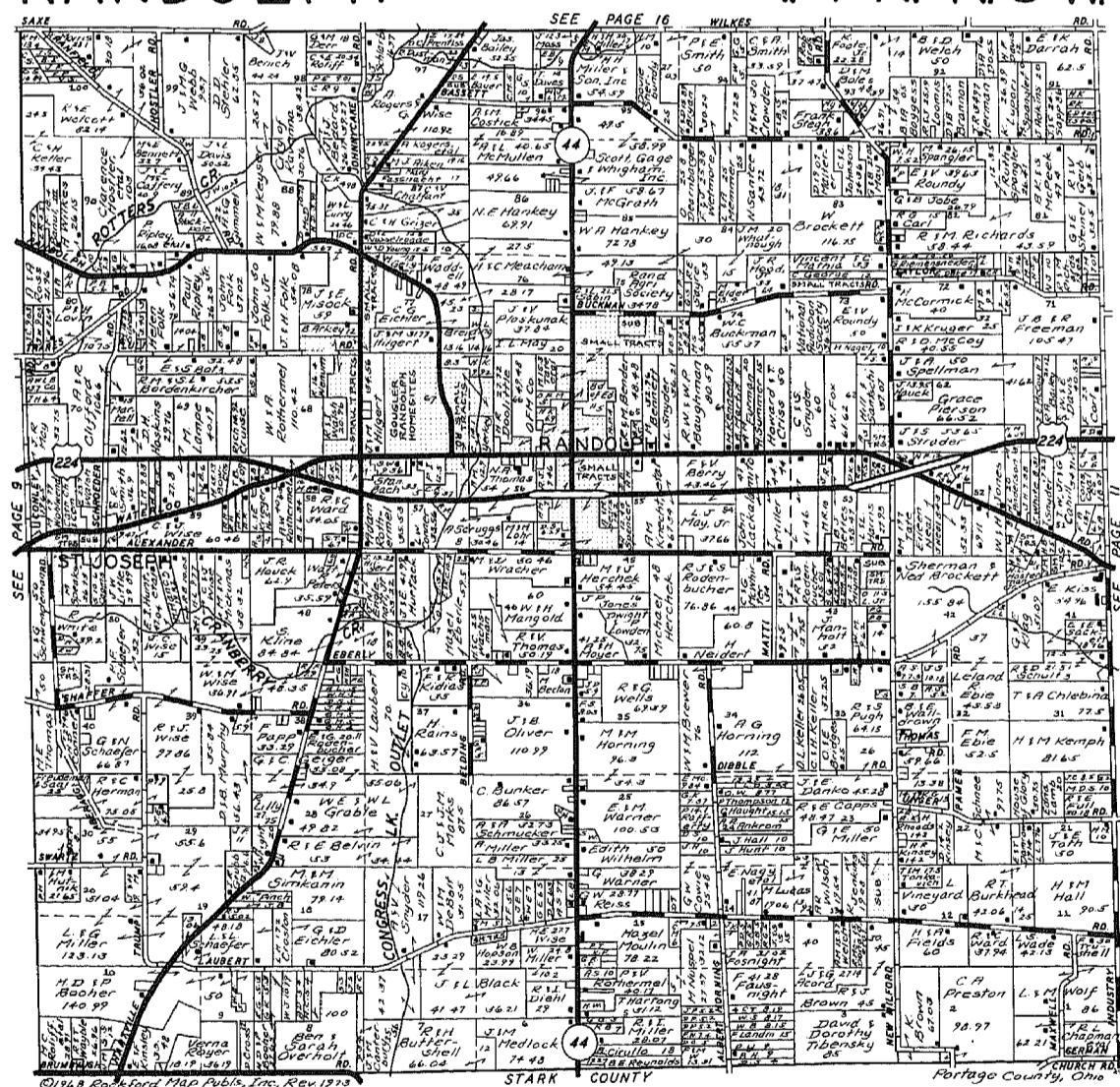
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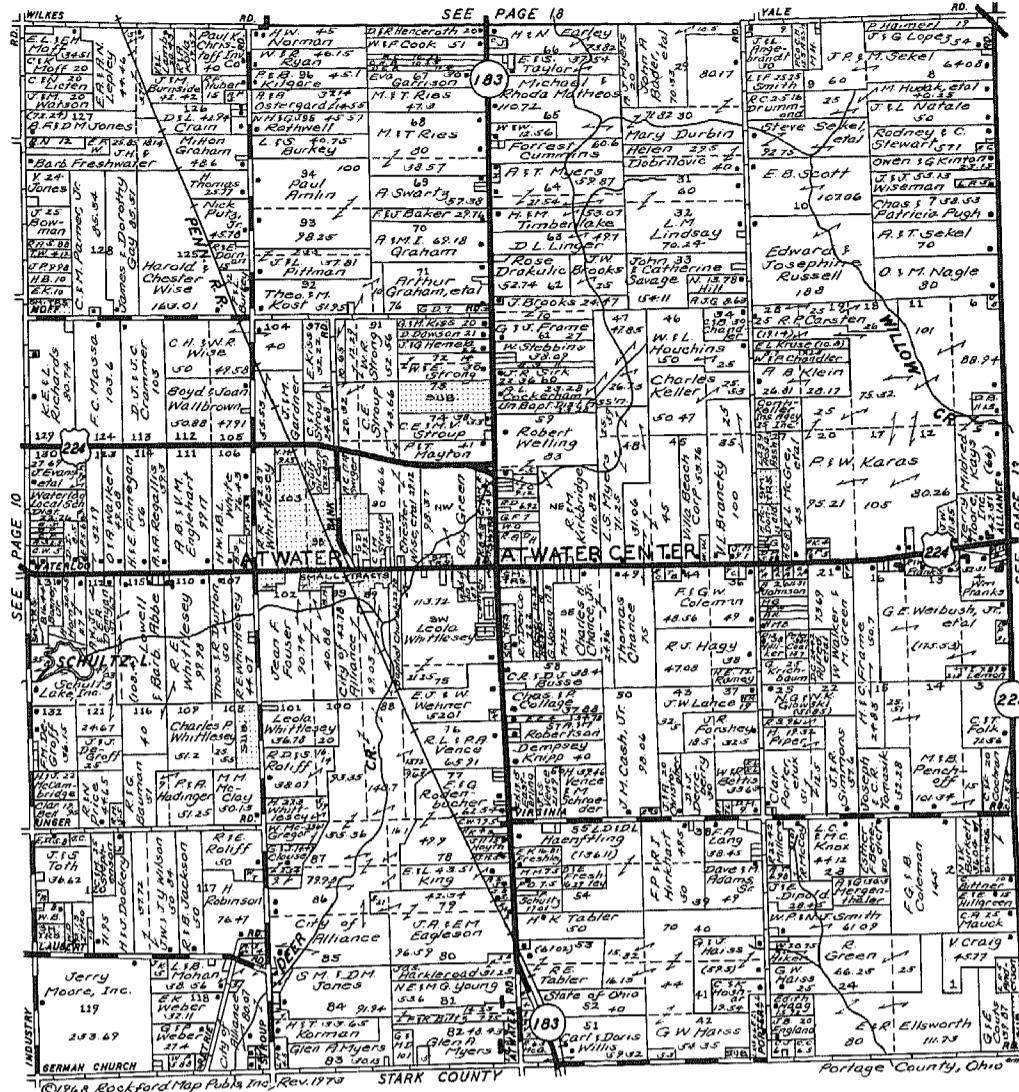
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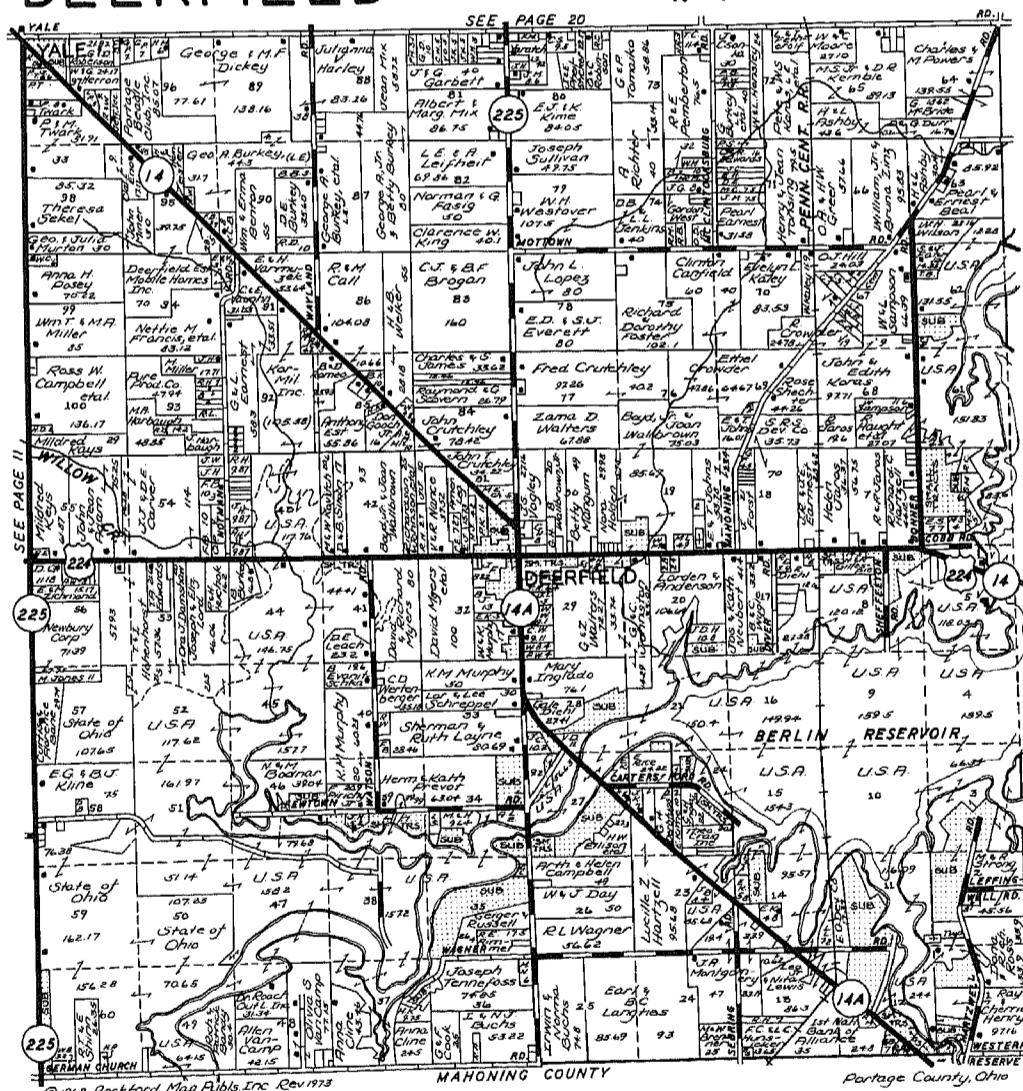
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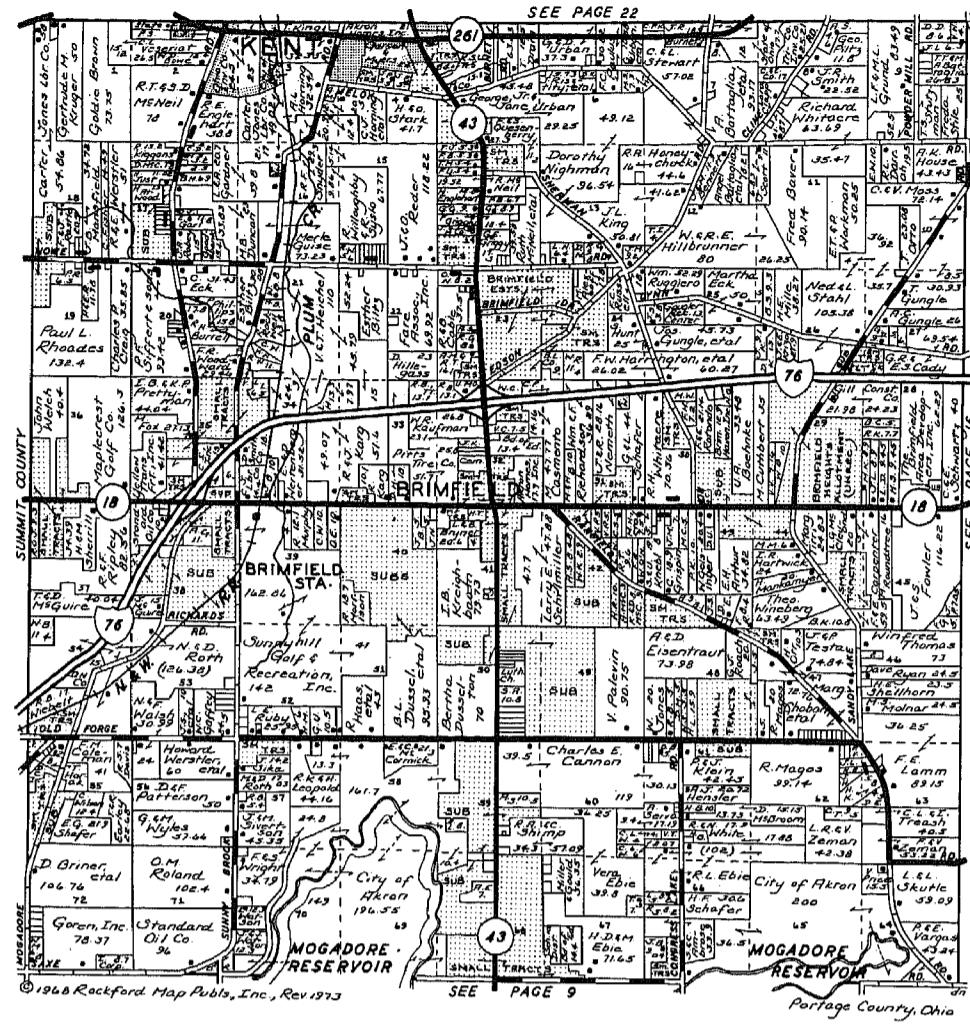
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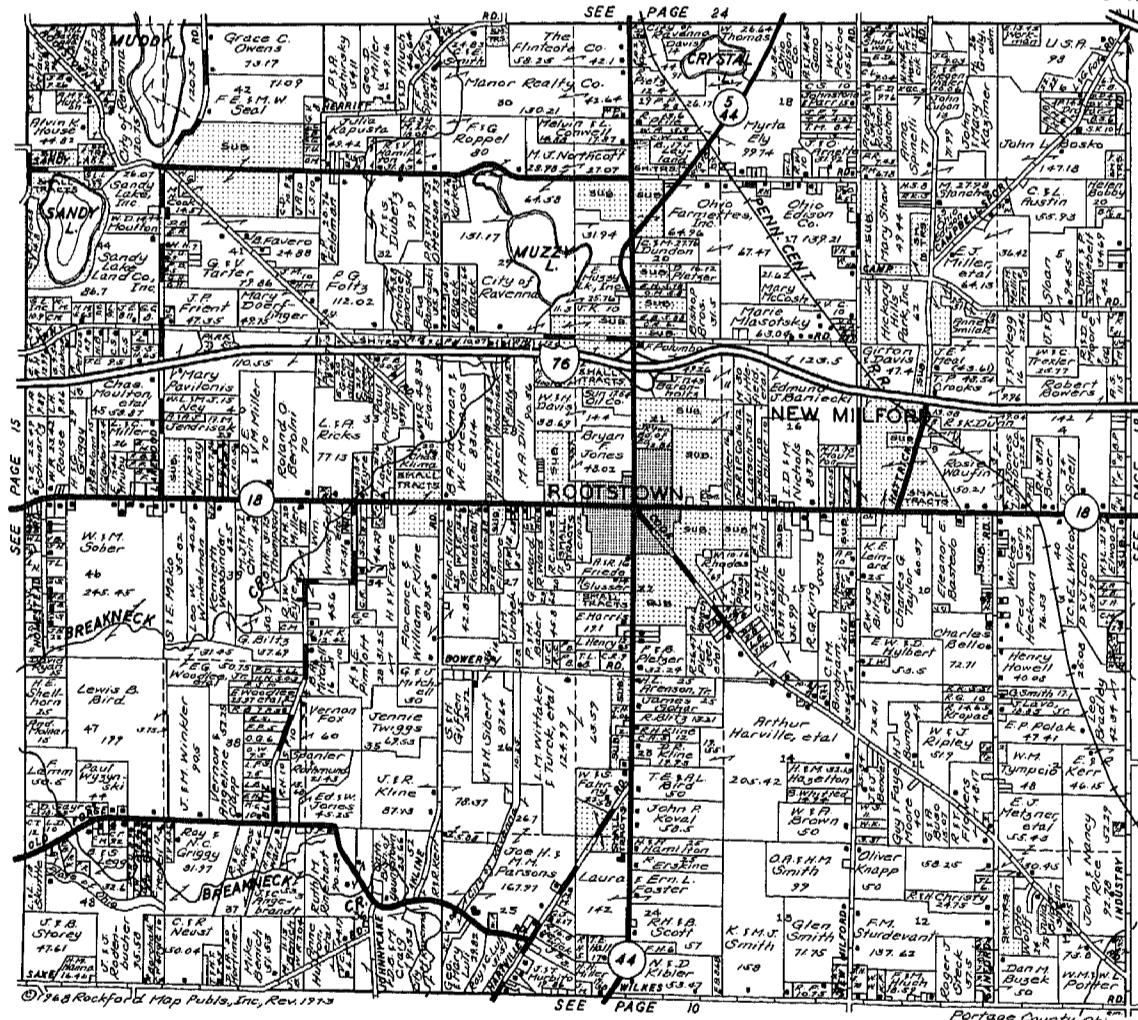
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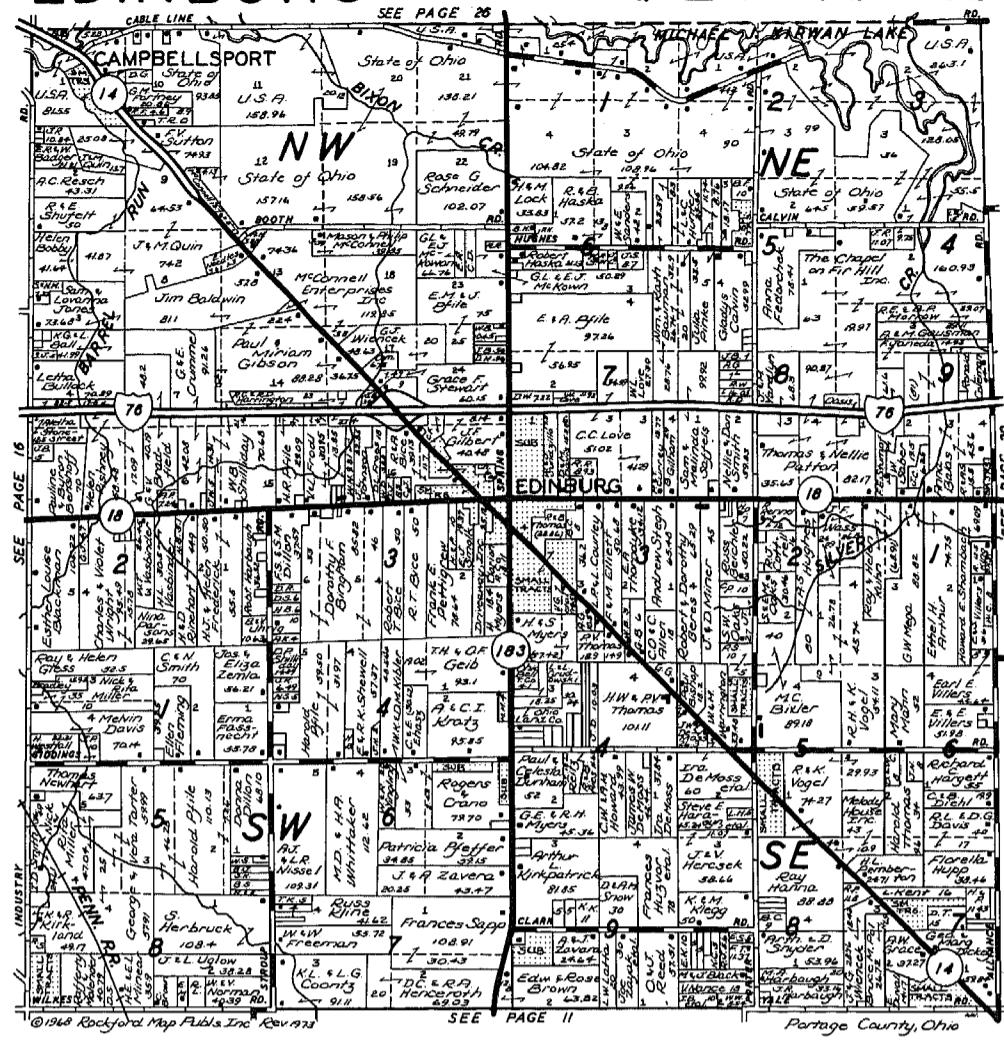
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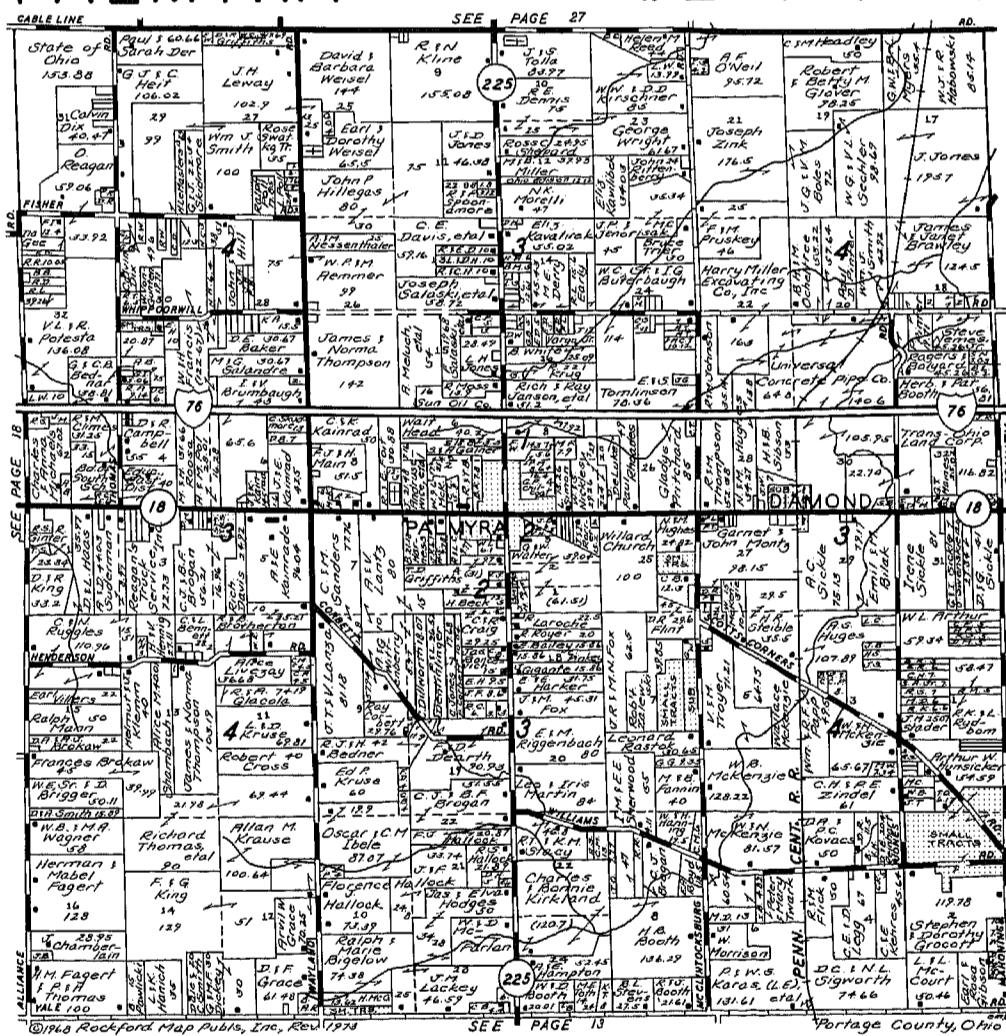
# ROOTSTOWN T. 2 N-R. 8 W.



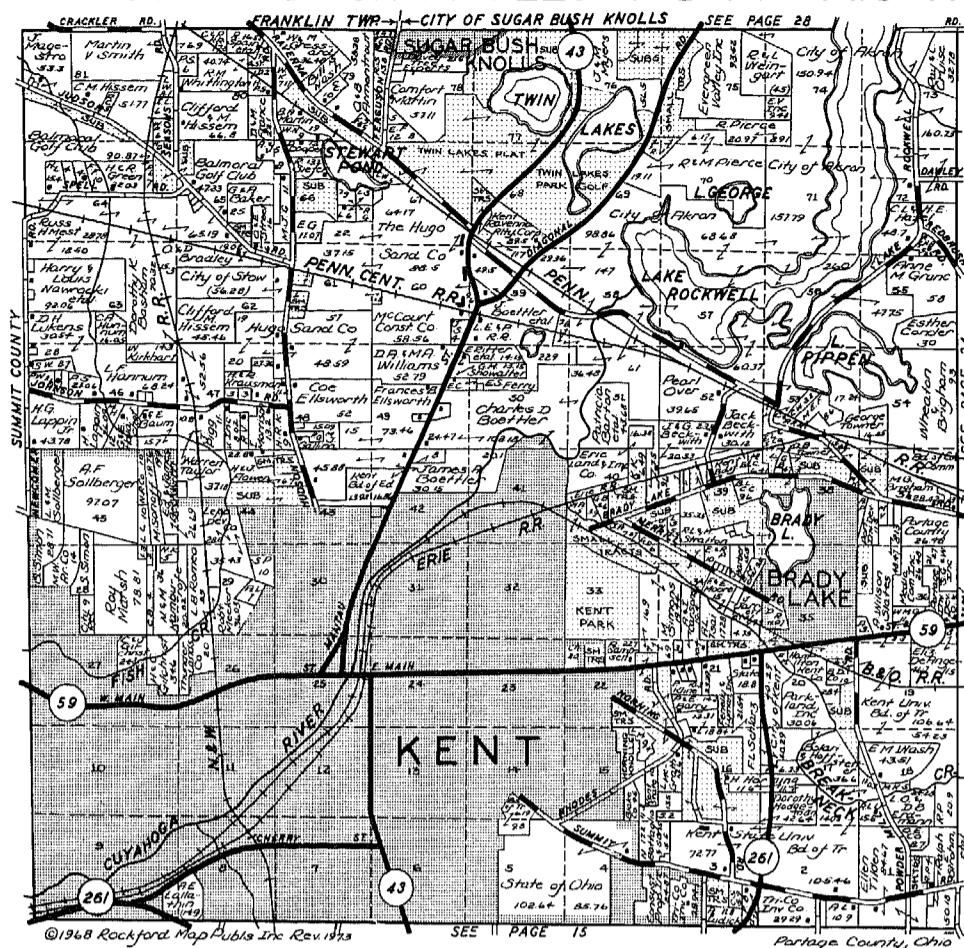
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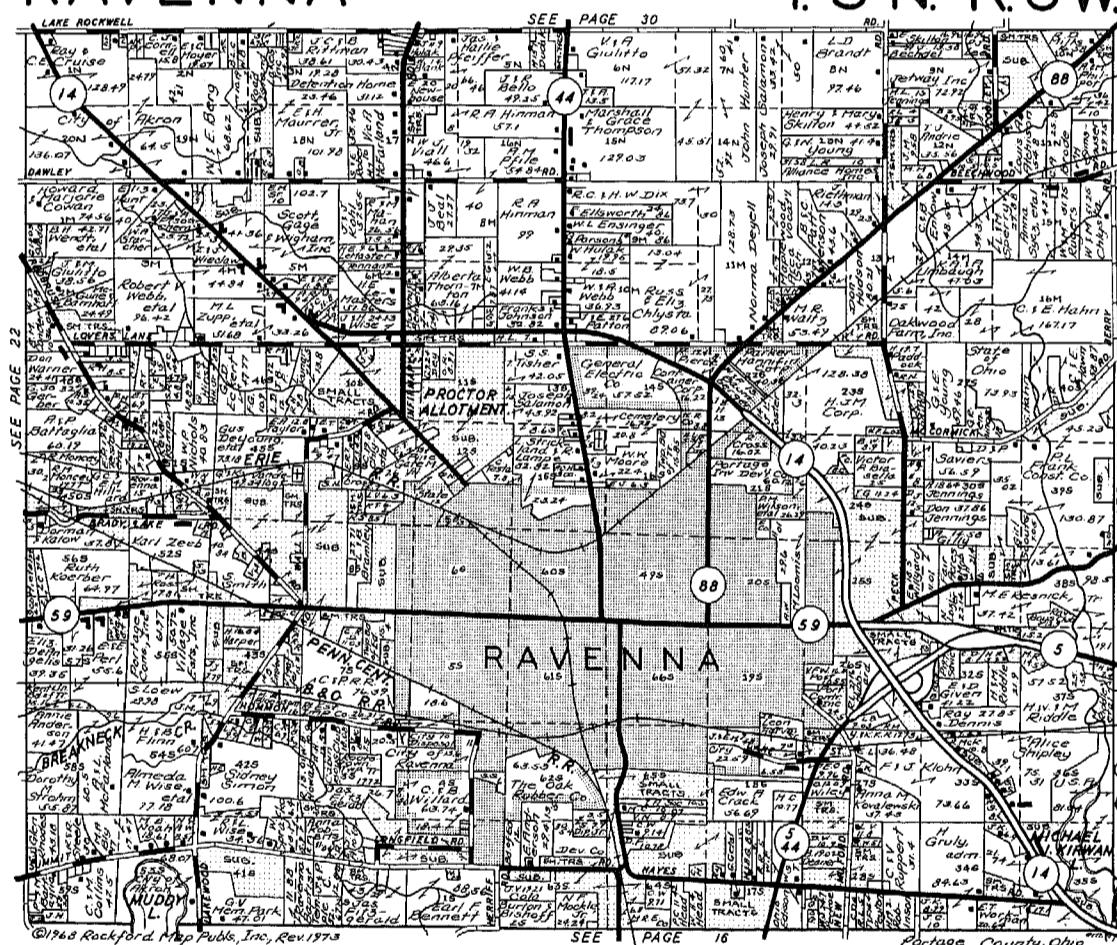
# PALMYRA T. 2 N.-R. 6 W.



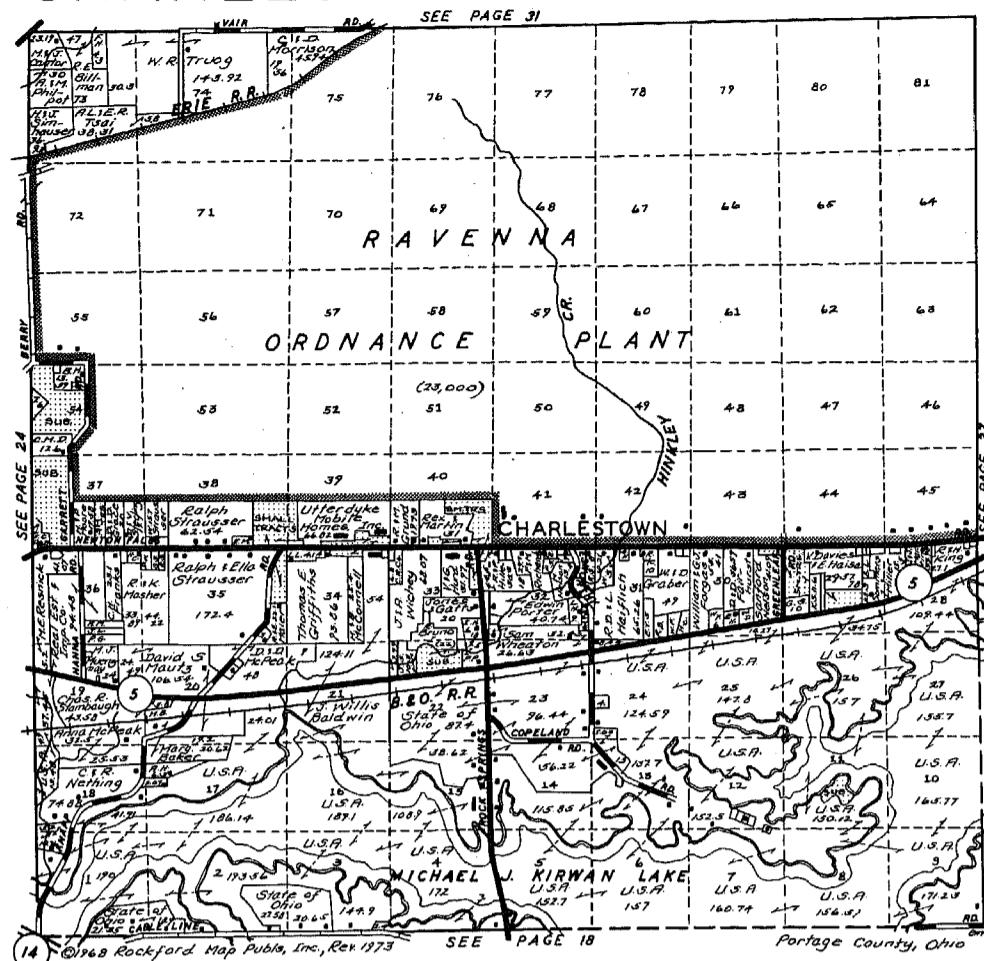
**FRANKLIN**  
SO. PART  
CITY OF  
**SUGAR BUSH KNOLLS T. 3 N. - R. 9 W.**



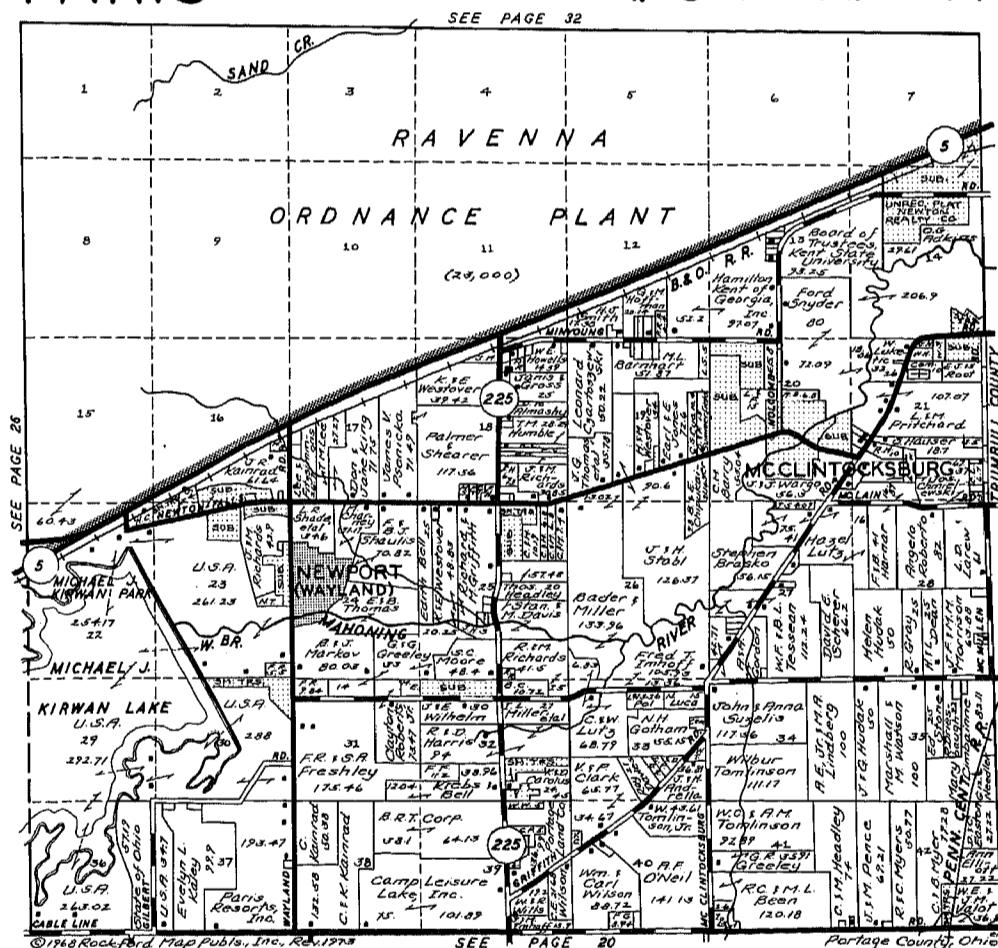
**RAVENNA**



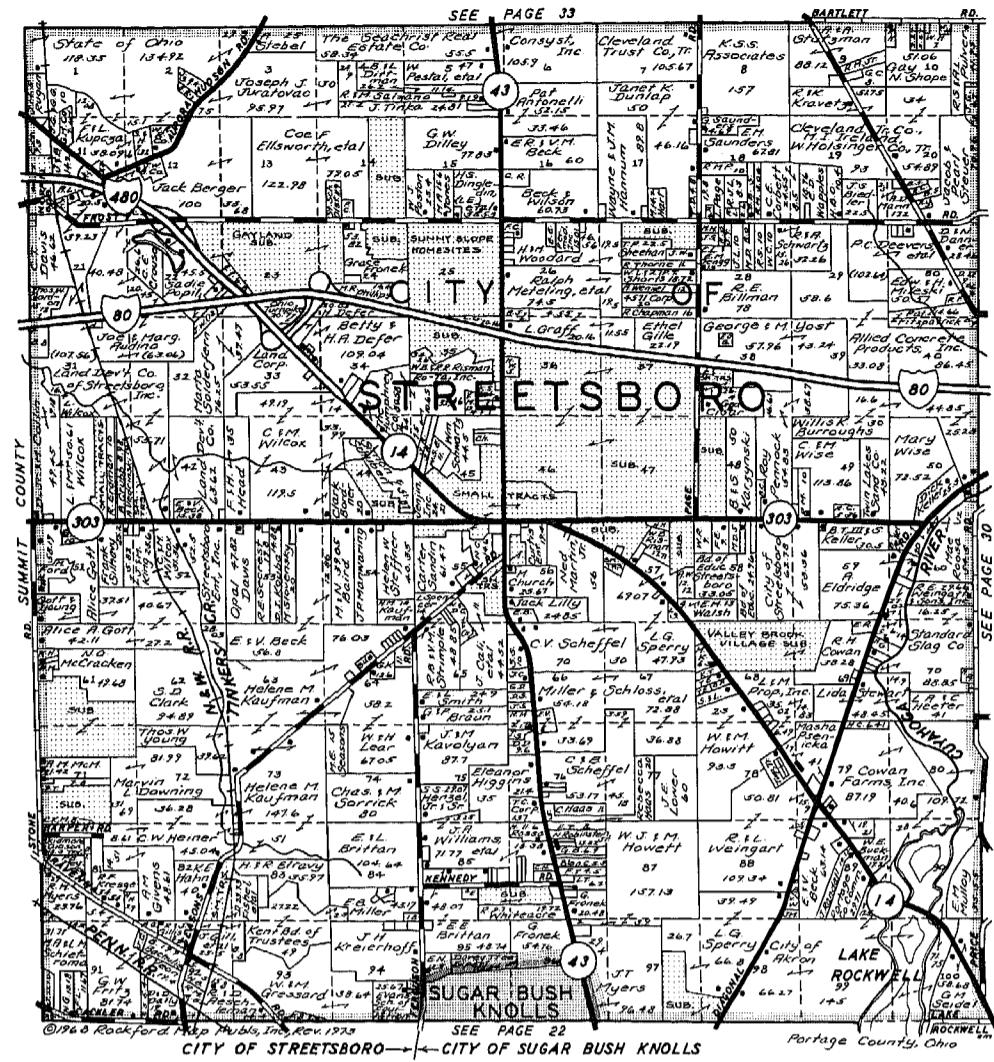
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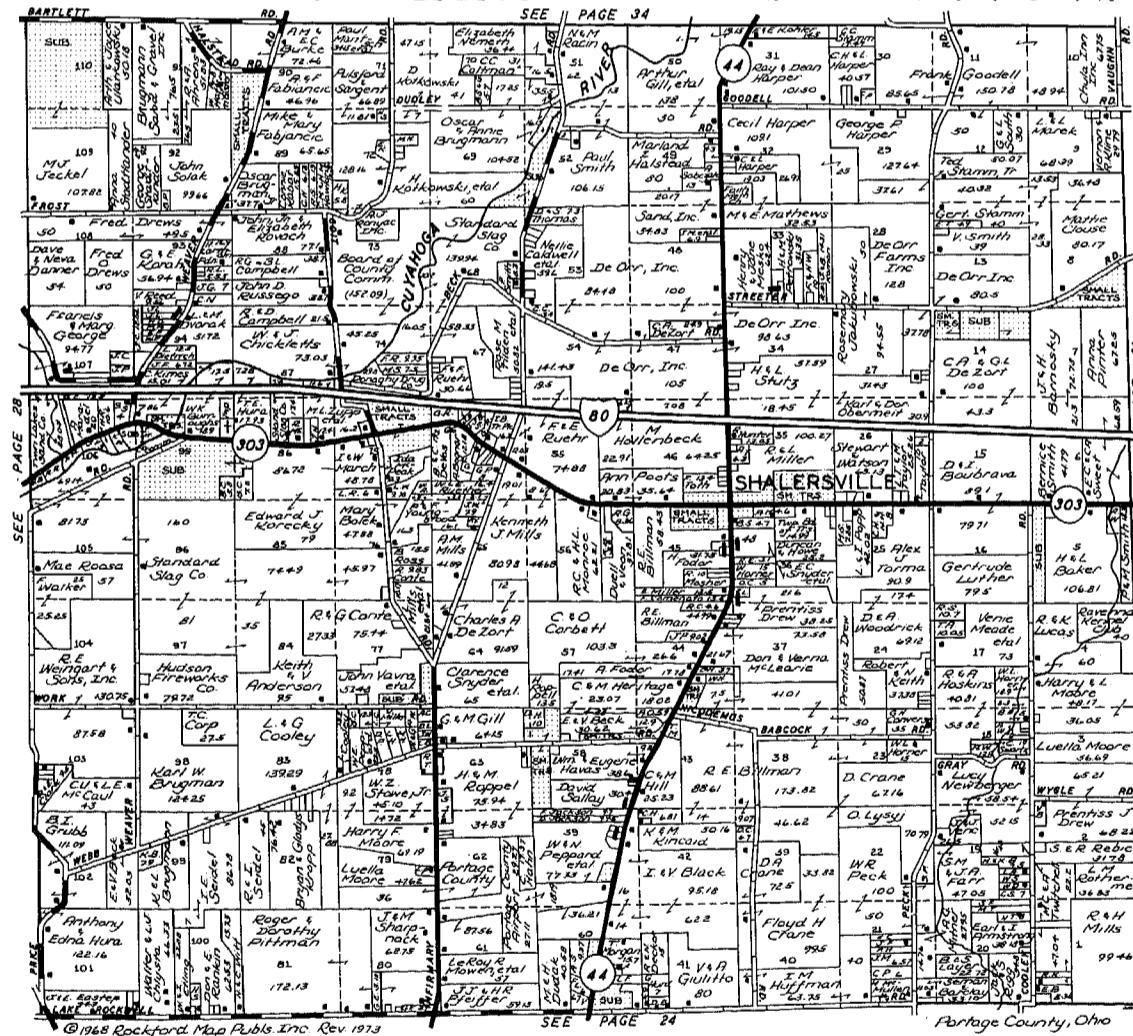
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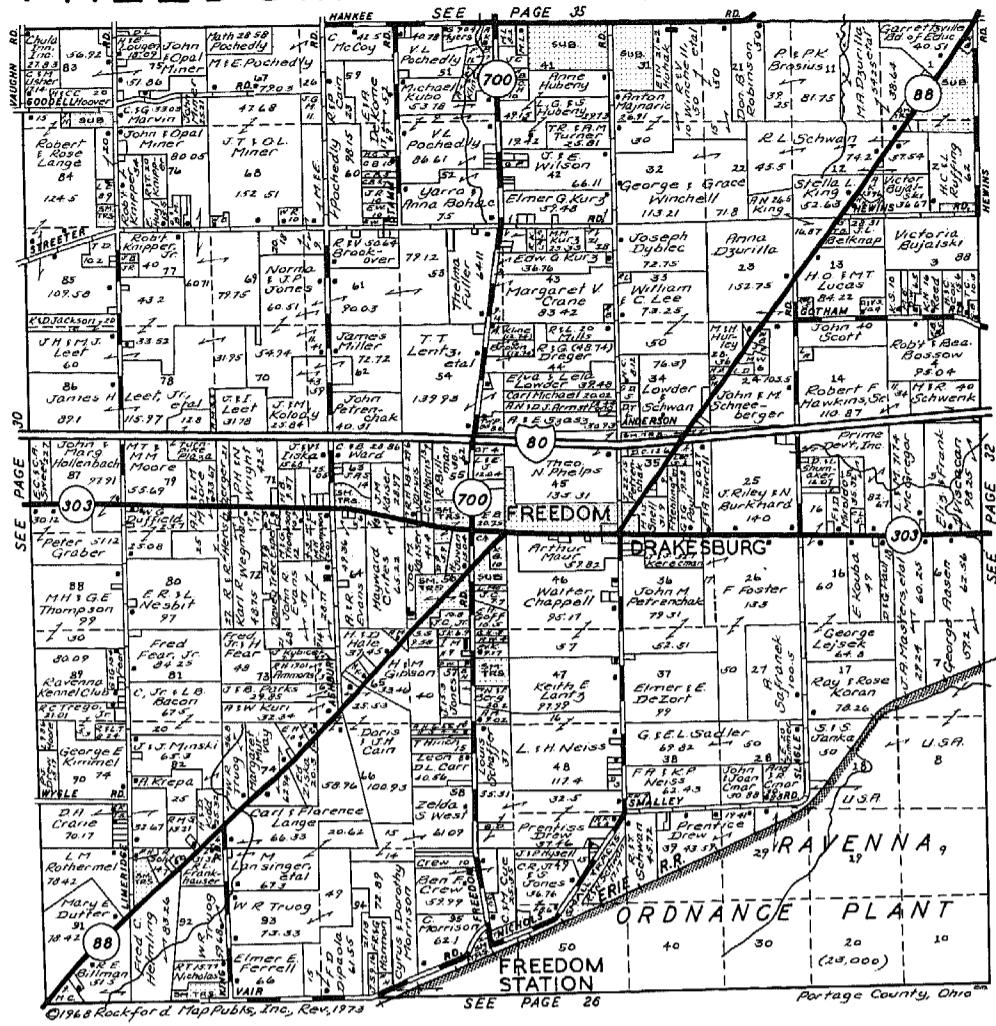
CITY OF STREETSBORO  
NO. PART OF CITY OF SUGAR BUSH KNOLLS T. 4 N. - R. 9 W.



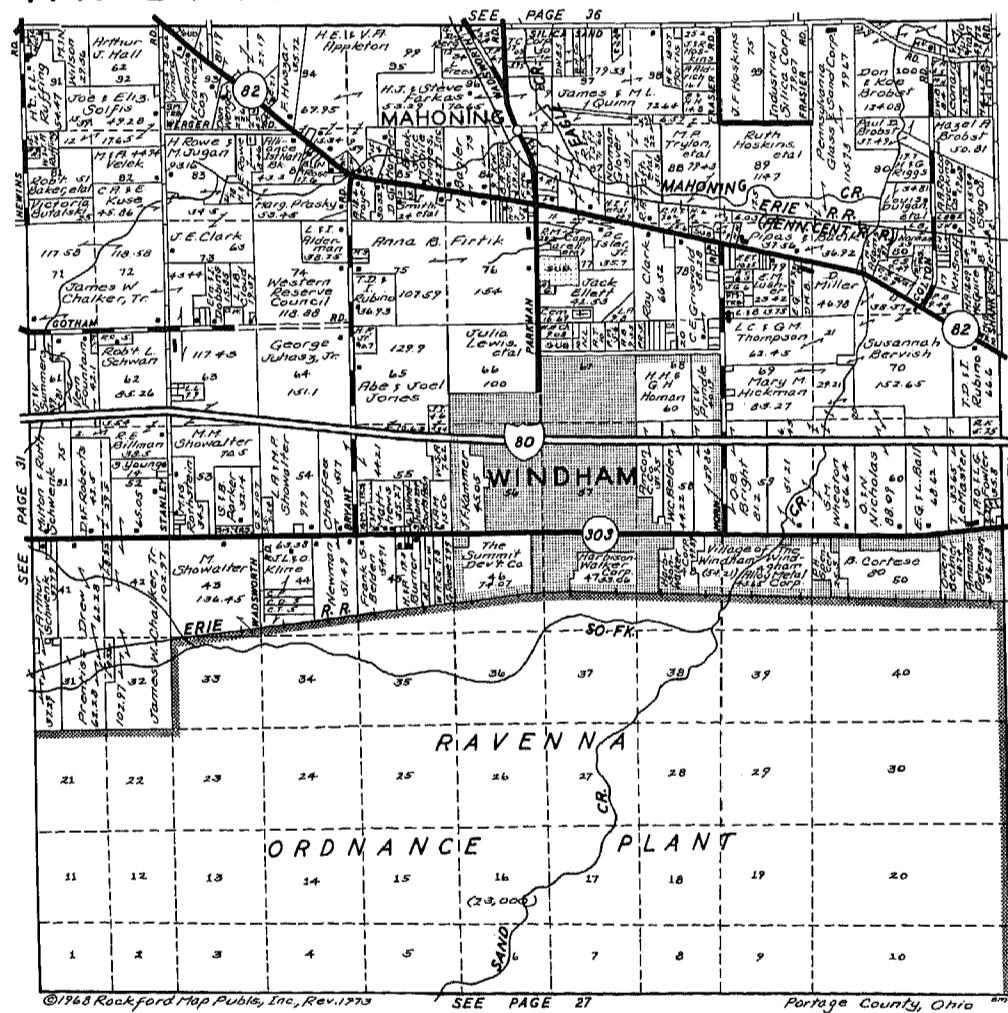
SHALERSVILLE T. 4 N-R. 8 W.



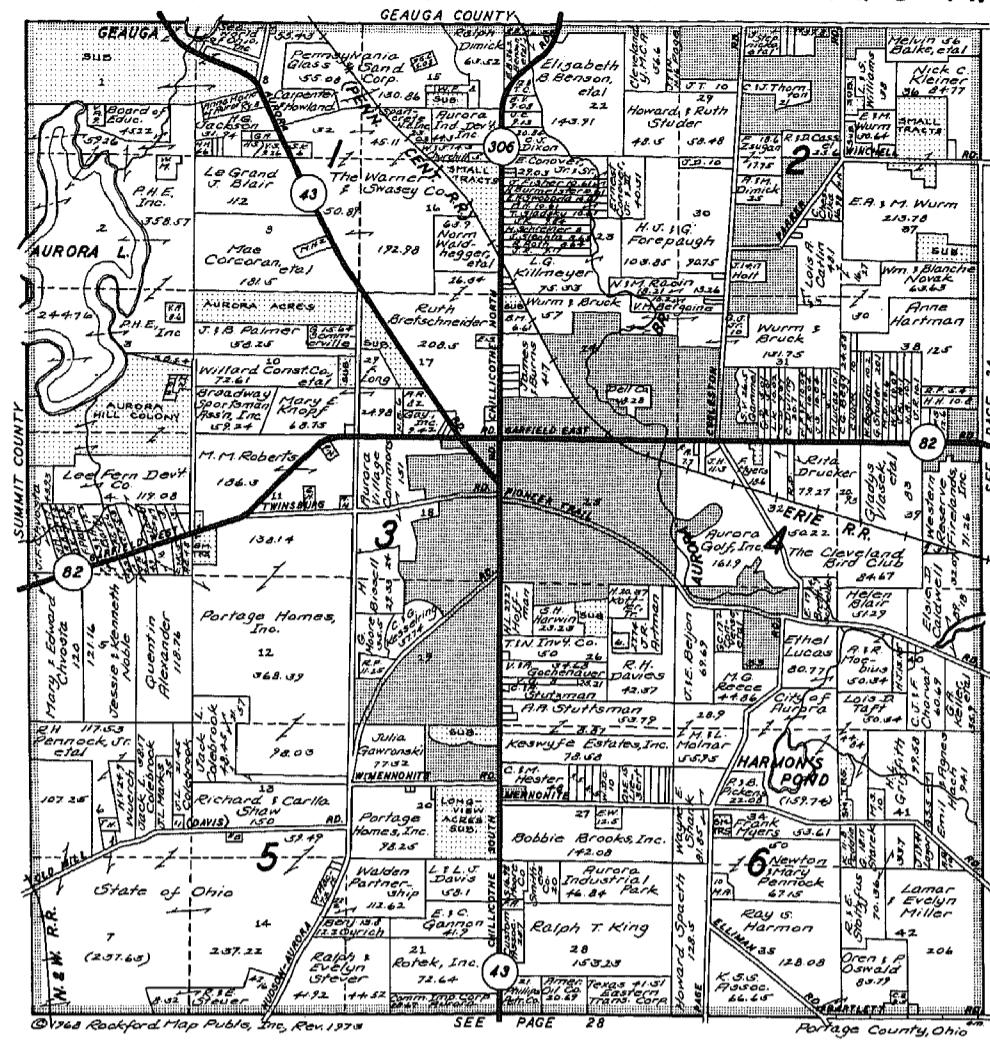
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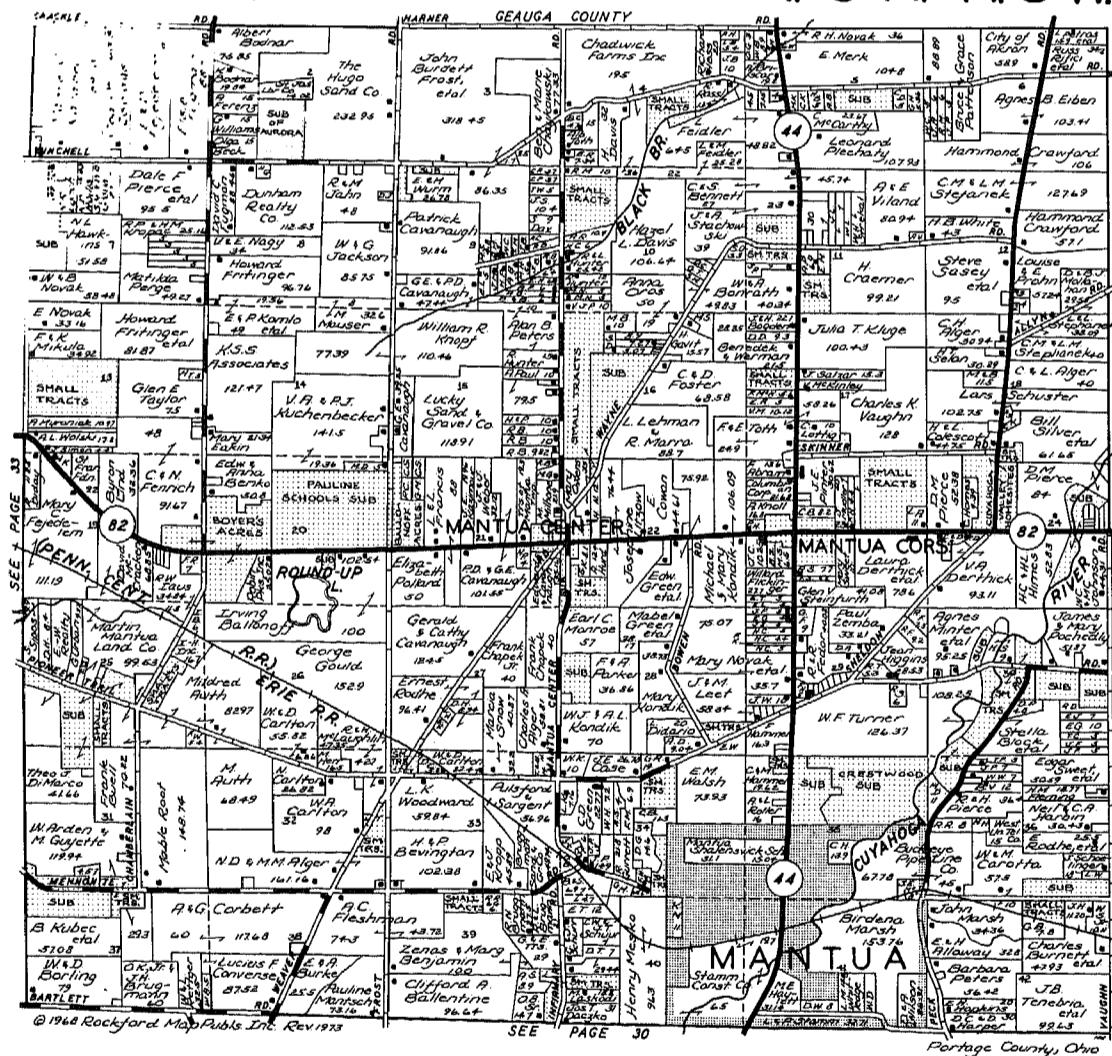
# WINDHAM T. 4 N-R. 6 W.



# AURORA T. 5 N-R. 9 W.

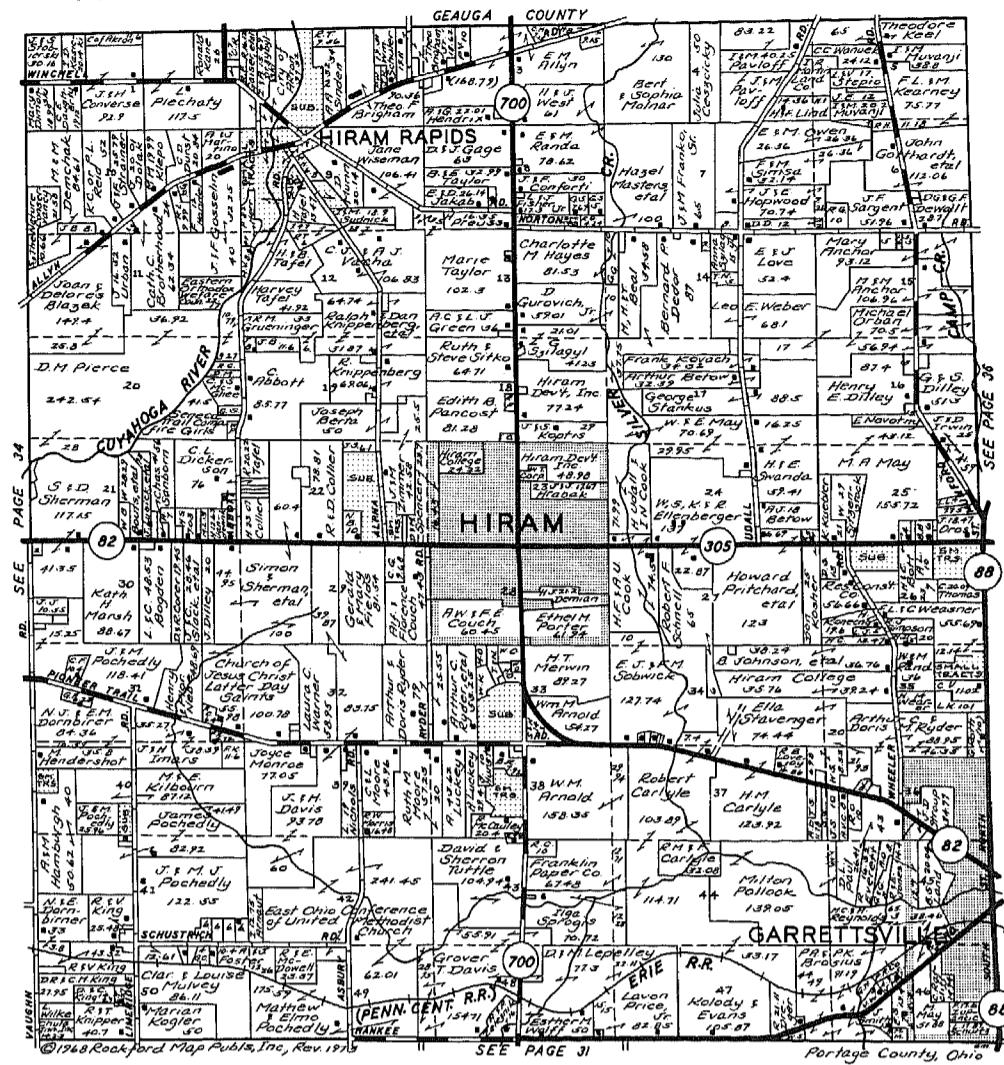


# MANTUA T. 5 N-R. 8 W.



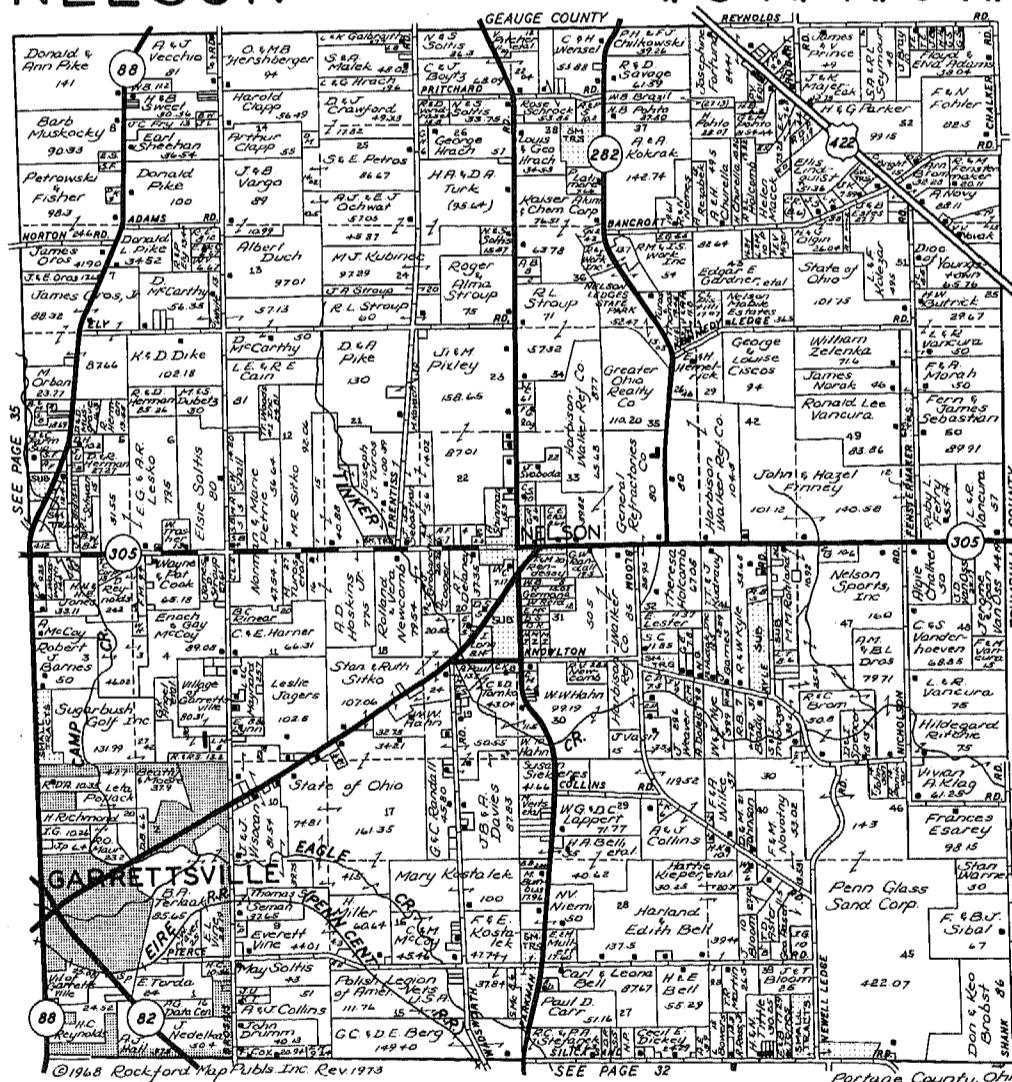
# HIRAM

T. 5 N-R. 7 W.

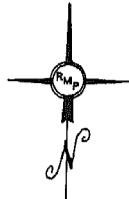


# NELSON

T. 5 N-R. 6 W.



GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP  
PORTAGE COUNTY  
OHIO



SCALE 0 1 2 3 4 MILES

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