Virginia Military Survey in Clermont County, Ohio

OLD SURVEY MEASUREMENTS.

Old surveys were often measured using a Surveyors Chain. These were literally chains made up of 100 links. Each Chain was 66 feet long. Each link was 0.666 of a foot...or 7.92" To convert the distances on a plat measured in chains (abbreviate Ch) simply multiply the distance in chains by 66.
Another common unit of measurement was the Pole. The Pole is exactly what it sounds like; a wood pole which was 16.5' feet long. To convert the distances on a plat measured in poles (abbreviated P) you must multiply the distance by 16.5 A Pole is sometimes called a "perch"on old surveys.

Surveyors Chain

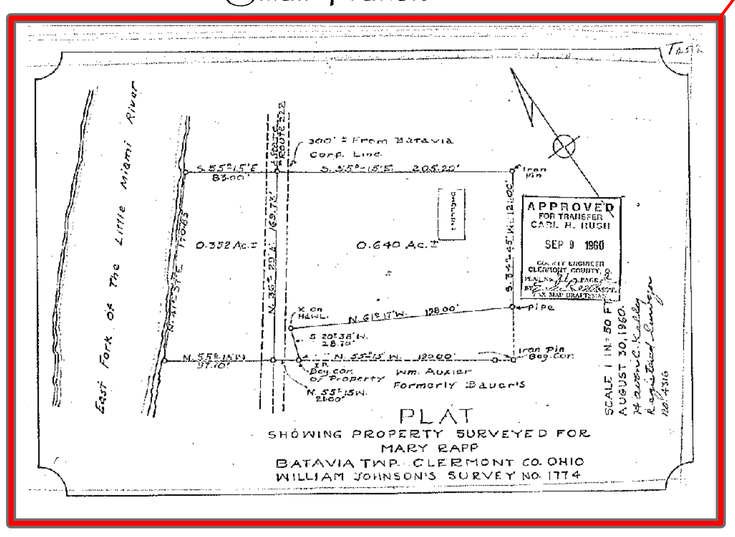
AREA MEASUREMENTS

The standard unit of measuring land in the United States is the ACRE. An Acre is equal to 43,560 square feet (Sq. Ft.) of area. An acre is also equal to 10 square chains (66 x 66 x 10 = 43560 Sq. Ft.) or 160 square rods (16.5 x 16.5 x 160 = 43,560 Sq. Ft.)
There are exactly 640 Acres in one square mile.
Seeing how older units of measurement like the chain and the pole can be converted into acres it is easy to see that seemingly odd distances (66' and 16.5') really did make sense.

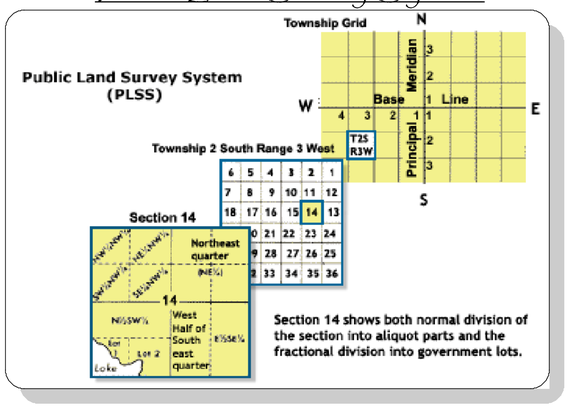
Wye Level

Compass

Small Transit

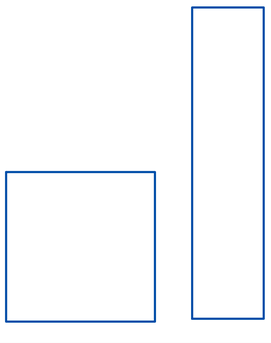


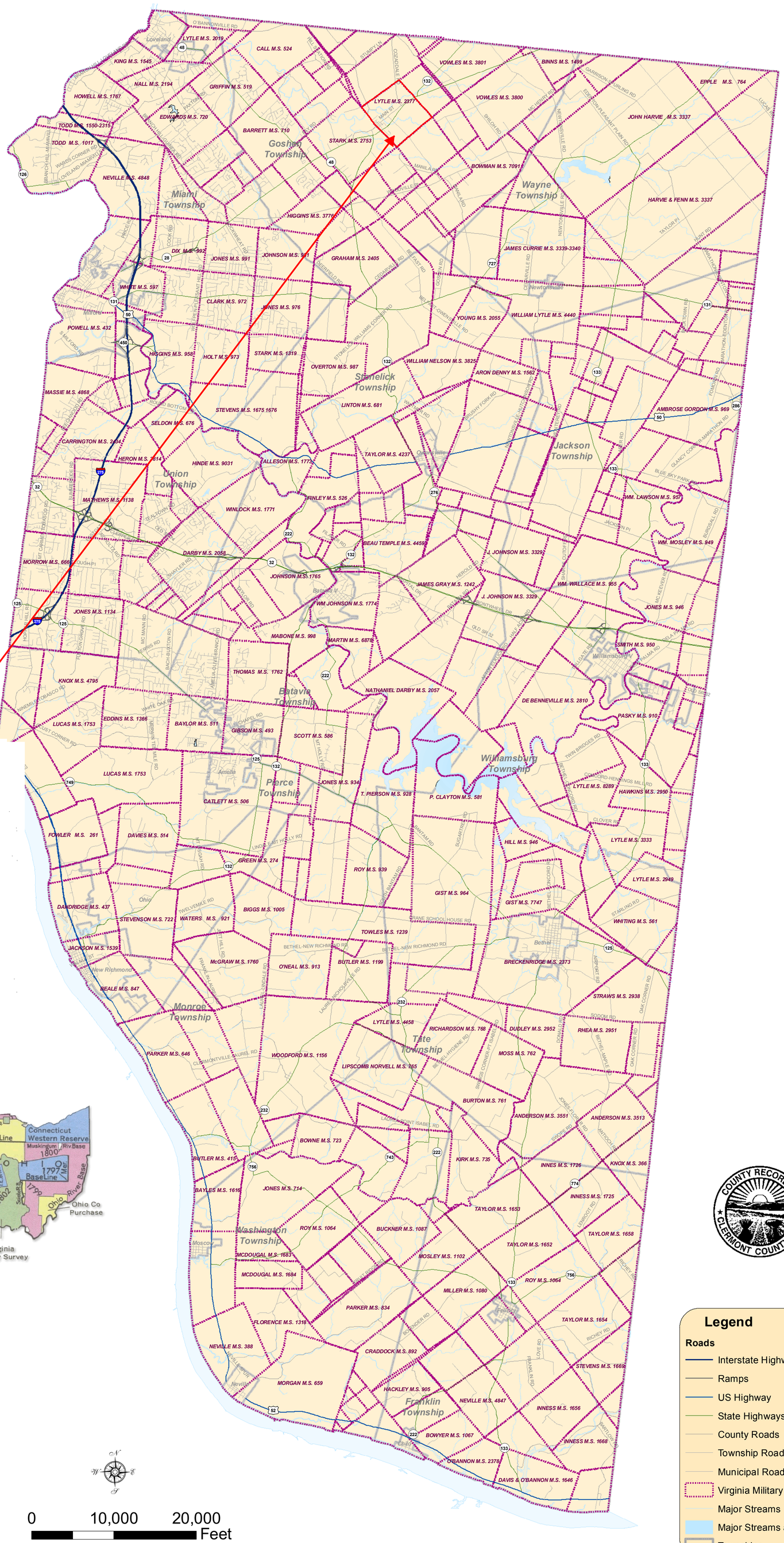
Public Land Survey System



WHAT DOES AN ACRE LOOK LIKE?

If you had a parcel of land that was exactly 1 acre in size and was perfectly square it would be 208.71' on each of the 4 sides. If the same lot were a rectangle 100' wide it would be 435.60' feet deep (long).





Legend

Roads
- Interstate Highway
- Ramps
- US Highway
- State Highways
- County Roads
- Township Roads
- Municipal Roads
- Virginia Military Survey
- Major Streams
- Major Streams and Lakes
- Townships