

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

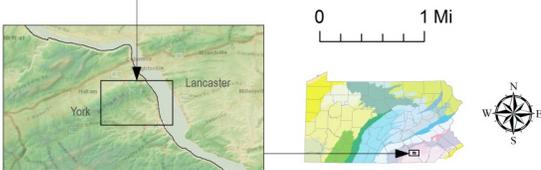
MT. PISGAH, YORK COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Samuel S. Lewis State Park, York Co., Lower Windsor Twp.,
lat: 39.9956, lon: -76.5494; Red Lion 7.5-minute quadrangle



Below is a view to the southeast from Mt. Pisgah of the Susquehanna River and the Piedmont Upland and Piedmont Lowland physiographic sections.



Geology

At an elevation of 865 feet, Mt. Pisgah's summit stands at least 500 feet above the surrounding countryside providing a beautiful panorama of the lower Susquehanna Valley. The peak is located in Samuel S. Lewis State Park, and the park has set up a panel and coin-operated viewing scope to aid visitors in identifying points of interest within the view.

Mt. Pisgah is underlain by the Chickies Formation, which is a resistant rock unit composed mostly of quartzite, and the surrounding landscape is developed on this and other complexly folded and faulted metamorphosed rocks that range in age from late Precambrian through Early Ordovician (600 to 470 million years old). These metamorphic rocks were originally sedimentary sandstones, conglomerates, limestones, dolomites, and shales that formed in nearshore and shallow-marine environments. The high pressures and temperatures of the Taconic mountain-building event that took place 450 million years ago, along with deep burial, caused recrystallization of the rocks into slates, phyllites, and schists. Periods of folding and faulting, erosion, and intermittent uplift followed for hundreds of millions of years to form the present landscape.

Recommended Reading

Inners, J. D., 1983, Samuel S. Lewis State Park, York County—Mt. Pisgah and the lower Susquehanna Valley: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-017.0](#), 8 p.

[Samuel S. Lewis State Park](#) web page of DCNR.