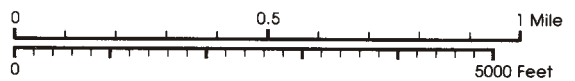# Crocker Hill Mines and Ryerson Hill Quarry

Town: Paris, Oxford County
Base map: West Paris and West Sumner 7.5′ quadrangles
Contour interval: 20 feet

Map labels include:

Ryerson Hill Quarry

Ryerson Hill

Partridge Cem

Cem

1129

1401

1200

954

827

900

PARIS

Crocker Hill Mines

1374

park

900

917

1000

Mt Mica

Quarry

810

Buckfield Rd.

875

Whittemore Cem

828 ×

Cole Brook

Ryerson Hill Rd.

Route 26

Moody Brook

Cole

Pleasant Valley Cem

600

400

500

700

800

734

Mt. Mica Rd.

Paris Hill

Paris

Paris Hill

Paris

Cem

821

Golf Course

Quarry

900

800

700

600

RIVER

Gravel Pit

Hillside Cem

Stony Bk

1066

1200

0   0.5   1 Mile

0   5000 Feet

Crocker Hill Mines

Type of deposit: Quartz vein, possibly in a fault zone.

Collecting status: Located in a Paris town park. Permission to collect minerals probably is not required, as long as the sites are not greatly disturbed. The collecting information provided here is for the upper mine, which is the more productive locality. The lower mine (next to Crocker Hill trail) is a collapsed underground working, and is mainly of historical interest. *No digging should be done at the latter site.*

Minerals observed: graphite, molybdenite(?), pyrite, quartz (colorless to milky, singly and doubly-terminated crystals), sericite.

Comments: The foundation of an old mill can be seen next to the lower mine, on the downhill side of the trail. This is believed to be the molybdenite mine that was mentioned by Morrill and others (1958). If so, the upper mine is the "gold mine" indicated on Morrill's map, and his map shows the Crocker Hill mines in the wrong locations. It is not known whether a significant amount of ore was produced by either mine. Hess (1908) and Waterman (1931) noted the occurrence of graphite here, and Waterman stated that both graphite and molybdenite were recovered by the mining operation. Large masses of interlocking quartz crystals occur at the upper mine, and terminated crystals can be found in cavities in the quartz.

Directions: *Driving*: From jct. of Rtes. 26 and 117-119 in South Paris, go north on Rte. 26 for 0.35 mile. Turn right at sign for "Paris Hill" and proceed 1.20 miles. Go right at fork and continue 1.20 miles. Turn right (by golf course) onto Mt. Mica Rd. and drive northeast 1.15 miles. Turn left onto gravel road and proceed 0.80 mile to point where road makes a right-angle turn to the left. At this point, drive straight ahead onto a woods road for about 0.05 mile and park in clearing on left.

Walking: Walk uphill on woods road that climbs Crocker Hill. This road has three switchback curves, and is marked by yellow blazes after the first switchback. It passes the mill foundation, and at about 665 paces from parking lot (just after second switchback) passes the entrance to the lower mine (note old retaining wall on left). Continue another 500 paces to clearing where Crocker Hill trail turns right (uphill) from the road. At this point, turn left off the road and go down across the ledge to the west for about 60 paces to upper end of small pit in quartz vein.

Ryerson Hill Quarry

Type of deposit: Granite pegmatite.

Collecting status: Open for collecting by prior arrangement with the owners. Call Jody Berry or Zoltan Matolcsy at (207) 743-9169.

E-mail: jodzol@adelphia.net.
Website: www.RockhoundsRUs.com

Minerals observed: The more common minerals found here include albite, almandine (garnet), arsenopyrite, beryl, columbite, microcline, muscovite, quartz, schorl (tourmaline), and triphylite. A complete list of 48 minerals from Ryerson Hill, including photos, is available at www.mindat.org.

Comments: This quarry was recently worked by Richard Dionne, who compiled the species list. An uncommon bluish-gray phosphate mineral called triphylite can be found here. Microscopic crystals of a wide variety of rare phosphates have been found with the triphylite, from which they were derived by chemical alteration.

Directions: *Driving*: From jct. of Rtes. 26 and 117-119 in South Paris, go north on Rte. 26 for 0.35 mile. Turn right at sign for "Paris Hill" and proceed 1.20 miles. Keep right at fork and continue about 1.9 miles, passing through Paris Hill village. Turn right onto Ryerson Hill Rd. and go northeast 1.90 miles to a jct. Continue straight on Ryerson Hill Rd (paved)., which quickly curves to left and climbs hill, and go 0.75 mile to jct. with gravel road on left. Continue straight on paved road, which soon turns to gravel, for 0.25 miles. Park on left shoulder of road, where wide enough.

Walking: Find the dirt mine road on right (south) side of main road. It starts between some big boulders. Follow mine road uphill to south for about 250 paces to where it ends at the quarry pits.