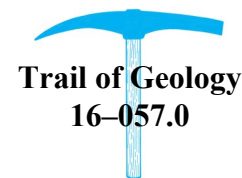


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

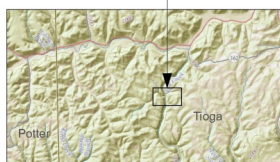
HARRISON LOOKOUT, TIOGA COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Leonard Harrison State Park, Tioga County, Shippen Twp.,
lat: 41.69660, lon: -77.45427 (parking); Tiadaghton 7.5-minute
quadrangle



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Geology

Harrison Lookout, in Leonard Harrison State Park, provides a spectacular view of [Pine Creek Gorge](#)—otherwise known as the “Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.” The gorge is in the Deep Valleys section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province, and from the overlook, one can see the section’s characteristic very high relief and deep angular valleys. A similar view can be seen from [Colton Point](#), a mile to the northwest on the opposite side of the canyon.

It is about 800 feet from Harrison Lookout to the valley floor, and the distance to the opposite ridge is approximately 4,700 feet. Sandstones and shales of the Catskill Formation dominate the slopes; the Lock Haven Formation occurs at the bottom of the gorge.

Pine Creek originally took a northeasterly drainage course. As ice moved into the area, glacial lakes developed from the blocked stream flow. This allowed water to erode through what used to be a watershed divide and change the flow direction of the stream.



On the left is the view from Harrison Lookout to the south. On the right is the view to the north. Photographs by Peter Reynier, Pennsylvania Geological Survey intern.

Recommended Reading

McGlade, W. G., 1971, Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks—The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-005.0](#), 4 p.

[Colton Point State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

[Leonard Harrison State Park](#) web page of DCNR.