STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA George T. Mickelson, Governor

STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
E. P. Rothrock, State Geologist

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS

No. 60

A GEOPHYSICAL STUDY OF THE MILBANK GRANITE AREA

ру

Bruno C. Petsch

University of South Dakota Vermillion, South Dakota April, 1948

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES SOUTH DAKOTA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Science Center, USD Vermillion, SD 57069 (605) 624-4471

MEMO

TO:

Geological Survey Staff

FROM:

Susan Green

SUBJECT:

Errata in the Report of Investigations No. 60, A GEOPHYSICAL STUDY OF THE MILBANK AREA, by Bruno Petsch, 1947

DATE:

December 14, 1981

An error in the legal description has been found on page 1 of the aforementioned report and the following illustrations:

Figure 4: Table showing value of resistivity soundings.

Figure 5: Table showing value of resistivity soundings. (cont.)

Map showing the relief of the granite surface.

Topographic map of the Milbank Granite area, Grant County.

The legal designations R47W and R46W should be amended to R48W and R47W, respectively.

bу

Bruno C. Petsch

INDEX MAP

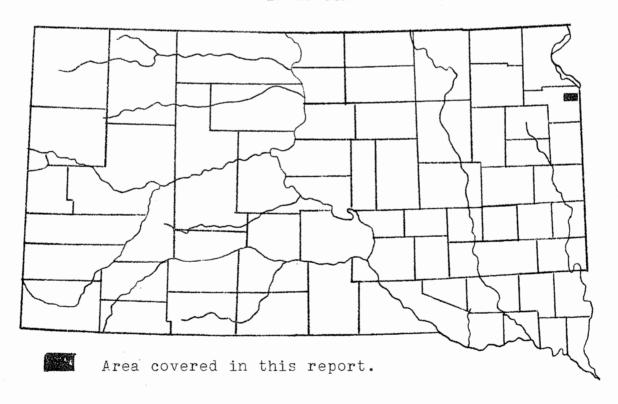


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pag	е
INTRODUCTION	 ~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1
Purpose of the Report	 •••••	1
Location of the Area		1
Acknowledgements	 • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1
Nature and Scope of Work		
GEOLOGY		
DEPTH TO GRANITE		
INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS		
GRANITE PRODUCERS		

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page
Figure 1
Index Map showing Milbank granite area
Figure 2
Resistance Gradiometer used for sounding
Figure 38
Cross section from Milbank to the granite area
showing the position of the granite bedrock
Figure 4
Table showing value of resistivity soundings
Figure 5
Table showing value of resistivity soundings (cont.)
Figure 6
Monument Quarries, Milbank Granite Area
Figure 7
Monument Quarries, Milbank Granite Area
Figure 8
Monument Quarries, Milbank Granite Area

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this investigation and survey was to determine the depth to the granite bedrock in order to help operators of the quarrying industry to expand their operations or aid others now interested in new developments.

The original quarries were opened on granite outcrops where a minimum amount of stripping was required. Today, however, stripping methods are well developed; hence quarries can be opened up on places where the granite bedrock is reasonably near the surface. Once an area has been stripped of overburden so that the granite bedrock is exposed, the opening will remain for quarrying operations for many years to come.

In this respect quarry sites are limited by the depth to the granite bedrock; it depends chiefly on how deep an operator can strip economically. Thirty to thirty-five feet is perhaps the practical limit.

Location of the Area

The Milbank granite area, as it is commonly known, is a small area five miles east and one mile south of Milbank, in Grant County. It is located in Sections 12 and 13, T 120 N, R 47 W and in Sections 7, 8, 18, 17, T 120 N, R 46 W. Figure 1. The Minnesota state line is one mile east of the latter section.

The area covered by this investigation is three miles long and one mile wide, and includes all the granite quarries operating at the time of the survey.

Acknowledgements

The writer gratefully acknowledges the assistance given him by Mr. Loyd Carlson and Mr. Ralph Miller for their cooperation throughout the survey.

The State Geological Survey wishes to express appreciation to the citizens of Milbank and of the area over which the

survey was carried, for the many courtesies extended, such as permission to enter fields.

Appreciation is also extended to Mr. E. G. Stengle and members of the Dakota Granite Company for many courtesies, which contributed much to the success of the survey.

Nature and Scope of Work

The survey consisted primarily of taking electric earth resistivity soundings in more or less detail over the strip of land mentioned above.

The equipment used for the sounding was a Resistance Gradiometer, manufactured by the Heiland Research Corporation, Denver, Colorado. It consists of a gas motor-driven AC generator, a direct reading alternating current with amplifier and glavanometer, housed in an instrument box, field wires, iron and copper stakes. Figure 2. The method is an accepted type for geophysical exploration, and it is not deemed necessary to describe the working of the equipment, because it has been described many times in the scientific literature dealing with that phase of geophysics.

The altitude and location of each station was determined with a plane table and alidade, and a topographic map was made of the area.

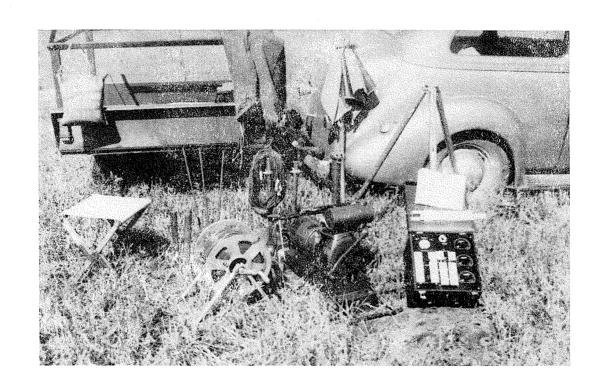
During the first part of the season, the survey was carried on in pastures and cornfields; later, as the harvesting was completed, it was carried on in the stubblefields.

The sounding procedure required an operator, a recorder, and a stake driver; all persons assisted in the assembly, take down, and loading the equipment at the completion of a station.

After several stations were made, the plane table survey was completed for that portion of the work.

There are several places in the area where no resistivity soundings could be taken because the ground was in such a condition that current would not yield a potential sufficient to be measured.

The extremely dry condition of the ground was probably the main reason for weak potentials. In these places soundings could sometimes be taken down to 60 feet if the power probes were watered, or if the generator was speeded up to higher voltages.



Resistance Gradiometer used for sounding.

Figure 2

The high land area in the southeast of the SW of section 12 was such a spot. It is underlain with gravels on which is very thin soil. This was assumed to be the reason that soundings could not be taken in this locality. The hill in the NW of the SW of 18 would not yield potentials sufficient to be measured. An area in the south center of section 7 lacks a few soundings because the ground was extremely dry and hard.

GEOLOGY

The rocks of the Milbank granite area can be divided into three natural divisions with respect to origin and age. First, the granite foundation upon which all subsequent rocks lie; second, the rocks of marine origin, such as shales, limestones, and sandstones, that cover the granite, especially where it is deep beneath the ground; third, a mantle of glacial drift composed of boulder clay, sand and gravel.

In the immediate vicinity of the granite outcrops and quarry sites the granite bedrock is reasonably shallow. It is assumed that the glacial drift forms a mantle cover over it. The marine rocks apparently have been removed.

The granite bedrock outcrops in several places in the north part of section 13, in the south part of section 7, and the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 17. Some of the outcrops stand out prominently as bosses; others appear as flat surfaces.

The granite in the outcrops is deeply grooved by glacial action. The surface is deeply weathered and much flaking or spalling occurs from exfoliation.

The granite is hard and highly crystalline. It consists of distinctly visible grains and is composed of approximately 60% dark red feldspar belonging to the orthoclase group, 25% clear quartz and 15% biotite mica. This mineral composition gives the rock a rich, dark color which is well described by its trade name, Mahogany granite. The Mahogany granite is the general type of granite quarried in the area; however, variations in color have given rise to such trade names as American Rose, and Royal Purple. The color of the granite depends largely on the color of the feldspar it contains.

The granite is a deep-seated igneous rock; its depth is unknown and in all probability it can be assumed to be at least hundreds of feet thick, so there is little danger in quarrying operations of running out of rock. Its lateral extent is enormous. The knolls and ridges which appear as outcrops are part of one large body or mass, as it underlies the entire country.

The granite has been struck six miles west of the outcrop at a depth of 456 feet. In Milbank it is below 300 feet. Five miles south of Milbank it is reported 220 feet below the surface. A well nine miles south of Milbank struck it at a depth

^{1.} Report of Investigations 20, The Geology of Grant County, South Dakota, E. P. Rothrock, 1934, p. 15.

of 240 feet. The southernmost granite is reported one and one half miles east of Albee, ten miles south of the quarries, where it was struck 125 feet underground.

Apparently the granite surface slopes north, west and south of the area. These long, deep slopes are overlain by marine stratified rocks which are shales, limestones and sandstones of the Cretaceous system. The Milbank granite area appears, then, as an island surrounded by these marine rocks. Figure 3. The following log of the Milwaukee Railroad well #1 at Milbank shows the sequence of the formations encountered:

Depth	Log
8- 41 41- 85 85-140	glacial drift and gravel clay, dark slate grey, silty, Carlile? sand, fine, angular
140-142 142-230 230-249	sand, fine, coarser, light grey clay, slate grey, some carbonized wood marl, dark grey, chalk pellets, Globigerina, Textularia, Greenhorn?
249-256	sand, medium to fine grain, micaceous, angular shark's teeth and spines, fish vertebrae, teeth, Globigerina, Inoceramus, Greenhorn limestone, sandy, some hauerite
256-273	Greenhorn limestone with Inoceramus prisms
273-300 300-330	Graneros clay, dark grey, bentonitic, flaky sand, fine, angular, considerable selenite
302-304	clay with fossil shells
304-308	clay, dark blue grey, hard, brown ironstone concretions
308-312	arkosic grit and conglomerate of pegmatite,
315	granite, glassy quartz, cemented secondary green copper mineral (malachite or chrysocolla) Milwaukee R.R. well No. 2 may have been in arkose to 400 foot depth

Almost the entire area is overlain by a mantle of glacial drift which is composed of boulder clay, sand and gravel. This mantle forms the surface and conceals all the older rocks, except for the small outcrops of the granite bedrock. These deposits are debris left by the melting ice sheet.

DEPTH TO GRANITE

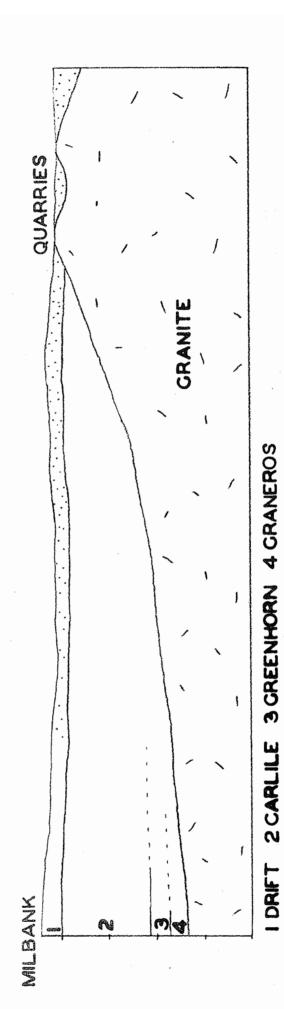
A general picture of the relief of the granite surface in the Milbank granite area can be observed from the map (in pocket) in the back of this report. The relief is represented by contour lines which show the altitude above sea level. The granite surface lies at various depths below the surface of the ground. The shallow and deep places are about equal in total area.

In many instances the granite surface if probably much more rugged than is illustrated. This condition cannot be shown unless many more soundings could be taken than were made on this survey.

The depth to the granite at the sounding is shown in Figures 4 and 5 as well as on the map.

The trend of the outcrops show the position of the granite as a prominent ridge from the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 13 to the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 7. The outcrops in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 17 and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 18 are buried hills separate from the prominent ridge designated above. However they are all part of the granite bedrock of the area. (see cross-sections on map in pocket).

A shallow granite ridge is in the eastern portion of the NW_4^1 of section 18 and in the vicinity of the church in the same quarter section. The areas of deep granite are shown as hatched or depression contours; in these places the granite is sometimes as much as 100 feet beneath the surface of the ground. The contours showing closures or high areas on the granite surface will have depths to the granite generally from 20 to 40 feet.



FICURE 3

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Various methods have been developed for interpreting resistivity data accumulated from soundings taken in the field, in order to solve a problem pertaining to depths of buried material. They are divided into two groups: first, qualitative methods, whereby the shape or appearance of a depth curve is assumed to show thicknesses of and depths to underlying formations; second, quantitative methods of analysis, whereby formulae or families of calculated master curves are applied to field data.

In the qualitative method abrupt changes in slope of the potential-drop-ratio curves are assumed to indicate changes of material. For quantitative analysis the Wetzel-McMurry Standard Curves were used for three layer cases. The resistivity curve is plotted logarithmically which makes it independent of units of resistivity and electrode separation used. This is matched with a master curve, and if they agree, the resistivities and depth are observed. Roman and Tagg formulae and curves were used for the two-layer cases. The method of interpreting Potential Drop Ratios by correcting for normal ratio, as described in Resistance Gradiometer, Description and Operating Instructions, page 17, Heiland Research corporation, was not used. It was found that the resulting curves were too irregular to permit interpretation by this method. This may have been due to a rough granite surface, lateral anomalies, or lithologic variations in the drift mantle. The tables showing values of resistivity soundings are a detailed summary of the resistivity survey. Figure 4 and 5.

The first column shows the number of resistivity stations; this is followed by the location of the stations, or soundings. They are located with respect to land survey divisions (see index map at base of table). Figure 5. The stations are numbered in the order they were made, but are not listed in order, because during the first part of the survey, it was necessary to work in pastures, hayfields, and corn fields, and later, as the harvesting progressed, the soundings were taken in stubble fields. The column labeled altitude of surface, is the altitude above sea level of each station taken during the topographic survey.

Under the Wetzel-McMurry column are the values taken in the process of fitting the resistivity curve on a standard curve. The thickness of the first layer is represented by h₁, the thickness of the second layers by d, and their combined thicknesses, (the depth to the third layer), by h2. The columns under P1, P2, P3 are the resistivities of the layers in Ohms per foot as observed. The columns under the Tagg and Roman are analogous to the latter. The diagram at the bottom of table (Figure 4) is an illustration of the thickness, depth, and resistivity of the layers. In the column labeled Qualitative, is the value assumed to be the depth to the granite as that point appears on a plotted potential drop ratio curve as an extreme point of inflection, or at the terminous of a smooth portion in the upper part of the curve. The cumulative column has values showing a change in trend in the resistivity curve, presumed to be the top of the granite according to a method described by John A. Trantina, geologist, Corps of Engineers, Pickstown, South Dakota. The last column shows the altitude above sea level of the top of the granite. This value is obtained by subtracting the depth from the Surface Altitude. These figures are the basis for the contour map (in pocket) showing the relief of the granite surface beneath the ground.

The entire area is covered by a mantle of glacial drift which is composed of clays, sands, and gravel. In it at varying depth is the water table. These materials have various thicknesses and positions beneath the surface. They become two, three, or multiple layer cases with the granite.

Predictions resulting from the quantitative analysis will show thicknesses and depths to the layers in the drift mantle, which are true but will not yield the depth to the top of the granite unless it is a near surface layer. The granite must be the second or third layer of a two or three layer case. If this is the condition, the top of the granite can be predicted with reasonable accuracy. When the drift mantle is composed of clay lying directly on the granite it is a two layer case, when the mantle is composed of a layer of sand and gravel lying on the granite, and clay being the surface layer, it becomes a three layer case.

The map showing the position of the granite beneath the ground as shown by contour lines is derived from the interpretation of resistivity soundings. Several determinations were proved by the drill and found to be reasonably accurate.

The following table is a list of resistivity stations which were drilled; Column I gives the values for h2, the depth as determined by the Wetzel-McMurry master curves; Column II gives the drilled depth:

Station	<u>h</u> 2	drilled
13	13	14
72	16	18
97	20	27
107	30	29.6
Test Well	36	33
Test Well	15	20

The main point brought out by the analysis is that when the granite is predicted to be shallow (within reasonable stripping depth) or deeper, it can be counted on as the position of the granite surface.

In obtaining the figure which represents the altitude of the top of the granite, both quantitative and qualitative analyses were used. Where a depth value was shown by quantitative and it agreed closely with the qualitative, the former was used for the depth desired. However, the statement by Wetzel and McMurry, "....it is not claimed that this interpretation method may be used automatically to grind out answers..." may be applied to any method of interpreting resistivity data.

It stands to reason that of all the curves produced, some will not yield to any methods of interpretation, the greater portion of the curves yield the points in question. When quantitative methods could not be applied, a point was taken by direct observation by the qualitative method.

Some field curves could be fitted with several standard curves which yielded depths in close agreement to one another. The following table shows a list of stations:

Station	Depth	
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6	20 22	
8	<i>55 56 5</i> 8	60
10	50 50	
19	94 98 103	
63	25 27	,

^{1.} Howard V. McMurry, W.W. Wetzel, "A Set of Curves to Assist in the Interpretation of the Three Layer Resistivity Problem," Geophysics, Vol. II (October, 1937), 341.

TABLE SHOWING VALUES OF RESISTIVITY SOUNDINGS

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W.W.WETZEL & H.V.MC MURRY, INTERPRETATION OF THE THREE LAYER RESISTIVITY PROBLEM, GEOPHYSICS VOL. II, NO.4, OCT. 1937.

G.F. TAGG, INTERPRETATION OF RESISTIVITY MEASUREMENTS, A.I.M.M.E., TRANSACTIONS VOL. 110, 1934.

IRWIN ROMAN, SUPERPOSITION IN THE INTERPRETATION OF TWO-LAYER, EARTH-RESISTIVITY CURVES, U.S.G.S. BUL. 927-A, 1941.

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE LAYER THICKNESSES
AND RESISTIVITY SEINFINITY AS STHICKNESS

PRESISTIVITY SEINFINITY AS STHICKNESS

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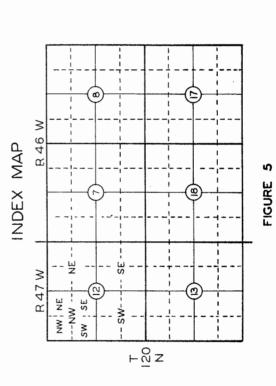
PRESISTIVITY SEINFINITY
FIGURE 4

TABLE SHOWING VALUES OF RESISTIVITY SOUNDINGS

(CONTINUED)

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It is the opinion of the writer that the above determinations are in accord with the true depth to the granite.

The following table is a list of resistivity stations showing the agreement between determinations of two layer cases where the Tagg and Roman methods were used:

	Tagg	Roman
Station 84 87 88 57 102 107 126	$ \begin{array}{r} $	16-20 29 12 23 26 17
128	20	25

These values are not necessarily the top of the granite surface but the depth to a second layer in the drift mantle which is probably the water table or a bed of sand and gravel. In station 107, a bed of gravel was encountered by the drill from 18 to 23 feet, which agrees with the prediction of a two-layer curve.

The resistivity of granite as determined from the Wetzel-McMurry master curves, is in the region of 104 0hm ft. or more, whereas the resistivity of drift material is much less; however, the resistivity of granite for many stations is very low. For example at Station 97, the resistivity of the third layer (granite) determined from the master curve is 78 0hm ft. It may be assumed that this is caused by the ground water.

GRANITE PRODUCERS

The quarries in the Milbank granite area are working to full capacity. A total of nine companies are located in the area, as follows:

Hunter Dakota Delano Cold Springs North Star Columbia Melrose	Figure Figure Figure Figure Figure Figure	667888	and	7
Melrose				
Kaddez and Company	Figure	8		
B.F. Coggins				

The production is primarily monumental and dimension stone of quarried granite. The Hunter and Dakota Companies are South Dakota firms, the B.F. Coggins Company is located in Elberton, Georgia; this firm has recently purchased granite rights in this area in preparation to opening a quarry and erecting a fabrication plant. The remainder of the companies operating in the area are Minnesota firms.

The Hunter Granite Company maintains a fabricating plant in Milbank and all of their stone is hauled by truck from the quarry to the plant. They have a sawing unit at the quarry. Recently, a new stiff leg derrick has been put into operation at the quarry. It is probably the largest capacity derrick in South Dakota of that type. Their product is known as Hunter's Royal Purple and Hunter's Variegated Mahogany.

The Dakota Granite Company has its entire works in the granite area. It consists of the quarry and sawing units and fabrication plant.

The Dakota operates two quarries; one produces a granite known as the Dakota Mahogany and the other produces a granite known as American Rose.

The Cold Springs, North Star, Melrose, and Columbia Granite Companies are Minnesota operators; all their stone is trucked to points in Minnesota. The Delano and Kaddez quarries are the most recently opened, having been in operation only a short time.

All quarries in this area are from 60 to 140 feet deep, except those of Kaddez and Delano, and have been operating

for many years. The distribution of the quarries is shown on the Topographic Map (in pocket).

Aside from the dimension stone produced, there are numerous piles of waste rock in the area. Some of these grout piles, as they are known, are as much as 60 feet high and 400 feet long. They contain rock of all sizes and dimensions, plus the smaller chips from fabrication. All the stone in the grout piles is considered waste, but in the future, the use of this stone will be in demand.

