

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

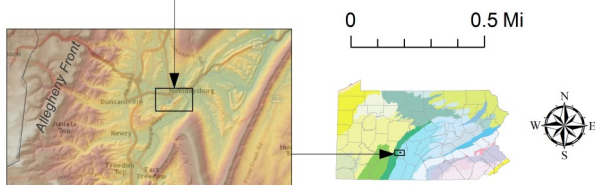
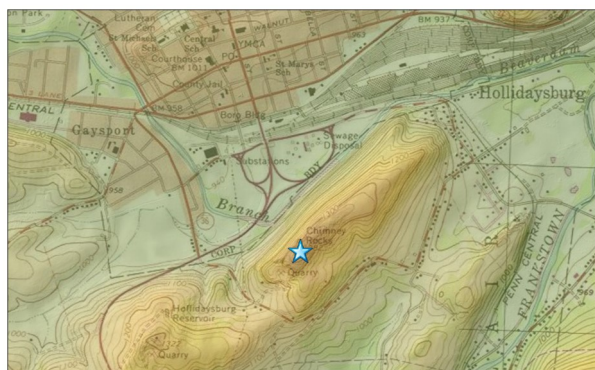
CHIMNEY ROCKS, BLAIR COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Chimney Rocks Park, Blair Co., Frankstown Twp., lat: 40.4206, lon: -78.3859; Hollidaysburg 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

Chimney Rocks is an outstanding outcrop of fingerlike spires of limestone. The rocks are beds of the Silurian-Devonian-age Tonoloway and Keyser Formations and part of the western flank of Catfish Ridge. The ridge is mainly supported by the Keyser Formation, a limestone that is slightly more resistant than the underlying Tonoloway Formation that makes up the base of the ridge. A small vertical fault is the primary cause for the development of the chimneys. Northeast-trending joints, which have enlarged by dissolution of limestone, also have contributed to the isolation of the chimneys. The Keyser Formation is noticeably fossiliferous, including crinoids, corals, brachiopods, bryozoans, and stromatoporoids. In addition, Chimney Rocks provides a scenic view of Hollidaysburg and its setting in the Ridge and Valley. In the distance, the imposing wall of the Allegheny Front rises to the northwest. This marks the boundary between the Ridge and Valley and the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic provinces.



Spire of limestone (left) and view from Chimney Rocks to the northwest (right). Hollidaysburg is seen in the valley; the Allegheny Front is visible on the skyline. Photographs by Gary Fleege, Pennsylvania Geological Survey.

Recommended Reading

Gold, D. P., Fleege, G. M., and Way, J. H., eds., 2003, *Geology on the edge—Selected geology of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties: Annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists*, 68th, Altoona, Pa., [Guidebook](#), 240 p.

[Identifying and Collecting](#) web page of DCNR.