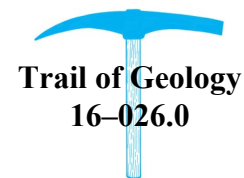


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

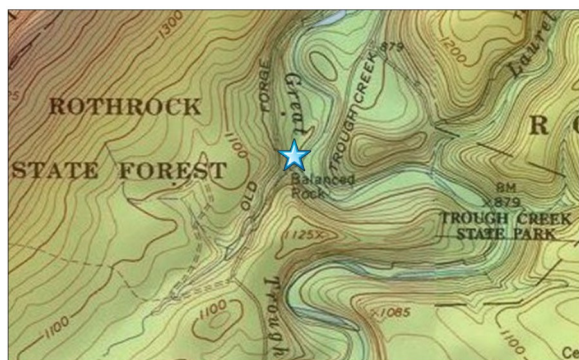
BALANCED ROCK, HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Trough Creek State Park, Huntingdon Co., Todd Twp.,
lat: 40.3226, lon: -78.1311; Entriken 7.5-minute quadrangle



0 0.3 MI



Geology

Balanced Rock, a block of Pocono Formation sandstone, looks to have been arrested in flight on the lower rim of Great Trough Creek gorge. Although the car-sized rock is currently stable, it appears to teeter at the edge of a hillside bench. Similar rock makes up much of the hillside above the bench, but this block has probably not moved very far from its original position. As surrounding rock disappeared into the gorge by weathering and erosion, Balanced Rock was stranded at its current location as an erosional remnant.

The layered sandstone is Mississippian in age, about 350 million years old. It was deposited at sea level, uplifted during the Alleghanian mountain-building event (orogeny) approximately 300 to 250 million years ago, and then finally uncovered by a long period of erosion. The present landscape has been shaped by the meandering Great Trough Creek, which is now cutting against the hillside below. Given enough time, erosion will tip the scale on Balanced Rock and hasten its trip down the slope.



Views of Balanced Rock at Trough Creek State Park. Photographs courtesy of Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

Recommended Reading

Wilshusen, J. P., 1969, Trough Creek State Park—Ice mine and Balanced Rock: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-001.0](#), 4 p.

[Trough Creek State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

