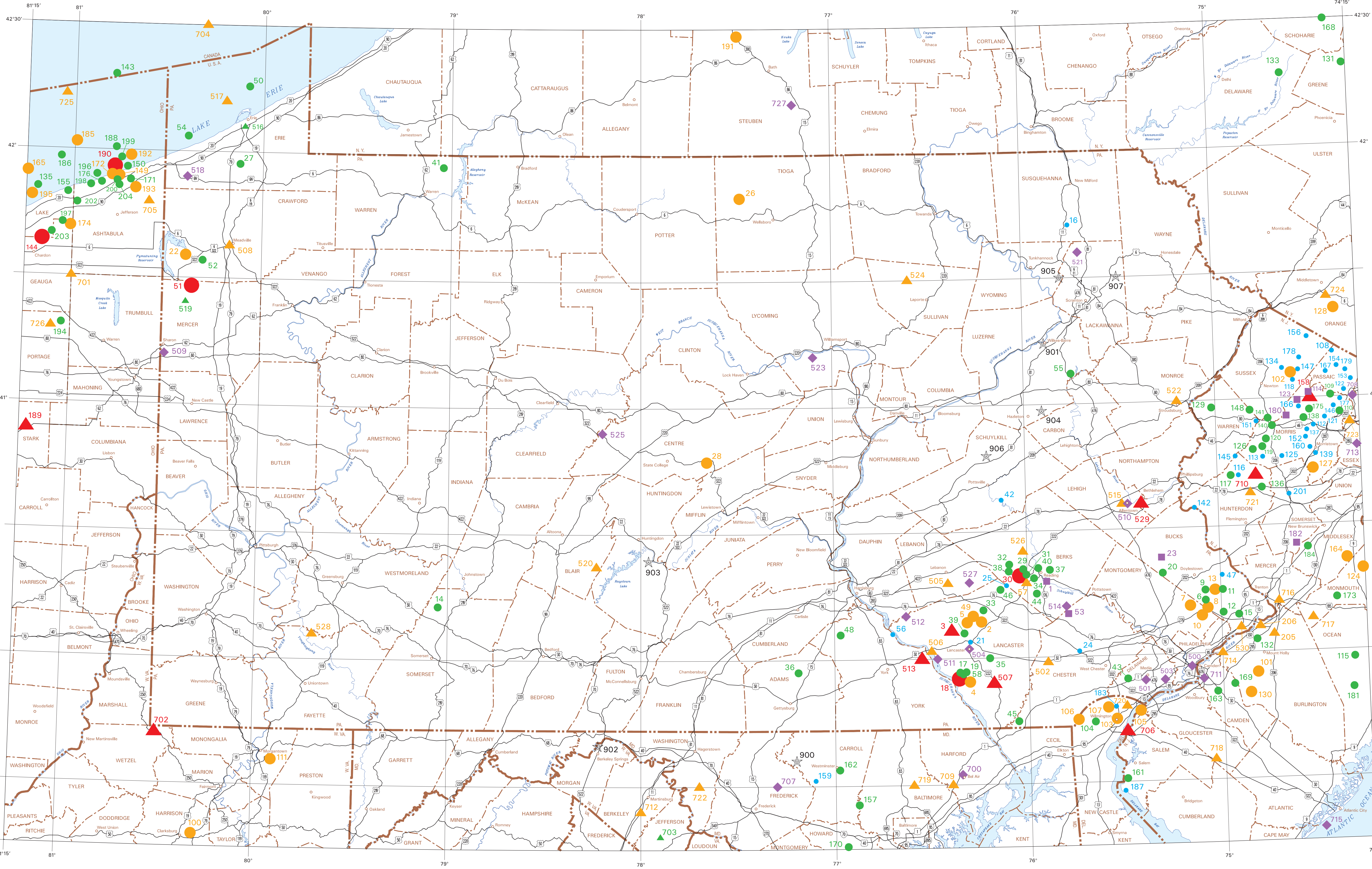




# EARTHQUAKE EPICENTERS IN AND NEAR PENNSYLVANIA

COMPILED BY  
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2004

## LIST OF EARTHQUAKES BY MAP NUMBER



## EARTHQUAKE EPICENTER MAP OF PENNSYLVANIA

### INTRODUCTION

The epicenter map of Pennsylvania is a display of the natural and artificial seismic events that have been recorded in and near Pennsylvania over the past 300 years. These events were compiled from a number of published sources and regional catalogs and are listed in detail in the database that accompanies this map. The older events (to approximately the mid-1960s) are historical, having been collected primarily from newspaper accounts. More recent events were recorded instrumentally at various seismic stations.

How well does this map represent the seismicity of Pennsylvania? Prior to instrumental recording, only those earthquakes large enough and close enough to have been felt in cities and towns that had newspapers were recorded. Thus, the preponderance of historical events recorded in populous southeastern Pennsylvania probably represents only the stronger earthquakes. Only with the more recent establishment of instrumental networks has it been possible to locate smaller earthquakes with a fair degree of accuracy.

Even recent seismicity in and near Pennsylvania is probably not accurately reflected by this map because of the uneven distribution of seismic stations. The numerous reports of small-magnitude (<3) events in eastern Pennsylvania and central New Jersey may be, in part, a function of proximity to stations of the Lamont Cooperative Seismic Network and its predecessors. Thus, this epicenter map is an imperfect representation of the true seismicity in and near Pennsylvania.

### EARTHQUAKE CATALOG

The earthquake catalog that was used to prepare this map is a database of 437 events that occurred in and near Pennsylvania between 1724 and July 31, 2003. The database was prepared using Microsoft Access 2000 (version 9.0.3821) software. Each record consists of 20 fields, which contain the date and time of the event, the location (latitude and longitude), as well as county and town, and, where determined, the magnitude, intensity, and depth of focus. Foreforeshocks and aftershocks are listed independently of the main earthquakes, for the sake of completeness and for any special analysis. References to catalogs and publications in which an event is listed are included. A "remarks" field provides ancillary information. For further details, refer to the database and accompanying documentation.

### DATASET AND DIGITAL MAP PREPARATION

The epicenters shown on the map were produced from a coverage (dataset) prepared using ESRI ArcInfo software (version 8.2). The coverage was generated from the Microsoft Access database described above and contains all the fields in the Access database.

The natural seismic events are separated into four groupings based on two criteria: whether the epicenter lies inside Pennsylvania or outside (nearby) Pennsylvania; and whether the event location was determined by seismic instruments (instrumental), herein arbitrarily pre-1965 or was recorded in newspaper accounts, in damage-intensity surveys, or by other noninstrumental methods (historical, herein arbitrarily pre-1966). A fifth group consists of nonnatural events (mine collapses or quarry blasts) that have been included in other catalogs.

A fair number of the 437 events in the coverage have identified epicenters (especially historical earthquakes with imprecise locations), or their epicenters are too close to one another to clearly display at the scale (1:750,000) of the epicenter map. These events have been combined into a single map location; for example, the symbol labeled with map number 40 in the Reading, Pa., vicinity represents three events that occurred in 1937, 1995, and 1999, which have different but close epicenters. For this location, and for the other locations that have multiple events, a mean latitude and longitude were calculated. The calculated means were used to plot the single location on the epicenter map. The 437 points in the dataset have been reduced to the 232 points shown on the map using this procedure. For combined events, the map symbol represents the event having the largest magnitude.

The table to the right of the map allows identification of all events associated with each map number. The table is subdivided into the five groupings described above. Within each group, the events are ordered first by map number, and then by date and time. Magnitudes are also listed for each event.

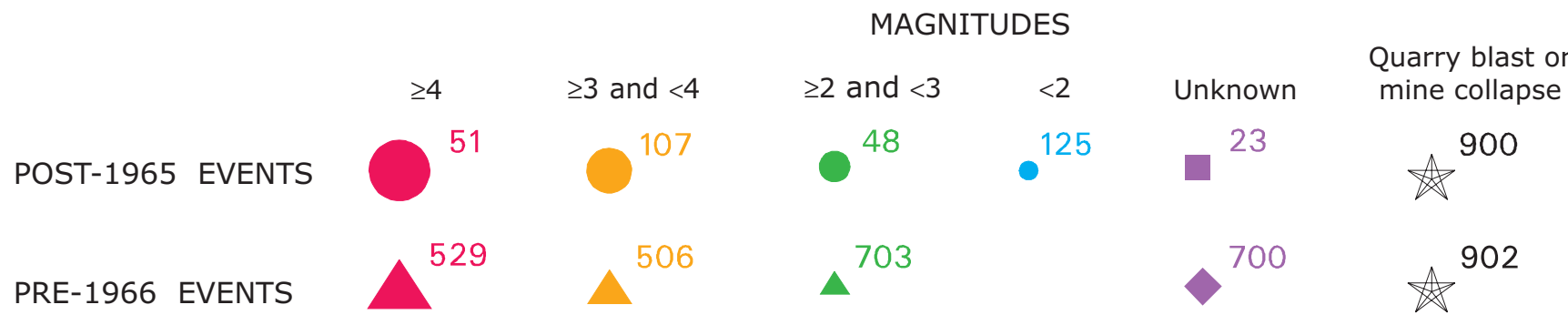
### RELIABILITY

This regional map and the accompanying database and coverage are not intended for use in detailed or site-specific analyses. The historic events (prior to the mid-1960s) were located primarily from damage-intensity surveys and newspaper accounts.

Earthquake epicenters are generalized from the dataset "Earthquake Catalog and Epicenter Map of Pennsylvania" included in this publication, prepared by R. T. Faill, Pennsylvania Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 2004. State and county boundaries, roads, and streams were modified and generalized by staff of the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000-scale digital-line-graph (DLG) files for boundaries, transportation, and hydrography, respectively, 2003. Roads were slightly modified and updated based mainly on Pennsylvania Department of Transportation digital files for state-maintained roadway centerlines, 2004, and Ohio and New Jersey Department of Transportation county and state road maps, 2000-2003.

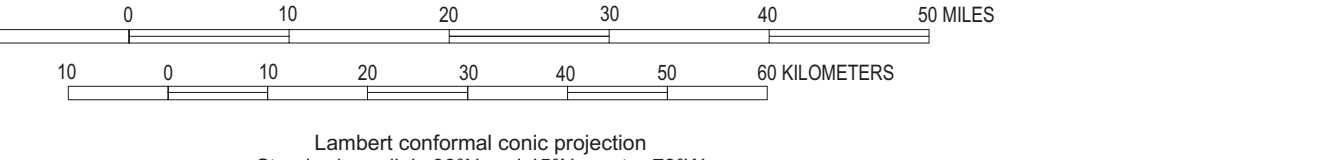
Locations of cities and towns are from the 1:500,000-scale USGS topographic map of Pennsylvania, 1975, and USGS 1:100,000-scale digital-raster-graphic (DRG) files, 1977-1993. Digital map preparation, layout, and design by C. E. Miles and R. T. Faill, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey, 2003-2004. Map editing by C. E. Miles and C. E. O'Neil, 2004.

### EXPLANATION



The numbering pattern on the map is as follows:  
1 to 58—earthquakes since 1965, within Pennsylvania; 100 to 206—earthquakes since 1965, outside Pennsylvania; 500 to 530—earthquakes before 1965, within Pennsylvania; 700 to 727—earthquakes before 1965, outside Pennsylvania; 900 to 907—nonnatural seismic events (mine collapse, quarry blast). In a few cases, where two or more events have been combined, pre-1965 events have been included in the 1-58 and 100-206 groupings.

### SCALE 1:750,000



## Pre-Instrumental, Inside Pennsylvania (500-530)

Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude
500	1724/09/16	9	30	3.0	504	1801/01/27	20	40	3.0	518	1921/01/27	2	32	2.9
501	1750/03/23	3	30	3.0	505	1804/01/27	9	40	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
502	1753/03/20	21	15	3.0	506	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
503	1772/04/25	13		3.0	507	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
504	1801/01/27			3.0	508	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
505	1801/01/27			3.0	509	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
506	1801/01/27			3.0	510	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
507	1801/01/27			3.0	511	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
508	1801/01/27			3.0	512	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
509	1801/01/27			3.0	513	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
510	1801/01/27			3.0	514	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
511	1801/01/27			3.0	515	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
512	1801/01/27			3.0	516	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
513	1801/01/27			3.0	517	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
514	1801/01/27			3.0	518	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
515	1801/01/27			3.0	519	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
516	1801/01/27			3.0	520	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
517	1801/01/27			3.0	521	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
518	1801/01/27			3.0	522	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
519	1801/01/27			3.0	523	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
520	1801/01/27			3.0	524	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
521	1801/01/27			3.0	525	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
522	1801/01/27			3.0	526	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
523	1801/01/27			3.0	527	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
524	1801/01/27			3.0	528	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
525	1801/01/27			3.0	529	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
526	1801/01/27			3.0	530	1804/01/27	1	45	3.0	519	1931/11/05	20	7	3.2
527	1801/01/27			3.0										
528	1801/01/27			3.0										
529	1801/01/27			3.0										
530	1801/01/27			3.0										

## Pre-Instrumental, Outside Pennsylvania (700-727)

Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr:min	sec	Magnitude
700	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	711	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	719	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
701	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	712	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	720	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
702	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	713	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	721	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
703	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	714	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	722	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
704	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	715	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	723	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
705	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	716	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	724	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
706	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	717	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	725	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
707	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	718	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	726	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
708	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	719	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	727	1930/06/22	23	10	2.7
709	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	720	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
710	1820/08/27	7	30	3.0	721	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
711	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	722	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
712	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	723	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
713	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	724	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
714	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	725	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
715	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	726	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
716	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5	727	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5					
717	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
718	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
719	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
720	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
721	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
722	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
723	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
724	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
725	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
726	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										
727	1900/04/29	0	7	3.5										

## Quarry Blast or Mine Collapse (900-907)

Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr	Time min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr	Time min	sec	Magnitude	Map no.	Date y/m/d	Time hr	Time min	sec	Magnitude
900	1870/01/03	4	30		3.4	902	1970/05/27	17	59	41.4	2.8	904	1974/04/27	14	45	39.1	3.2
901	1954/02/21		20			902	1970/01/30	18	58	49.8	2.8	905	1950/03/20	22	55		3.3
901	1954/02/24		3	56		902	1978/04/26	19	30	23.3	3.1	905	1950/03/02	20	24		3.3
902	1954/02/29		14	0		903	1984/02/12	17	33	3.3	906	1944/02/05	16	22		3.7	
902	1963/10/10	14	59	52.3	3.6	903	1982/05/16	18	29	33	3.0	907	1900/01/22	20	53	22	3.4
902	1969/05/22	14	59	51.6	3.1	903	1981/04/17	17	42	39	2.5						

\* Includes some pre-instrumental events where two or more events having identical or close locations have been combined.