

TRIP B-11

Field guide to the Chatham and Greylock slices of the Taconic allochthon in western Massachusetts and their relationship to the Hoosac-Rowe sequence

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Introduction

Since 1977, the U.S. Geological Survey has been engaged in a program to compile data for a new bedrock geologic map of Massachusetts. Don Potter and I have been mapping in northwestern Massachusetts in an attempt to fill in unmapped or poorly understood areas. Detailed mapping of the Pittsfield West, Hancock, Berlin, Williamstown, and parts of the North Adams and Cheshire quadrangles have been completed.

This trip will deal principally with new data regarding the age, distribution, and structural characteristics of major boundaries at the soles of the Taconic allochthons (Fig. 1) exposed along the New York State line, and on Mount Greylock. An attempt will be made to relate these features to rocks exposed in the eugeoclinal Hoosac-Rowe belt east of the Berkshire massif. Time constraints for movement of these materials across the autochthon and the modes of emplacement will be discussed.

Stratigraphy

The stratigraphic columns can be divided into three sequences: 1) allochthonous group of rocks exposed in thrust slices resting on 2) the lower autochthonous miogeoclinal sequence, and 3) a tectonically separate eugeoclinal sequence east of the Berkshire massif.

A correlation chart is given in Figure 2.

The base of the autochthonous section, the dark albitic Hoosac Formation, interfingers with basal beds of the Dalton Formation on Hoosac Mountain (Herz, 1961). This relationship has been confirmed in remapping of the Hoosac belt. The Dalton consists of feldspathic quartzite schist and conglomerate. It rests unconformably on basement gneiss of the Berkshire massif or of the Green Mountains. Quartzites assigned to the Dalton contain Ollenelus fragments near North Adams (Walcott, 1888). Cheshire Quartzite, vitreous quartzite, and the Stockbridge Formation form a continuous sequence of shallow water quartzite and carbonate rocks deposited as a miogeoclinal wedge that is the time equivalent of deeper water slope and rise sediments in the Taconic allochthons.

A major sedimentary break occurs in the Middle Ordovician, where an unconformity is recognized beneath the Walloomsac Formation. Taconic allochthons commonly rest on a cushion of Walloomsac.

The Taconic allochthonous rocks have been assigned to four slices, after Zen (1967), for discussion here: the Giddings Brook, Chatham, Rensselaer Plateau, Everett, and Greylock slices. These slices overlap eastward. In addition, several slices of distinctly Taconic-like rock are exposed east of the main Taconic allochthons. The diagrammatic

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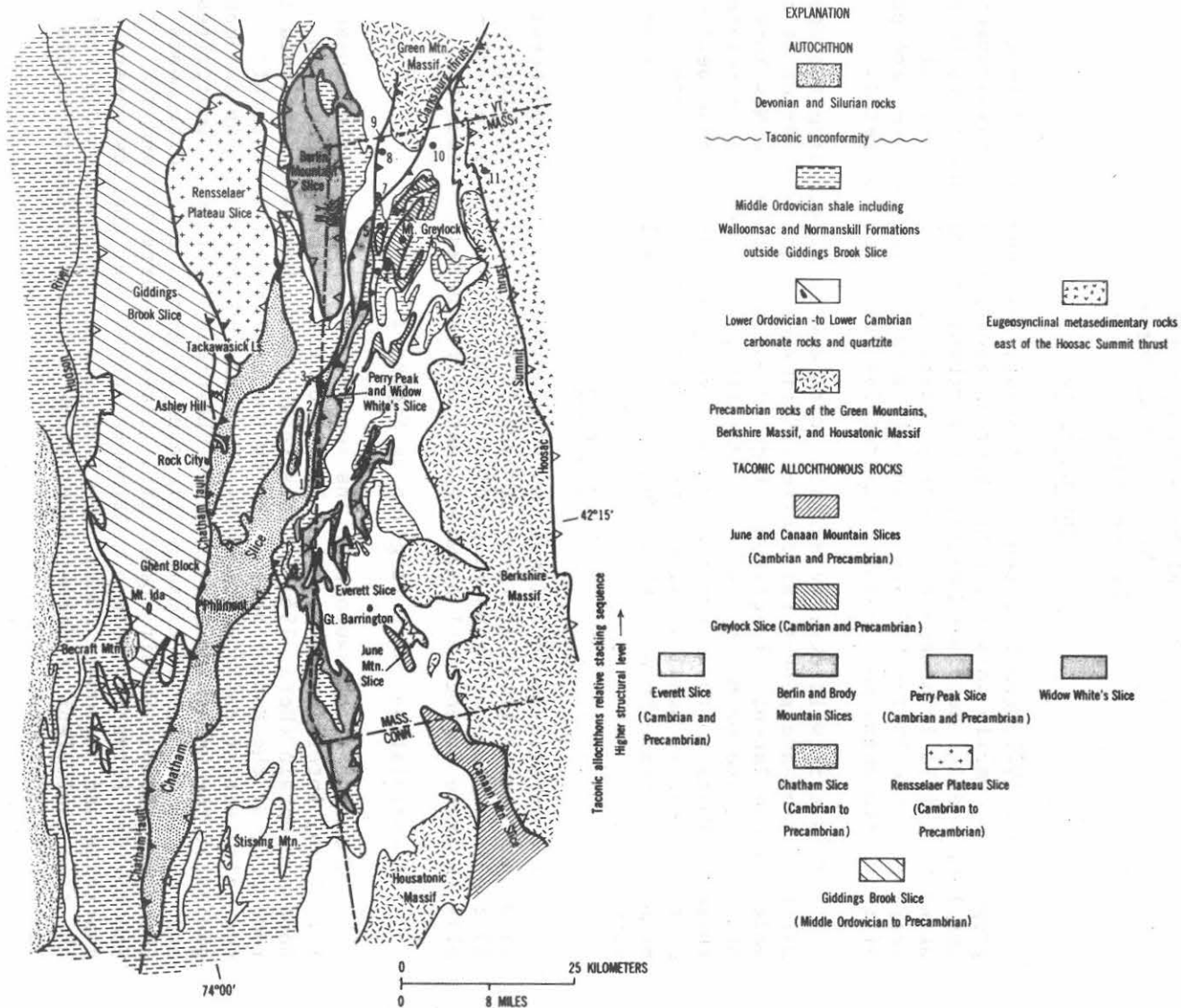


Figure 1. Regional geologic map showing generalized slices of the Taconic allochthon modified from Zen (1967), based on data in Ratcliffe (1947a), Ratcliffe and Bahrami (1975), and Potter (1972). The Chatham fault and other Acadian faults are shown with solid triangles. For relationships among Rensselaer Plateau and other slices in New York and adjacent Vermont, see Potter, this guide book

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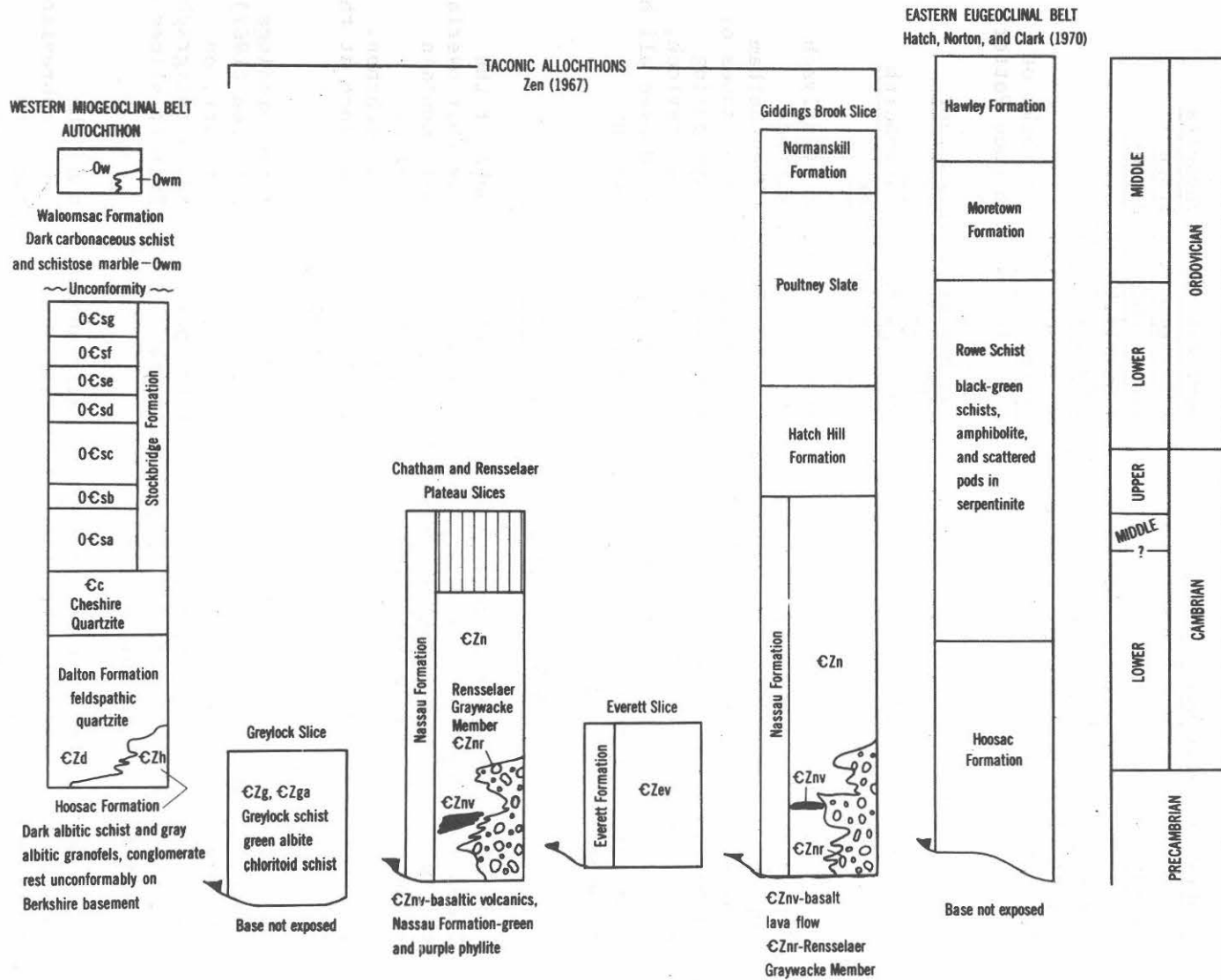


Figure 2. Correlation of major rock units in the autochthon, Taconic allochthons, and eastern eugeoclinal belt

listing below shows the general stacking sequence, and possible correlation between slices exposed in the southwest and northwest of Figure 1.

Southwest Massachusetts

Canaan Mountain Slices

(Harwood, 1975)

Rocks on June Mountain

(Ratcliffe and others, 1975)

Everett slice

Chatham slice

Giddings Brook slice

Northwest Massachusetts

Eastern N.Y. State

Hoosac east of Hoosac

Summit thrust

Greylock slice

Everett slice(?) = rocks on Berlin Mountain (see Potter, this guidebook)

Chatham slice=Rensselaer

Plateau slice(?)

Giddings Brook slice=North Petersburg slice

The lowest slice contains dated Middle Ordovician wildflysch deposits along the sole, suggesting soft rock or near surface emplacement of the Giddings Brook slice (Zen, 1967). The Chatham Rensselaer Plateau and Everett slices are marked locally by zones of carbonate blocks ripped from the autochthonous Stockbridge during emplacement as hard rock slices. The highest slices, the Greylock, Canaan Mountain and June Mountain, and the allochthonous Hoosac all have synmetamorphic fold-thrust emplacement fabrics that cross cut metamorphic foliation in the slices.

A brief survey of Taconic allochthons

Zen (1967) has proposed that the allochthonous rocks of the Taconic belong to six or seven discrete structural slices that overlap eastward so that the highest structural level, the Dorset Mountain slice, in western Massachusetts is known as the Everett slice (Ratcliffe, 1969) and crops out at the east edge of the allochthon. Rocks of the Everett slice constitute the high Taconic sequence at this latitude and are presumed to have been emplaced last.

The low Taconics here are represented by rocks of the Giddings Brook, Chatham, and Rensselaer Plateau slices according to Zen (1967). The distinction between high and low Taconic is based, in part, on topographic expression, relative structural position, and stratigraphic considerations. For this discussion the Greylock and Everett slices are considered high Taconic slices.

Zen further proposed that the stratigraphic range of the individual slices is greatest in the lowest slices and most abbreviated in higher slices, which contain rocks largely of inferred late Precambrian (Proterozoic Z) age (Zen, 1967). The lowmost and westernmost slices, the Giddings Brook and Sunset Lake (in Vermont), were emplaced by gravity gliding in the Middle Ordovician, contemporaneously with wildflysch-like (Forbes Hill Conglomerate of Zen, 1961) material that contains fossiliferous and nonfossiliferous

fragments of the allochthon itself. Graptolites of Zone 13 (Berry, 1962, p. 715) in the matrix of the wildflysch-like conglomerate that underlies the Giddings Brook (North Petersburg slice of Potter, 1972) and Sunset Lake slices date the time of submarine emplacement (Zen, 1967; Bird, 1969). Graptolites of Zone 12 (Berry, 1962) have been collected from the Walloomsac Formation which underlies wildflysch-like conglomerate at the eastern (trailing) edge of the Giddings Brook slice (North Petersburg slice) at Whipstock Hill (Potter, 1972). This suggests that the Giddings Brook slice was emplaced during the timespan represented by Zones 12 and 13, although the lack of fossils in the matrix at Whipstock Hill precludes proof of this point.

The Chatham slice overrides the Giddings Brook slice along the Chatham fault of Craddock (1957) (Fig. 1). The fault zone contains slivers of carbonate and other rocks and appears to be an Acadian fault (Ratcliffe and Bahrami, 1976). To the east, the Chatham slice is overlain by the Everett slice at the sole of which are distinctive tectonic breccias that consist of complex mixtures of fragments of all the shelf sequence carbonate rocks, and Walloomsac and Everett, lithologies concentrated along the soles of imbricate slices (Zen and Ratcliffe, 1966; Ratcliffe, 1969, 1974a).

Chatham slice and the Chatham fault

The rocks of the Chatham slice were studied previously by Craddock (1957) and Weaver (1957), who did not map detailed stratigraphy within the slice. Thus, Zen in his 1967 compilation had only limited data available bearing on Chatham slice stratigraphy. Rocks assigned to the Chatham slice extend northward along the New York-Massachusetts State line (Fig. 1).

Rocks of the Chatham slice resemble closely gray-green and purple slate (Mettawee), Rensselaer Graywacke, and other rocks of the Nassau Formation (Bird, 1962a) in the Giddings Brook and Rensselaer Plateau slices. The Chatham slice sedimentary rocks (Nassau) probably also are pre-Olenellus in age. Distinctive but sporadically developed diabasic basalts, pillow lavas, and pyroclastic volcanic rocks are spatially associated with the base of the Rensselaer facies in all three slices (Balk, 1953; Potter, 1972; Ratcliffe, 1974a).

Massive quartzites, similar to those of the Zion Hill Member of the Bull Formation of Zen (1961) and the Curtis Mountain Quartzite of Fisher (1962), which crop out in the Chatham slice are not clearly one horizon but underlie coarse Rensselaer-type Graywacke in many areas. One of these quartzites that has a polymict basal conglomerate (Ratcliffe and others, 1975, stop 5) contains angular fragments of basaltic or andesitic scoria. This suggests that the relatively thin subgraywackes and quartzites exposed in the western part of the Chatham slice may be tongues of Rensselaer-like material that extended westward into the sedimentary basin.

Importantly, the Rensselaer-like graywacke of the Chatham slice in the Austerlitz outlier and in the State Line quadrangle overlies a

considerable thickness (300-1,000 m) of purple and green slate, siltstone, and laminated green slate typical of the Nassau elsewhere. However, Rensselaer Graywacke of the Giddings Brook and Rensselaer Plateau slices appears at or near the base of the preserved stratigraphic succession. The stratigraphic position of the Rensselaer within the original (as opposed to the allochthonous) sequence is really moot, because the original sequence is nowhere preserved intact, and we do not know at present if the Chatham slice relationships are the rule rather than the exception.

Internal structure of the Chatham slice is complex and folds of pre-emplacement age have been recognized in many areas, however, the regional Taconic slaty cleavage crosscuts the thrust contacts. Locally, a wildflysch-like zone is preserved at the sole (Ratcliffe and others, 1975, p. 82) and Stop 3 of this trip. In addition, evidence for interleaved fault slivers of autochthonous carbonate and allochthonous rocks as well as localized recumbent folding in the autochthon are recognized (see Stop 1).

Everett slice

Rocks of the Everett Formation that form the high Taconic Everett slice are greenish-gray, green, and locally purplish slate containing relatively minor amounts of interbedded Rensselaer-like graywacke. In general, the Everett Formation resembles rock of the lower part of the Nassau Formation when the effect of increased metamorphic grade is considered. Zen and Hartshorn (1966), Zen and Ratcliffe (1966), and Ratcliffe (1969, 1974a, 1974b) consider the Everett rocks to be as old or older than rocks of the western slices. No fossils have ever been found within rocks of the Everett slice, and are not likely to be, so that the age problem may never be completely resolved. The Everett slice is about 12 km wide and probably originated from a depositional site at least this wide. Internal structure within the Everett slice, however, is poorly known, owing to the lack of coherent stratigraphy, the possibility of stacked slices of material that all rooted from the same zone could reduce this 12 km estimate for the original sedimentary width.

The contact relationships of the Everett and Chatham slices are complicated because the leading edge of the Everett slice is a zone of intense imbrication involving both allochthonous and locally detached autochthonous rocks. A belt of parautochthonous Walloomsac commonly separates the two slices (Fig. 1). Locally slivers several kilometers long of purple and green slates typical of Chatham slice rocks are found incorporated in the parautochthonous belt of Walloomsac. In addition, at least two imbricate slices of Everett rocks are found above the Walloomsac sliver and above the slivers of Chatham slice rocks (Ratcliffe, 1974a).

The contact of parautochthonous Walloomsac on the Chatham slice and between the Everett and all other rocks is marked locally by an intensely developed tectonic breccia composed of inclusions of Stockbridge Formation. These breccias mark tectonic movement zones that

differ from conventional fault zones in one important aspect. The carbonate clasts in the highly imbricated slate matrix are exotic blocks, not derived from the present hanging wall or foot wall, but from the autochthonous Stockbridge belt, and thus are considered tectonic inclusions transported within the movement zone from some site to the east. The tectonic breccia is evidence for a thrust beneath the Everett slice, which is independent of the regional stratigraphic arguments (Zen and Ratcliffe, 1966). These breccias have been mapped throughout southwestern Massachusetts (Zen and Ratcliffe, 1966; Ratcliffe, 1974a, 1974b) and are found in east and west dipping contacts as well as along the noses of plunging folds of the thrust contacts. The emplacement of the breccias predated the first regional metamorphism and the penetrative foliation that crosscut the contact of the thrust slices with the autochthon. Emplacement of the Everett slice resulted in brittle deformation (plucking) of the carbonate rocks, indicating that the carbonate rocks were lithified at the time of thrusting. Similar brittle deformation of the pelitic rocks is not recognized, although an abnormally strong phyllitic foliation has been noted by Zen (1969) immediately adjacent to the carbonate slivers. Clearly, emplacement of the Everett slice involved hard rather than unconsolidated sediments. The age of emplacement of the Everett slice is unknown, but on the basis of geometric relationships, its final movements postdated emplacement of the Chatham slice in the Middle Ordovician and predated formation of the regional slaty cleavage that probably is Late Ordovician in age.

Structural Geology of the Greylock slice

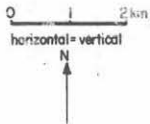
The Greylock slice was proposed by Zen (1967) to account for the occurrence of Taconic-like rocks on the Mount Greylock above a thrust fault mapped by Prindle and Knopf (1932). Zen correlated the Greylock slice with the Dorset Mountain slice because of similar stratigraphy.

Louis Prindle and Eleanora Knopf, in an extremely penetrating paper (1932) on the geology of the Taconic quadrangle, concluded that greenish phyllites on Mount Greylock formed a thrust sheet consisting largely of albitic Hoosac and minor amounts of lustrous chloritoid-bearing Rowe Schist (rocks of the eastern eugeoclinal sequence). Structural arguments for a thrust were based on the discordant relationship of the schists on Mount Greylock to the underlying dolomitic and calcitic marble of the Stockbridge Formation. In addition, they proposed that the thrust contact was recumbently folded into large recumbent folds with amplitudes of approximately 6 km. They envisioned a complicated movement history in which the already emplaced rocks were recumbently folded during continued movement.

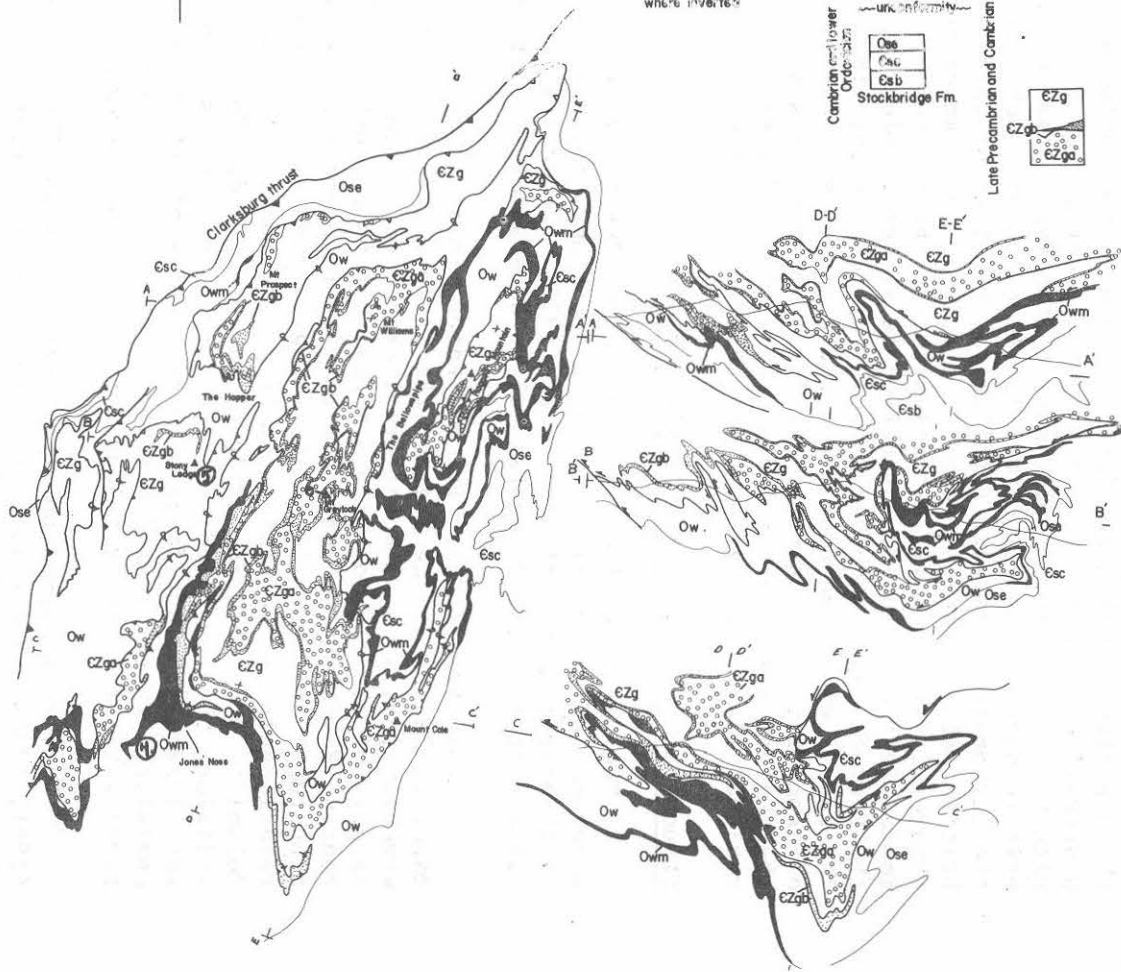
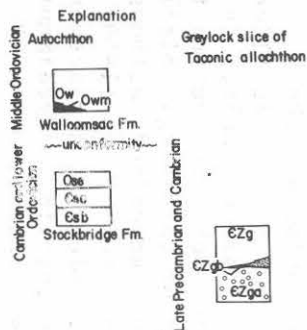
Norm Herz mapped both the North Adams and Cheshire quadrangles (1961, 1958) and concluded that the Greylock Schist was conformable with the underlying Walloomsac Formation of Middle Ordovician age.

Results of remapping Mount Greylock in the Williamstown, North Adams, and Cheshire quadrangles are shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The contact of the Greylock Schist with the autochthon is shown as a highly

GEOLOGIC MAP AND CROSS SECTIONS OF THE MOUNT GREYLOCK ALLOCHTHON



Greylock thrust teeth on upper plate, overturned symbol shows direction where inverted



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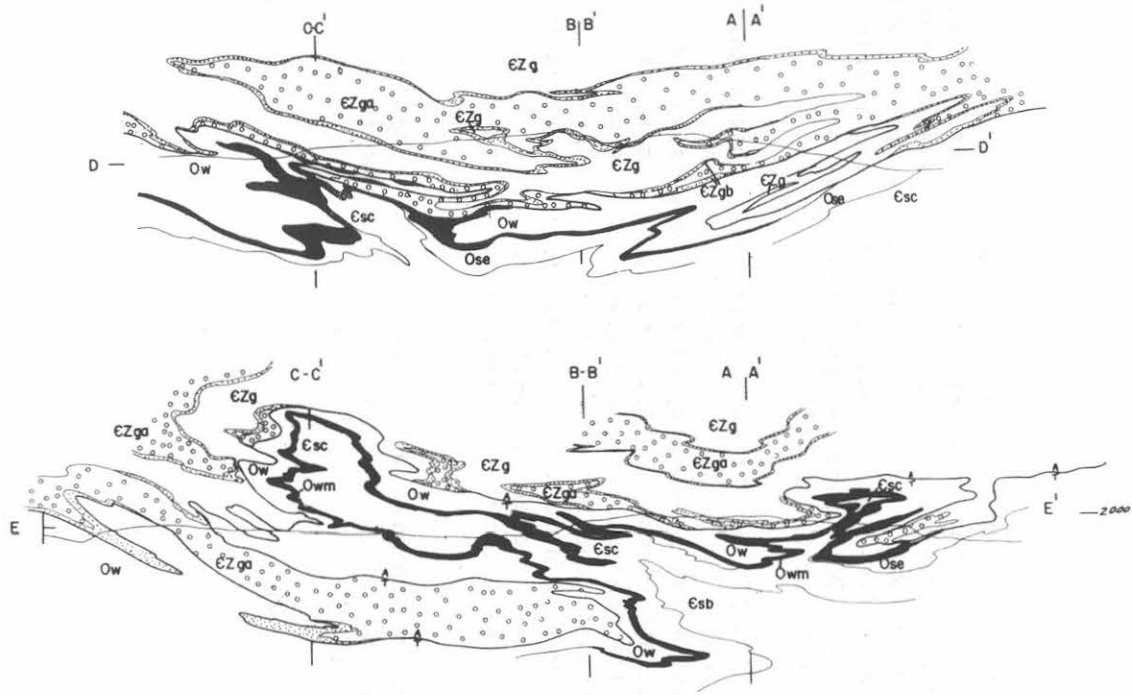
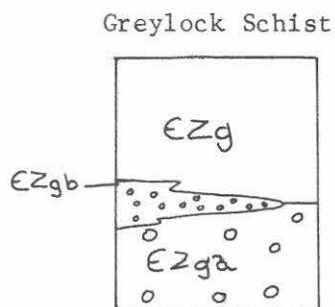


Figure 3. Geologic map and cross sections of the Greylock allochthon. Designs are intended to correlate with designs used on Fig. 5.

Figure 4. Stratigraphy of the Greylock slice. Compare with descriptions of Hoosac Formation on Fig. 5.



EZg Predominantly light-green to pale yellowish-green, lustrous chloritoid quartz phyllite with minor beds spotted with white albite. Local well-laminated gray and gray-green phyllite contain discontinuous beds 1 to 2 cm of quartzose dolomite or of white quartzite spotted with brown weathering pits of ankerite. Minor beds of blue quartz pebble conglomerate up to 1 m thick. Dark purplish-gray phyllites are interlayered in roadcuts south of Mount Williams.

EZgb Black, dark-gray chloritoid or stilpnomelane-albite quartz knotted schist and quartz pebble schist or metagraywacke. Lenses of gray pinstriped feldspathic quartzite, green-gray vitreous quartzite and quartz pebble conglomerate are common. Minor beds up to 5 m thick of white-spotted biotite albite quartz schist and granulite resemble closely the more albite beds in the Hoosac Formation. On Ragged Mountain, salmon pink weathering dolostone in beds up to 1 m thick is interbedded with albitic schist and quartz pebble conglomerate. Unit grades into more albitic rocks lacking the distinctive quartz-knotted appearance.

EZga Dark-gray to light-greenish-gray white-albite studded schist chlorite granulite, either massive or poorly bedded. Magnetite or ilmenite locally is abundant.

folded thrust fault. Internal structures within the allochthon are discordant to the fault. Various units of the autochthon terminate against the contact as Prindle and Knopf described.

The general structure of Mount Greylock is a doubly plunging synformal mass produced by crossfolding of older structures by two episodes of late northeast trending folds with northwest overturned to upright axial surfaces. The late folds are given expression by a strong crenulation cleavage or spaced slip cleavage in the axial planes.

Older foliated structures are complexly folded and appear to consist of at least two recumbent to strongly westward to southwesterly overturned structures. One of these nearly recumbent fold phases folds the thrust contact in two large scale recumbent and reclined folds as shown in the cross sections A-A' through E-E'. Fold styles are isoclinal with fold axes commonly inclined at high rake angles to the northeast, east, southwest, and west, depending upon the dip direction of the axial surfaces. These folds postdate metamorphic foliate structures both in the autochthon and the allochthon. Near thrust contacts, minor recumbent folding of foliation is especially intense. This indicates that thrusting postdated some metamorphism in both autochthon and allochthon alike.

Folds older than the allochthon's emplacement are found within the allochthon. Detailed tracing of the three part stratigraphy within the Greylock allochthon reveals a major recumbent fold repetition, with the plane of symmetry passing through the outcrop belt of the chloritoid-rich phyllite unit on Mount Greylock. This recumbent structure is judged to be a west-facing syncline. This assumption is based on correlation of the albitic member with the observed lower units of the Hoosac Formation on Hoosac Mountain. The fold closure shown in section D-D' is not observed on the ground and is conjectural. However, early hinge lines in the northern part of Mount Greylock plunge southwest to west and could intersect section line D-D' in the air north of Mount Williams. The large lefthand digitation on the lower limb in the area of A-A' crossing of section D-D' suggest that the closure may be expected where drawn.

The interpretation of the Greylock structure presented here differs from that of Prindle and Knopf. Previous workers (Pumpelly, Wolf, and Dale, 1894) showed carbonate rocks (Bellowspipe Limestone) encircling Greylock Schist on Mount Greylock. This belt formed the axial portion of the large recumbent anticline shown by Prindle and Knopf. Remapping shows that this limestone belt is not continuous around the north end of the mountain but is traceable into the main belt of autochthonous Stockbridge in the Adams area, as Prindle and Knopf show. Rather than encircling Mount Greylock, this belt of Stockbridge is interpreted as a recumbent anticline cored by unit C of the Stockbridge, that is downfolded in the main synform on Mount Greylock. The lower limb of this structure is exposed in the hooklike bend west of Mount Cole where carbonate rocks and the Walloomsac Formation overlie Greylock Schist in northeast-plunging folds.

The model for emplacement of the Greylock slice differs little from that outlined by Prindle and Knopf. Emplacement took place under metamorphic conditions and involved folding of older metamorphic structures. Metamorphism outlasted thrusting as chloritoid and albite clearly are imprinted on the foliated fault fabric. Folding accompanied thrusting presumably as a result of large scale westward transport of higher slices of the tectonic cover, that consists of the Berkshire massif and the eastern eugeoclinal sequence.

Cross folds and slip cleavages of two different orientations are superposed on all of the Taconic fabrics.

Relationship of Greylock slice to the Hoosac Formation,
the Hoosac summit thrust and root zone of the allochthons

Stratigraphic comparisons of Greylock stratigraphy with that of the Hoosac Formation show striking similarities. Prindle and Knopf correlated the two sequences but suggested that the more aluminous green phyllite on the Greylock represented Rowe rather than Hoosac. Remapping of the Hoosac belt has shown that a major fault exists within the type Hoosac along the Hoosac summit thrust (Fig. 5). East of this fault, the Hoosac contains interbedded green aluminous phyllite identical to the chloritoid phyllite unit on Mount Greylock. Albitic units also are present as shown in Figure 5.

The green chloritoid unit on Mount Greylock is interbedded with albitic rock and is more coarsely crystalline than the type Rowe exposed east of the Hoosac belt. This unit compares more favorably with the green unit mapped within the Hoosac Formation (Fig. 5).

Coarse green or grey albitic rocks similar to those at the base of the eastern Hoosac sequence are found in the Greylock schist but are lacking in the Rowe. The Hoosac, however, contains distinctive beds of Dalton-like units and appears to have been deposited on the Berkshire 1 b.y.- old basement.

These relations suggest that the Greylock slice was derived from the Hoosac belt east of the Hoosac summit thrust but west of the Rowe depositional position. Examination of the rock fabric near the Hoosac summit thrust shows phyllonitic rock with green spears of chlorite and ultrafine grained paragonite-sericite matrix. Isoclinal recumbent folds with reclined axes are formed by folding of an older schistosity within the Hoosac of both plates. In addition, the allochthonous Hoosac contains recumbent fold repetitions that predate the Hoosac summit thrust. Post-thrust metamorphism, however, has produced static albite and garnet overgrowths of probable Acadian age on this fault fabric.

The structural characteristics of the Hoosac summit thrust and the sole of the Greylock slice are, therefore, quite similar.

A comparison of the stratigraphy, internal structure, and emplacement fabrics of the Greylock allochthons with the Hoosac allochthon suggests a common tectonic history. The final emplacement of

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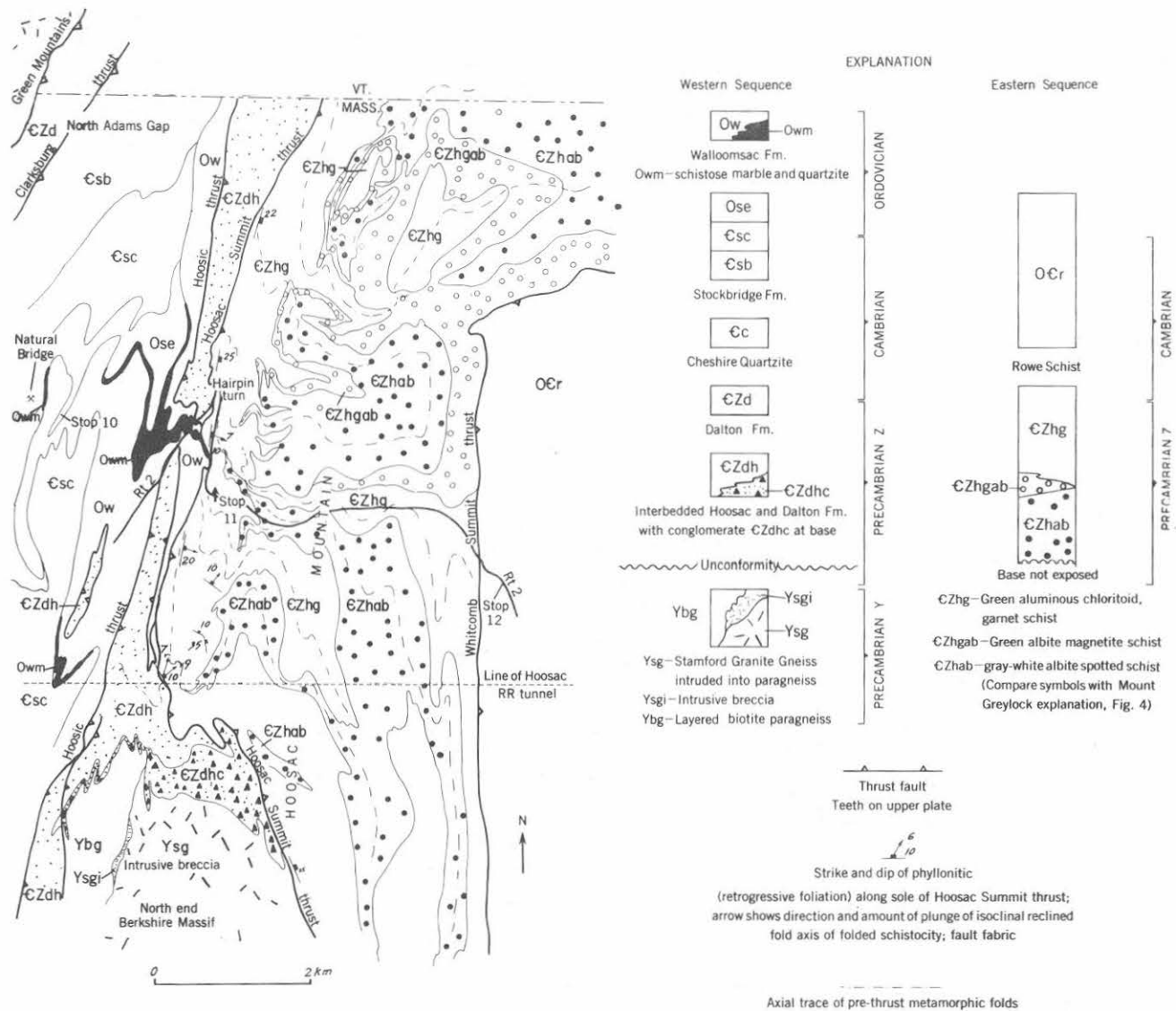


Figure 5. Geologic map of Hoosac Mountain based on mapping by N. Ratcliffe and R. Stanley, 1976-77, (unpub. data).

the Greylock allochthon across the miogeoclinal sedimentary rocks was a hard rock thrust that may have been rooted within the Hoosac belt east of the Berkshire massif. Possibly the root zone for the Greylock and other slices is buried beneath the Whitcomb summit thrust (Stanley, 1977) at the base of the Rowe sequence (Ratcliffe and others, 1975, p. 64).

Comparison of the Greylock Slice with other Taconic allochthonous

No other allochthon in the main Taconic range from Vermont south to Connecticut has the structural characteristics of the Greylock allochthon. The combination of recumbent folding of the thrust surface and relatively late emplacement is remarkable and is unlike the relationships at the sole of the Giddings Brook, Chatham, or Everett slices. Allochthonous rocks similar to the Hoosac Formation on June Mountain (Ratcliffe and others, 1975) and in the Canaan Mountain allochthons (Harwood, 1979, 1975) do have these structural attributes and may have been transported westward with the Berkshire massif following initial upthrusting onto the massif rocks.

Evidently the Taconic allochthons of Giddings Brook, Rensselaer Plateau, Chatham and Everett slices were ejected from a root or slide zone east of the Hoosac summit slice prior to dynamothermal metamorphism. The Greylock and Canaan Mountain fault slices, however, did not escape metamorphism prior to emplacement. The fold style and character of emplacement fabrics for these rocks resembles closely that found in the remobilized and thrust-faulted basement rocks of the Berkshire massif itself. Large scale westward overthrusting and compressional tectonics were responsible for final emplacement of the Greylock slice probably during the event in which the Berkshire massif was thrust over the miogeocline.

The relative stacking order requires that the Everett, Greylock, and June Mountain slices were emplaced last under conditions of increasingly greater metamorphic intensity and under greater tectonic cover than the western slices. Williams (1975), on the other hand, suggested that the Newfoundland Taconic allochthons had been preassembled, with movement first occurring on eastern and highest metamorphic slices and associated ophiolite. The prestacked assemblage moved last on the melange at the floor of the lowest and nonmetamorphic slice.

Although the stacking sequence within the Chatham and higher slices is similar to that proposed by Williams, the higher slices here are all marked by evidence of tectonic slivering of local autochthonous carbonate rocks between the slices. Such a relationship requires that the present stacking order of Taconic slices with interleaving of fault slivers of the autochthon cannot be the same as a preassembled one that formed in a tectonic staging area prior to ejection of the allochthons.

The very close stratigraphic and structural similarity between the Hoosac and Greylock allochthons suggest that the higher slices in Massachusetts traveled the shortest relative distance and that the

structurally lowermost and now westernmost Giddings Brook, Chatham and other slices traveled the farthest from more oceanward realms. It is important to appreciate that these arguments involve relative positions of allochthons in their restored pre-thrust positions east of the restored position of the Berkshire massif and its Hoosac cover.

These observations suggest that the Taconic allochthons in Massachusetts were emplaced sequentially. This process may have involved 1) unroofing or unpeeling from a single source (diverticulation) or, 2) hardrock thrusting and westward driving of successive fault slivers, which are samples of different paleogeographic areas in the Taconic sedimentary realm. Zen (1967) preferred the first hypothesis in order to explain the existence of older rocks and abbreviated sections found in the higher slices. He suggested that the Giddings Brook slice was detached from the upper part of the sediment column for which the high Taconic sequences formed the base.

Because of the rather extensive overlap in the stratigraphy of the oldest (Nassau) and of Nassau-like rocks of each allochthon, and the unique association of basaltic volcanics with only certain of these slices, it appears that the basal stratigraphic units (in the separate allochthons) actually are samples of quite different geographic realms. Therefore, the various allochthons probably did not all occupy the same paleogeographic position but represent lateral correlatives.

I prefer hypothesis (2) with hardrock thrust faulting produced by the accumulation of westward driven slices. Movement was initiated in the easternmost parts of the Taconic basin first (west of the palinspastic site of the Rowe). The most proximal (closest to the western craton) thrust slices (Greylock Schist) were driven out last and moved westward under a growing tectonic overburden. Tectonic imbrication within the autochthon then became important and the basement massif rocks were mobilized and thrust westward. The present stacking sequence is a result of large scale imbrication of slablike wedges of basement gneiss and cover rocks that have been thrust westward over the earlier emplaced Taconic slices.

Original depositional basin of Taconic allochthonous rocks

The original depositional basin of the Taconic allochthon rocks at this latitude, on the basis of the admittedly insecure arguments above, should have been more than 70 km wide. Palinspastic reconstruction of the Berkshire massif (see Ratcliffe and others, 1975) suggests that the Precambrian (Proterozoic) crystalline rocks of the Berkshire massif, in the Middle Ordovician, were very likely about 60 km wide and located at least 21 km farther east than their present position with respect to the miogeocline. The entire Taconic sequence could not likely have been deposited on the "basement" that was to become the Berkshire massif, as has generally been suggested (for example, Zen 1967) because rocks of the Dalton-Cheshire-Stockbridge shelf sequence were deposited on at least the western 30 km of the gneiss. Bird and Dewey (1970) suggested that much of the sequence was deposited to the east of the Grenville basement. The Taconic depositional basin probably was located largely

to the east of the rocks making up the present Berkshire massif, and east of the Hoosac facies. This argument suggests that the root zone of the allochthon lies somewhere within the vicinity of the Hoosac-Rowe boundary east of the Berkshire massif. The Taconic rocks were probably deposited (initially) in an ensialic basin, with graben and horst structure and basaltic volcanism (Bird and Dewey, 1970; Bird, 1975). This basin may have evolved into a true oceanic basin with some sediment deposited on oceanic crust; however, clear evidence of this is lacking. Grenville gneissic detritus in these Taconic rocks may have been derived largely from intrabasinal sources, as the spatial relationships of the Giddings Brook-Chatham and Rensselaer Plateau slices cited earlier require. If such a model is true, and the comparison with Triassic and Jurassic(?) rift basins is valid, the Rensselaer (border conglomerate) may have been deposited throughout a considerable period of time and may not be the oldest rocks of the allochthon as commonly assumed.

Metamorphic and tectonic events in the central Taconic area of New York and Massachusetts

Figure 6 (reproduced from Patcliffe and Harwood, 1975) presents the major tectonic features recognized in a 50 km east-west belt extending from Mt. Ida and the Giddings Brook slice eastward into the core of the Berkshire massif.

Structures associated with emplacement of the allochthon D₁ - Phase A of Taconic orogeny

Large recumbent folds, such as Zen (1961) reported from the northern region of the allochthon, have not been generally found in the central Taconic region. Potter (1972) presents data indicating that rocks of the Giddings Brook slice are locally overturned as if on the brow of a nappe. However, broad areas of lower limb (inverted rocks) are not present in the areas mapped by Potter. Zen and Ratcliffe (1971), and Ratcliffe (1969, 1974a, 1974b), report the existence of prefoliation minor folds both in the autochthon and allochthon. Through recent mapping in the Chatham slice, Ratcliffe and Bahrami (1976) have noted that a wide range of bedding-cleavage intersections are found within individual outcrops. Steeply plunging, almost reclined, axes of major and minor folds are characteristic of both autochthonous and allochthonous rocks. The Giddings Brook slice reveals similar steeply plunging F₂ fold structures. No evidence for truly recumbent folds has been found. Wildflysch-like conglomerates are found at the sole of the Giddings Brook (Zen, 1967) and Chatham slices (Ratcliffe and others, 1975). However, the Chatham slice also contains intercalated fault slivers of autochthon near the sole but locally shows intensely developed recumbent folding of Stockbridge units beneath the thrust. These relationships suggest near surface emplacement of coherent rock rather than of unconsolidated sediments. (Stop 1).

Phase B of Taconic orogeny

Emplacement of the Everett slice (high Taconics) was marked by tectonic breccia zones that are distributed along the Everett-Walloomsac

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Deformational event	Number of fold system	Types of folds and areal extent	Important tectonic features	Metamorphic event	Important crystalloblastic and other structures	Igneous intrusion	Probable age of rocks in figure 1	Orogeny
D ₆	F ₆	North-south open folds of foliation locally recognized in Stockbridge valley	Northwest- and north-trending normal faults		Hematite-cemented breccias		Uncertain (Middle Devonian to Late Triassic)	Acadian orogeny
D ₅	F ₅	N. 25°-40° E.-trending upright to northwest overturned folds of foliation, with axial planar slip or crenulation cleavage. Folds recognized throughout area of figure 1 west to Mount Ida in SW corner of Kinderhook 15-minute quadrangle, N. Y., where Taconic unconformity is folded by N. 40° E. upright folds	Refolds thrust sheets and blastomylonitic foliation	M ₂ Thermal maximum Acadian metamorphism	Crenulation of sillimanite aligned in axial surface of F ₄ folds; granulation of garnet and staurolite that includes F ₄ foliation		Middle to Late Devonian (Ratcliffe 1969a, b, 1972)	
D ₄	F ₄	Northwest-trending upright to southwest-overturned folds with axial planar slip, crenulation, and flow cleavage. Folds recognized throughout area of figure 1, west to Chatham, N. Y., in center of Kinderhook 15-minute quadrangle	Folds thrust sheets and blastomylonitic foliation resulting in local overturning of thrusts; northwest-trending high-angle reverse faults	Thermal maximum Acadian metamorphism	Muscovite, biotite realigned and recrystallized in axial surface foliation; coarse sillimanite crystallized in foliation. Garnet, staurolite include folded F ₂ fabric, and blastomylonitic foliation		Middle to Late Devonian (Ratcliffe 1969a, b, 1972)	

			Granite crosscuts thrust fault and blastomylonitic foliation		Granite lacks blastomylonitic foliation in country rocks	Granite stock, South Sandisfield quadrangle	Late Ordovician(?) (Harwood, 1972)	Phases of Taconic orogeny
D ₃	F ₃	Northwest-trending recumbent to strongly southwest-overturned folds of basement gneiss and large-scale southwestward thrusting of Precambrian rocks of Berkshire massif across autochthon. Fold and thrust style recognized from Windsor quadrangle, Massachusetts (Norton, 1969), south to Norfolk quadrangle, Connecticut (Harwood, unpub. data), along west front of Berkshire massif	Faulted recumbent folds and nappes, mylonite gneiss, blastomylonite associated with major thrusts Thrust sheets at June and Canaan Mountains transported with Berkshire massif	Thermal maximum Taconic metamorphism	Alaskite has weakly developed blastomylonitic foliation but intrudes more highly cataclastic rock in fault zones; mylonite gneiss, blastomylonite has muscovite, biotite, hornblende with lepidoblastic texture, cataclasis of F ₂ foliation, thrusting synmetamorphic	Alaskite sills in faults and magnetite mineralization	Synchronous with latest movements or thrusts (Late Ordovician?) Thrusting probably late Ordovician based on age of cross-cutting granite	D
D ₂	F ₂	Isoclinal northeast-trending northwest-overturned to nearly recumbent folds with strong axial planar foliation which is dominant foliation in most autochthonous and allochthonous (Taconic) rocks, but not clearly present in Paleozoic rocks attached to Berkshire massif. Folds extend west to Mount Ida where unconformable beneath lowermost Devonian	Folding of Taconic thrust contacts, regional foliation and refolding of slump or soft-rock folds in Taconic allochthonous rocks	M ₁	Lepidoblastic muscovite, chlorite, biotite, and ilmenite in foliation; chloritoid, albite include foliation but are linked by F ₄ structures		Middle to Late Ordovician(?)	C Taconic orogeny
D ₂ (?)	F ₂ (?)	Folding and metamorphism of Lower Cambrian meta-sedimentary rocks attached to Berkshire massif and in independent thrust slices at June and Canaan Mountains	Coarse foliation or schistosity formed	M ₁ (?)	Muscovite, biotite lepidoblastic in schistosity		Time of metamorphism very uncertain depending upon original position of these rocks, and timing of tectonic events at that site (Middle Ordovician to Cambrian?)	(C)?
D ₁	F ₁	Intrafolial minor folds associated with Taconic thrust contacts. Soft rock or slump folds in Taconic allochthonous rocks; scale of pre-F ₂ folds not determined but widespread, area shown in figure 1, west to Mount Ida	Emplacement of upper Taconic slices (here, Chatham and Everett slices) Emplacement of lower Taconic slices to west of area shown in figure 1	No metamorphism recognized	Tectonic breccias with inclusions of Stockbridge Formation along thrusts (Zen and Ratcliffe, 1971) Wild-flysch-like sedimentary rocks along base of thrusts		Uncertain (Middle Ordovician?) Middle Ordovician (Zen, 1972b, table 1)	B A

D ₀		Warping of Lower Cambrian to Lower Ordovician carbonate shelf sequence; locally dips near vertical (Ratcliffe, 1969a); possible block faulting					Late Early to Middle Ordovician (Zen, 1972b, table 1)	Pre-Taconic disturbance

D _{DC}	F _{DC}	Isoclinal east-west-trending folds with generally steeply dipping axial surfaces and strong axial planar foliation; deformation of all Precambrian rocks including granitic intrusions such as Tyringham Gneiss	Gneissosity in Precambrian rocks of Berkshire massif	M _{DC}	Diopside, sillimanite, hornblende, microcline, perthite formed in dynamothermal event	Granodiorite-quartz monzonite intrusions such as Tyringham Gneiss, syntectonic	Dynamothermal event and granite intrusion approximately 1.04 b.y. (Ratcliffe and Zartman, 1971)	Grenville orogeny
		Pre-Tyringham foliation						

Figure 6. Chronology of tectonic events recognized in southwestern Massachusetts, northwestern Connecticut, and adjacent eastern New York (reproduced from Ratcliffe and Harwood, 1975).

contact and locally between the Everett and Chatham slices (Stop 3). The emplacement of all of the Taconic slices at this latitude was premetamorphic, and no firm evidence is known in support of Bird and Dewey's (1970) suggestion that the Rensselaer Plateau and higher slices might have been metamorphosed prior to emplacement in the Ordovician. The offset chloritoid isograd shown by Potter, 1972, at the west edge of his Berlin Mountain slice might be used to support this argument; however, similar relationships could be produced by offset on Acadian thrust faults.

Phase C of Taconic orogeny (D₂ and M₁ Taconic metamorphism)

Following emplacement of all slices, regional dynamothermal metamorphism took place, and a slaty cleavage or true axial planar foliation (S₂) formed in the rocks from the vicinity of Mt. Ida eastward into the area of the Berkshire massif and presumably beyond. In the low-grade rocks, fine-grained sericite, chlorite, and lenticular quartz define the slaty cleavage. Small, round blebs of chlorite that has a 001 cleavage subparallel to bedding are ubiquitous in the low-grade rock and may be retrograded detrital biotite or diagenetic chlorite. However, lepidoblastic grains are not developed parallel to beds. Sandstone and siltstone dikes have not been found parallel to S₂, and no evidence, thus far, indicates that tectonic dewatering was an important mechanism in the formation of the Taconic slaty cleavage. Large finite strain is indicated by flattened pebbles within the slaty cleavage. Locally, intense transposition structures are developed, and false bedding is common, particularly in laminated slates and some quartzites. Taconic thrust contacts of the Giddings Brook slice (Zen, 1961; Potter, 1972), Chatham (Ratcliffe, 1974a; Ratcliffe and Bahrami, 1976), and Everett slices (Zen and Ratcliffe, 1966; Ratcliffe, 1969, 1974a, 1974b) were cross foliated and folded during the D₂-M₁ metamorphic event to produce F₂ Taconic folds on a regional scale.

Phase D of the Taconic orogeny

Emplacement of the slices of the Berkshire massif and large-scale, westward overthrusting was concomitant with metamorphism. Recumbent folds formed both in the autochthon and in gneissic rocks (see Trips B-2 and B-6 of the 1975 N.E.I.G.C. guide book for further information).

Acadian orogeny

Post-Taconic foliation structures are common throughout this belt and increase both in intensity and degree of concomitant mineral growth eastward. By using inclusion textures, we may delimit the approximate extent and character of the post-Taconic metamorphic imprint. East of the biotite isograd, approximately at the New York State line, post-S₂ mineral textures are abundant, indicating that the Acadian thermal overprint produced new mineral growth of muscovite (second generation with decussate texture), albite, chloritoid, biotite, garnet, and staurolite. The prominent mineral zonation is almost certainly composite (polymetamorphic) and is dominantly controlled by the Acadian overprint in areas east of the biotite isograd.

F₄ and F₅ folds are inconsistently developed and show contradiction of relative ages from place to place. In eastern areas, the northeast-trending refolds are the F₅ folds, whereas in the low Taconics east to the Stockbridge valley, the northwest-trending refolds are the later folds.

The Chatham fault formed during the northeast-trending refolding episode, for it is refolded by northwest crenulation folds north of Chatham (Ratcliffe and Bahrami, 1976). Locally, thrust faults with mylonitization of pre-existing foliation and chlorite-quartz-albite mineralization formed in sections of the Chatham slice containing massive quartzite and graywacke. The contact between the Chatham slice and the overlying Everett(?) slice in the area of this trip also is such a late, presumably Acadian fault.

K-Ar age data from Taconic phyllites

Two new K-Ar age dates on muscovite concentrates from phyllite in the vicinity of this field trip have been obtained. A sample of lepidoblastic fine-grained muscovite aligned in the regional foliation (M₁) event of Figure 6 yielded a K-Ar age of 434 ± 16 m.y. (442 ± 16 m.y. using newer decay constants).* The dated sample of purple Nassau phyllite collected 2 km southwest of Stop 1 contains well-developed F₂ folds (Fig. 6). This age confirms the Taconic age of the regional schistosity and is the first such Taconic age from the central part of the Taconic area.

A second sample of phyllonitic (retrograded) muscovite-rich phyllite was collected from the imbricate thrust zone at the contact between the Chatham and Everett(?) slices, 1 km north of Stop 2. K-Ar age of this phyllonitic muscovite is 367 ± 13 m.y. (374 ± 13 m.y.).* Thin-section examination and field observations show that the muscovite dated is aligned in the phyllonitic fabric that is subparallel to the imbricate faults. These faults cross cut and produce folds of older F₂ foliation. This age determination suggests that the imbrication and cataclasis marking the contact between the Chatham slice and the higher Everett(?) slice in the area of Stop 3 is an Acadian fault.

Regional metamorphism during the Acadian, M₂ event of Figure 6, has overprinted wide areas of western Massachusetts and the general lack of K-Ar or Rb/Sr mineral ages east of the biotite isograd probably reflects this overprinting.

* values in parentheses are ages using new decay constants

Field trip stops will be in the following quadrangles: Canaan, N.Y.-Mass., Pittsfield West, Cheshire, Williamstown, and North Adams, Mass. Stops 1, 2, and 3 are located in the published geologic map (Ratcliffe, 1978).

Road log for N.E.I.G.C. '79 field trip

Log starts at large parking lot on Rt. 22, 0.3 mi. north of Interstate 90 (Berkshire spur of N.Y. State Thruway).

Cumulative mileage

0 Proceed north on Rt. 22 over RR tracks.

1.2 Turn left on Tunnel Hill Road.

2.1 Park at bend in road before RR tunnel.

Stop 1. Contact between rocks of Chatham Slice of Taconic allochthon and autochthon. Canaan 7-1/2 quadrangle.

Walk down the slopes to the east to the railroad tracks. Caution! This railroad is operating and trains may come from either direction. There is enough room in the center island or along the rock walls, should a train arrive.

The geologic relationships at this stop are shown in Figures 7 and 8. The exposures in the tunnel are on the east flank of a doubly plunging anticline that produces a semi-window exposing unit g of the Stockbridge Formation. The allochthonous rocks of the Chatham slice consist of purple and green slate, green silty slate, massive beds of Rensselaer Graywacke, and basaltic volcanic rocks believed to be flows and tuffs.

The outcrops in the railroad cut expose the contact between the Chatham slice and the autochthon. A folded thrust contact (T_1 , Fig. 9) between overlying green phyllite of the Nassau Formation can be seen. Note the truncation of beds in the limestone by the contact. In addition, a fault sliver of green phyllite underlies an inverted sequence of Stockbridge and Walloomsac in a small anticline nearer the portal (thrust T_2 , Fig. 9).

Fault T_1 traces out of the cut and forms the western limit of the allochthon. Fault T_2 is not exposed again in recognizable form.

The relationship here suggests that the autochthon and allochthon were tectonically mixed during emplacement. In this model, rocks of the autochthon were overturned during thrusting and overridden by younger thrusts as illustrated below in Model 1 of Figure 9.

An alternative model involves recumbent folding of the thrust contact as shown in Model 2.

Return to Rt. 22 via Tunnel Hill Rd.

3.0 Turn left on Rt. 22 north.

4.0 Outcrops of unit c of the Stockbridge.

4.5 Intersection of Rt. 295. Proceed North.

4.7 Outcrops of unit c of the Stockbridge.

6.1 Turn into Berkshire Farm for Boys. Stop and ask permission to drive through property. Road ^{log} resumes on leaving Farm area.

Drive through the property and bear left on the drive leading

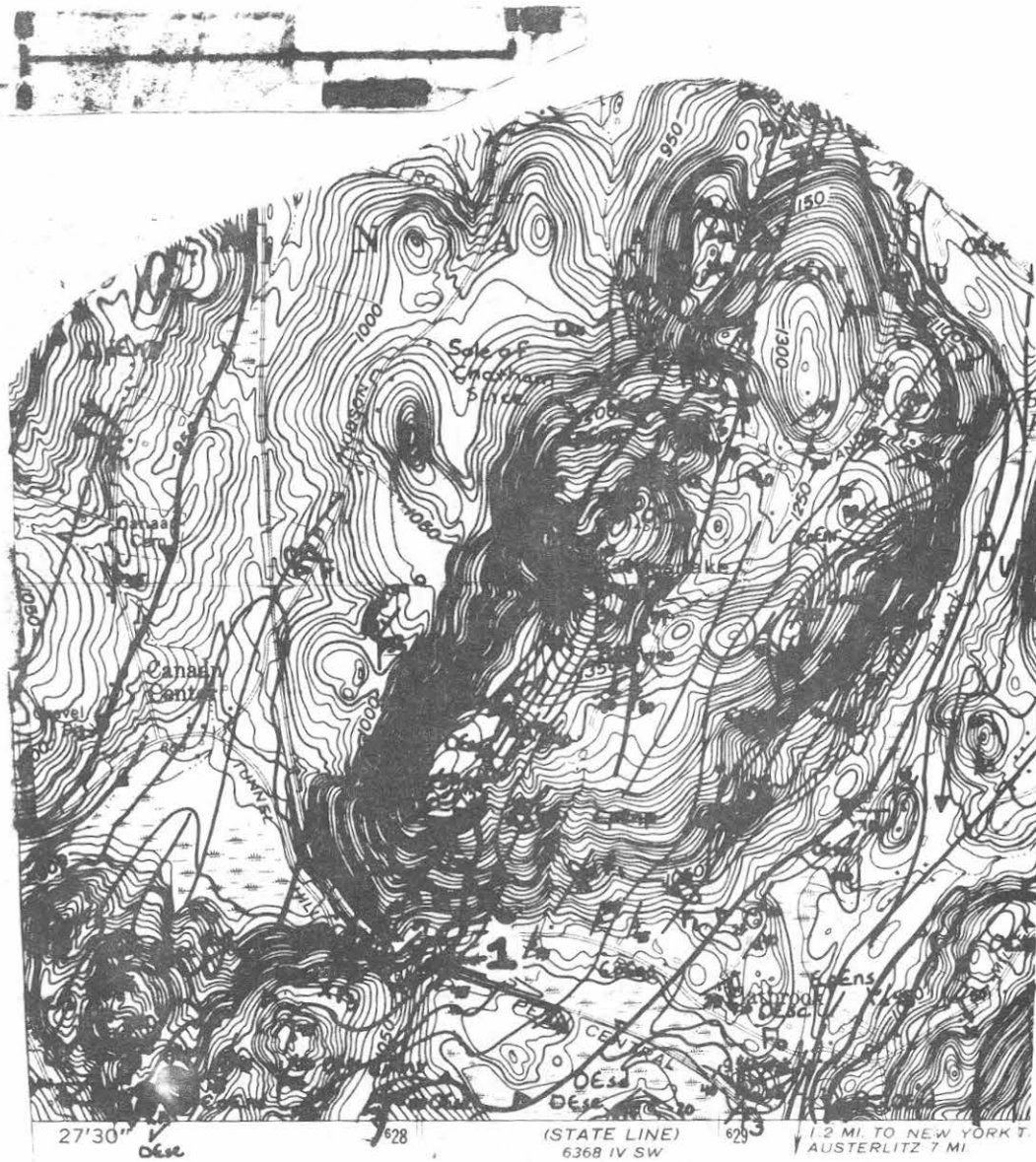


Figure 7. Geologic map of area around Stop 1. (Reproduced from Ratcliffe, 1978). See following pages for explanation

Figure 7. cont'd.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS
(Major minerals are listed in order of increasing abundance)

BEDROCK OF THE AUTOCHTHON

WALLOOMSAC FORMATION (UPPER? AND MIDDLE ORDOVICIAN)

Ow

Dark-gray to black, carbonaceous, sooty-gray-weathering, fissile phyllite or schist containing minor punky-weathering limy phyllite, schistose marble, and calcite marble. Biotite, plagioclase, and garnet developed in more highly metamorphosed rocks exposed to the east. Recognized as higher metamorphic grades by dark color, coarse black biotite metacrysts, and punky-weathering limy layers. Distinguished from Everett Formation by being less garnetiferous, much richer in biotite, and lacking chloritoid, ilmenite/magnetite, and green iron-rich chlorite

Ow1

Dark-blue-gray crystalline, discontinuous basal limestone and limestone conglomerate containing pelmatozoan, bryozoan, algae, gastropod, and rugose coral remains; weathers to buff gray. Rugose corals from fossil locality xF1, 0.75 km southwest of Shaker Village, are no older than Black Riverian and may be Trentonian (Zen and Hartshorn, 1966). At this locality the unit (Ow1) rests on the uppermost unit (OEsG) of Stockbridge Formation; thus the fossil date establishes the minimum age of the Stockbridge Formation. Pelmatozoan, bryozoan, and possible brachiopod fragments are found in the unit (Ow1) west of Queechy Lake, fossil locality xF2 and at the west end of the Penn Central Railroad tunnel, fossil locality xF3

Owm

Impure feldspathic, schistose calcite marble studded with metacrysts of black biotite and black albite forms the basal limestone in the eastern part of the map area. The feldspar component probably was derived from erosion of the Precambrian gneisses and Dalton Formation during Middle Ordovician time. This unit thickens eastward, being 50-70 m thick in the Stockbridge quadrangles (Ratcliffe, 1974b), and passes gradationally through interbedding of schist in dark-gray to black calcitic biotite schist

STOCKBRIDGE FORMATION (LOWER ORDOVICIAN TO LOWER CAMBRIAN)

OEsG

Medium- to dark-gray calcite marble; massive, white, coarsely crystalline calcite marble; light-gray, fine-grained, phyllitic marble; and bluish-gray and white-mottled calcite marble that weathers to a smooth glistening surface. Subordinate beds of cream- to beige-weathering dolostone commonly are boudinaged

OEsF

Predominantly tan- to gray-weathering, massive, sandy-textured dolostone to calcitic dolostone; more calcite-rich layers are punky-weathered and reddish; weathered surfaces commonly "wood grained" resulting from weathering of fine, quartz-rich sandy laminae less than 1 mm thick; local cross-bedding abundant; beds of light-tan vitreous quartzite as thick as 0.75 m are locally found

OEsE

Coarsely crystalline, white to light-gray, blue-gray and white-mottled, bluish-gray and white-layered, or massive white calcite marble in Massachusetts. Excellent exposures at the abandoned quarries north and south of Richmond Pond are exceptionally pure and coarsely crystalline. Gray to bluish-gray, pale-blue-gray-weathering, finely layered calcite marble interlayered with dark calcite dolostone, and light-gray and white crystalline calcite marble characterize the unit in New York State at lower metamorphic grade

OEsD

In Massachusetts, beige-weathering sandy dolostone, reddish-weathering calcitic sandstone, and gray sandy-textured calcitic marble. Minor white vitreous quartzite 1 to 3 cm thick and thin interbedded black phyllite are characteristic. In New York State, at lower metamorphic rank massive gray- to light-tan-weathered calcitic dolostone with sandy crossbedded laminae of positive relief and intense orangish-tan-weathered, massively bedded, dark-blue-gray dolostone with punky-weathering, crossbedded calcitic metaquartzite beds several centimeters thick

OEsC

Massive, light-gray-weathering, steel-gray, very fine grained calcitic dolostone and gray and light-gray, layered calcitic dolostone with scattered silvery-gray phyllitic partings. Massive white calcitic dolostone and dull-gray-weathering, fissile calcitic dolostone with milky-white quartz knots and vuggy cavities 1 to 2 cm thick (possible metachert nodules) common near top of the unit. West of the Massachusetts State Line nodules of black chert as much as 2 cm in diameter are common

OEsB

Beige- to light-cream-weathering, gray to dark-gray, non-calcitic dolostone with punky-weathering quartzites, white vitreous quartzites 1 to 2 cm thick, rare blue quartz-pebble conglomerates, black pyritiferous calcareous schist, and green and reddish phyllite beds. Silvery-gray partings of phlogopite, black phyllitic partings or discontinuous quartz chaining several millimeters thick are common except in the middle of the unit which contains about 50 meters of dark-blue-gray-weathering, dark-gray, fine-grained dolostone, and light-powder-blue-gray-weathering, gray nonsiliceous dolostone

BEDROCK OF THE ALLOCHTHON

Allochthonous rocks are tentatively assigned to four structural slices on the basis of stratigraphic uniqueness of some rocks and on the basis of structural position. Owing to the high degree of imbrication along relatively late thrust faults the original boundaries of the slices have been modified.

Rocks assigned to Chatham slice

NASSAU FORMATION (LOWER CAMBRIAN? AND (OR) UPPER PRECAMBRIAN?) [Lithic subdivisions may appear at different stratigraphic levels in different areas owing to widespread interfingering]

EpCns

Massive greenish-gray to gray metasilstone or chlorite-sericite-rich phyllite locally containing 1- to 3-cm beds of greenish metaquartzite and olive-drab, fine-grained metasilstone; pale-greenish, fine-grained chlorite-sericite phyllite with minor quartz metaconglomerate lenses and, more rarely, granitic gneiss-boulder metaconglomerate beds or dark-green graywacke beds as much as 10 cm thick

EpCnr

Rensselaer(?) Graywacke Member--Massive, bedded, dark- to pale-green metagraywacke or metasubgraywacke containing minor blue-quartz pebble-, coarse gneiss boulder-, and gneiss pebble-conglomerate layers. Unit interfingers with and grades into massive green-gray to gray metasilstone unit (EpCns) having many lenses of graywacke (EpCnr) too small to be shown on map

EpEnvt

Metavolcanic rock, dark-brownish-green-weathering, ilmenite-leucoxene-amphibole-stilpnomelane-epidote-plagioclase metatuff(?) having fragmental relict plagioclase phenocrysts as much as 2 mm long; unit is fine grained and passes gradationally upwards into metasilstone unit (EpCns) or into metavolcanic rock (EpEnv)

EpEnv

Metavolcanic rock, dark-green to yellowish-green, ilmenite-leucoxene-chlorite-actinolite-hornblende-epidote-plagioclase greenstone forming conformable, massively layered units as much as 10 m thick. Individual layers commonly show relict intersertal igneous texture grading toward a finer grained, strongly foliated rock with scattered akeritic amygdaloidal(?) fillings at lower contacts with the metasilstone unit (EpCns) and the Rensselaer(?) Graywacke Member (EpCnr). Well exposed in the Knob, on a slope southwest of Queechy Lake, and on the slopes east of the Berkshire Farm for Boys. A contact zone at the base is marked by alternating layers of metasedimentary rock and thin layers of volcanic rock. Locally the volcanic rocks interlayer with plagioclase-rich Rensselaer(?) Graywacke Member (EpCnr), while at other localities they appear to discordantly overlie the graywacke

EpCnp

Dark-maroon phyllite, green and purple laminated or mottled sericite-hematite-quartz phyllite including red or pale-green shale-chip metaconglomerate layers, and many light-green or purple-tinted metaquartzites 10 cm thick that commonly are crossbedded. Beds of soft yellowish-green to gray paper-thin phyllite are interlayered with the predominantly purple and green mottled rocks. Massive-bedded, light-green to gray-weathering metaquartzite or metasubgraywacke as much as 20 m thick forms lenticular bodies near the top of the phyllite unit (EpCnp) in the western part of the Chatham slice

EpCnq

Rocks assigned to the Perry Peak slice

ROCKS NEAR PERRY PEAK (LOWER CAMBRIAN? AND (OR) UPPER PRECAMBRIAN?)

EpEs

Light-greenish-gray to gray metasilstone, chlorite-rich siliceous phyllite or dark-green gritty metagraywacke with 1- to 3-cm beds of vitreous metaquartzite. Overall this unit is quartz rich and well bedded, and it closely resembles the metasilstone unit of the Nassau Formation (EpCns) of the Chatham slice, although volcanic rocks, abundant in rocks of the Chatham slice, are absent

EpEp

Light-yellowish-green and deep-purple variegated phyllite, dark-purplish-gray phyllite, and soft yellow-green lustrous quartz-chlorite-paragonite-muscovite phyllite. Minor interbeds of purplish-gray to dark-green metagraywacke 1 to 2 cm thick are widely distributed. This unit resembles closely the phyllite unit of the Nassau Formation (EpCnp) of the Chatham slice, although the purplish coloration is less intense in areas of higher metamorphic grade to the east where dark-gray phyllite with a subtle but distinctive purple cast is found

Rocks assigned to the Widow Whites slice
(The Widow Whites slice is named for occurrences on
Widow Whites Peak in the southern part of the Hancock
quadrangle.)

ROCKS NEAR WIDOW WHITES PEAK (LOWER CAMBRIAN? AND (OR)
UPPER PRECAMBRIAN?)

epEg

Dark-gray to black lustrous chloritoid-quartz-
muscovite phyllite interlayered with gray-green
quartzose albitic phyllite. Distinctive dark-
gray beds rich in ilmenite and chloritoid have a
sparkling luster

Rocks assigned to the Everett slice

EVERETT FORMATION (LOWER CAMBRIAN? AND (OR) UPPER
PRECAMBRIAN?)

epEev

Green to greenish-gray and lustrous, silvery-gray
sericite-(muscovite)-quartz-chlorite phyllite or
schist in which chloritoid, paragonite, ilmenite,
and garnet may be present; gray-green and dark-
gray laminated phyllite; gritty-textured, white
sodic plagioclase-spotted, greenish phyllite that
weathers to a distinctive pitted surface and
occurs in single beds as much as 7 m thick; and
greenish-gray phyllite with quartzite layers 0.5 to
1 cm thick grading into a quartzose, gray-green
phyllite with abundant pea-sized magnetite meta-
crysts. The bulk of the rocks assigned to the
Everett Formation on Lenox Mountain are dark-gray
to gray-green with abundant dark flecks of
chloritoid, deep-red garnet, and black biotite.
With allowances for higher metamorphic grade and
the consequent elimination of the abundant chlorite
present in the lower grade rocks, the Everett may
be compositionally equivalent to the metasiltstone
unit of the Nassau Formation (epEns) or to the
metasiltstone unit near Perry Peak (epEs). It
resembles most closely the dark albitic phyllite
of Widow Whites slice (epEg).

BEDROCK OF THE MOVEMENT ZONE

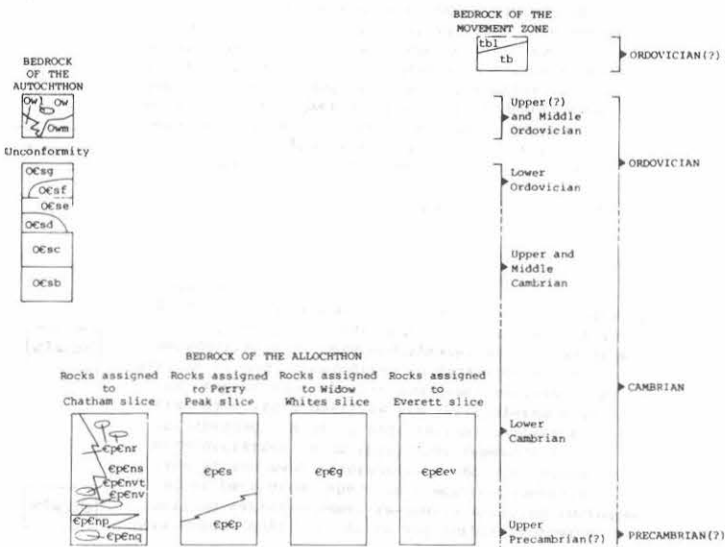
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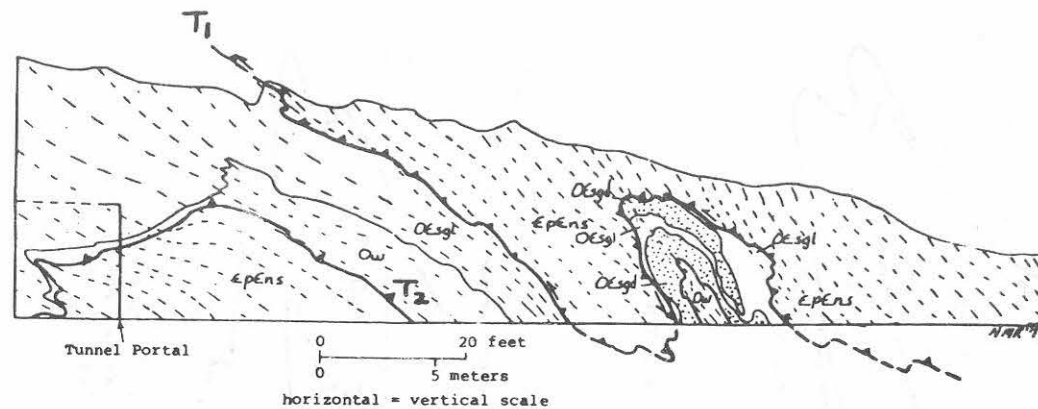
TECTONIC BRECCIA (ORDOVICIAN?)--A zone rich in inclu-
sions of carbonate rock of the Stockbridge Formation
in a polymict tectonic breccia interleaved
tectonically during Ordovician(?) time with slices
of black Walloomsac and greenish-gray metasiltstone
unit near Perry Peak (epEs) at or near the sole of
overriding plates of allochthonous rock. Because
of the fine scale of imbrication of rocks in the
movement zone, separate rock types in the breccia
are not distinguished. Where individual fault
slices are of sufficient size and are composed of
coherent strata, they are mapped as standard fault

tb

slices and the units identified. These breccias
mark tectonic movement zones that differ from
conventional fault zones in one important aspect.
The carbonate clasts in the imbricated phyllite
matrix are exotic blocks not derived from the
hanging wall or the footwall but from the
autochthonous carbonate rock of the Stockbridge
Formation; carbonate clasts are considered
tectonic inclusions transported within the move-
ment zone from some site to the east
Completely intermixed zone of black Walloomsac and
greenish phyllite with irregular inclusions of
either rock type in a matrix of the other. Zones
exhibit variation of rock types on a scale of
centimeters to tens of meters. The distribution
and shape of inclusions indicates that incorpora-
tion predated formation of the regional slaty
cleavage (S₁). Breccias of this type found in
zones below the sole of the Perry Peak slice may
represent highly disarticulated and "kneaded out"
remnants of earlier fault slices dismembered during
overthrusting of the Perry Peak slice. The presence
of these breccias within the body of the Walloomsac
Formation suggests that fault displacements of
considerable magnitude may exist within the
"autochthonous" belt of Walloomsac underlying the
Perry Peak and Widow Whites slices.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



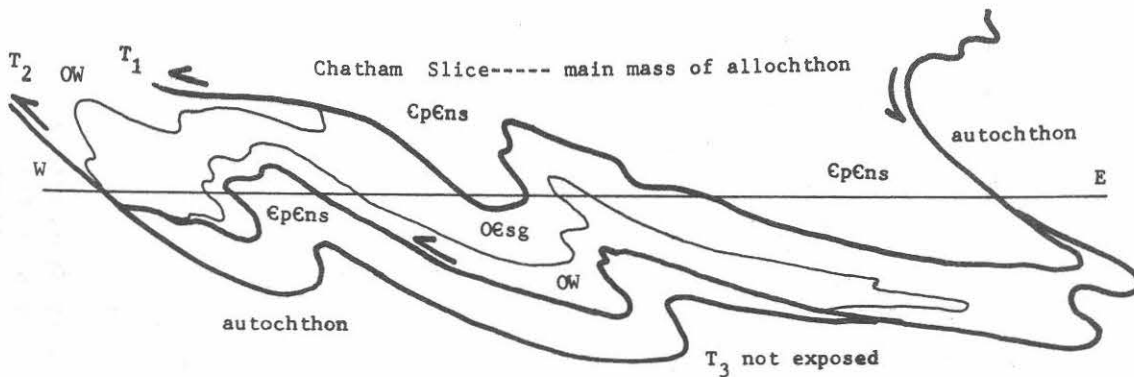


EXPLANATION

Ow	Phyllite and schist of the Walloomsac Formation	} Ordovician
OEsgl	Limestone beds in the medium- to dark-gray calcite marble (OEsg) of the Stockbridge Formation	
OEsgd	Dolostone beds in the medium- to dark-gray calcite marble (OEsg) of the Stockbridge Formation	} Ordovician and Cambrian
EpCns	Green phyllite of the Naussau Formation. Part of the Chatham slice	
		} Cambrian and (or) Precambrian
<p>————— Contact</p> <p>————▲—— Thrust contact of green phyllite of the Nassau Formation (EpCns) on autochthon. Teeth on overthrust plate; dashed where inferred; contact is discordant to beds in autochthon</p> <p>----- S₁ foliation crosscuts thrust faults as axial plane of F₁ folds</p>		

Figure 8. Contact relationships of the Chatham slice with Stockbridge and Walloomsac Formations exposed in north face of Penn Central railroad cut, east portal of tunnel at the southern edge of the Canaan quadrangle, showing interleaved units in complex tectonic breccia (tb).

MODEL 1: TWO FAULT SLIVERS OF TACONIC ALLOCHTHON WITH INTERNAL RECUMBENTLY FOLDED SLIVER OF STOCKBRIDGE AND WALLOOMSAC. THRUSTS LATER FOLDED BY UPRIGHT ACADIAN FOLDS.



MODEL 2: RECUMBENT FOLDING OF A SINGLE FAULT FOLLOWING OR DURING EMPLACEMENT, FOLLOWED BY ACADIAN FOLDING.

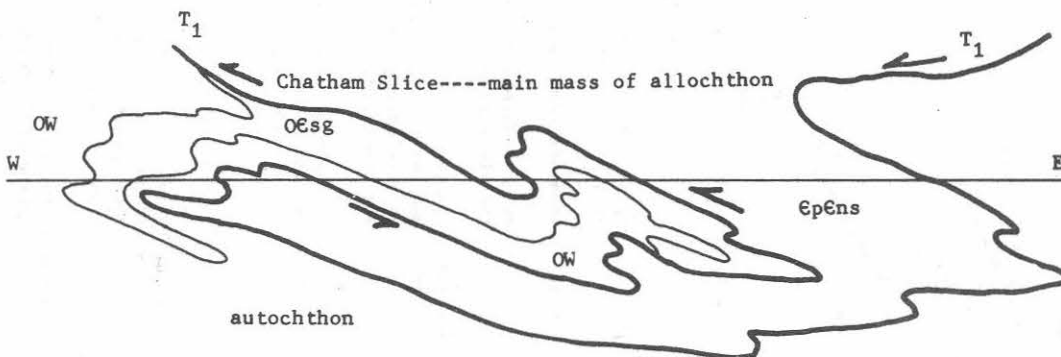


Figure 9. Sketch of alternate models for explanation of fault relationships seen at Stop 1. On map, Fig. 7, area is shown as tectonic breccia (tb), and model 1 is the preferred interpretation. T_1 , T_2 , and T_3 refer to faults identified in Fig. 8.

to the home of the director. Park at edge of large field before house. Walk east-northeast across field to slopes.

Figure 10 shows the location of Stop 2. Basaltic volcanic rocks of the Chatham slice are well exposed on the slopes above the Boys Farm. This zone associated with graywacke has been traced continuously from the State Line quadrangle north to the Jiminy Peak area for a distance of 19 km. Similar occurrences are on the Knob across the valley to the west. This eastern belt of volcanic rocks is better laminated than those on the knob and at Fog Hill in the State Line quadrangle. The associated graywackes contain fragments of coarse-grained granite containing oligoclase and perthitic K feldspar.

The association of coarse, continentally derived clastic rocks with basaltic volcanics and probable fluviatile red beds suggests rift facies rocks similar to Triassic and Jurassic rocks of the Atlantic passive continental margin. These rocks are restricted Chatham and Rensselaer Plateau slices.

Return to Rt. 22 and turn right.

- 9.5 Turn right on Rt. 20 at New Lebanon
- 10.2 Rt. 20 branches right. Follow it toward Pittsfield.
- 12.9 Stop 3, just past curve in road. Large roadcut of purple and green phyllite.

Excellent roadcuts expose purple and green laminated phyllites of the next higher Taconic slice, the Perry Peak slice that is correlated with the Everett slice on Figure 1. Strong secondary slip cleavage and microfaults, accentuated by pods of bull quartz are common. The contact between the Chatham slice and the higher Perry Peak slice is a late thrust probably of Acadian age. From this contact zone eastward to the carbonate belt, a complex system of late thrust faults have been mapped in which slivers of carbonate, Walloomsac, and Taconic rocks are found. To the north, this thrust zone roots in the Precambrian (Proterozoic) rocks of Clarksburg Mountain.

Volcanic rocks and thick graywacke are not recognized in the higher Taconic slices. Is the absence of these rocks of stratigraphic significance, or are the volcanic rocks absent because of faulting? This is a serious problem that has not been resolved. Certainly the Greylock and Hoosac Mountain rocks are different stratigraphically than either the Chatham or Perry Peak rocks, as will be discussed at Stop 4.

From the roadcut, walk southwestward down to the old road and then follow the new wood road up the hill westward past green phyllite of the Perry Peak slice.

At 1550 ft elevation on bench a sliver of dolostone may be seen. The fault sliver occupies a position between the Perry Peak slice and Walloomsac of the autochthon below in a late fault.

This anticlinal belt of Walloomsac, however, underlies the Chatham slice rocks seen to the south at Stop 2.

From the carbonate rocks, walk northeastward down the slopes toward the brook, where inclusions of greenish-gray Taconic rocks may be found imbedded in the Walloomsac matrix.

This chaotic zone of wildflysch-like material evidently underlies the Chatham slice. Similar rocks are exposed to the south

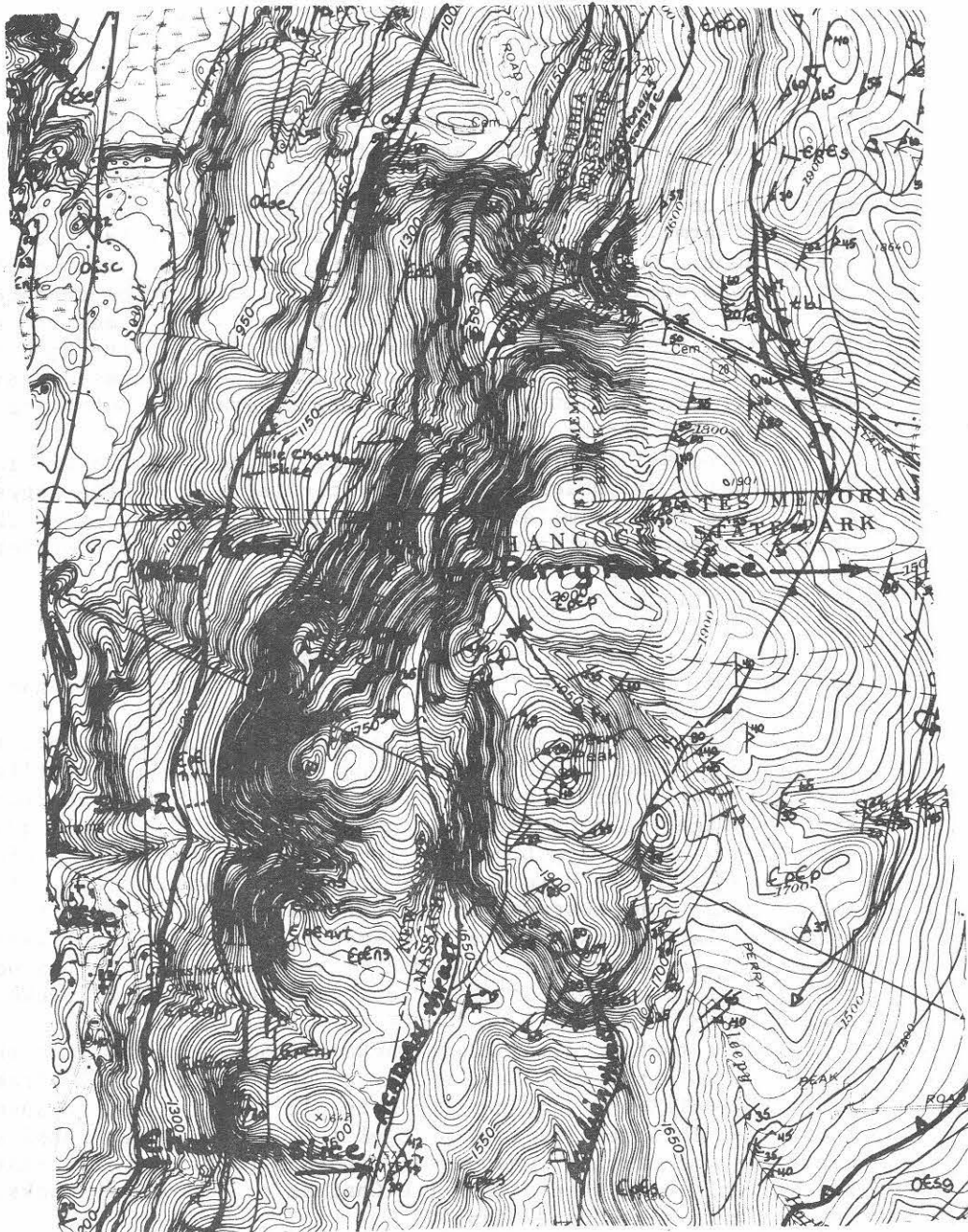


Figure 10. Geologic map of the Chatham and Perry Peak Slices of the Taconic allochthon on the east side of the Canaan Valley showing the location of Stops 3 and 4. For explanation, see Fig. 7

beneath the Chatham slice (Ratcliffe, Bird, and Bahrami, 1975, p. 82).

When the observations at Stop 1 and 3 are compared, the relations suggest that the Chatham slice was emplaced by a mechanism that involved recumbent folding, slivering of the autochthon, plucking of carbonate blocks signifying deformation of consolidated rocks. On the other hand, more ductile behavior with turbulent mixing of materials from autochthon and allochthon is necessary to account for the wildflysch-like breccias seen. A gravity induced spreading model to allow for creep in the autochthon may be the best explanation of these relationships. However, there is little evidence in favor of soft rock gravity sliding. Continue east on Rt. 20 toward Pittsfield.

- 14.5 Side road leads to fossil locality in the basal part of the Walloomsac.
- 15.0 Hancock Shaker Village and intersection with Rt. 41. Continue on Rt. 20.
- 16.5 Y branch in road. Follow Rt. 20 left.
- 20.0 Intersect Rt. 7, Pittsfield. Turn left. Follow around the circle in Pittsfield 90° and follow Rt. 7 and 9 north. Left turn at light, and follow Rt. 7 north out of Pittsfield.
- 25.7 Town of Lanesboro.
- 27.1 Turn right onto entrance road to Mount Greylock (N. Main St.).
- 28.0 Turn right. Follow signs to Greylock Reservation.
- 28.4 Take left Y, Rockwell Rd.
- 28.9 Entrance to Reservation.
- 31.9 Rounds Rock. Excellent cliffs west of road of green albitic Greylock Schist (optional stop).
- 32.9 Jones Nose. Stop 4.
Walk up the Meadow along the Appalachian Trail across limey albitic schist and schistose marble of the Walloomsac Formation here exposed by breaching of a refolded antiform that has a north-dipping axial surface. This carbonate-rich unit is found at or near the base of the Walloomsac Formation regionally and on Mount Greylock, thus suggesting that older rocks are coming to the surface here. To the north, farther up the slope, a complementary, nearly recumbent syncline and anticline pair are exposed, also with north-dipping refolded axial surfaces. Section C C' of Mount Greylock, Figure 3.
- 33.9 Ashfort Rd.
- 34.7 Entrance to campground. Turn left to Stony Ledge.
The bench the road follows is located on the contact between Greylock Schist and Walloomsac of the autochthon. Follow dirt road to Stony Ledge.
- 36.4 Stony Ledge. Stop 5.
Magnificent view to north and east into the Hopper. The ridge to the north is underlain by Greylock Schist, the valley by Walloomsac. To the east, the peak of Greylock and the steep west slope can be seen. Recent mapping suggests that there is double section of Greylock Schist exposed on Greylock with the axial surface of a large recumbent fold separating the mountain into lower-limb and upper limb structures.

The Bellowspipe Limestone shown by Prindle and Knopf (1932)

does not exist as a throughgoing unit but is sporadically developed.

Excellent late crenulation cleavage can be seen in the ledges of green phyllite. These folds are postmetamorphic and correlate with the Green Mountain uplift folds or folds of F_5 regional structures.

- 39.8 Return to Rockwell Rd. Turn left and climb road past dark albitic and green albitic schist of the lower limb into fine lustrous phyllites forming the core of the recumbent synform.
- 41.3 Large cuts of albitic Greylock and associated quartzite repeat sequence into upper overturned limb of recumbent synform. Turn right to top.
- 42.0 Park in lot at top. Stop 6.
Excellent view all around, weather permitting. Discussion of the regional geologic relationships.

At crest of Greylock, we are standing on chloritoid-rich phyllite in the axial part of a large westward topping syncline. Darker albitic phyllite, quartzite and graywacke form a rather continuous marker horizon that separates the more chloritoid-rich rocks from green and gray-white albite spotted granulites. Locally, this transition zone contains lenses of salmon pink dolostone in boudins, magnetite-rich schist, and gneissic pebble conglomerate. Albitic schists crowded with albite in massive exposures can be seen on the crest of Ragged Mountain to the north, on Cole Mountain to the south, Rounds Rock, Jones Nose, and on Mount Prospect to the west.

The structural interpretation of Mount Greylock shown in Figure 3 calls for a thrust sheet that has been recumbently folded. Plunges are to the north and south into the sections. In addition to recumbent folds that involve the thrust contact, internal structures are shown which are also recumbent but which are truncated by the thrust contacts. This suggests that rocks of the Greylock slice were folded prior to emplacement on the Stockbridge-Walloomsac sequence.

Relationship of the Greylock to the Hoosac Schist

The ridge seen to the east is the Hoosac Mountain underlain by Precambrian (Proterozoic) gneiss to the south and Hoosac Schist to the north. The carbonate valley narrows to the north in the North Adams gap where the Hoosac Mountain approaches the Green Mountains. A longitudinal sketch section is shown in Figure 11. It identifies two major thrusts on Hoosac Mountain: a lower thrust places Precambrian (Proterozoic) gneiss with its unconformable cover (Hoosac Schist and interfingering Dalton Formation) over carbonate rocks of the autochthon. This fault is essentially the fault mapped as "Hoosic thrust" by Herz (1961). A higher thrust places Hoosac with a more easterly facies above the western Hoosac belt. This fault is termed the Hoosac summit thrust. The eastern Hoosac sequence contains green albitic schist, dark albitic and garnet-bearing schist and light green chloritoid schist. This sequence resembles closely Greylock Schist units, although a greater development of albite-rich rocks is found on

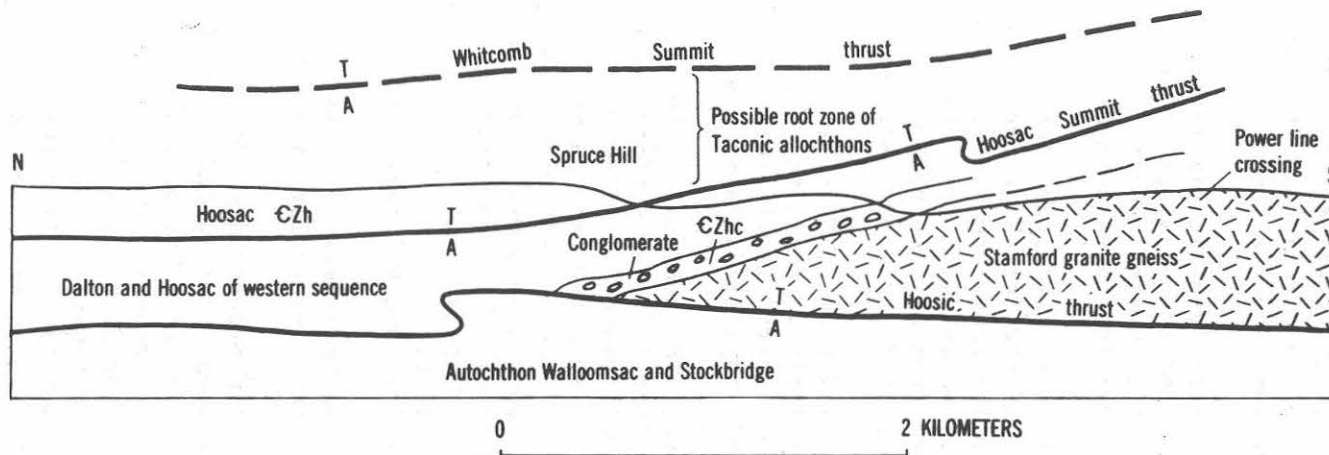


Figure 11. Sketch of Hoosac Mountain looking east from Mount Greylock, showing position of Hoosic thrust with wedge of Berkshire Massif with unconformable Hoosac cover and higher thrusts. T=Toward A=Away, show movement on fault

Hoosac Mountain than on Mount Greylock. Stratigraphic units defining recumbent metamorphic fold structures within the eastern Hoosac are truncated by the Hoosac summit thrust.

East of the Hoosac belt is the Rowe Schist, a pale-green, fine-grained chloritoid phyllite with interbedded dark carbonaceous phyllite and amphibolite all of presumed Cambrian through Ordovician age. Stanley has recently suggested (1978) that a major thrust fault (Whitcomb summit thrust) separates the Powe from the Hoosac on the basis of recognized truncation of units in the footwall and hanging wall (see Fig. 5). The Rowe also contains abundant pods of ultramafic rock. This unit may mark the locus of crustal convergence in the Cambrian and Ordovician (Stanley, 1978).

On the basis on the stratigraphic similarities between the eastern Hoosac sequence and the Greylock section, and the lack of similarity of Greylock with western Hoosac, the root zone of the Greylock slice lies either in the eastern Hoosac belt or between belt and the Rowe.

The root zone of the Greylock slice lies east of exposed Precambrian (Proterozoic) of the Berkshire massif at this latitude. Because the Greylock slice shows the closest affinity to cover rocks of the massif, it seems clear that the lower slices of the allochthon were derived from more easterly sites.

Return via Rockwell Rd. to Rt. 7 along same route taken up mountain.

- 52.4 Turn right, north on Rt. 7 from N. Main St.
- 53.4 Small crops of green chloritoid phyllite, with strong late fault fabric. Crops continue intermittently for 0.7 mile. Dark Walloomsac biotite grade phyllite is seen near north end of crops.
- 54.4 Large crop of Walloomsac.
- 54.8 Crop of Walloomsac (Owl) and isoclinal F_1 folds.
- 55.3 Road to Jiminy Peak. Turn left for optional stop. Stop at large crops of black Walloomsac 1.1 miles west. Cataclastically deformed phyllite can be seen faulted against green phyllite of the Nassau Formation. Characteristic plication of foliation, slickensides, and bull quartz pods mark a series of late faults in the Buxton Hill fault zone. This zone projects east of the late fault zone seen at Stop 3.
Return to Rt. 7. Turn left.
- 56.1 Crops of Stockbridge (OEs_g) and Walloomsac (Ow), Brodie Mountain ski area.
- 56.4 Large outcrops of sheared Walloomsac in a late thrust zone. Slickensides, sulfide quartz mineralization mark faults in Buxton Hill zone.
- 56.9 Stop 7. Large roadcuts in Stockbridge (OEs_g). Excellent recumbent folds can be seen, crossfolded by folds in N. 20° W. 22° NE dipping axial planes. The origin of the cross folds is not known but may be an expression of compression of a faulted sliver within the Buxton Hill fault zone.
- 57.1 Large crop of Stockbridge (OEs_g) on east. Thin zone 1 m thick of Walloomsac in a slickensided fault sliver is traceable for 75 m in this outcrop. This is an excellent example of character of the fault slivering within this late fault zone.

- 58.0 Large crops of fault slivered and cataclastic Walloomsac opposite the Mill on the Floss.

The valley to the north at South Williamstown to the east are highly fault intercalated zones of green albitic and nonalbitic phyllite of the Greylock slice. To the west and north are green phyllites of Brody Mountain and Deer Hill. Exact placement of the boundary of the Greylock slice has not been possible. Allochthonous rocks on the northern end of Brody Mountain, however, are separated from the autochthon by a complexly intermixed zone of Walloomsac and green phyllite similar to the zone of mixed rocks seen below the Chatham slice at Stop 3, according to work by Don Potter. Because the Greylock slice does not have similar emplacement breccias and because the Greylock stratigraphy contains a greater abundance of albitic rocks than the Brody Mountain slice, the two slices are believed to be discretely different allochthons.

- 62.1 Intersection Rt. 43. Continue north on Rt. 7. At crest of hill, excellent view of Mount Greylock and the Hopper, and the Green Mountains to the north. The broad carbonate valley extending from Williamstown east to North Adams consists of complexly folded rocks that appear to be detached from the Green Mountains by a major thrust fault that roots in the Hoosac Gap area. This fault slice, the Stone Hill slice, is named for exposure of the faulted rocks on Stone Hill south of Williamstown.

- 63.4 Turn right on Scott Hill Rd. and shortly turn left on Stone Hill Rd.

- 63.7 At dirt road, continue to north if permission to drive in is available. If not, we will walk in. The Stone Hill section can be traced north to Buxton Hill where slivers of Stamford Granite Gneiss, Dalton and Cheshire thrust across units b and c of the Stockbridge in a complex thrust zone (see Stop 9).

The Stone Hill slice is believed to be a thin flap of autochthon originally rooted in the Adams or North Adams area that was thrust westward out of the North Adams gap area during an early deformation stage.

East-west trending hinge lines for early folds dominate the structure within the slice eastward to Mount Greylock where a late fault, the Clarksburg thrust, truncates structures in the slice.

- 64.5 Stop 8. Stone Hill slice.

One of the most complete stratigraphic sections of the Dalton Formation through unit C of the Stockbridge Formation is exposed in the area of Stone Hill. Thin Cheshire Quartzite 10-0 m thick is interlayered with underlying black quartzose phyllite of the Dalton Formation. Dolostone of unit a of the Stockbridge overlies the Cheshire. Lithostratigraphic units of the Stockbridge here match closely rock section of the Vermont Valley sequence to the north.

The most anomalous features of the Stone Hill section are the very thin Cheshire and the dissimilarity of this section to the Dalton-Cheshire section exposed on the Green Mountains to the north. Dark quartzose schists with a very thin quartzite is also

a characteristic of the more easterly belt of Dalton and Cheshire mapped along the base of Hoosac Mountain and in the North Adams gap area.

Excellent recumbent folds can be seen in the cliffs above the road. The contact between the Cheshire and dolostone of unit a of the Stockbridge can be seen at the base of the quartzite cliffs to the north.

65.0 Return to Rt. 7. Turn right.

66.9 Just after Bee Hill Rd. turn left on Thornliebank Rd. Crops to right are Cheshire Quartzite.

67.0 Turn right on Hawthorn St. Park at east edge of field.

Stop 9. Buxton Hill - Outlier of Stamford Granite Gneiss and blastomylonite and the sole of the Stone Hill slice.

The ridges to the south consist of blastomylonitic gneiss and Dalton with excellent recumbent fold thrust style. Syn-tectonic biotite from the blastomylonite yielded a K-Ar age of 387 ± 14 m.y. (394 ± 14 m.y.).* The biotite age is interpreted as a cooling age and a minimum for emplacement.

Crops around the north and east end of the hill are dolostone of the autochthon. Continue straight down Hawthorn St. to intersection. Turn left on Buxton Hill Rd. Follow Buxton Hill to next intersection.

67.6 Turn right at end of Buxton Hill Rd.

67.9 Intersect Rt. 7 and 2. Bear right around island and follow Rt. 2 to east. Williams College.

69.7 Luce Rd. east of Williamstown. Follow Rt. 2 east to North Adams and beyond on Rt. 2 and 8.

79.0 Just past mills, east of North Adams, turn left on Rt. 8 north.

79.6 Just after Red Mill and entrance to natural bridge, stop.

Stop 10. Hoosic thrust.

Herz (1961) drew the Hoosic thrust at the base of the exposures which he assigned to the Hoosac Formation. Reexamination indicates that these dark albitic, graphitic schists quartzites and limy schist should be assigned to the Walloomsac. Faulting is indicated by the shallow dipping spaced crenulation cleavage.

These exposures are on the north-plunging lower limb of a large recumbent syncline cored by Walloomsac that is refolded by north-trending late folds.

If time allows, we will drive into the quarry at natural bridge where an excellent recumbent anticline in unit e of the Stockbridge can be seen. This structure is on the lower limb of the major synclinal structure.

Those wishing to examine the excellent solution features in Mr. Elder's natural bridge, may do so for a slight fee.

Those wishing to disband at this point, feel free to do so. Hard core elements may continue on to Hoosac Mountain!

Turn right at Rt. 8, where road log resumes.

79.9 Turn left on Rt. 2.

At the base of Hoosac Mountain are small crops of Dalton Formation interfingering with dark albitic schists of the western

* age calculated using new decay constant.

autochthonous Hoosac.

82.8 At the hairpin turn, green muscovitic chloritoid and garnet-bearing schist of the eastern Hoosac may be seen. Excellent recumbent folds outlined by thin vitreous quartzite. This section is separated from the autochthonous Hoosac by the Hoosac summit thrust.

83.3 Top of Hoosac Mountain by observation tower. Stop 11.

Excellent view back at Greylock, Taconic Range beyond, Green Mountains, and the North Adams Gap. Summary discussion of the relationships of the Hoosac-Greylock-Taconic belts and paleogeographic reconstructions.

- End of trip -

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