This Virginia mineral locality index is intended to list the best known and most significant mineral occurrences in the State. In line with a project begun by the Colorado Friends of Mineralogy in 1976, the list is intended to assist amateur mineral collectors as well as professional mineralogists and economic geologists. The eventual goal of this project is to develop a mineral locality index for each state followed by a world-wide locality index.

The localities are listed by county, followed by a listing of the most prominent minerals. Additional information, such as fee localities and areas which are known to be closed to collecting, is shown by identification letters at the beginning of the report.

Unlike a field guide, the index is not intended to give exact directions to the locality. For convenience, the name of the nearest town or prominent geographic feature is given. It should be stressed that almost all localities listed in the index are located on private property, and permission from the landowner must be granted before entering the property.

The major source of information in this Virginia index was Minerals of Virginia (1970) by R. V. Dietrich. Although many sources were used, only those references used repeatedly are in the list of references at the end of the index.

Some of the famous localities in Virginia, such as the Rutherford pegmatite in Amelia County and the Lynch Station locality (turquoise crystals) in Campbell County, are now closed to collectors. However, landowners change from time to time, and someday properites like these may be reopened. Current information on fee collecting sites can be obtained by contacting the Division of Mineral Resources, P.O. Box 3667, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

It is hoped that most of the well-known mineral localities in Virginia have been listed in this index. The writer welcomes any suggestions as to additions or deletions of localities which have been listed in the index. The data given in this report will certainly be revised and expanded as more information is forthcoming.

(f) = fee locality  
(c) = currently closed to collecting

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY**

*Alberene soapstone quarry*—Alberene actinolite-tremolite, apatite, ferroan dolomite, erythrite, galena, ilmenite, magnetite, talc

*Briar Fork*—near Schuyler (excavation on Rt. 6) goethite pseudomorphs after pyrite

*Esmont slate quarry*—Esmont dolomite, limonite pseudomorphs after pyrite, siderite

*Faber lead mine*—near Faber cerussite, chalcopyrite, fluorite, argentiferous galena, sphalerite, pyromorphite

Updated from *Rocks and Minerals*, Vol. 60, No. 4, July-August, 1985
Crystals of goethite pseudomorphs after pyrite; largest, 1 inch across; found near Briar Fork, Albemarle County (photograph by T. M. Gathright, II; W. F. Giannini specimen).

Martin Marietta quarry—near Charlottesville epidote, muscovite crystals, pyrite, quartz
Old Dominion soapstone quarry—near Old Dominion actinolite-tremolite, apatite, chalcopyrite, chlorite, cobaltite, dolomite, erythrite, galena, ilmenite, magnesite, magnetite, pyrite, talc
Stony Point mine—near Charlottesville chalcopyrite, cuprite, goethite, malachite, siderite

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Peters Mountain—(roadcut outcrops) near Jordan mines barite, hematite (botryoidal and stalactitic), hematite incrustation pseudomorphs after barite

AMERIKA COUNTY

Beryl pegmatite mine (f)—near Amelia beryl, muscovite (rum colored), quartz
Champion and Jefferson pegmatite mines—near Amelia cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, orthoclase, perthite, pyrochlore, rhabdophane, tourmaline
Ligon No. 1 pegmatite prospect (f)—near Chula albite, beryl, muscovite crystals, quartz (rose), tourmaline
Morefield pegmatite mine (f)—near Amelia beryl, cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, microcline (amazonite), microlite, monazite, muscovite, phenakite, spessartine, topaz, tourmaline, triplite

Rutherford pegmatite mines (c)—near Amelia allanite, apatite, bavenite, bertrandite, beryl, cassiterite, cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, fergusonite, fluorite, helvite, microcline (var. amazonite), microlite, monazite, muscovite, phenakite, rutile, spessartine, topaz, tourmaline, triplite

Trueheart pegmatite mine (f)—near Amelia beryl (var. aquamarine), microcline crystals, muscovite crystals, tourmaline

AMHERST COUNTY

Buck Mountain mine—near Forks of Buffalo arsenopyrite, fluroite, gold, scorodite, silver
Burley farm prospect (pegmatite)—near Amherst cerianite, perrierite, rhabdophane, zircon
Christian tract mine (copper)—near Sweet Briar actinolite-tremolite, bornite, chalcopyrite, chlorite group minerals, chrysocolla, ferroan dolomite, malachite
Dominion Stone Plant quarry—near Piney River albite, apatite, chalcopyrite, clinozoisite, galena, garnet, sialis, sphene, zoisite
Little Friar Mountain pegmatite prospect—near Massies Mill allanite, fergusonite (sipyrite), zircon
Lynchburg Reservoir pegmatite prospect—Old Bunker Trail near Buena Vista allanite, bastnaesite, cerianite, monazite, zircon
Schaars farm (f)—near Amherst amethyst

Cleavelandite from Amelia County; largest dimension approximately 12 inches; photograph courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.
Snowden site—near Snowden (Route 130 along James River) amethyst

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Enterprise mines (manganese)—near Beckham cryptomelane (gem quality), manganite, quartz crystals
Appomattox Lime Co. quarry—near Bent Creek bornite, calcite, chalcopyrite, dolomite, pyrite, sphalerite

AUGUSTA COUNTY

Belmont limestone quarry—Staunton calcite crystals (some with pyrite inclusions)
Crimora mine (manganese)—near Waynesboro cryptomelane, psilomelane, pyrolobeite
Simons limestone quarry (Valley stone quarry)—Staunton aragonite, barite, calcite crystals, onyx
Franks Mill quarry—near Staunton calcite crystals
Gay quarry—near Craigsville calcite, crinoids (pink), dolomite, quartz crystals (smoky and clear)
Spottswood bauxite district (includes Allen, Harris, and Lightner mines, Lott prospect, Berry and Yago farm prospect)—near Spottswood boehmite, diaspore, gibbsite, kaolinitic clay

Staunton lime quarry (Old State quarry)—near Staunton calcite crystals (rarely with inclusions of manganese minerals)

BATH COUNTY

Chestnut Ridge (f)—near Deerfield quartz crystals (rarely with ruby sphalerite inclusions)

BEDFORD COUNTY

Mitchell pegmatite mine—near Otter Hill almandine, biotite, columbite-tantalite, muscovite, oligoclase (moonstone), perthite, quartz, sanarskite
Nance pegmatite mine (Big Harris)—near Moneta albite, columbite-tantalite, microcline, muscovite, orthoclase, perthite, quartz
Seaboard Feldspar mine—near Moneta microcline (some extremely large crystals), muscovite, pyrite, spessartine, zoisite (thulite)
Wheatly pegmatite mine (Big Hicks)—near Moneta albite, columbite-tantalite, fergusonite muscovite, orthoclase, perthite, quartz (blue), zoisite (thulite)
Young feldspar mine—near Moneta albite, garnet, muscovite crystals, orthoclase, perthite, zoisite

BOTETOURT COUNTY

James River Hydrate quarries—(two sites) near Buchanan aragonite, barite, calcite, opaline silica

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

Anaconda mine (Eldredge Mill)—near Dillwyn azurite, bornite, chalcopyrite, epidote, hornblende, malachite, magnetite, pyrite, quartz
Morrow gold mine (placer) (c)—near Sprouses Corner placer gold
New Canton mines (includes Hudgins, Johnson, Margaret, and McKenna mines)—near New Canton chalcopyrite, gahnite, galena, gold, pyrite, pyrrhotite, silver, sphalerite
Slate River site—roadcuts near Buckingham Court House chalcopyrite, covellite, pyrite

Calcite scalenohedron topped by calcite rhombohedron with mutual c axis; one inch long; Bel- mont Rock Company quarry, Augusta County (photograph by W. C. Sherwood).
VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Columbite-tantalite crystal; 1½ by 1 by ¾ inch; Mitchell mine, Bedford County. Photograph by G. K. McCauley; John Tweedy specimen.

Tourmaline site (float)—near Andersonville
tourmaline (schorl) crystals in quartz
Willis Mountain Kyanite mine (includes East Ridge operation)—near Sprouses Corner
apatite, crandallite-florencite, hematite, kyanite, lazulite, limonite (iridescent), muscovite, pyrite, rutile, tourmaline, trolleite

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Bennett farm—near Red House
amethyst crystals
Bishop mine (c)—near Lynch Station
turquoise crystals (on quartz and schist), minor pseudomalachite
Colbert Elder property (weathered saprolite)—near Brookneal
amethyst crystals
Hewitt mine—near Evington
barite
Old Woman Creek site (intersection with Staunton River)—near Motley
pseudomorphs of paragonite and kyanite after andalusite
Route 43 roadcut—Leesville
chromian muscovite, magnetite, monazite, tourmaline (schorl)

CAROLINE COUNTY

Last Mile pegmatite mine—near Ladysmith
beryl (green), garnet, tourmaline

CARROLL COUNTY

Gossan Howard mine—near Galax
apatite, chalcopyrite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, rutile, selenite, siderite, vivianite
Iron Ridge mine (includes Chestnut Yard, Gossan, Great Outburst mines)—Gossan Lead district near Fries
actinolite, biotite, epidote, hematite (specular), magnetite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, rutile, spessartine
Pipers Gap—near Galax
hornblende, serpentine, talc
Robinson farm—near Woodlawn
ilmenite, kyanite, rutile

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Crews No. 1 pegmatite—near Cullen
beryl (aquamarine, green, yellow), spessartine, tourmaline
Donald Plantation—near Charlotte Court House
amethyst

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Dale quarry—near Chester
apatite, beryl (some gem quality), garnet, microcline, molybdenite

A beryl crystal, weighing approximately 300 pounds, is currently on display at the Division office in Charlottesville (photograph by Howard Freeland).
CULPEPER COUNTY

Culpeper mine—near Richardsville
gold-bearing pyrite
Quarry (abandoned) on Rapidan River—near Rapidan
hyalite (opal), prehnite, stilbite
Virginia Granite Co. quarry—near Rapidan
chromian dravite

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax quarry—near Centreville
actinolite (byssolite), apophyllite, babingtonite, chabazite, chlorapatite, datolite, epidote, laumontite, natrolite, okenite, prehnite, quartz, stilbite, thaumasite, wurtzite
Theodora Copper mine—near Herndon
azurite, chrysocolla, epidote, libethenite, malachite

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Franklin mine (Deep Run)—near Morrisville
gold

FLOYD COUNTY

Laurel Fork site—near Laurel Fork
quartz crystals (some over 100 pounds)
Moles farm—near Willis
quartz crystals
Webbs Mill—near Floyd
rutile

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Kidds Store (f)—near Central Plain
jasper, rhodonite, pyrolusite

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Simms (Center Ridge)—near Sydnorsville
beryl (some gem quality), muscovite, tourmaline

FREDERICK COUNTY

Glass Sand Corporation quarry—near Gore
crandallite, wavellite
Mineral Ridge—near Lebanon Church
manganese minerals, wavellite
Rosenberger and Stodler limestone quarries—
near Hayfield
anhydrite, celestite, gypsum

GOOCHLAND COUNTY

Moss gold mine (c)—near Tabscott

Prehnite; stalactite 4 cm; Fairfax quarry, Fairfax County. John Medici specimen and photograph.

chalcopyrite, galena, gold, marcasite, pyrite, pyromorphite, sphalerite, tetradymite, vanadinite
Nuchols farm prospects—near Centerville
ilmenite, rutile

GRAYSON COUNTY

John Gentry property—old Greek Post Office
near Independence
staurolite (red-brown twinned crystals)
Hampton mine—New River at Hampton Ford
garnet, kyanite, staurolite (some clear yellow), tourmaline
Iron Ridge mine—(Gossan Lead) near Fries
epidote, hematite (specular), hornblende, magnetite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, rutile, spessartine
Nuckols prospect—near Galax
kyanite

GREEN COUNTY

Hightop mine—near Stanardsville
bornite, chalcopyrite, copper (native), cuprite, malachite

HALIFAX COUNTY

High Hill mine—near Virgilina
bornite, chalcocite, chalcopyrite, malachite
Pontiac mine—near Virgilina
azurite, bornite, calcite, chalcopyrite, chlorite,
cavellite, cuprite, epidote, malachite, quartz

Wall mine—near Virgilina
bornite, calcite, chalcocite, chlorite, epidote, malachite

HANOVER COUNTY

Feldspar Corporation quarry—near Montpelier
amphibole, andesine, garnet, ilmenite, orthopyroxene, prehnite, quartz (blue), rutile
Harris pegmatite mine (e)—near Hewlett
almandine, kyanite, muscovite, orthoclase (moonstone), rutile

HENRY COUNTY

Ridgeway pegmatite mines (includes DeShajo, Eanes No. 2, Garrett, and Coleman mines)—near Ridgeway
epidote, garnet, hornblende, ilmenite, magnetite, microcline, muscovite, rutile, sphene, tourmaline, zircon
Route 57 site (roadcut)—near Bassett
staurolite (some are pseudomorphs of sericite after staurolite)
Smith River site—near Axton
pseudomorphs of sericite after staurolite

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Route 609 (roadcut)—near Williamsville
concretion in shale with barite, pyrite, and other minerals

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Bull Run quarry—near Conklin
actinolite-tremolite, apophyllite, calcite, chabazite, chlorapatite, datolite, gyrolite, laumontite, pectolite, prehnite, sphalerite, sphene
Chantilly quarry—near Chantilly
apatite, apophyllite, augite, chabazite, prehnite, stilbite
Goose Creek quarry (Arlington quarry)—near Belmont Station
augite, apophyllite, datolite, diopside, gosecreekite, hornblende, laumontite, loudounite, thomsonite

LOUISA COUNTY

Allah Copper mine (Valcooper)—near Mineral
chalcopyrite, galena, gold, magnetite, pyrite, silver, sphalerite
Arminius mine—near Mineral
chalcopyrite, galena, gold, magnetite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, scheelite, silver, sphalerite
Sulphur mine (Crenshaw, Victoria Furnace)—near Mineral
alamandine, chalcopyrite, copper (native), garnite, hornblende, magnetite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, sphalerite, tremolite, tourmaline (schorl)

MADISON COUNTY

Dark Hollow mine (e) (Blue Ridge Copper Company)—near Fishers Gap
azurite, chalcopyrite, copper (native), cuprite, epidote, malachite, serpentine
Rose River unakite area—near Syria
epidote, orthoclase, quartz

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Hamme tungsten district (includes Burwell, Kimball, Taylor prospect)—near Clarksville
chalcopyrite, fluorite, galena, huebnerite, rhodochrosite, scheelite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite

NELSON COUNTY

American Rutile quarry—near Roseland
anatase, apatite, augite, chalcopyrite, epidote,
Hawkbill Creek area—near Ida
epidote, jasper
Ida mine (Virginia Consolidated Copper Company)—near Ida
azurite, copper (native), cuprite, epidote, jasper, malachite

PATRICK COUNTY

Bull Mountain site—near Stuart
andalusite, corundum, kyanite, margarite
Fairy Stone State Park—near Philpott
staurolite (most are sericite pseudomorphs after staurolite)
Marble quarry (unnamed)—near Woolwine
garnet, sphenone, tourmaline

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Axton pegmatite district (includes Dalton, Tyler, Vicama, Will Rogers mines)—near Axton
beryl, feldspar minerals, garnet, kyanite, quartz (smoky), tourmaline
Emery prospect—near Whittles
corundum, magnetite, spinel
Pittsylvania Wayside—near Altavista
beryl, columbite-tantalite, garnet, muscovite, orthoclase, zircon

POWHATAN COUNTY

Herb No. 2 pegmatite mine (f)—near Flat Rock
albite, amazonite, beryl, cassiterite, columbite-tantalite, monazite, muscovite, spessartine, topaz, wodginite

PAGE COUNTY

Fishers Gap unakite locality—near Stanley
epidote, orthoclase, quartz (rarely apatite, chlorite, zircon)

Millerite on chalcopyrite; largest crystal, 1.75 mm;
Soapstone quarry, Nelson County. Photograph T. M. Gathright, II; Virginia Division of Mineral Resources specimen.

garnet, ilmenite, orthopyroxene, quartz (blue), rutile, sphenone, zoisite
Allen Copper mine—near Wintergreen
chalcopyrite, malachite
J. S. Saunders farm (e)—near Lowesville
amethyst
Roadcut (intersection routes 655 and 724)—near Roseland
blue quartz
Schuyler area soapstone quarries—near Schuyler
actinolite, apatite, calcite, chalcopyrite, chlorite, dolomite, galena, ilmenite, magnetite, millerite, pyrite, serpentine, talc

Topaz crystal (gem quality); 10.9 by 3.5 inches (8.9 pounds); Herb Number 2 pegmatite, Powhatan County. Howard Freeland photograph; Peter McCrery specimen.
White Peak pegmatite mines (numbers 1, 2, 3, & 4)—near Flat Rock
albite, biotite crystals, columbite-tantalite, euxenite, muscovite, pyrochlore, samarskite

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Baker Mountain kyanite mine—(partially reclaimed) near Madisonville
chromian muscovite (fuchsite), garnet, hematite, kyanite, pyrite, rutile
Smith farm (c)—near Rice
amethyst crystals

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

James River stie—near Hopewell
gypsum (selenite), jarosite

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Gainesville quarry—near Gainesville
actinolite, apatite, apophyllite, bornite, chalcopyrite, laumontite, magnetite, prehnite
Manassas quarry—near Manassas
actinolite, apatite, apophyllite, bornite, chabazite, chalcopyrite, datolite

ROANOKE COUNTY

Catawba Mountain prospect—near Salem
barite, quartz crystals
Shepherd's pegmatite prospect—near Starkey
allanite, anatase pseudomorphs after sphene, epidote, zircon

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Bargers limestone quarry—Lexington
barite, calcite, fluorite, pyrite, quartz crystals
Irish Creek tin mines (Cash mine)—near Montebello
aikenite, arsenopyrite, beryl, cassiterite, chalcopyrite, fluorite, galenobismutite, gold, phenakite, pyrite, scheelite, scorodite, sericite, siderite, silver, wolframite
Long Jack quarry—near Glasgow
barite, calcite, chalcopyrite, dolomite, fluorite, malachite, marcasite, pyrite
Route 56 unakite quarry—near Vesuvius
epidote, orthoclase, quartz (rarely apatite, chlorite, magnetite, pumpellyite)
Vesuvius iron—manganese district (includes Dixie, Kelly Bank, Midvale and South River mines)—near Vesuvius

Pyrite crystal showing cube and striated octahedral faces in limestone matrix; crystal, 1.5 inches; Bargers quarry, Rockbridge County. T. M. Gaithright, II photograph; D. Allen Penick, Jr., specimen.
cacoxenite, churchite (weinschenkite), cryp tomelane, goethite, hematite, kidwellite, manganite, psilomelane, pyrolusite, rockbridgeite, strengite, turquoise, variscite, wavellite

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Betts quarry—Harrisonburg
calcite, dolomite, fluorite, native sulfur
Bowers-Campbell mine—near Timberville
dolomite, galena, greenockite, pyrite, smithsonite, sphalerite
Fulks Run (roadcuts)—near Fulks Run
celestite
Gordon mine—near Timberville
dolomite, galena, pyrite, sphalerite
Route 259—Shenandoah River site—near Brooks Gap
large quartz crystals (float)
Timberville mine (Weatherholtz)—near Timberville
barite, dolomite, galena, greenockite, smithsonite, sphalerite

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

Powells Fort manganese mine—near Woodstock
manganite, pyrolusite

SMYTH COUNTY

Henderlite mine—near Marion
barite, calcite, chalcopyrite, fluorite, malachite, pyrite
Locust Cove mine—near Saltville
  anhydrite, gypsum
Porterfield quarry Rich Valley
  quartz crystals (some scepter type)

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Edenton pegmatite mine—near Brokenburg
  cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, microcline,
  quartz (smoky), tourmaline (dravite)

WARREN COUNTY

Runyon agate mine—near Bentonville
  plume agate (quartz and manganese oxide)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Hayters Gap site (roadcuts)—near Hayters Gap
  pyritized ammonoids
North Fork Holston River—near Hayters Gap
  calcite, celestite

WISE COUNTY

Belton quarry—near East Stone Gap
  celestite, calcian strontianite
East Stone Gap quarry—near East Stone Gap
  calcite, celestite, calcian strontianite

WYTHE COUNTY

New Jersey Zinc mine (c)—near Austinville
  anhydrite, calcite, fluorite, galena, hemimorphite, pyrite, smithsonite, sphalerite

CITIES

City of Fredericksburg (along Hazel Run)
  alunogen, jarosite, cobaltian pickeringite, tri-
  dymite after wood

City of Richmond
  diamond (23¾ carat Dewey diamond found in
  1855), vivianite

City of Virginia Beach (c)
  clam geodes with calcite crystals

Celeste; 0.8 inch in length; East Stone Gap quarry,
  Wise County. T. M. Gathright, II, photograph; D. Allen Penick specimen.

Diamond (Dewey Diamond); 23¾ carats; found in
  Richmond (area once named Manchester) in 1855.
  Largest diamond found in the U.S. until 1884.
  Photograph courtesy of Smithsonian Institution.

Vivianite from Richmond; greatest dimension ap-
  proximately 7 inches; photograph courtesy of the
  Smithsonian Institution.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

An early draft of this paper was reviewed by several persons; their assistance is greatly appreciated. They include: Howard R. Freeland, William F. Giannini, Richard S. Mitchell, Palmer C. Sweet, and Frances Villemagne.

REFERENCES


NEW PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION 62


$3.00

PUBLICATION 63

(In Progress)

PUBLICATION 64

Geology of the Ashland Quadrangle, Virginia by Robert E. Weems; 1:24,000-scale color map with text, one sheet, 1986.

$9.00

PUBLICATION 65


$9.00

PUBLICATION 66

PART 1

Interpretive Seismic Profile Along Interstate I-64 in Central Virginia from the Valley and Ridge to the Coastal Plain by Leonard D. Harris, Wallace deWitt, Jr., and Kenneth C. Bayer; single two-color sheet modified from U.S. Geological Survey Chart OC-123, 1986.

$5.00

PART 2

(In Progress)

PUBLICATION 67


$3.00

PUBLICATION 68


$5.00

PUBLICATION 69


$12.00

PUBLICATION 70

Selected Slope Categories and Karst Features Map of Giles County, Virginia by Elizabeth V. Miller and David A. Hubbard, Jr.; 1:50,000-scale, two-color map, one sheet, 1986.

$2.50
BRUCITE FROM HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

William F. Giannini, Richard S. Mitchell, and Robert W. Mann

Brucite, a magnesium hydroxide mineral, has recently been found as an important constituent in a contact metamorphic marble in Highland County. This brucite marble occurs as a zone in dolomite in the Beekmantown Group of Lower Ordovician age near the top center of the southeastern wall in an abandoned quarry. The old quarry is located 2.5 miles northeast of Hightown on the southeastern side of Route 640 (Figure) and was formerly operated by the State of Virginia for road stone. The contact metamorphic zone, which is visible approximately 30 feet along bedding, is approximately 5 feet thick below its contact with a porphyritic andesite dike of Middle Eocene age (Fullgar and Bottino, 1969; Rader, Gathright, II, and Marr, Jr., 1986; and Rader and Griffin, 1960). The resulting marble zone contains an intimate mixture of calcite, brucite, and minor serpentine. Dislodged blocks of the brucite marble to 2 feet across have been found on the quarry floor directly below the outcrop. The weathered surfaces of most blocks are mottled dark gray to black with white; however, fresh exposures exhibit a stark white, cryptocrystalline marble, often with zones of pale blue, green, yellow, or purple.

A quantitative X-ray diffraction study was made of specimens from the deposit, and it was determined that the typical marble contains 17 percent brucite and 83 percent calcite by weight. In rock nomenclature brucite marble, in which calcite is greater than brucite, is traditionally named predazzite. Those marbles known to have calcite nearly equal to brucite are named pencatite. In the ideal contact metamorphic environment, the original sedimentary dolomite rock (CaMg(CO₃)₂) decomposes to form calcite (CaCO₃) and periclase (MgO). However, with the presence of water, brucite (Mg(OH)₂) is often formed instead of periclase. No periclase was observed here. Although there are numerous igneous intrusions in the area, other occurrences of brucite marble are not known in Highland County. If they exist, they will probably be limited to zones bordering intrusions into the Beekmantown Group carbonates since these are the only rocks containing significant dolomite beds within the intrusive provenance.

The mineral brucite, containing 69 percent magnesium oxide, can be used as a source of magnesium metal or magnesium compounds. Kramer (1986) notes that 54 percent of the metal consumed in the United States in 1985 was for the manufacture of aluminum-base alloys while almost 80 percent of the compounds was for the production of basic refractories used in high temperature metallurgical furnaces.

Figure. Location of quarry containing brucite marble, Highland County, 2.5 miles northeast of Hightown and Route 250 (Monterey 7.5-minute topographic map).

REFERENCES


1Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
SCHEDULED MEETINGS

May 1-3 National Association of Geology Teachers Eastern Section annual meeting and field trips in Stone Ridge, New York (Lawrence R. Matson, Department of Geology, Ulster County Community College, Stone Ridge, NY 12484 (914) 687-7621 ext. 371).


May 21 and 22 Geology Section meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science at ODU in Norfolk. In addition to the regular meeting and presentations, a symposium on applied geology (environmental and engineering) will be held. (Jack Nolde, Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, P.O. Box 144, Abingdon, VA 24210 (703) 628-3940).

October 7 and 8 Virginia Solid Waste Management Association meeting in Roanoke (Ms. Lynn McKinney telephone (703) 783-5103)

MINERAL RESOURCE VIDEOS

Two videotapes about the variety and importance of Virginia's mineral resources are now available for free loan to organizations from the Charlottesville based Division of Mineral Resources, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. A twenty-minute video “We Need Virginia Minerals” is made available by the Virginia Aggregates Association and an hour video produced by WHRO-TV is entitled “Mineral Resources”.

These one-half-inch videotapes provide information about the uses and locations of Virginia's mineral resources. Visits to extractive industries show how useful materials are obtained at LeSeur Richmond Slate Corp., Luck Stone Corp (crushed stone), Kyanite Mining Corp. and Lone Star Cement, Inc. (sand and gravel). “Mineral Resources” presents Palmer Sweet of the Division staff describing the variety of the State's mineral, oil and gas, and coal resources, with illustrative graphs, charts, and slides. “We Need Virginia Minerals” is an innovative presentation about Thomas Jefferson's reactions to today's uses of mineral resources.

Both videos can be obtained on request for free loan to civic, service, and educational organizations from the Division of Mineral Resources, P.O. Box 3667, Charlottesville, VA 22903.