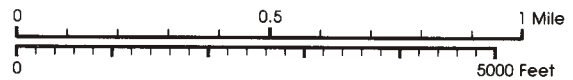


Havey Quarry, Trenton Quarry, Square Pit, Willes Quarry, Alice Staples Quarry, and Fisher Quarry

Town: Topsham, Sagadahoc County
Base map: Brunswick 7.5' quadrangle
Contour interval: 10 feet



Havey Quarry

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: Open for non-commercial mineral collecting. Permission is generally not required, though persons visiting these quarries must assume full responsibility for their own safety. Owner: Richard Carrier, Rte. 2, Box 2106, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Minerals observed: almandine (garnet), autunite, beryl, biotite, grayite, microcline (feldspar), monazite-(Ce), muscovite, quartz, thorianite, thorogummite (yellow crystals to 2 mm, perhaps the world's best), xenotime-(Y), zircon (rare intergrowths with xenotime-(Y)).

Directions: Driving: From jct. of U. S. Rte. 201 and Rte. 24 in Topsham, drive east, then northeast, on Rte. 24 for 2.60 miles. Turn left onto Cathance Road and proceed north 2.55 miles. Turn left onto School Crossing Road and drive west about 0.3 mile (keeping to left). The recently excavated dumps of the Havey Quarry will be seen on the right.

Trenton Quarry (G. D. Willes Quarry, Consolidated No. 4 Quarry)

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: Inquire locally. The collecting status of this quarry is not known, though there is much evidence of ATV and snowmobile traffic in the area.

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), beryl, biotite, columbite, elbaite (tourmaline: green), microcline, muscovite, quartz (milky, smoky).

Comments: This large feldspar quarry was opened in the 1800's. The Consolidated Feldspar Corp. worked the north end in 1933-34, and David Ponziana mined quartz and feldspar here in 1945 (Shainin, 1948). Cavities in the northern part of the quarry produced smoky quartz crystals, superb aquamarine and golden beryl crystals, and green tourmalines (Bastin, 1911). The quarry is now primarily of historical interest, and visitors should stay away from the high cliffs. Many other small quarries and test pits occur nearby. Interstate Route 95 cuts through the western part of this quarry complex.

Directions: *Driving:* From jct. of U. S. Rte. 201 and Rte. 24 in Topsham, drive east, then northeast, on Rte. 24 for 2.60 miles. Turn left onto Cathance Road and proceed north 2.55 miles. Turn left onto School Crossing Road. Small groups of vehicles may park here, across from farm produce stand (check with owner). Individual vehicles may be able to park at next jct. (see below).

Walking: Walk or drive 0.30 mi to woods road on left (opposite Havey Quarry dump on right). Park here, on *left* side of School Crossing Rd., just before entrance to woods road. *Do not block local driveways!* Walk southwest on woods road for about 3,300 ft., keeping to left (on principal road) along the way, until reaching major jct. with another quarry road. Take sharp right turn onto this road and walk west 480 ft. (160 paces) to another jct. (Route I-95 is straight ahead). Turn right (north) and walk across clearing a short distance to quarry.

Square Pit

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: Open for mineral collecting. Permission is generally not required, though persons visiting this quarry must assume full responsibility for their own safety. Owner: Richard Carrier, Rte. 2, Box 2106, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), beryl (aquamarine, golden), biotite, chalcopyrite, elbaite (tourmaline)(?), fluorapatite, microcline, molybdenite, muscovite, phenakite, quartz (milky, smoky), schorl (tourmaline), torbernite, zircon.

Comments: This collecting site replaces the nearby Fisher Quarry, which is closed. Well-formed almandine garnet crystals occur here, though they are brittle and difficult to collect intact. Much of the dump was recently excavated, exposing a lot of fresh material. Beware of water-filled pit! The long hike to this quarry is not recommended for persons in poor physical condition.

Directions: *Driving:* same as for Trenton Quarry (see above). *Do not use the old access route from Cathance Rd., because of recent home construction in this area.*

Walking: Follow woods road to jct. southeast of Trenton Quarry. Continue southeast, crossing power line, for about 2,010 ft (670 paces) to next major road. Take sharp right turn onto this road and walk southwest about 2,800 ft to the Square Pit, which is first major quarry and dump on right.

Willes Quarry and Alice Staples Quarry

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting Status: the Willes Quarry is leased, and the Staples Quarry is owned, by Gary Howard, Bath, ME (207-443-6354). Both sites are usually open for recreational mineral collecting, but call ahead to be sure (especially for group trips).

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), beryl, biotite, columbite, microcline, muscovite, and probably other minerals.

Directions: *Driving:* same as for Trenton Quarry (see above).

Walking: Follow above directions to the Square Pit. Continue south on mine road for about 400 ft to a fork. From here, you can either bear right to the Willes Quarry and dumps on the west side of the road, or keep left (on principal mine road) and go another 400 ft to the Alice Staples Quarry on the east side.

Fisher Quarry

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: owned by Gary Howard, Bath, ME (207-443-6354). Usually open for recreational mineral collecting, but call ahead to be sure (especially for group trips).

Minerals observed: albite, almandine (garnet), autunite/meta-autunite, bertrandite, beryl, beryllonite(?), biotite, bismuthinite, bismutite, cassiterite, columbite, cookeite, elbaite (tourmaline), fluorapatite, gahnite, hydroxylherderite, lepidolite, microcline, microlite, montebasite, muscovite, quartz, samarskite-(Y), sphalerite, stibiotantalite, topaz, uraninite, zircon.

Comments: A large pocket zone was discovered in the quarry floor by Benjamin Burbank in 1929. Excavation of these pockets culminated with the Harvard University work in 1933, which produced etched pale-blue topaz crystals to 4x5 inches, superb hydroxylherderite crystals up to 2 inches long, etched beryl fragments, many small crystals of green microlite and dark-blue tourmaline, quartz crystals, and other minerals.

Directions: *Driving:* same as for Trenton Quarry (see above).

Walking: From the Alice Staples Quarry (see above), continue south on mine road for about 1500 ft. There are several quarry pits in this area, but the Fisher Quarry is the last opening on the left before reaching the Cathance River.