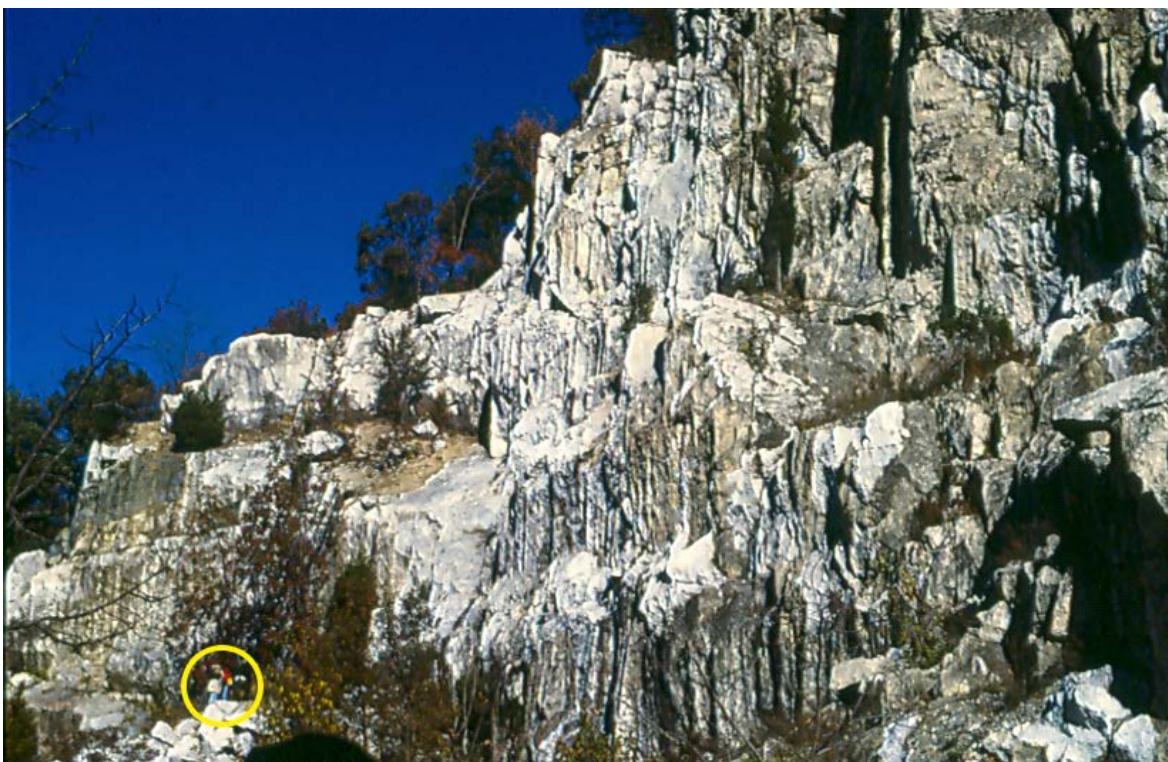


**NEW JERSEY GEOLOGICAL AND WATER SURVEY
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**BEDROCK GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE HAMBURG QUADRANGLE
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

by

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Bedrock Geologic Map of the Hamburg Quadrangle
Sussex County, New Jersey
scale 1:24,000
(GMS 14-3)*

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Cover photo:

This photograph shows a west-east trending wall (left to right) of the Franklin Marble exposed in a quarry at McAfee. Here the Franklin displays an atypical high density of near-vertical northeast-trending jointing paralleling the trend of the nearby Hamburg Fault which is about five hundred feet east of the quarry. Elsewhere Franklin joints are much wider spaced. A large block of gneiss within the marble is evident on the west side of the bedrock exposure. Note people outlined by a circle for scale. (Richard Dalton)

INTRODUCTION

The Hamburg quadrangle is located in northeastern Sussex County, where it spans the border between the New Jersey Highlands and the Kittatinny Valley segment of the Appalachian Valley and Ridge physiographic provinces. Mesoproterozoic rocks of the Highlands underlie the eastern part of the quadrangle, and lower Paleozoic rocks of the Valley and Ridge underlie the western part. All geologic age designations conform to U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Names Committee (2010) Fact Sheet 2010-3059.

This map provides detailed geologic information on the distribution and lithologic character of the various bedrock types and the structures that affect them. It provides a geologic framework for geologic and environmental investigations, as well as for the hydrogeologic characterization of the Cambrian through Ordovician carbonate rocks that constitute the most productive bedrock aquifer in the map area. Additionally, new interpretations of bedrock geologic relationships have rendered some previous work obsolete. Therefore, the interpretations presented here supersede those shown on previous bedrock geologic maps of the quadrangle.

Previous work on the bedrock geology of the quadrangle includes that of Bayley and others (1914), Hague and others (1956), Buddington and Baker (1961), and Drake and others (1996). In addition to the previous bedrock mapping, Stanford and others (1998) mapped the surficial deposits of the quadrangle.

STRATIGRAPHY

Paleozoic rocks

The youngest Paleozoic rocks in the quadrangle include lamprophyre dikes and related rocks of Lower Silurian to Upper Ordovician age of the Beemerville Intrusive Suite (Drake and Monteverde, 1992) that intrude rocks ranging from Upper Ordovician through Mesoproterozoic age mainly in the southern half of the map, from McAfee south to Hardistonville. Dikes strike predominantly northwest. Biotite from nepheline syenite at Beemerville yields an Rb-Sr and K-Ar cooling age of 435 ± 20 Ma (Zartman and others, 1967). Eby (2004) obtained a titanite fission-track age from nepheline syenite at Beemerville of 420 ± 6 Ma. Biotite in a minette dike from the adjacent Branchville quadrangle, collected by the New Jersey Geological Survey and analyzed by the

U.S. Geological Survey (Charles Milton, written communication, 1972), yields a K-Ar cooling age of 422 ± 14 Ma. More recently, titanite from nepheline syenite at Beemerville yields a Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (TIMS) U-Pb crystallization age of 447 ± 2 Ma (Ratcliffe and others, 2012).

Cambrian and Ordovician rocks of the Kittatinny Valley sequence crop out in lowland areas mainly west of Pochuck Mountain and are preserved along faults north and west of Hamburg Mountain. These rocks previously were considered part of the Lehigh Valley sequence of MacLachlan (1979), but were later reassigned to the Kittatinny Valley sequence by Drake and others (1996). They consist of the Hardyston Quartzite; the Kittatinny Supergroup (fig. 1 on map), which includes the Leithsville Formation, Allentown Dolomite, and Beekmantown Group; the Sequence at Wantage; the Jacksonburg Limestone; and the Martinsburg Formation. These sedimentary rocks record the formation of the eastern Laurentian passive margin and the approaching Taconic orogenic events. Hardyston sandstone marks the beginning of a major marine transgression along the entire eastern Laurentian margin. Conditions of the margin evolved to allow deposition of shallow water carbonate rocks of the Kittatinny Supergroup. Dominated by dolomite these units were originally deposited as limestones. Few limestone beds remain and can only be found in the Beekmantown Group sediments. The secondary dolomitization locally still preserves some of the original sedimentology, such as oolites and cross beds. The approaching Taconic orogenic event is first noted by uplift and erosion of the Kittatinny Supergroup as the peripheral bulge of the approaching foreland basin arrives. The margin subsequently resubmerged as evidenced by deposition of the Sequence at Wantage and Jacksonburg Limestone. The foreland basin continued to deepen allowing the flysch deposition of the Martinsburg Formation.

The Taconic collisional event caused cessation of sedimentation as the region was uplifted and deformed. Folding and minor faulting of the sedimentary rocks in the mapped region mark the Taconian event. Subsequent deformation of the younger Alleghanian orogenic event left a much stronger deformational impact on the geology of the mapped area as evidenced by more intense folding and thrust faulting.

Neoproterozoic rocks

Unmetamorphosed coarse- to fine-grained clastic rocks, and less abundant felsic volcanic rocks, of the

Chestnut Hill Formation of Neoproterozoic age (Drake, 1984; Gates and Volkert, 2004) are sparsely preserved throughout the New Jersey Highlands. In the map area they crop out at two places near McAfee, where they host small deposits of hematite, and at a single location on Pochuck Mountain, east of Wallkill Lake. At McAfee the Chestnut Hill Formation unconformably overlies Mesoproterozoic Franklin Marble and is unconformably overlain by the Lower Cambrian Hardyston Quartzite. On Pochuck Mountain the Chestnut Hill unconformably overlies Mesoproterozoic gneiss. Rocks of the Chestnut Hill Formation were formed from alluvial, fluvial, and lacustrine sediments, and volcanic rocks deposited in a series of small sub-basins along the eastern Laurentia rifted margin, in the present-day Highlands (Volkert and others, 2010a).

Mesoproterozoic rocks

Mesoproterozoic rocks in the map area consist of an assemblage of granites, gneisses, and marble. Most Mesoproterozoic rocks were metamorphosed to granulite facies during the Ottawa orogeny at 1045 to 1024 Ma (Volkert and others, 2010b). Temperature estimates for this high grade metamorphism are constrained from regional calcite-graphite geothermometry to 769°C (Peck and others, 2006).

The oldest Mesoproterozoic rocks in the area are calc-alkalic rocks of the Losee Metamorphic Suite that formed in a continental-margin magmatic arc, and a thick assemblage of supracrustal metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks that formed in a back arc basin inboard of the Losee arc (Volkert, 2004). The Losee Metamorphic Suite includes plutonic rocks that are tonalite gneiss and diorite gneiss, and a layered sequence of metamorphosed volcanic rocks formed from dacite, andesite, rhyolite, and basalt protoliths (Volkert and Drake, 1999). Rocks of the Losee Metamorphic Suite yield sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe (SHRIMP) U-Pb zircon ages of 1282 ± 7 to 1248 ± 12 Ma (Volkert and others, 2010b).

Rocks of the Losee Metamorphic Suite are spatially and temporally associated with supracrustal rocks that include a bimodal suite of felsic and mafic metavolcanic rocks that are rhyolite gneiss and amphibolite, respectively, and metasedimentary rocks that include quartzofeldspathic gneisses, calc-silicate rocks, and marble. Metavolcanic rocks are most abundant in the area of Pochuck Mountain. Supracrustal rhyolite gneiss yields U-Pb (SHRIMP) zircon ages of 1299 ± 8 to 1251 ± 6 Ma (Volkert and

others, 2010b) that overlap ages of rocks of the Losee Suite.

Granite and related rocks of the Byram and Lake Hopatcong Intrusive Suites intrude rocks of the Losee Metamorphic Suite and supracrustal rocks. Plutonic variants of both granite suites are abundantly exposed on Hamburg Mountain, near Vernon, which is designated as the type section of the Vernon Supersuite (Volkert and Drake, 1998). Byram and Lake Hopatcong rocks form a complete differentiation series that includes monzonite, quartz monzonite, granite, and alaskite, all of which have a distinctive A-type geochemical composition (Volkert and others, 2000). Granites of both suites yield similar U-Pb (SHRIMP) zircon ages of 1188 ± 6 to 1182 ± 11 Ma (Volkert and others, 2010b).

The youngest Mesoproterozoic rocks in the area are post-orogenic potassic granites and granite pegmatites that are undeformed, contain xenoliths of foliated gneiss, and intrude other Mesoproterozoic rocks in the map area as tabular to irregular bodies that are discordant to metamorphic foliation. The most abundant of these is the Mount Eve Granite that forms two prominent intrusive bodies known as Mount Adam and Mount Eve directly north of the map area, as well as more than 30 smaller bodies in adjacent areas. In the Hamburg quadrangle, Mount Eve Granite is confined to the northern part of Pochuck Mountain, whereas pegmatites are more widespread. Mount Eve Granite has an A-type geochemical composition that is similar to that of the Byram and Lake Hopatcong rocks (Gorring and others, 2004) and compositions that range from granite to syenogranite (Drake and others, 1991a).

Mount Eve Granite from Mount Adam yields a zircon U-Pb age of 1020 ± 4 Ma (Drake and others, 1991a), and from Mt. Eve a zircon U-Pb age of 1019 ± 4 Ma (Volkert and others, 2010b). Small bodies of granite north of the map area yield a zircon U-Pb age of 1004 ± 3 Ma, and pegmatites from elsewhere in the Highlands yield zircon U-Pb ages of 990 to 986 ± 4 Ma (Volkert and others, 2005).

STRUCTURE

Paleozoic bedding and cleavage

Bedding in the Paleozoic formations is fairly uniform and strikes northeast at an average of N.36°E. (fig. 2 on map). Most beds are upright and dip northwest and less commonly southeast (fig. 3 on

map), and locally are overturned steeply southeast. Beds range in dip from 3° to 90° and average 44°.

Cleavage develops in finer grained sedimentary rocks or where localized faulting is present. Average strike of cleavage is N.39°E. (fig. 4 on map), and dips range from 10° to 90° and average 56°. Generally cleavage is southeast dipping (fig. 5 on map) but some vertical to northwest dips occur. Locally a crenulation cleavage or second spaced cleavage has been observed in some units in the map area.

Proterozoic foliation

Crystallization foliation in the Mesoproterozoic rocks is formed by the parallel alignment of constituent mineral grains and it defines the trend of the bedrock units. Foliations strike mainly northeast at an average of N.25°E. (fig. 6 on map). They dip southeast, and locally northwest, at 11° to 90° and average 59°.

Joints

Joints are a common feature in Paleozoic and Mesoproterozoic rocks. They are characteristically planar, moderately well formed, and moderately to steeply dipping. Surfaces are typically unmineralized, except near faults, and are smooth and, less commonly, slightly irregular. Joints are variably spaced from a foot to tens of feet. Those developed in massive rocks, such as Mesoproterozoic granite or Paleozoic carbonate and quartzite, tend to be more widely spaced, irregularly formed and discontinuous than joints in Mesoproterozoic layered gneisses and fine-grained Paleozoic rocks. Joints formed near faults are spaced 2 feet or less.

In the Paleozoic rocks, northwest-trending cross joints are the most common. They strike an average of N.56°W. (fig. 7 on map), and dip mainly northeast at an average of 69° (fig. 8 on map). The dominant joint trend in Mesoproterozoic rocks strikes northwest at an average of N.64°W. (fig. 9 on map), and dips southwest, and less commonly, northeast. A subordinate set strikes about N.15°E. and dips southeast, and less commonly, northwest. The dip of all joints ranges from 31° to 90° and averages 75°.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Mesoproterozoic rocks in the quadrangle host economic deposits of magnetite that were mined mainly during the early 19th century at the Copperas or Green and Bird mines. Descriptions of these mines

are given in Bayley (1910). Limonite and brown hematite deposits were mined at the Pochuck and Edsall mines in the 19th century (Bayley, 1910), most likely from Mesoproterozoic rocks as well, although descriptions of the host rocks are ambiguous and no dump material is available for inspection. Earthy hematite was mined during the 19th century from Neoproterozoic rocks of the Chestnut Hill Formation at the Cedar Hill and Simpson mines. Detailed descriptions of these mines are given in Bayley (1910) and Volkert and others (2010a).

Mesoproterozoic marble was quarried mainly during the 19th and early 20th centuries at numerous locations from McAfee south to Hardistonville. Rocks of the Losee Metamorphic Suite are presently being quarried north of Hamburg. Paleozoic dolomite is currently commercially quarried from a single location near the edge of the map at Beaver Run. Numerous small farm quarries in the dolomite were encountered during mapping of the quadrangle.

Deposits of sand and gravel of glaciogenic origin were mined from numerous locations throughout the map area.

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