

Buckeye Pipe Line Pumping Station

A little-known industry served by the Erie Railroad's Lisbon Branch in the early 20th century was the Buckeye Pipe Line Company. In 1886 John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company created Buckeye Pipe Line to transport Standard crude oil. The original Buckeye pipe lines were constructed in Cleveland and the northern Ohio region to move crude to various midwest refining, storage and railroad shipping points.

In the early 1900's Buckeye began securing right-of-way for pipe line construction from northern Ohio southward through Mahoning and Columbiana counties, with an eventual goal of reaching western Pennsylvania.

Pipe Line Secured.

The Buckeye Pipe Line Co. has been taking up rights of way through the county for a pipe line to be run from Leetonia to Georgetown, Pa. The line will run through Salem, Fairfield, Elkrun, Middleton, St. Clair and Liverpool townships, and will be as nearly an air line as it is possible to make it. It will be about 22 miles in length.

The agents have already secured practically all the rights of way from the state line to Clarkson, and the northern part of the county is now being worked. Heretofore the oil has been tanked and shipped by rail. The nearest pumping station is Georgetown and the line will run to that point. It is expected that the remainder of the rights of way will have been secured by the end of this week.

Leetonia Reporter 7-8-1904

By 1906 construction on the proposed pipe line reached the Leetonia area. Local newspapers began reporting construction activity, with a focus on construction work at an important pipe line pumping station southeast of Greenford.

The Buckeye Pipe Line Co. unloaded several cars of pipe here this week which will be laid east of us in a few days. Men are still in demand.

Leetonia Reporter 8-3-1906

Four boilers have been unloaded at the pumping station north of town and preparations are being made to build a concrete stack 90 feet high.

Leetonia Reporter 11-30-1906

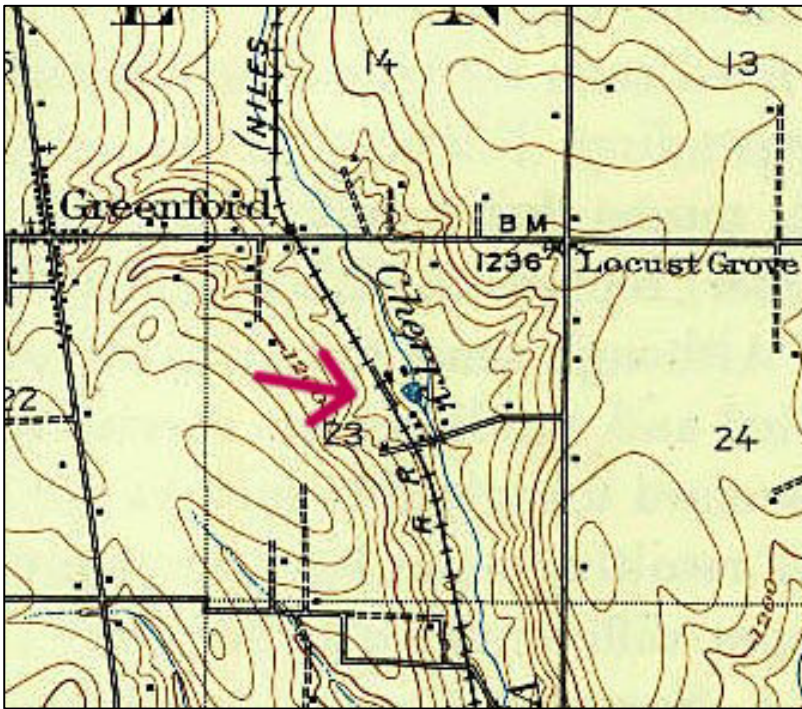
By January, the tall stack was nearing completion, and work on numerous pumping station buildings was progressing.

The concrete chimney at the oil pumping station is now complete and is a grand piece of workmanship. It reaches skyward 110 feet.

W. A. Cox has secured the contract of plastering the five buildings for the Buckeye Pipe Line company just north of our village. This is the result of being alive to the situation, notwithstanding the proverb, "All things come to those who wait."

Leetonia Reporter 1-25-1907

The pumping station was situated along the east side of the Lisbon Branch, about $\frac{1}{2}$ track mile south of the Greenford depot (present day South Range Road), near railroad MP 17.9 (from Niles). In the map at left (US Geological Survey Topographical Map, Lisbon Quadrangle, July 1909), the red arrow points to the rail siding serving the pump house and the cluster of small buildings nearby.



The postcard image below (post marked at Canfield, March 26, 1907) looks to the



west across the pumping station area and shows the station under construction. In the foreground is the base of a large storage tank and a trail of pipes awaiting placement. Several large, brick pumping buildings, with the 110 ft. stack, can be seen beyond. The Erie

Lisbon Branch right-of-way is discernible as a thin, darkened line in shadow passing behind those brick buildings.

By February 1907, the Leetonia newspaper was reporting near completion of the pumping complex. It's probable much of the construction materials (pipes, bricks, lumber, boilers, pumps, steel storage tank sections) were delivered to the site by rail.

That Greenford Pumping Plant.

The 110-foot concrete smokestack for the power house at the Buckeye pipe line pumping station, northeast of Greenford, has been completed, and the bricklaying on the buildings resumed. Four of the battery of 12 boilers have arrived, and will soon be placed in position.

Three houses are being built for the accommodation of some of the employees at the station, these being equipped with electric lights and bath room fixtures and other conveniences. These houses are located at a safe distance from the pumping plant, so that in case of fire they can be saved.

Leetonia Reporter 2-8-1907

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The foundation for a huge tank for storing oil has been started, which will be 100 feet across and 30 feet high. This is also located at a safe distance from the houses and pumping station. A man has been located here who walks the pipe line from here to the Ohio river every week, repairing leaks as they occur. When the pumping plant is in operation there will be three shifts of men, each set working eight hours.

Through March and April 1907 work continued on the Greenford pumping station and the pipe line extending beyond Greenford to the southeast. The Leetonia newspaper carried numerous reports of that progress.

W. J. Davidson, the right-of-way man for the Buckeye Pipe Line company, is here making arrangements to have another line laid east of here, and is here paying the farmers for the right of way to cross their land a second time, running along the line of the first survey.

The Buckeye Pipe Line company are now working on the pipe line south of Greenford.

Leetonia Reporter 4-19-1907

The Buckeye Pipe Line company have about 15 teams hauling pipe and about 100 men working on the line. Sixty men are employed along the line

Leetonia Reporter 3-8-1907

Leetonia Reporter 4-26-1907

The three following articles appeared in the May 3, 1907, edition of the Reporter, announcing the startup of the pumping operation.

The pumping plant near Greenford has progressed to the point where the pumps were started on Friday, and oil is now being forced through the lines of the Buckeye Pipe Line Co. from that station. The tanks which are being erected are not entirely completed, but will soon be. The pumps are being operated night and day, two shifts of men being employed.

The pumps at the pumping station north of here were started Friday and oil is now being forced to Morgantown, W. Va.

Today the Buckeye pipe line gang leaves and in a few days the Italian camp will be broken up. Some are now beginning to leave.

New employment opportunities with Buckeye appear to have been fairly attractive at the time. As the two following articles report, Mr. John Carroll, the Erie Railroad

operator at the Washingtonville depot, took leave of his steady railroad job in April 1907 to consider working for Buckeye. Six months later, John and his new wife (the former Helen Roller of Greenford, married in September) moved into one of the new houses for Buckeye employees at the pumping station.

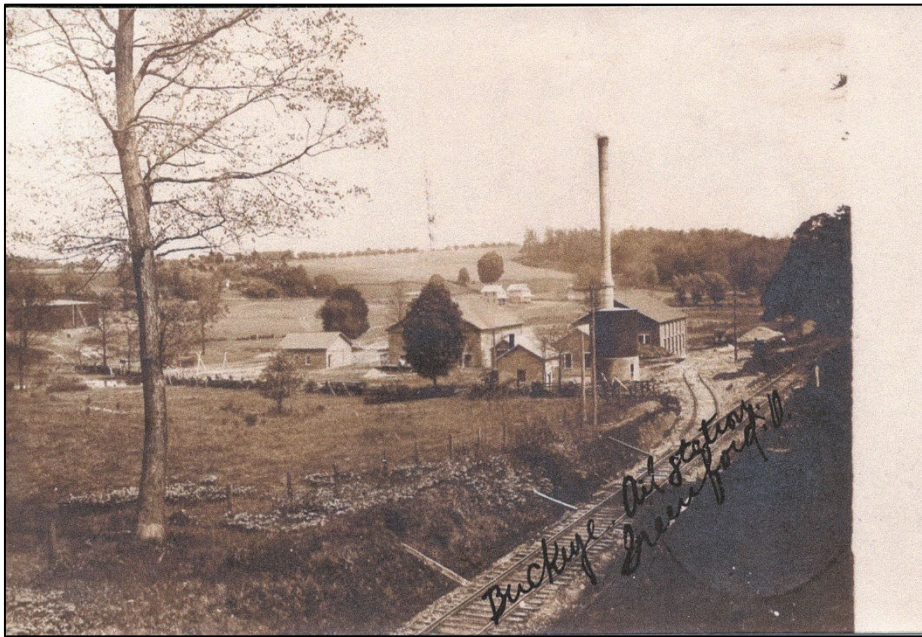
John Carroll, the operator at the Erie depot is spending a week or two in the service of the Buckeye Pipe Line company, and if satisfactory may continue, during which time our former operator, A. L. Taylor, will have charge of the railroad.

Leetonia Reporter 4-19-1907

Mr and Mrs John Carroll have gone to make their home at the pumping station north of town.

Leetonia Reporter 10-4-1907

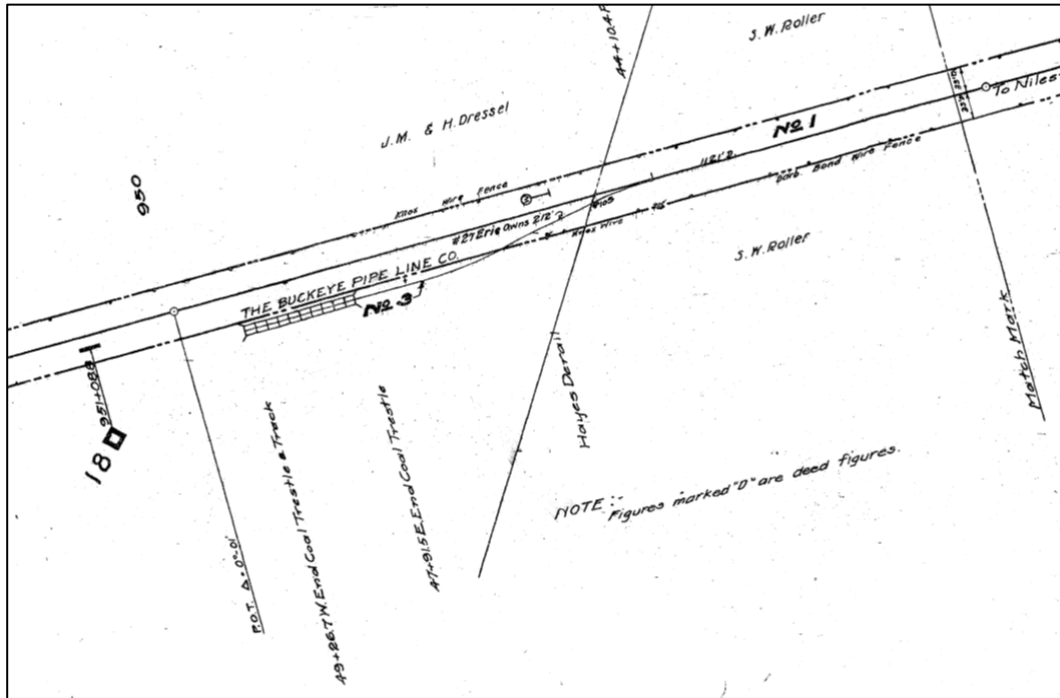
With pumps and pipe line now operating, the Erie began delivering a steady supply of



coal to the pumping station. Coal was burned in boilers to produce steam, which powered pipe line pumps. This postcard view (ca 1910) looks southeast. Note the siding for coal hoppers beside the boiler house. At far left, note the large oil storage tank (compare to page 2 image above). In the distance, at center image, the white houses might be homes built for Buckeye workers.



This postcard image (perhaps a bit later than the preceding image) looks more eastward, across the Lisbon Branch tracks. The siding to the pumping station appears again in the foreground, along with a second large storage tank in the distance on the hillside, far left.



The drawing at left is from the 1918 Erie RR Valuation Map of the Lisbon Branch at the pumping station just north of MP 18 (north is to the right). Note the coal trestle at the end of the siding serving Buckeye Pipe Line Company.

With the completion of construction and the startup of the pumping operation, local newspaper articles about the Buckeye company became infrequent—perhaps a case of pipe line activity now “out of sight (underground), out of mind.” After 1907, occasional newspaper references to the pipe line are generally about local citizens at work on the pipe line rather than on the operation of the business, itself.

John Feicht and Erwin Reichert, employees of the Buckeye Pipe Line company, at Greenford, were fixing leaks in the pipe line.

Leetonia Reporter 11-13-1908

In 1911 we find a false report of pumping station closure, corrected two months later.

LOCUST GROVE.

Sept 27 - G O Calvin is painting his silo

J D Feicht lost a horse last Friday.

The pumping station shut down for good and the families have to move.

Leetonia Reporter 9-29-1911

William Feicht and family have moved in with his father, J. D. Feicht.

The pumping station is running full blast again.

Leetonia Reporter 11-3-1911

In 1913 we find an interesting post about Mr. Feicht employed on another pipe line job.

J. D. Feicht and Earl Hendricks are mowing the right of way for the Buckeye pumping station to Mantua.

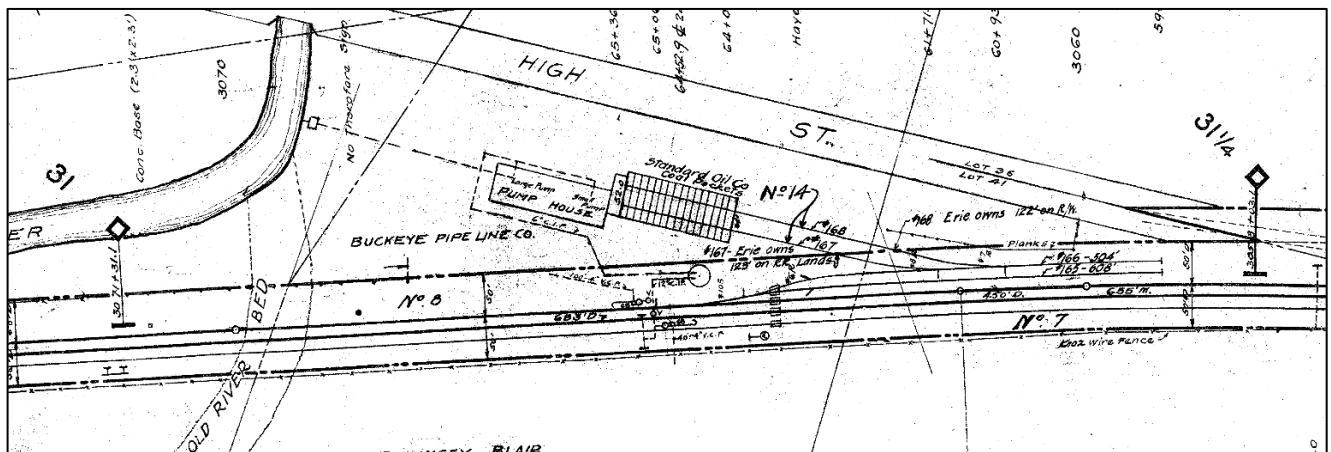
Leetonia Reporter 8-1-1913

Buckeye operated a large pumping station and oil storage depot north of Greenford at Mantua, Ohio. The postcard image below (circa 1910) looks eastward along High Street



at that pumping station. The pathway (lower right) is perhaps near the north end of the pipe line right-of-way mown by Mr. Feicht. This Buckeye facility was served by the Erie RR Cleveland line. The top of the water tank visible

beyond the pump house, immediately to the left of the smokestack, is an Erie RR tank. The 1918 Erie Val map below shows this Buckeye operation at Mantua near MP 31.2



(from Cleveland). The coal trestle here supported parallel tracks for spotting hoppers at the pump house. The image at left (also circa 1910), looks to the southwest at the pump house. Note two hoppers spotted on one of the trestle tracks, designated "Standard Oil Co Coal

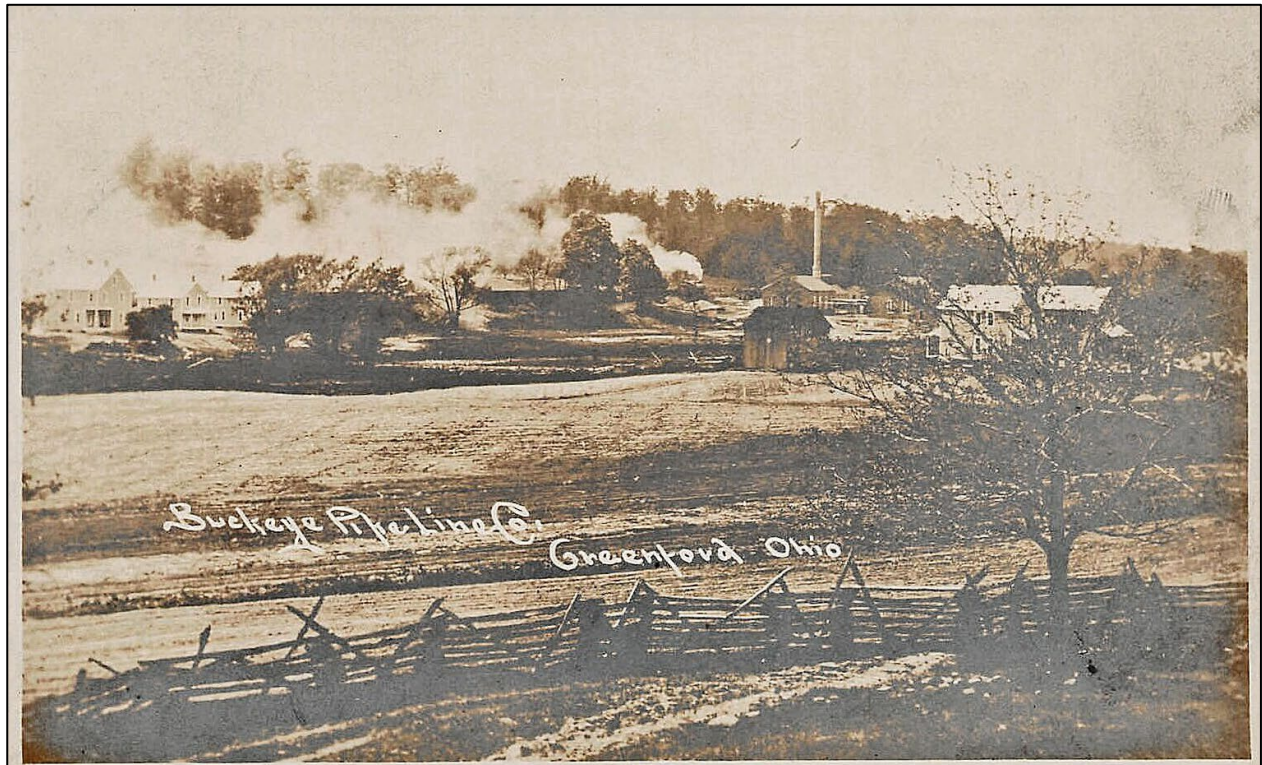
Pockets” in the Val Map. (Buckeye Pipe Line Co. became independent when Standard Oil Company was forced by the US Supreme Court to divest Buckeye in 1911.)

The last mention of Buckeye and the Greenford pumping station I’ve found in the

**John Crumbecker moved from the
Lydia Frederick property to the
Greenford pumping station Tuesday.**

Leetonia Reporter was in the May 3, 1918 edition. The article implies the pumping station was still active at that date, offering employee housing to Mr. Crumbecker.

This final postcard image (below) of the Greenford pumping station looks across the pumping station area toward the northwest. Based on the additional buildings in the foreground on the right, the image appears to be later than previous images, perhaps closer to 1920. Note the three light-colored buildings at left—probably homes for Buckeye employees. The brick pump house and boiler house buildings, with the 110-foot concrete smokestack, are visible in the distance. Also in the distance, note the Erie



Lisbon Branch train heading north, the locomotive leaving a long trail of steam and smoke as it passes the boiler house.

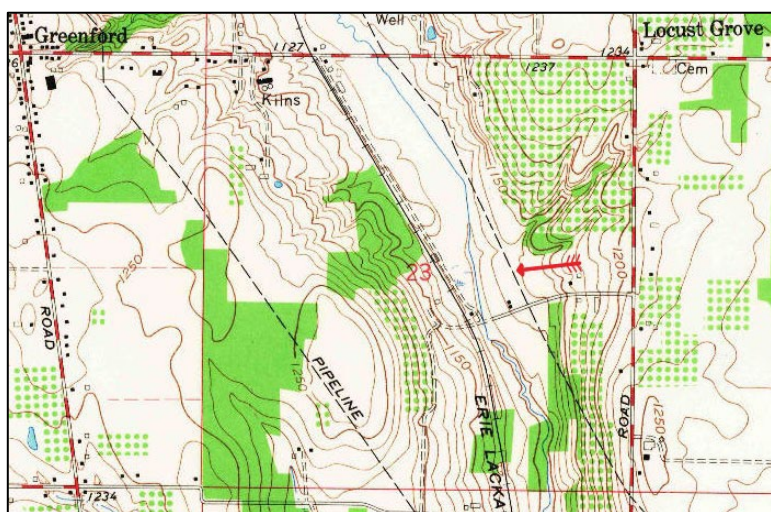
Beginning around 1920, many pipe line pumping stations like the Greenford Buckeye operation converted from coal-fired, steam-powered pumps to more modern oil-fired pumps or electric pumps. It’s likely the Greenford operation would have made such a conversion sometime in the 1920’s or 30’s. With that change, coal deliveries by the Erie would have ceased, and the need for numerous employees, employee homes, coal trestles, large boiler and pumping buildings would have ended.

But the end of that pumping station did not mean the end of the Buckeye operation

through Greenford. Buckeye continued to transport oil through the 20th century (see Buckeye stock certificate, top left, issued 1952, source: Ebay). The 1966 USGS Topo map, Salem, Ohio (middle left) depicts two pipelines (dotted lines) passing through the Greenford area. I believe the dotted line marked with red arrow is the original 1907 Buckeye pipe line, since it crosses the pumping station area and can be traced northward back to Mantua. (The other is probably the Laurel Pipe Line, a company now affiliated with Buckeye.) Buckeye's late 20th century history had a railroad connection, having been acquired by the Pennsylvania RR in 1964, then Penn Central in 1968. It remained part of PC (even after Conrail) until sold in 1986.

After a series of corporate changes, the company operates today as Buckeye Partners, L.P. The map at left is from Buckeye Partners, system map, March 28, 2022. I believe the red line from Mantua to Midland traces the original Buckeye Pipe Line Company right-of-way via the 1907 Greenford Pumping Station.

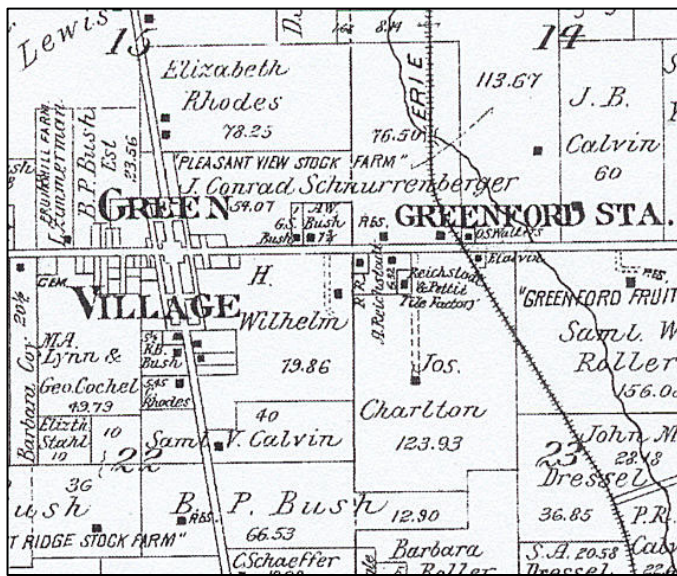
Bob Gentzel April 25, 2026



Buckeye Addendum

--Information above regarding Buckeye's corporate history is from the website Company-Histories.com

--Correction: The postcard image on page 7 above also appears in the Presentation



Section of this Niles & New Lisbon website, slide 106. There I suggested the Buckeye pumping station in the image might instead be the Reichstadt tile factory. I now know that is not correct. The Reichstadt clay mine and tile operation was much further north. In the image at left (Atlas of Mahoning County, 1899, A. H. Mueller, Plate 27), note the Reichstadt and Pettit Tile Factory, west of the Erie tracks and south of the main east/west road (today's South Range Road).

END