

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tide Water Pumping Station
other names/site number Benton Station, SOHIO Pumping Station/021-113-49001-011

2. Location

street & number SW corner of 900S and 300E N/A not for publication
city or town Coal City vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Clay code 021 zip code 47427

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-26-99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: buildings (6, 1), sites (1, 0), structures (1, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (8, 1).

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Energy Facility, Industrial Storage, DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure, Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, 19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: No Style

foundation: CONCRETE, walls: BRICK, WOOD: Weatherboard, roof: CONCRETE, other: STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1915-1948

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hanks, George J.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Tide Water Pumping Station
Name of Property

Clay IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	495060	4344940	3	16	495300	4344700
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	495300	4344940	4	16	495060	4344700

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff

organization Preservation Association of Clay County date 10/30/98

street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wayne Woodruff, Denver Jones

street & number R.R. 2 telephone 812-939-2434

city or town Coal City state IN zip code 47427

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The former Benton Station, a pumping station on the Western Line of the Tide Water Pipe Company (later called SOHIO), lies in an isolated area in southeastern Clay County, roughly midway between Clay City and Coal City, at the southwest corner of county roads 900S and 300E, which is also the Owen County line. The surrounding area is rural with a rolling terrain, much of which is wooded. Farms lie west and north of the site and there are scattered residences on heavily wooded land to the east and south.

In the northeast corner of the property is the brick pump building (photos 1,2,3), constructed in 1915, which is one-and-a-half stories with a gabled roof. The roof is covered with the original tiles made of concrete, and has three metal vents protruding from the peak. The functional building is ornamented with corbelled panels and pilasters. The foundation and sills are limestone. The windows are mostly paired six-over-nine double hung sashes; there are nine-light fixed sashes on the upper level. There are two sets of wooden double doors on the south, one set on the west and one on the east. On the north is a small metal shed addition. On the east is a small shed-roofed former office with a shed-roofed entrance. The interior of the main building is divided by but one brick wall north to south; it originally housed huge diesel pumps.

Behind (west) the main building is a smaller frame building with a gabled roof (see photo 2), with an open shed attached on the south. This had been called the warehouse. South of this is a small metal shed with gabled roof. There is a concrete foundation south of this shed (slightly visible in the center of photo 3, left of the building), all that remains of a small metal outbuilding. All of these buildings, along with the visible pipeline valve enclosed by a chainlink fence some distance to the west, are surrounded by a concrete ditch or sluice (see photos 1,4) that runs along the county roads on the north and east, then turns due west south of the brick building.

South of this group of buildings is a large open space (see photo 4) where once there were various recreational facilities. The site of the tennis court is just barely visible toward the west; beyond that is a pond (photo 3) and what remains of an earth-and-concrete dam. A barely visible drive runs along the south edge of the open space, leading westerly up a hill into a woods.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

There were once three large oil storage tanks on this hill, removed in the late 1950s. South of the drive the land rises abruptly; the slope is wooded (photo 4). On the hill are two Queen Anne-influenced doubles (photos 5,6) facing CR900S. They are essentially identical, each two-and-a-half stories with a hipped roof that has a gabled section on the east. The buildings are sided with brick, with clapboard in the gabled ends; the south dwelling now has aluminum siding instead of clapboard. Each has frame porches with hipped roofs on the southeast and northeast corners. They both have shed entrances in the rear (west), and the windows are frame one-over-one double hung sashes. The south dwelling has a gabled dormer on the north, and the north dwelling has one on the south. Each dwelling has a small gabled garage toward the rear. The south one is frame and was probably built in the 1960s or later; the north garage, which is metal, is original but probably not as old as the houses, which were built in 1915. Both duplexes are now single-family dwellings, but they still appear to be doubles on the exterior. Even the interiors retain most of their duplex character; only the dividing wall between the front (east) parlors of each has been removed, and openings created on the second floor. Otherwise, the rooms are essentially unchanged except as to function. Each duplex unit originally had a parlor, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor, and three bedrooms and a bath on the second.

Originally, the property also included a riding stable west of the south double, and a gazebo on the hillside north of the dwellings. In the hollow east of the pond was a lighted croquet court and a tennis court; the very flat space still visible indicates the location of the latter. There were also two bungalows built ca.1920 to the north across CR900S, which is the north boundary of the present district. One of the bungalows was moved some distance and later demolished; the other remains but has been altered.

There are six contributing buildings in the district: the brick pump building, its frame warehouse shed to the west, a smaller metal shed south of it, the two Queen Anne-derived former doubles, and the metal garage behind the north dwelling; one contributing structure: the concrete sluice with its associated bridges; and one contributing site, the whole of the property that includes the visible remains of the tennis court, the remnants of the dam and pond, foundations, and buried pipes.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

There is one non-contributing building: the garage behind the south dwelling; and one non-contributing structure: the present pipeline valve surrounded by a chainlink fence.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tide Water Pumping Station in Clay County is representative--and the best preserved of those in Indiana--of a typical pumping station along an oil pipeline built in the early twentieth century. As such, it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of industry, and also under Criterion C in the area of architecture, with the double dwellings provided for resident personnel and the pump building itself being representative of an early twentieth century industrial building and workers' housing.

The Tide Water (often spelled Tidewater) Pipe Company, Limited, was founded in Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1878 in order to build a pipeline from the Bradford oil field near the New York state line to Williamsport in the center of the state; that line gradually was extended into and through New Jersey. The company established its headquarters at Bradford but in 1883 became one of the many smaller petroleum companies taken over by John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. It retained the Tidewater name, however.¹

When the infant petroleum industry was born in the mid-nineteenth century with the drilling of the first oil well at Titusville, the distilled product was used for illumination--to fill oil lamps. Consumption of oil grew rapidly, especially after its use as a heating fuel was demonstrated as well. Until the 1880s essentially all the oil in the United States came from Pennsylvania, but wildcatters discovered a large field in Ohio in the vicinity of Lima. With the development of the gasoline-powered automobile just before the turn of the century, the industry changed--and boomed. The demand for crude oil from which to refine gasoline led to a frenzied search for new fields. One promising area extended across southwestern Indiana and southeastern Illinois.

¹ This pipeline (through Pennsylvania and New Jersey) later was sold to the Getty Oil Company and finally abandoned.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

Starting in 1908 the Tide Water Pipe Company laid a new pipeline--called simply the "Western Line"--from an oil field near Stoy in Crawford County, Illinois, to a terminus at Rixford, Pennsylvania, a distance of 546.16 miles.¹ Along the way, at intervals of about forty to fifty miles, they constructed fourteen pumping stations in 1915. Four of these were in Indiana: in Clay County; in Morgan County near Brooklyn; in Hancock County near Fountaintown, and in Wayne County near Hagerstown. All the pumping station buildings were alike, based on plans drawn by George J. Hanks for the Tide Water Pipe Company. The full set of blueprints included plans for the main building (a gabled structure of brick with a roof of concrete tiles), a frame warehouse, and a brick double dwelling in a modified Queen Anne style. It is not clear whether the double dwellings were built at all the pumping station sites; if so, they have not survived everywhere. Each station had a name, which usually--but not always--referred to its geographical location; each also was assigned a two-letter reference code, an abbreviation of the nearest town.

The pumping station in Clay County was named Benton but its reference letters were CY, suggesting Coal City. (The site is in Clay County on the Owen County line and has a Coal City mailing address.) The station probably was named for J.G. Benton, an early oil pioneer from Titusville, Pennsylvania, who designed much of the equipment first used in laying pipelines. Some of the other pumping stations bear the names of the founders of the pipeline company. The Benton Station was the first one along the pipeline, 46.57 miles from the pumping station at Stoy that started the oil along its way. Locally, the station was simply known as the Tide Water Pumping Station, and business correspondence of the early years generally refers to it as the Coal City station. The Benton name seems to have been used only on records and charts. In 1939 the pipeline came more directly under the control of Standard Oil of Ohio and became known as the SOHIO pipeline. Locals, however, continued to call it Tide Water for years afterward.

The pressure of the oil had to be monitored very carefully as it flowed through the pipeline, so stationary engineers and their

¹ The oil field in Illinois is often referred to by its proximity to Robinson, a larger town in the vicinity. Rixford is near Bradford, Pennsylvania, near the oil field.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

families lived on the site. If a leak occurred, which happened several times a year, the engineer would note a drop in pressure. He then telegraphed the pumping stations in each direction to compare readings and thus pinpoint where the leak was. A work crew from each pumping station would then walk the pipeline toward each other until they discovered the site of the leak. Apart from these episodes the work of the engineers was routine and afforded considerable free time to construct recreational facilities, which the company encouraged. Men at the Coal City station built lighted tennis and croquet courts, and a gazebo overlooking the playing field. (Only vague remnants of these survive.) These recreational facilities were popular with many of the local youths, offering a place of entertainment in the evenings.

Technological advances that reduced the number of pipeline leaks and improved their detection eventually rendered the manned pumping stations obsolete. The Coal City station was closed about 1957 and sold to a private owner, although the right-of-way for the pipeline was retained and remains in place to this day, now under the ownership of British Petroleum.²²

The property today is divided into two unequal parcels with the line between the two residences. The present owner of the north part of the property (about 9.5 acres), which contains most of the historic resources, acquired it about 1962 and has, for the most part, left everything intact. He opened up the northward double into a single dwelling, but this is not apparent on the exterior, and indeed, much of the interior remains unchanged. His neighbor to the south made a few changes, such as building a garage and replacing the dwelling's clapboard with aluminum siding, but it nevertheless retains a high degree of integrity. The main building remains largely intact, far more so than any of the other three in Indiana. The only other site in Indiana with surviving double dwellings is that at Fountaintown, but they are in poor condition and much of that site's integrity is lost. The Tide Water Pumping Station in Clay County is the most intact example of its kind remaining in Indiana, and likely among the best preserved along the entire pipeline, a fine representative example of an early twentieth century pumping station site.

²² The original Tide Water property had included some land north of CR900S, but that apparently had been sold off prior to World War II.

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Tide Water Pumping Station

Clay County IN

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Joan. Former resident during 1950s. Telephone interview 25 July 1998.

Giddens, Paul H. Early Days of Oil: A Pictorial History of the Beginnings of the Industry in Pennsylvania. Princeton 1948.

Operating records, maps, and blueprints pertaining to Benton Station. In possession of Wayne Woodruff, Coal City IN 47427.

Rarick, R. Dee. The Petroleum Industry--Its Birth in Pennsylvania and Development in Indiana. Bloomington 1980.

Travis, William. A History of Clay County, Volume I. Chicago 1909.

Woodruff, Wayne, Jr. Son of present owner and son-in-law of first private owner. Telephone interview 31 August 1998.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Bounded on the north by County Road 900 South; on the east by County Road 300 East (the county line) to a point 781 feet south of CR900S; then proceed due west 670 feet, then due north from that point to CR900S.

Boundary Justification

These are the historic boundaries of the Tide Water/SOHIO Pumping Station property at the time of its abandonment.