

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

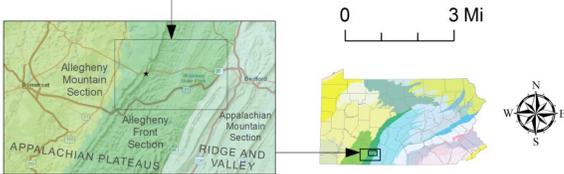
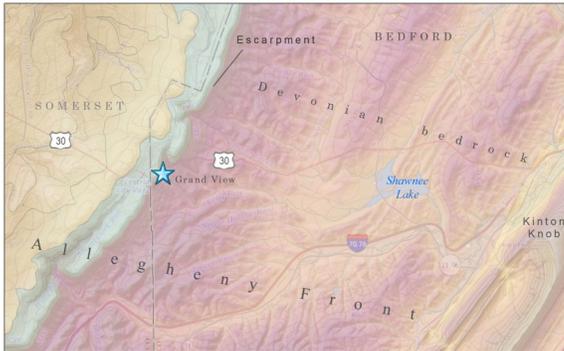
GRAND VIEW, BEDFORD COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Grand View, Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30), Bedford Co., Juniata Twp., lat: 40.03731, lon: -78.75858 (parking); Central City 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

The roadside pull off along U.S. Route 30 provides a “grand view” to the east across the Allegheny Front physiographic section, which is a transition zone between the mostly flat or gently folded rocks of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province and the sharply folded and faulted rocks of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. Here, resistant rocks of the Mississippian-Devonian-age Rockwell Formation and the overlying Mississippian-age Burgoon Sandstone create an escarpment—a sharp, continuous break in the topography. U.S. Route 30, known as the Lincoln Highway, angles across the slope as it climbs Allegheny Mountain. Bedrock to the east is broadly folded, and the resulting terrain is hilly. Beyond the hills to the east, the high sandstone ridges mark the boundary with the Ridge and Valley province. Nearly all of the bedrock between the vista and the ridges are Devonian sandstone, siltstone, and shale.

For decades, Grand View was home to the Lincoln Highway attraction “The Ship,” a large hotel and restaurant built on the edge of Allegheny Mountain. As part of the old hotel theme, a PennDOT road sign still visible today reads “Lookout Point Mt Ararat, Allegheny Mountains, Elevation 2464 ft.” As seen in old photos, the site boasted a view of “3 states and 7 counties.” Even before the hotel was constructed, the location was known as “Grand View.” The hotel burned to the ground in October 2001. Charred trees and debris remain. Today, growing trees obstruct a portion of the view.

Recommended Reading

Gold, D. P., Fleeger, 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.



From Grand View looking just south of due east, Kinton Knob can be seen on Wills Mountain ridge about 11 miles away; Kinton Knob is the nose of a faulted, plunging anticline (upfold), capped by the highly resistant quartz sandstone of the Tuscarora Formation. Shawnee Lake, of Shawnee State Park, also is visible at the foot of the mountain. To the northeast more than 16 miles, is Evitts Mountain, also of the Ridge and Valley.