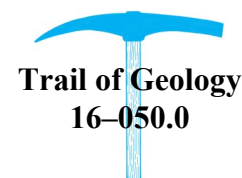


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

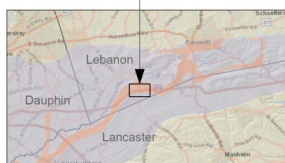
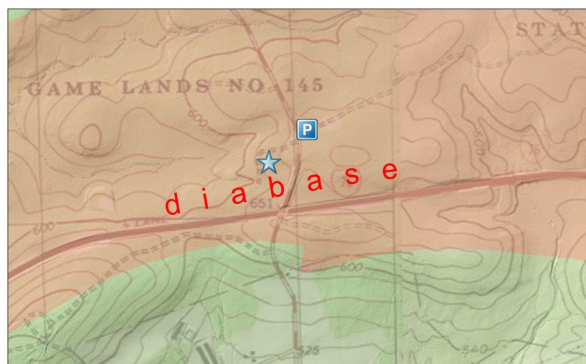
DINOSAUR ROCK, LEBANON COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

State Game Lands 145, along Mt. Wilson Rd., Lebanon Co., South Londonderry Twp., lat: 40.2286, lon: -76.5058; lat: 40.22965, lon: -76.50425 (parking); Elizabethtown 7.5-minute quadrangle



0 0.3 Mi



Geology

Dinosaur Rock is an erosional remnant of an igneous rock called diabase. During the Early Jurassic in southeastern Pennsylvania, about 200 million years ago, a large mass of molten rock cut upward into Triassic sedimentary rocks. Subsequent erosion of the surrounding rocks allowed these resistant rocks to form some of the highlands of the Piedmont.

The diabase is composed mostly of the minerals plagioclase feldspar and pyroxene. Crystals of plagioclase are enclosed with pyroxene crystals, which give the rocks a texture called “ophitic.” This indicates that as the magma slowly cooled, plagioclase crystals formed first.

The boulders are spheroidally weathered. The remnant of diabase stands approximately 15 feet higher than the surrounding forest floor. A profile of the rocks from the north or south reveals a form that gives the outcrop its name—“Dinosaur Rock.”

To see this geologic feature, park at the State Game Lands 145 parking area on the east side of Mt. Wilson Road. From the parking lot, cross Mt. Wilson Road to the trail to Dinosaur Rock. Follow the trail about 500 feet to the diabase rocks.



Dinosaur Rock as seen about 35 years ago. Photograph by William Bolles, Pennsylvania Geological Survey.



Dinosaur Rock more recently.