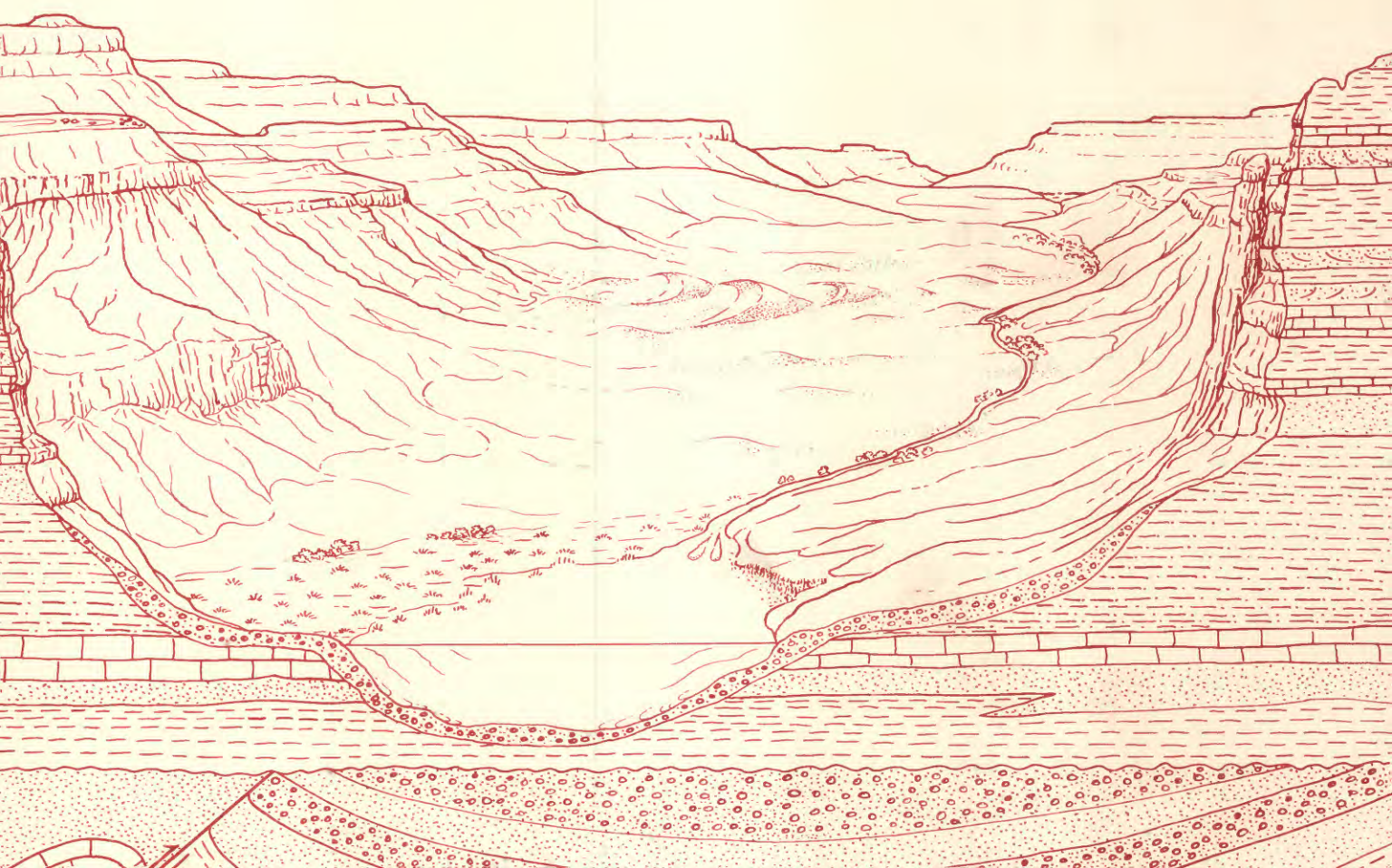


Petrology and Depositional Facies of Siliciclastic  
Rocks of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group,  
Mazur Well, Southeastern Anadarko Basin, Oklahoma

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BULLETIN 1866-E





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Chapter E

# Petrology and Depositional Facies of Siliciclastic Rocks of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group, Mazur Well, Southeastern Anadarko Basin, Oklahoma

By ROMEO M. FLORES and C. WILLIAM KEIGHIN

A multidisciplinary approach to research studies of sedimentary rocks and their constituents and the evolution of sedimentary basins, both ancient and modern

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BULLETIN 1866

EVOLUTION OF SEDIMENTARY BASINS—ANADARKO BASIN

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
MANUEL LUJAN, JR., Secretary



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Dallas L. Peck, Director

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"A multidisciplinary approach to research studies of sedimentary rocks and their constituents and the evolution of sedimentary basins, both ancient and modern."

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## CONVERSION FACTORS FOR SOME SI METRIC AND U.S. UNITS OF MEASURE

To convert from	To	Multiply by
Feet (ft)	Meters (m)	0.3048
Miles (mi)	Kilometers (km)	1.609
Pounds (lb)	Kilograms (kg)	0.4536
Degrees Fahrenheit (°F)	Degrees Celsius (°C)	Temp °C = (temp °F - 32)/1.8

# Petrology and Depositional Facies of Siliciclastic Rocks of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group, Mazur Well, Southeastern Anadarko Basin, Oklahoma

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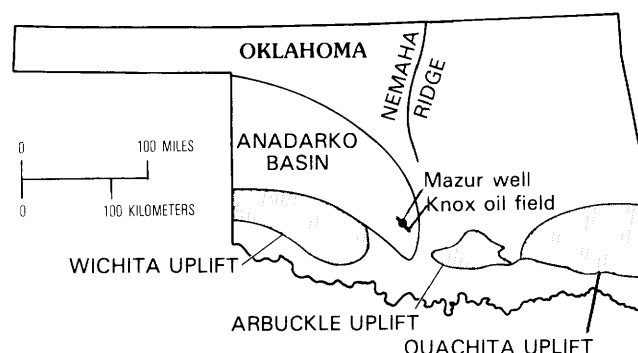
## Abstract

The Mazur well in the southeastern Anadarko basin of Oklahoma penetrates the McLish (oldest), Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations of the upper part of Middle Ordovician Simpson Group. Lithofacies and petrographic analysis of 650 ft of core indicates deposition in a rapidly subsiding aulacogen. Lithofacies associations suggest that the deposits accumulated in cycles that consist of mudstone-siltstone-limestone in the lower part of the lithofacies sequence and quartzarenite in the upper part. The lithofacies sequence in the lower part of the cycles is interpreted as deposits of subtidal to intertidal environments. The lithofacies sequences in the upper part of the cycles are deposits of tidal channels.

The sandstones are made up of generally rounded and well-sorted to moderately sorted quartz grains and exhibit highly quartzose characteristics. They consist of framework grains and cement and lack detrital matrix. The framework grains are composed of monocrystalline and polycrystalline quartz (as much as 99 percent); feldspar (as much as 4 percent) including orthoclase, microcline, and perthite; and rock fragments (as much as 12 percent) consisting of chert, micaceous rock fragments, siltstone, shale, limestone, glauconite, colophane, and skeletal fossil fragments. Cements include silica, carbonate, and clay. The silica cement consists of quartz overgrowths, and the carbonate cement comprises calcite, ferroan calcite, ferroan dolomite, and ankerite. The mineralogical and textural maturity of the sandstones suggests deposition in tidal-influenced environments in which winnowing by waxing and waning tidal currents promoted clean, mature sediments.

## INTRODUCTION

Extensive drilling in the Anadarko basin, a major hydrocarbon-producing basin in Oklahoma, has yielded a



**Figure 1.** Location of the Mazur well and Knox oil field in the southeastern Anadarko basin of Oklahoma in relation to major tectonic features.

large collection of Paleozoic cores. The core described in this report is from the Sunray Parker DX No. 1 Mazur well and consists of rocks from the middle part of the Upper Cambrian and Lower Ordovician Arbuckle Group and the upper part of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group. The well is in southeastern Grady County (sec. 1, T. 3 N., R. 5 W.), in the southeastern part of the Anadarko basin (fig. 1). It is in the Knox oil field, from which gas is produced from the McLish and Bromide Formations of the upper part of the Simpson Group below depths of 15,000 ft (Kennedy, 1982).

The purpose of this report is to describe the lithofacies and petrography of 650 ft of core from the upper part of the Simpson Group in the Mazur well and to interpret the environments of deposition. Lithology, sedimentary structures, trace and body fossil content, and contact relationships are described for each rock unit. Textures and mineralogical compositions of the sandstones were estimated from 29 thin sections. In addition, geophysical log responses, including gamma-



ray, sonic, neutron, resistivity, conductivity, and density, are related to lithology and depositional facies.

**Acknowledgments.**—We acknowledge the assistance of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, Charles J. Mankin, Director, in providing access to the core, and to Eldon Cox and Walter Esry, Oklahoma Geological Survey Core and Sample Library, for their generous help.

## STRATIGRAPHY

The interval of the Simpson Group studied in the Mazur core includes parts of the McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations. A generalized stratigraphic column for the Simpson Group in the Arbuckle Mountains is shown in figure 2 (Ham, 1969; Johnson and others, 1984). The Arbuckle section has been used by Schramm (1964) and Borrás (1979) as reference to the Simpson rock units in the Anadarko basin. Although lithologies in the Mazur core are similar to those of the Arbuckle section, the Mazur core contains less limestone and the thicknesses of units are different.

The upper 220 ft, or upper third, of the McLish Formation was cored in the Mazur well (fig. 3). The McLish is composed of interbedded sandstone, conglomeratic sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, and limestone; about 60 percent of the formation is composed of sandstone and conglomeratic sandstone. The McLish grades upward into the Tulip Creek Formation, which is 235 ft thick; the uppermost 55 ft of the cored interval is missing (fig. 3). The Tulip Creek consists of sandstone, conglomeratic sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, and limestone; about 90 percent of the

formation is composed of sandstone and conglomeratic sandstone. The Bromide Formation, 295 ft thick, overlies the Tulip Creek (fig. 3). The contact between the two formations was not observed because 50 ft of core is missing. The Bromide Formation includes a lower member, 125 ft thick, and an upper member, 170 ft thick. It consists mainly of interbedded sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, and limestone; however, the lower part contains thick sandstone units. The formation as a whole contains about 35 percent sandstone; the sandstone is concentrated in the lower part and vertically dispersed in the upper part.

The cored interval of the Simpson Group contains about 60 percent sandstone and conglomeratic sandstone. The McLish interval in the well is more sandy than in other areas in the Anadarko basin, where it contains only as much as 25 percent sandstone. In the cored interval, the Tulip Creek Formation includes as much as 100 percent sandstone and the Bromide Formation as much as 35 percent sandstone (Borrás, 1979).

## Geophysical Logs

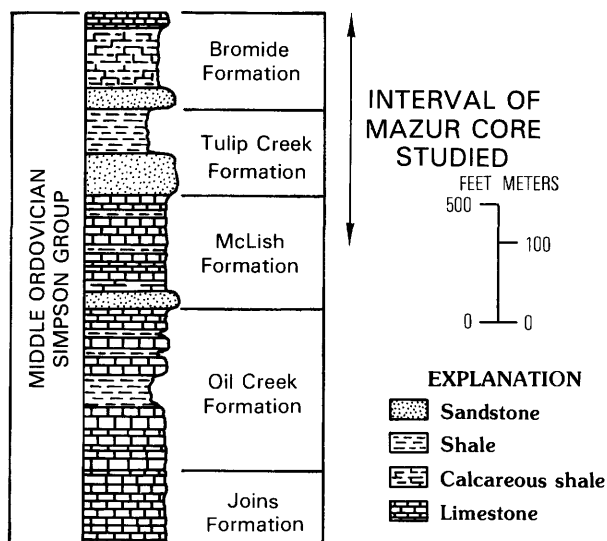
Gamma-ray, sonic, neutron, resistivity, conductivity, and density logs are available for portions of the Mazur well. Available logs of suitable quality in the interval of principal interest were digitized so that the log curves could be compared with the lithologies observed in the cores. Gamma-ray, sonic, and neutron logs display the most graphic response to changes in lithology (fig. 4); log responses (figs. 3–8) may be compared with the lithologies illustrated and with the photographs of cores included in appendix 1.

Sandstones, or sandy intervals, and dark, waxy mudstones are clearly visible on the gamma-ray logs. The only log available through the cored interval to the total depth of the hole is the gamma-ray log (fig. 3); it indicates that, except for the Oil Creek Formation, few sandstones are found below the McLish Formation.

## CORE LITHOFACIES

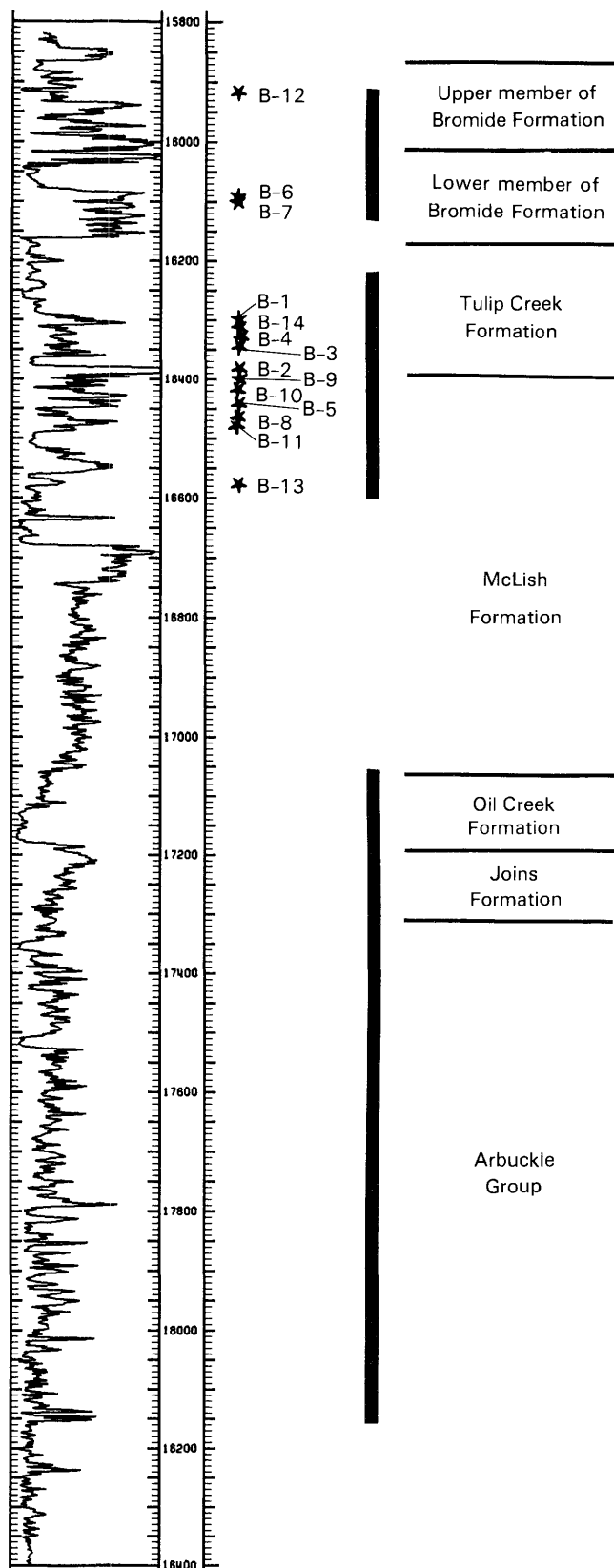
### Sandstone Lithofacies

The white to gray sandstones vary from very fine to medium grained to conglomeratic. The conglomeratic sandstones consist of granule- to pebble-size clasts of quartz, mudstone, siltstone, limestone, and fossil (brachiopods and crinoids) fragments that occur either as basal lag deposits in the sandstone or distributed throughout the sandstone. Basal contacts are sharp to erosional; multiple erosional contacts (appendix 2–1)



**Figure 2.** Generalized stratigraphic column for the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group in the Arbuckle Mountains. Modified from Ham (1969) and Johnson and others (1984).





**Figure 3** (facing column). Gamma-ray log for Mazur well showing cored intervals (heavy lines), formation tops (picked from logs), and locations (asterisks) and numbers of photographs of core shown in appendix 2 (referred to by prefix B). Log to total depth of well; depth below surface (in feet) shown.

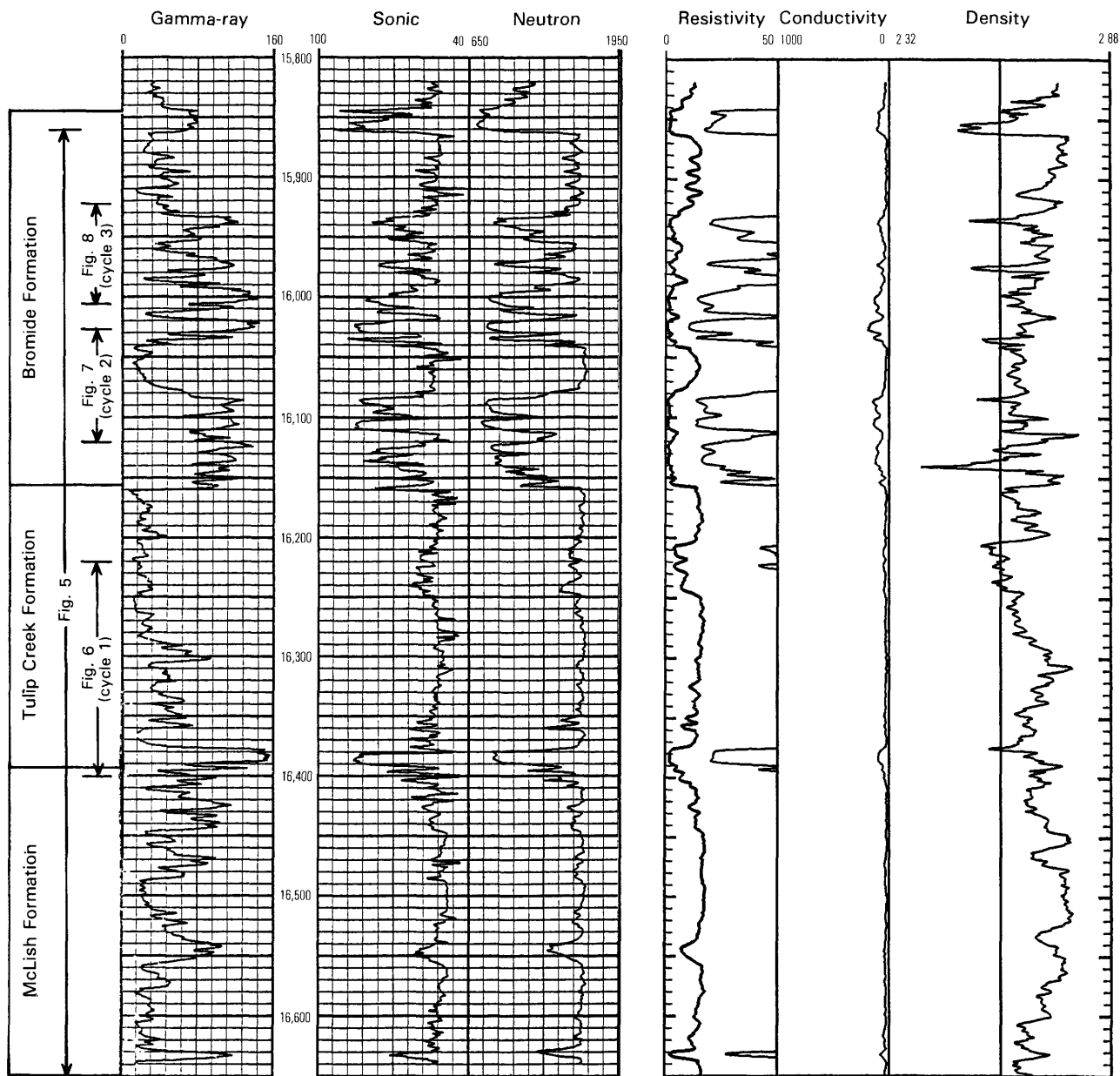
arenites. The gray sandstones are litharenites and contain a higher proportion of rock fragments than the quartzarenites. Quartzarenites are more common than litharenites.

The sandstones contain cross-laminated, ripple-laminated, parallel-laminated, and convoluted bedding (fig. 5; appendix 2-2, 2-3, 2-4). These sedimentary structures show the following combinations of vertical sequences: (1) cross laminations in the lower part of the sequence and ripple laminations in the upper part; (2) parallel laminations in the lower part of the sequence and ripple laminations in the upper part; and (3) multiple successions or series of cross laminations and ripple laminations as well as parallel laminations and some convolutions. Inclinations of cross laminations show bimodal orientation and range from 5° to 20°. The cross laminations are from 2 to 11 in. thick and are commonly defined by layers of finely divided plant fragments. The sandstones also contain many bioturbated beds (appendix 2-5) that are interbedded with cross-laminated, ripple-laminated, and parallel-laminated beds. The burrows are nondescript, horizontal and vertical, tubelike structures; vertical burrows are more common.

## Siltstone Lithofacies

The siltstones are dark gray to light gray to white, depending on quartz content (appendix 2-6). A few of the sandy siltstones are arkosic, comprising 20-25 percent feldspar (mainly orthoclase) (appendix 3-1). The siltstones show gradational upper and lower contacts where they are interbedded with mudstones and erosional contacts where they are overlain by sandstones. The siltstones are commonly ripple laminated (asymmetrical ripple laminations; appendix 2-7). Flaser bedding is developed where siltstones are intercalated with mudstones; pinstripe burrows are formed in the mudstones that bind the flasered units (appendix 2-8). Horizontal and vertical burrows of unknown origin are common in the siltstones, and horizontal bioturbation is more common than in the sandstones. Fragments of crinoid columnals and brachiopod shells commonly occur as lenses.

occur in the sandstones. The white sandstones are well-sorted, locally calcareous or calcite-cemented quartz-



**Figure 4.** Response of various logging tools for the Simpson Group interval in the Mazur well. Selected intervals are shown in greater detail in figures 5–8; location of cycles shown in figures 6–8 is marked. Depth below surface (in feet) shown.

## Mudstone Lithofacies

The mudstones are waxy and dark gray to black; black mudstones contain abundant finely divided plant fragments (appendix 2–9). Most mudstones are calcareous. Contacts with most adjoining rock types are gradational, but where overlain by sandstone the contact is erosional. The mudstones are locally fissile and splintery and may correctly be classified as muddy shales. X-ray diffraction analysis (Weber, 1987) indicates that the clay fraction in the shale of the McLish is mainly composed of illite and some chlorite. Sedimentary

structures include laminations that are apparent when the core is freshly cut. Some of the mudstones are interlaminated with thin, white, quartzose silty units that form parallel and ripple laminations, but most of the primary structures of the mudstones have been obliterated by bioturbation (appendix 2–10). Trace fossils (*Planolites*, *Trichophyens*, and *Dictyodora*) are common burrows in shales and mudstones of the Bromide Formation (Longman, 1981). Most of these animal burrows are interpreted as feeding traces. Body fossils of transported and abraded crinoid and brachiopod fragments also were found.

## Limestone Lithofacies

The limestones are light to dark gray, and contacts with adjoining rock types are generally gradational to sharp. The limestones (appendix 2–11) vary from micrite to biomicrite (Folk, 1959). Most of the limestones are nodular or lumpy bedded (appendix 2–12). The nodules are as thick as 2 in. and as long as 3 in. Longman (1981) suggested that nodular-bedded limestones in the Bromide Formation are caused by concentrations of shell fragments. The nodules comprise white biosparite bounded by dark-gray micrite. Massive limestones consisting of sparse biomicrite are also common.

Limestones of the McLish Formation have been classified as wackestones to grainstones by Weber (1987). They consist of fossil fragments of echinoderms, bryozoans, trilobites, brachiopods, and ostracods. Limestones of the Tulip Creek and Bromide Formations commonly contain well-rounded crinoid, brachiopod, and bryozoa bioclasts (as much as 40 percent) (appendix 3–2). Subordinate allochemical fragments of limestone include micritic pelletoids and ooids. Minor amounts of quartz, feldspar, and collophane (as pyritized brachiopod fragments) grains make up the remaining constituents of the limestones. The allochemical and detrital grains are bounded by micritic calcite and cemented by sparry calcite, ferroan calcite, dolomite, and ankerite (appendix 3–3). Fine-grained dolomites are associated with fossiliferous biomicrite.

Most of the sedimentary structures of the limestones are spar- and micrite-filled, tubular, vertical and horizontal burrows and burrow-mottles. V-shaped dessication mud cracks (appendix 2–13) are perpendicular to bedding planes and filled by micrite or sparite (appendix 2–13). Some clasts in the limestones appear to have been derived from the mud cracks. Shell fragments of brachiopods and crinoids (appendix 2–14) are the most important bioclasts and are concentrated in lenses or scattered throughout. Stylolites, which represent a diagenetic feature due to compaction, are common. A few small-scale cross laminations were observed.

## VERTICAL LITHOFACIES ASSOCIATIONS

An inspection of the vertical lithofacies sequence shows cyclic repetition of rock types. The lithofacies associations consist of a lower mudstone unconformably overlain by quartzarenite. In other parts of the study interval, mudstone interbedded with limestone is overlain by siltstone. Thus, where quartzarenite unconformably overlies mudstone, it is assumed that the associated siltstone and limestone have been eroded.

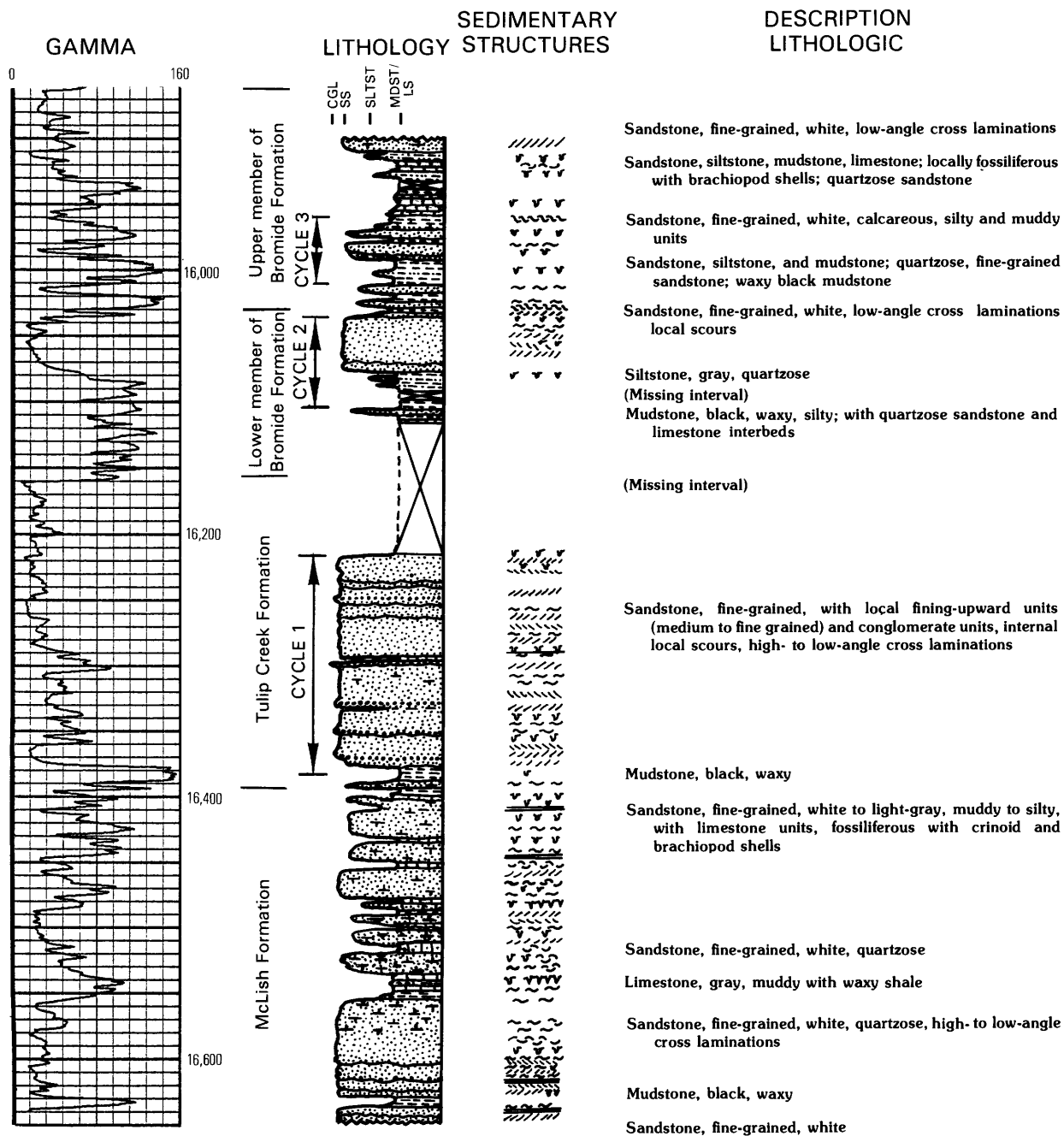
The lithofacies association of quartzarenite and mudstone occurs in the McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations. In the McLish, it is as thick as 85 ft; in the Tulip Creek, it is more than 200 ft thick and makes up almost the entire formation; in the Bromide Formation, the sequence is as thick as 75 ft. In addition, the Bromide Formation contains numerous thin intervals (10–40 ft thick) of the quartzarenite-mudstone lithofacies association. These vertical lithofacies associations occur throughout the upper part of the Simpson Group and are typified by the three cycles as shown in figures 5–8.

Cycle 1 (fig. 6), in the Tulip Creek Formation, consists of mudstone, 10 ft thick, unconformably overlain by quartzarenite, 160 ft thick. The quartzarenite consists of multiple erosional-based sandstones that contain granule- to pebble-size particles or conglomeratic sandstones. The cycle contains a few thin limestones. The sandstone units are 2–40 ft thick and each unit contains a succession of cross, parallel, and ripple laminations commonly interrupted by burrowed units.

The basal mudstone of cycle 1 is represented by a distinctive peak on the gamma-ray log (figs. 5, 6). Although core is missing from this interval (fig. 3), the top of the cycle, on the basis of log response, is probably approximately 16,160 ft below the surface.

Cycle 2 (figs. 5, 7), 75 ft thick, is developed in the lower member of the Bromide Formation. It includes a mudstone, 30 ft thick, that is burrowed, silty, and fossiliferous in the lower part and grades upward into a burrowed, rippled, quartzose siltstone, 5 ft thick, interbedded with mudstone. The siltstone is, in turn, unconformably overlain by a quartzarenite 35 ft thick; the uppermost 5 ft of the quartzarenite is a scour-based sandstone. Internal structures are a succession of cross laminations and ripple laminations separated by bioturbated zones. The uppermost scour-based quartzarenite contains lag deposit of shells of crinoid and brachiopod fossils. Cycle 2 (fig. 7) is not as clearly defined by gamma-ray response as cycle 1; individual units and (or) beds are thinner, and it is difficult to place precise cycle boundaries on the basis of log response.

Cycle 3 (fig. 8), about 30 ft thick, is in the upper member of the Bromide Formation. It consists of a burrowed mudstone, 8 ft thick, that grades upward into a rippled, quartzose siltstone, 1 ft thick. The siltstone is unconformably overlain by 15 ft of quartzarenite that displays internal scouring. The quartzarenite is, in turn, conformably overlain by flaser-bedded quartzose siltstone (2 ft thick) and calcareous quartzarenite (4 ft thick). The scale of bedding in cycle 3 (fig. 8) is small enough that logs are of very limited utility in defining cycles.

















## Interpretation

The precursor of the Anadarko basin was an aulacogen (Hoffman and others, 1974). The aulacogen in southern Oklahoma began with a graben stage of block faulting followed by volcanism and graben filling (late Proterozoic to Middle Cambrian time). The area evolved into a subsiding basin by Late Cambrian to Early Devonian time (fig. 9). Longman (1981) proposed that the Simpson Group was deposited in this subsiding basin and that the McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations were deposited during pulses of subsidence. Between

these pulses, the aulacogen filled with sediments that passed into a gently dipping, terrigenous mud-dominated subtidal ramp merging with adjacent borderlands. During deposition of the Bromide Formation on this subtidal ramp along the northeast side of the basin, a basin-forebuildup-buildup-lagoon carbonate platform developed (Longman, 1981). Shale was deposited in the basin, micrite in the forebuildup, biosparite in the buildup, and micrite and shale in the lagoon. The lagoonal environment of this carbonate platform probably served as the primary depositional setting for the Simpson Group at the Mazur core site.



## EXPLANATION

LITHOLOGY	SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES
 Conglomerate	 Cross laminations
 Sandstone	 Ripple laminations
 Siltstone	 Flaser beds
 Mudstone	 Parallel laminations
 Limestone	 Convolute laminations
 Calcareous rocks	 Burrows
	 Desiccation cracks
	 Fossil shells

### GRAIN SIZE

Indicated by extent of lithologic column. CGL, conglomerate; SS, sandstone; SLTST, siltstone; MDST/LS, mudstone or limestone

**Figure 5** (above and facing page). Gamma-ray and lithologic logs for McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations, Mazur well. Depth below surface (in feet) shown.

The cyclic deposits of mudstone-siltstone-quartzarenite probably represent seaward outbuilding or progradation of quartzarenites into the lagoonal environment. The mudstone-siltstone-limestone lithofacies association is interpreted as mainly subtidal lagoonal deposits. Flaser bedding in the siltstones suggests deposition in a lagoonal tidal-flat environment (Reineck and Singh, 1980), where tidal fluctuations provided sedimentation of silt during waxing stage and mud during waning stage. Reworking of sediments by feeding animals was prevalent during the waning stage and caused bioturbation. Desiccation mud cracks in limestones suggest deposition in an intertidal environment, where subaerial exposure contributed to drying of carbonate muds.

The quartzarenites contain erosional bases, multiple internal scours, and conglomeratic units and probably were deposited in channels. The types and succession of sedimentary structures of the quartzarenites are similar to those observed by Kumar and Sanders (1976), Hayes and Kana (1977), and de Mowbray and Visser (1984) in subtidal channel deposits. The lag-conglomeratic sandstones consist of reworked clasts and fossil fragments and cross laminations (dunes and megaripples) and represent channel-bottom deposits. Associated ripple laminations and bioturbations reflect structures developed in channel-bar deposits, and the parallel laminations formed in shallow channel deposits. Tidal-flat deposition is probably represented by

bioturbation in the uppermost parts of the quartzarenite units. Multiple scours in the quartzarenites probably represent incised ebb and (or) flood-tidal channels.

The abundance of subtidal channel arenites suggests that the well location was either in close proximity to the source area or in a locus of terrigenous deposition. Schramm (1964) suggested that the point source of these sands was to the northeast, probably the Canadian Shield. Proximity to a locus of terrigenous deposition in a rapidly subsiding basin, however, is probably the more appropriate hypothesis. Deposition in a subtidal lagoon-intertidal setting in a subsiding basin is indicated by the location of the well southwest of the northwest-southeast hingeline of the aulacogen (fig. 9).

## SANDSTONE PETROGRAPHY

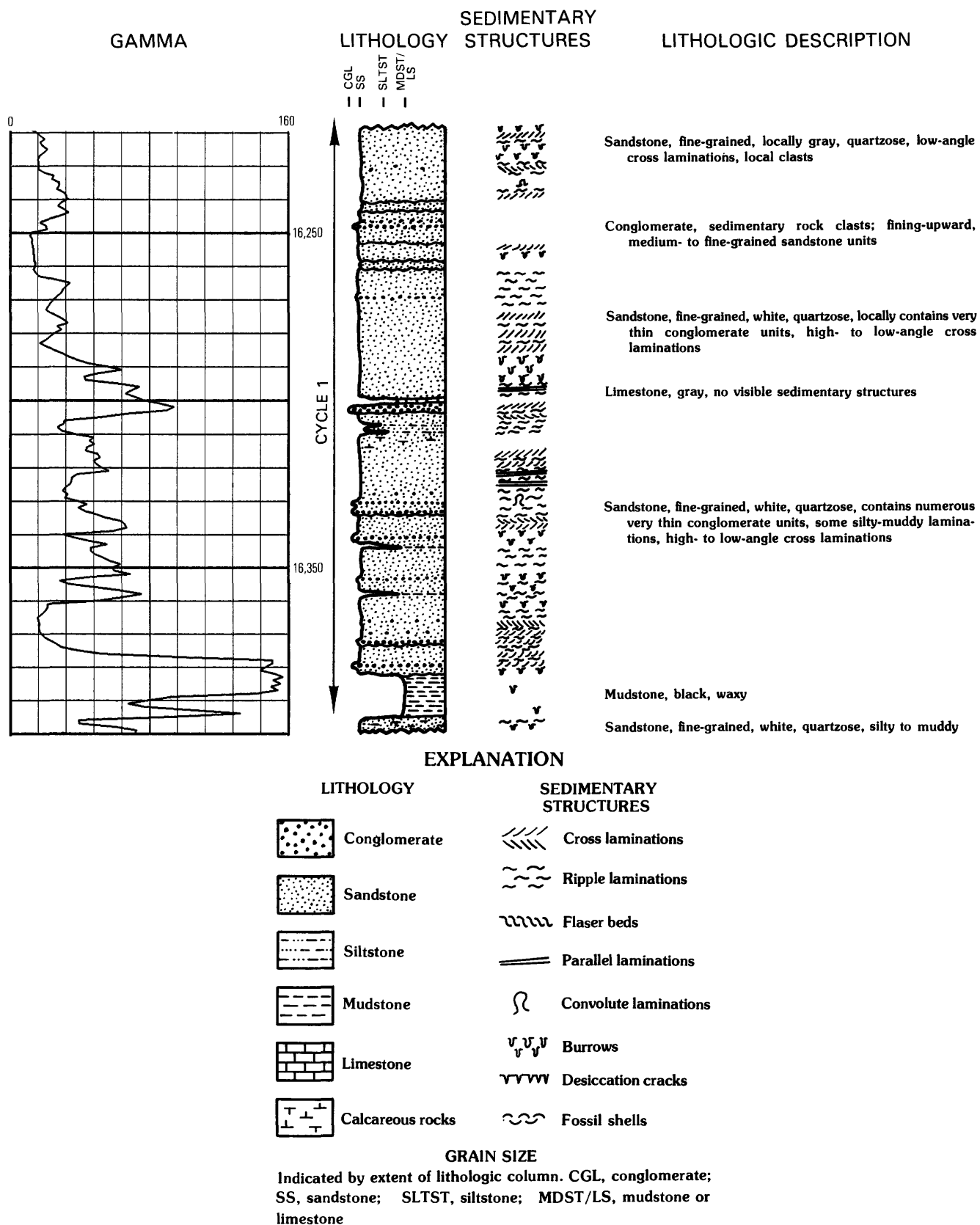
The petrography of the sandstones of the Simpson Group was analyzed to determine textural and mineralogical variations of cycles 1, 2, and 3 (tables 1, 2). Textural analysis included measurements of mean grain size, sorting, skewness, and kurtosis, and mineralogical analysis comprised identification of framework, matrix, and cement composition, as well as recognition of paragenetic sequence and porosity. The petrography of the sandstones was determined by examining 29 epoxy-impregnated and stained (sodium cobaltinitrite, alizarin-red-S, and potassium ferricyanide) thin sections.

### Textural Analysis

Quartz grains are fine to medium grained, with mean grain size of 2.22  $\phi$ . Sandstones of cycles 1 and 2 are generally fine grained, with a mean grain size of 2.32–2.35  $\phi$ , and sandstones of cycle 3 are medium grained, with a mean grain size of 1.87  $\phi$ . Most quartz grains are well rounded; minor quantities of grains are subrounded (appendix 3–4). No apparent difference in roundness of quartz grains was observed between the fine-grained and medium-grained sandstones.

In general, the sandstones are moderately sorted (0.96  $\phi$ ); however, sorting varies from moderate (0.82  $\phi$ ) to poor (1.07  $\phi$ ). Sorting of the sandstones of cycles 1, 2, and 3 is best demonstrated by the frequency distributions of quartz grains shown in figure 10. Frequency distributions in cycles 1 and 2 are unimodal, skewed toward fine grained (0.77–0.91  $\phi$ ), and near symmetrical (0.05  $\phi$ ). The frequency distribution of cycle 3 is bimodal and skewed strongly toward fine grained (0.72  $\phi$ ). Thus, the sandstones of cycle 3 are poorly sorted compared to those of cycles 1 and 2, which are moderately sorted.

The measure of peakedness of the frequency distribution curves of quartz grain size is indicated by kurtosis. In general, the frequency distribution curves are

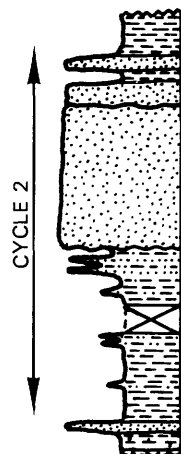
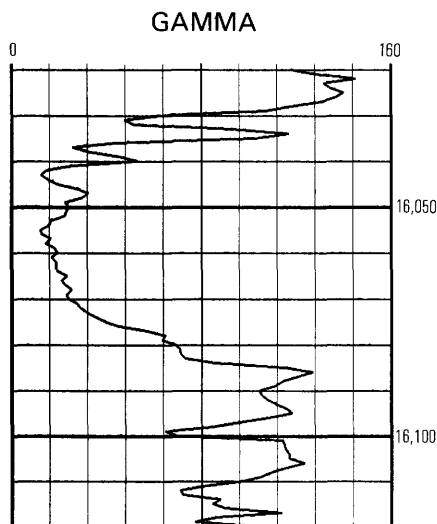


**Figure 6.** Gamma-ray and lithologic logs for cycle 1, Tulip Creek Formation, Mazur well. Depth below surface (in feet) shown.

## SEDIMENTARY LITHOLOGY STRUCTURES

## LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION

CGL  
SS  
SLTST  
MDST/  
LS



Mudstone, black, waxy, silty

Sandstone, fine-grained, white, quartzose  
Mudstone, black, waxy, silty

Sandstone, fine-grained, white, quartzose

Siltstone, gray, locally quartzose  
Mudstone, dark-gray, waxy, silty

(Missing interval)

Mudstone, black, silty

Sandstone, fine-grained, white, quartzose

Limestone, light-gray, fossiliferous with crinoid and brachiopod shells

## EXPLANATION

### LITHOLOGY



Conglomerate



Sandstone



Siltstone



Mudstone



Limestone



Calcareous rocks

### SEDIMENTARY STRUCTURES



Cross laminations



Ripple laminations



Flaser beds



Parallel laminations



Convolute laminations



Burrows



Desiccation cracks



Fossil shells

### GRAIN SIZE

Indicated by extent of lithologic column. CGL, conglomerate; SS, sandstone; SLTST, siltstone; MDST/LS, mudstone or limestone

**Figure 7.** Gamma-ray and lithologic logs for cycle 2, lower member of Bromide Formation, Mazur well. Depth below surface (in feet) shown.

platykurtic (0.78  $\phi$ ); however, the frequency distribution curves of the quartz grains of cycles 1 and 3 exhibit more peaks (mesokurtic and leptokurtic) than those of cycle 2 (platykurtic).

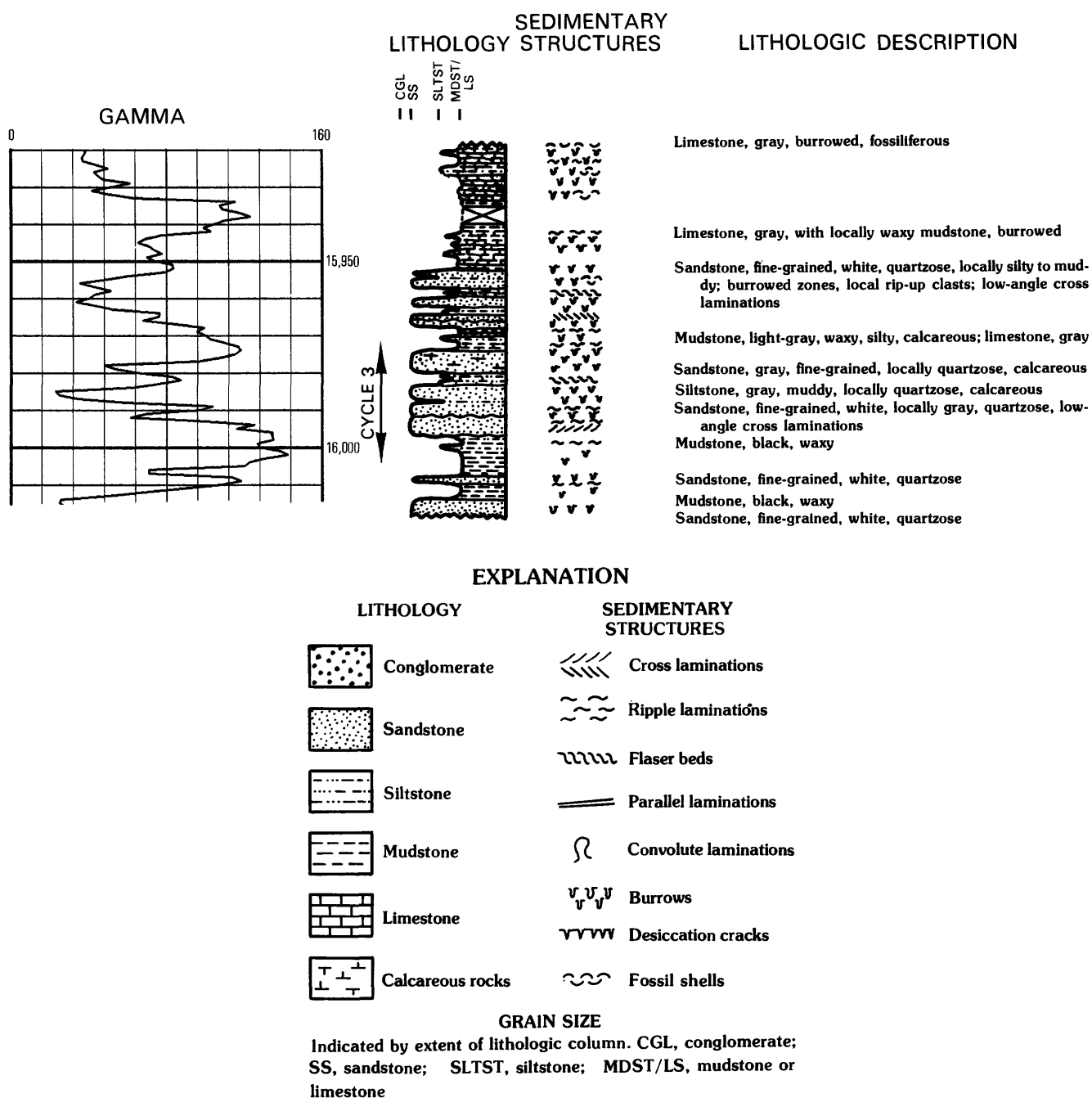
## Mineralogical Analysis

The sandstones of the Simpson Group are classified as arenites (Folk, 1968) and consist mainly of detrital framework grains and cement. Detrital clay

matrix is rare; authigenic clays sometimes occur as pore-filling cements. Quartzarenite (82 percent) is the most abundant sandstone type, and sublitharenite (14 percent) and subarkose (4 percent) are the least common (fig. 11).

## Detrital Framework Composition

The average detrital framework composition of the sandstones is 97.2 percent quartz, 1.5 percent feldspar,



**Figure 8.** Gamma-ray and lithologic logs for cycle 3, upper member of Bromide Formation, Mazur well. Depth below surface (in feet) shown.

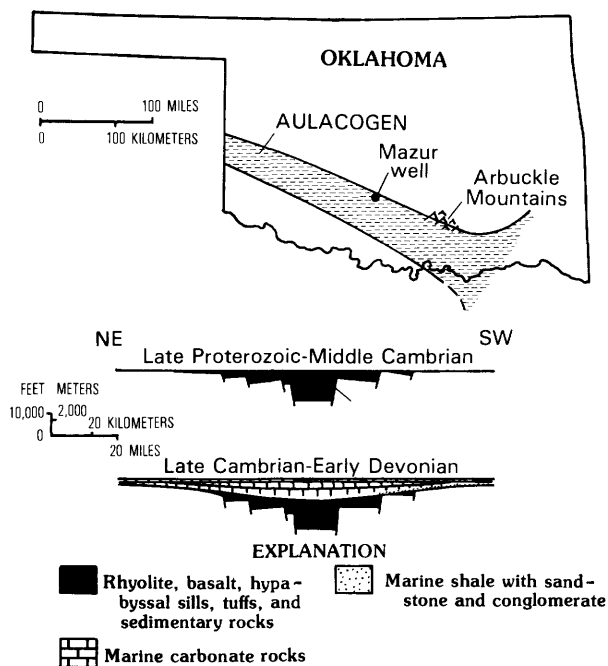
and 1.3 percent rock fragments. Quartz includes monocrystalline and polycrystalline grains (appendix 3-5). Monocrystalline quartz, which exhibits straight to undulose extinction, is the most dominant constituent, ranging from 79 to 99 percent. Polycrystalline quartz is a minor constituent, ranging from 0 to 16 percent.

Feldspar rarely exceeds 4 volume percent and is composed of potassium feldspar (as much as 8 volume percent) consisting of orthoclase, microcline, and perthite. Orthoclase is the most common potassium feldspar;

some grains have been altered to kaolinite. Plagioclase is rare and does not exceed 1 volume percent.

Rock fragments rarely exceed 12 volume percent and consist of chert, micaceous rock fragments, siltstone, shale, limestone, glauconite, collophane, and skeletal fossil fragments (crinoids, brachiopods, echinoderms, and bryozoans). Chert is the most common rock fragment (as much as 12 volume percent) (appendix 3-6, 3-7). Siltstone and shale fragments rarely occur in amounts greater than 1 percent.





**Figure 9.** Location of Mazur well in relation to aulacogen (patterned area) that existed in southern Oklahoma from Late Cambrian to Early Devonian time. Schematic cross sections for two periods of time drawn through area of well are also shown.

Accessory minerals occur in amounts less than 0.5 percent and include brown tourmaline, zircon, and hornblende. Opaque minerals include magnetite-ilmenite and leucoxene.

Visual comparison of the detrital framework composition of the sandstones (table 2) suggests some differences between sandstones of cycles 1, 2, and 3. The sandstones of cycle 1 contain the least quartz (95.6 percent average) as compared to sandstones of cycles 2 and 3, which may average as much as 99.8 percent. The sandstones of cycle 1 contain more feldspar (2.6 percent average) and rock fragments (1.8 percent average) than sandstones of cycles 2 and 3, which on average contain only 0.2-0.3 percent feldspar and no rock fragments.

## Cement

Several types of cement are in the sandstones: silica (18 volume percent), carbonate (15 volume percent), and clay (3 volume percent). Authigenic silica cement in the form of syntaxial quartz overgrowths (appendix 3-8) is very common (as much as 37 volume percent). Many of the overgrowths are separated from their host grains by thin dust rims. Some overgrowths lack dust rims but can be identified by their euhedral outlines.

Authigenic carbonate cements include calcite, ferroan calcite, ferroan dolomite, and ankerite and may account for as much as 40 volume percent (individual sample) of the sandstone. Calcite (appendix 3-9) occurs

**Table 1.** Grain-size properties of sandstones of the Simpson Group, Mazur well

[Properties in  $\phi$ ; 50 measurements per thin section. Cycles shown in figure 5. Measurements from Folk (1968)]

	Mean grain size	Sorting	Skewness	Kurtosis	Number of thin sections
Cycle 1	2.32	0.82	0.05	0.91	14
Cycle 2	2.35	.82	.05	.77	5
Cycle 3	1.87	1.07	.72	1.16	3
Others	2.22	.96	.04	.78	7

both as poikilotopic and equant, mosaic crystals. Blue-stained ferroan dolomite/ankerite commonly occurs as zoned euhedral rhombs (appendix 3-10), which clearly indicate variations in the ferrous iron content of pore fluids. The dolomite/ankerite commonly occurs as a pore-filling cement. Many detrital quartz grains and chert rock fragments display corroded boundaries and partial replacement by carbonate cements (appendix 3-6).

Authigenic clay (appendix 3-11) is the least important cement and is in only about 25 percent of the samples. Where present, however, it accounts for as much as 23 volume percent of the sample. The clay is brown (in plane-polarized light) and appears to act as a pastelike, pore-filling cement (a pseudomatrix). The association of this clay with micaceous rock and clay-rich siltstone fragments indicates that the clays are alteration products of the rock fragments.

Cements in the sandstones of cycles 1, 2, and 3 can be differentiated by the amounts of the quartz overgrowths, authigenic clays, and carbonate constituents. Quartz overgrowths are common (19.8-22 volume percent) in cycles 1 and 2; authigenic clay is most common (average 4.8 volume percent) in cycle 2; and carbonate cement is abundant (average 31.7 percent) in cycle 3.

## Paragenetic Sequence

The postdepositional and burial diagenetic history of the sandstones (fig. 12) may be summarized as: (1) introduction of detrital clay coatings, (2) precipitation of quartz overgrowths, and (3) precipitation of carbonate cements. Formation of primary clay (appendix 3-12) and (or) some hematite coatings on the detrital quartz grains is the earliest diagenetic event and may have occurred either during deposition of the sediments or during a very early stage of diagenesis. It was followed by early burial diagenesis, during which quartz overgrowths formed. Dust rims between the primary detrital quartz grains and quartz overgrowths suggest that the cement may have been derived from pressure solution (Heald, 1965) and probably from alteration of shales (Hower and others, 1976).

**Table 2.** Mineral composition of sandstones of the Simpson Group, Mazur well

[In percent; 100 points each per thin section for detrital framework grain constituents and for total rock constituents.  
Cycles shown in figure 5]

	<u>Detrital framework grains</u>			<u>Total rock constituents</u>				Number of thin sections
	Quartz	Feldspar	Rock fragments	Framework grains	Cement			
					Quartz overgrowths	Carbonate	Clay	
Cycle 1 sandstones	95.6	2.6	1.8	65.6	22.0	12.0	0.4	14
Cycle 2 sandstones	99.8	.2	0	61.4	19.8	14.0	4.8	5
Cycle 3 sandstones	99.7	.3	0	59.3	9.0	31.7	0	3
Other sandstones	97.8	.5	1.7	65.5	5.5	23.8	5.2	7
All sandstones	97.2	1.5	1.3	64.0	18.0	15.0	3.0	29

Authigenic clay is an early diagenetic constituent that predates carbonate precipitation. It formed as pore-filling cement binding detrital quartz grains, and its ductile appearance reflects early compaction during burial. It may have formed as the result of dissolution and recrystallization of clay-rich rock fragments and perhaps as the result of alteration of glauconite (Al-Shaieb and Walker, 1986).

Carbonate cementation occurred in three stages. The first stage consists of precipitation of mosaic and poikilotopic calcite, which replaced quartz overgrowths and grains and filled pores. The second stage is the replacement of early calcite cement by iron-bearing calcite and dolomite. The third stage includes precipitation of ferroan dolomite and ankerite as pore-filling euhedral rhombs and replacement of early calcite cement. The source of carbonate is probably from pressure solution of skeletal fragments; however, where the sandstone is cemented by as much as 40 percent carbonate, the source of the carbonate remains an enigma.

Diagenetic events in the paragenetic sequence are not observed in all the sandstones. The most commonly recognized paragenetic sequences in sandstones of the cycles include the following.

### Porosity

Much of the primary intergranular porosity of the sandstones has been destroyed by precipitation of quartz overgrowths, formation of authigenic clay, and carbonate cements. These cements occlude substantial amounts of primary porosity. Secondary porosity, formed by intergranular dissolution of quartz overgrowths and grains and dissolution of carbonate cement, ranges from a trace to slightly less than 10 percent. Where porosity is high, 75 average percent of the porosity is due to intergranular dissolution and the resulting pore space is interconnected. Dissolution is marked by jagged quartz boundaries (appendix 3–13). The highest porosity is in the uppermost 20 ft of cycle 1, where total porosity

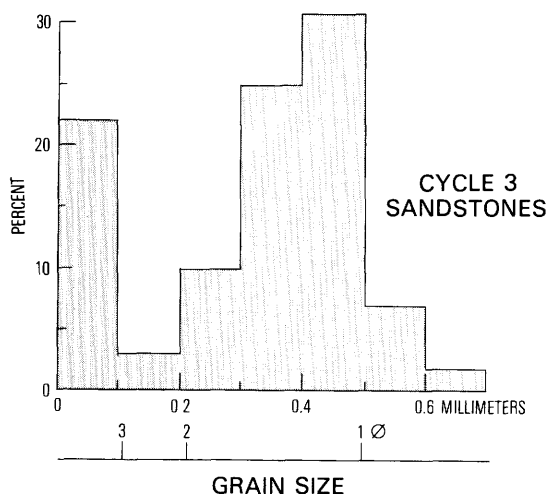
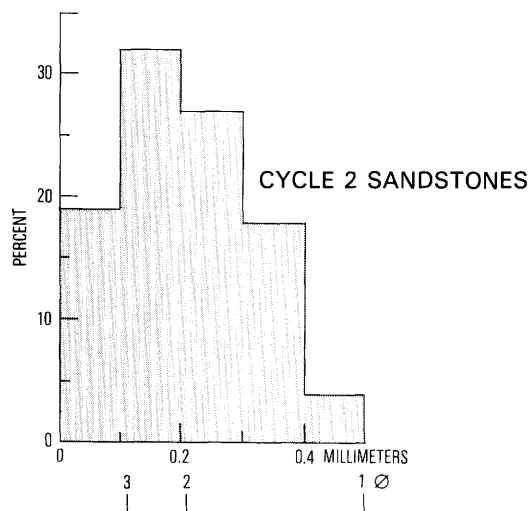
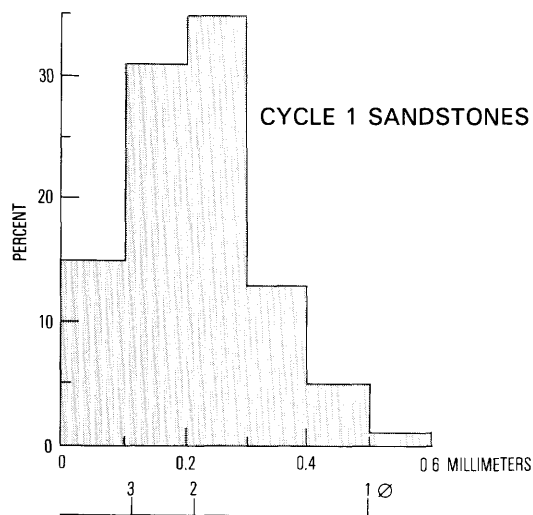
averages 4–5 percent. Total porosity of sandstones of cycles 2 and 3 varies from a trace to less than 1 percent (appendix 3–6).

The mechanisms of development of secondary porosity in the sandstones have been discussed by Schmidt and McDonald (1979), Larese and others (1984), and Loucks and others (1984), who emphasized the importance of CO<sub>2</sub> in leaching detrital and authigenic constituents of the sandstones. The CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by decarboxylation of organic acids during thermal maturation of shales. Surdam and others (1984) proposed that secondary porosity may have been developed by organic acids produced during maturation of kerogen. We propose that development of secondary porosity in sandstones of the Simpson Group may be related to leaching fluids.

### Interpretation

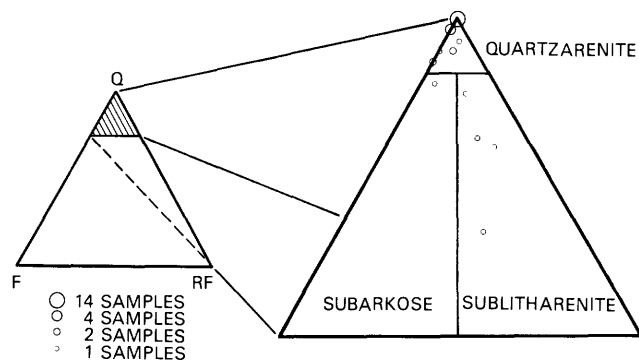
The lithofacies interpretation of the Simpson Group sandstones as tidal deposits is suggested by their petrography. Their mineralogical and textural maturity, as indicated by quartz contents of more than 95 percent and by well-developed sorting and roundness, reflects vigorous winnowing and (or) a mineralogically mature source. The environment in tidal-influenced coasts is characterized by intensive physical and chemical breakdown of immature mineral grains.

Minor differences in the quartz, feldspar, and rock fragments contents of sandstones of cycles 1, 2, and 3 may represent either derivation of the sediments from the same source area and (or) rocks or the distance of transport. The high quartz content may indicate sedimentary source rocks in which the quartz detritus was recycled; it may also be a function of the distance of transport of the sediments in which immature minerals are reworked and selectively removed from the sediment load by physical and chemical weathering. Early workers

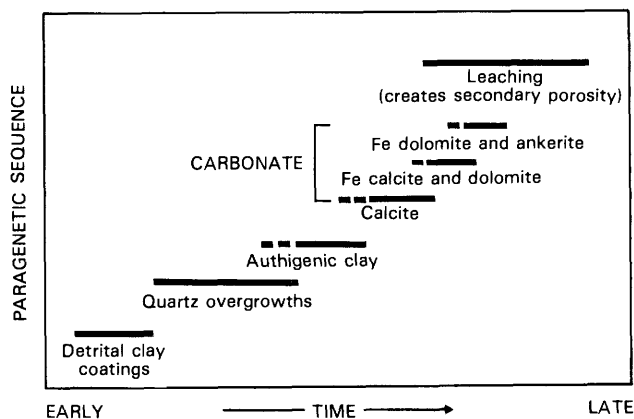


**Figure 10.** Frequency histograms of quartz grains in sandstones of cycles 1, 2, and 3, Mazur well.

(Drake, 1921; Dapples, 1955; Schramm, 1964) postulated that the Simpson Group sediments were derived from the Canadian Shield, a distance of



**Figure 11.** Quartz (Q)-feldspar (F)-total rock fragments (RF) ternary diagram showing major mineral composition and classification of sandstones from the Mazur well.



**Figure 12.** Postdepositional and burial diagenetic history of sandstones from the Mazur well.

900–1,000 mi from the site of deposition, and they proposed long-distance transport by eolian processes and (or) longshore currents. These hypotheses cannot be confirmed or denied by this study. The concept of recycled sedimentary rocks as possible provenance cannot be voided by the rare occurrence of secondary dust rims on detrital quartz grains. A tidal origin for the maturity of the sandstones is here suggested as another working hypothesis.

Regardless of the problems of provenance and mode and distance of transport of the sediments, evidence of vigorous energy at the site of deposition is provided by removal of substantial quantities of labile minerals, extensive abrasion, and concentration of uniform grain sizes. The lack of detrital matrix also represents the effect of lag concentrates, in which fine detritus is selectively eroded, leaving only coarser grains. This process of selective sorting is probably produced by repeated application of shearing forces such as those

inherent to waxing and waning tidal currents. The bimodality of quartz grains of cycle 3 perhaps mimics differential size sorting during high- and low-tide oscillations. Distribution of lag concentrates toward the fine grains, as characterized by poorer sorting than beach environments (from well to moderate sorting) and by skewness of less than 1  $\phi$ , indicates a tidal-influenced, shallow-marine environment (Fuchtbauer, 1974, p. 60). Flushing out of the fine-grained matrix permits grain-to-grain contacts and creates pore spaces that promote cementation during burial diagenesis.

## Summary

Lithofacies and petrographic data compiled from a 650-ft-thick core of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group in the Mazur well show that the southeastern part of the Anadarko basin in Oklahoma was a tidal-influenced coast. Sediments of the McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations were deposited in a subsiding basin as cyclical lithofacies sequences containing a lower subtidal-intertidal mudstone, siltstone, and limestone lithofacies and an upper tidal-channel sandstone lithofacies.

The sandstone lithofacies consists mainly of quartz-arenites that contain as much as 99 percent quartz, 4 percent feldspar, and 12 percent rock fragments. The quartzarenites are fine to medium grained, exhibit well to moderate sorting, and have skewness of less than 1  $\phi$ , all of which typify sediments formed in tidal-influenced shallow-marine environment.

The sandstones are composed of silica, carbonate, and clay cements and have a paragenetic history characterized by initial development of detrital clay coatings on the quartz grains, succeeded by precipitation of quartz overgrowths, and then formation of carbonates. The carbonate cement, a late diagenetic constituent, formed in three stages: precipitation of calcite that replaced quartz overgrowths and grains and filled pore spaces, replacement of early calcite by ferroan calcite and dolomite, and precipitation of ferroan dolomite and ankerite as pore fillings and replacement of early calcite. Although these cements destroyed primary porosity of the sandstones, secondary porosity developed by dissolution of the cements and grains.

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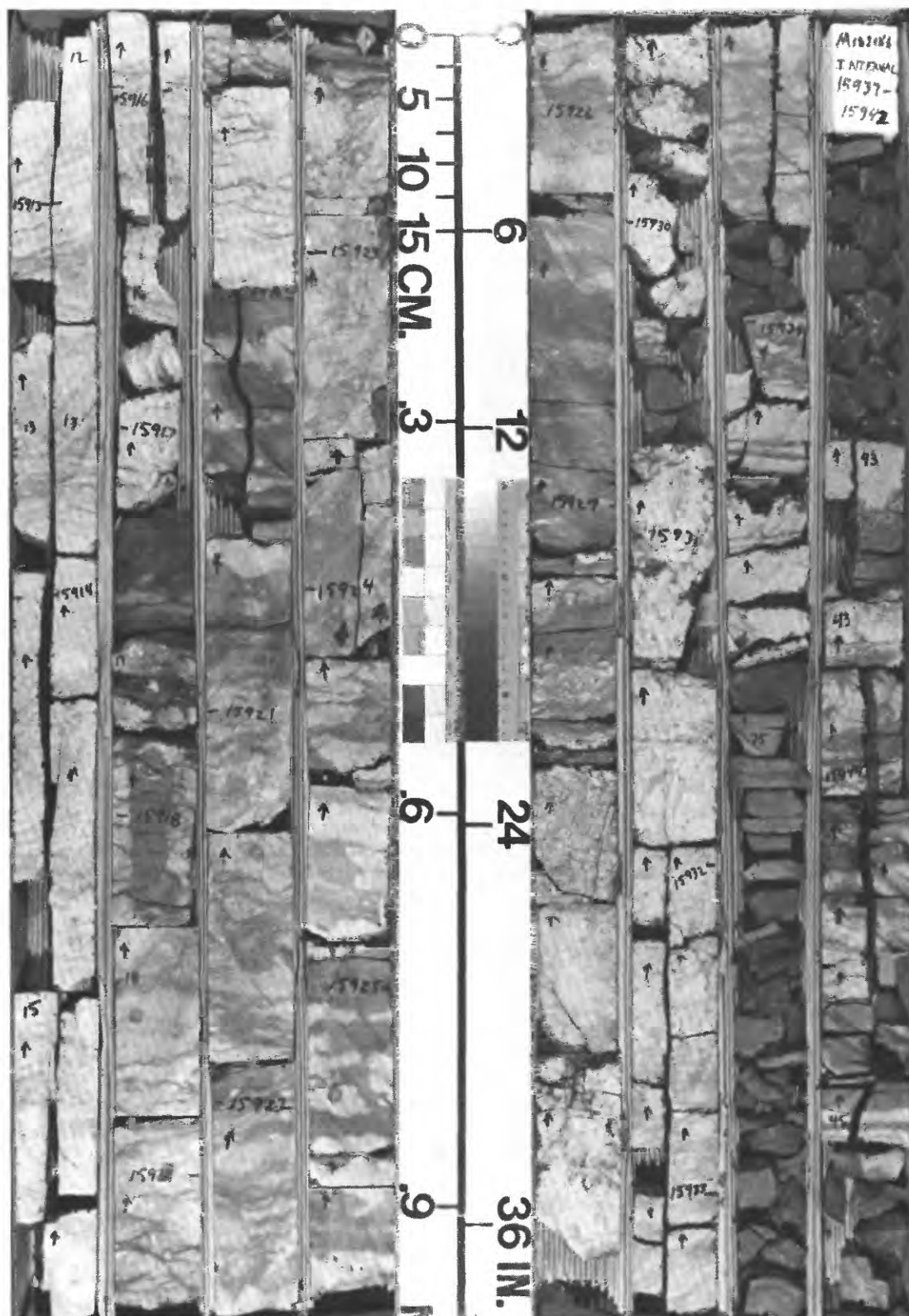
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## Appendixes 1–3

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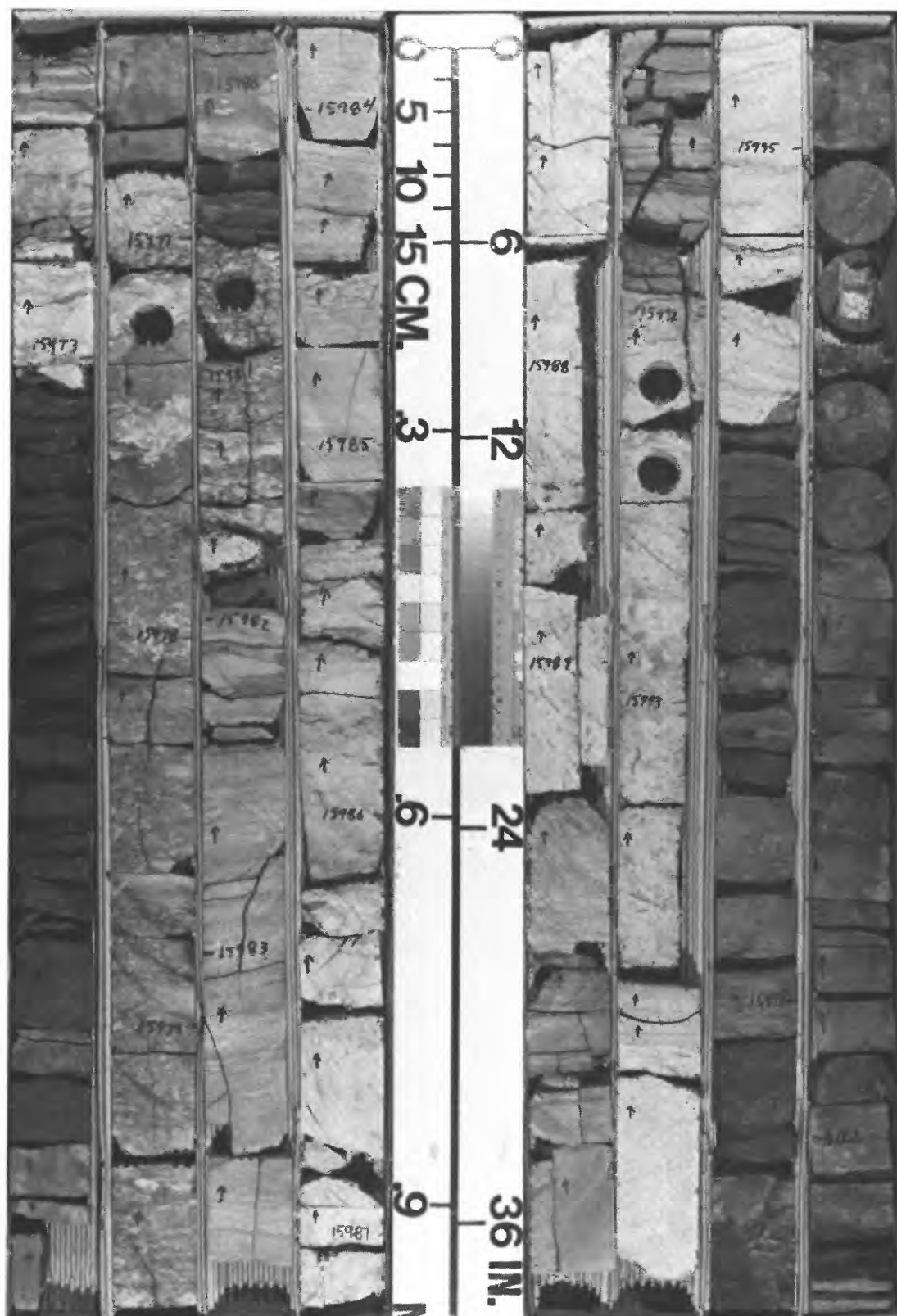
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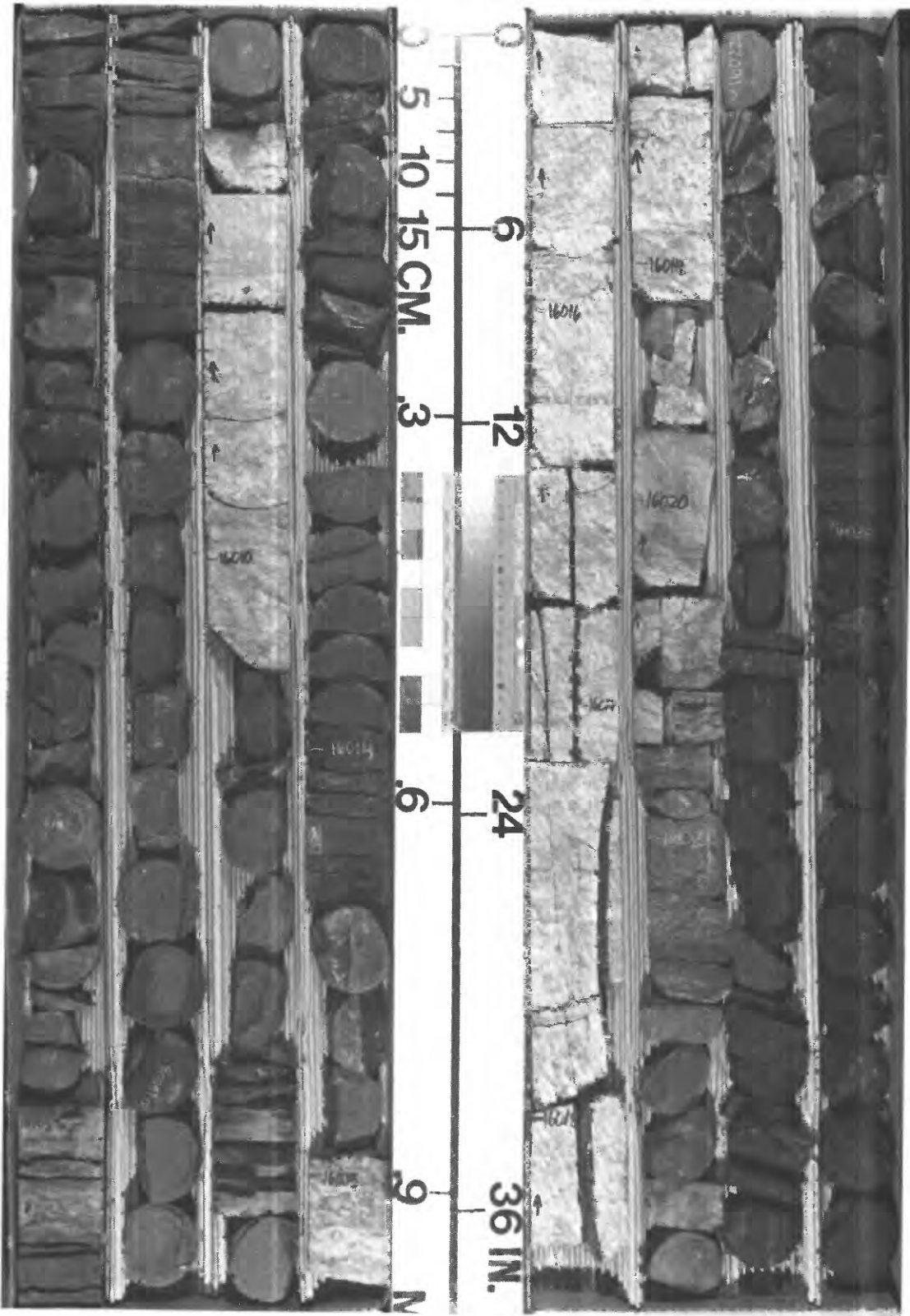
**Appendix 1.** Photographs of core recovered from the McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group in the Mazur well, 15,913–16,413 ft. See figure 5 for lithologic descriptions and appendix 2 for photographs of selected core intervals and (or) sedimentary features.

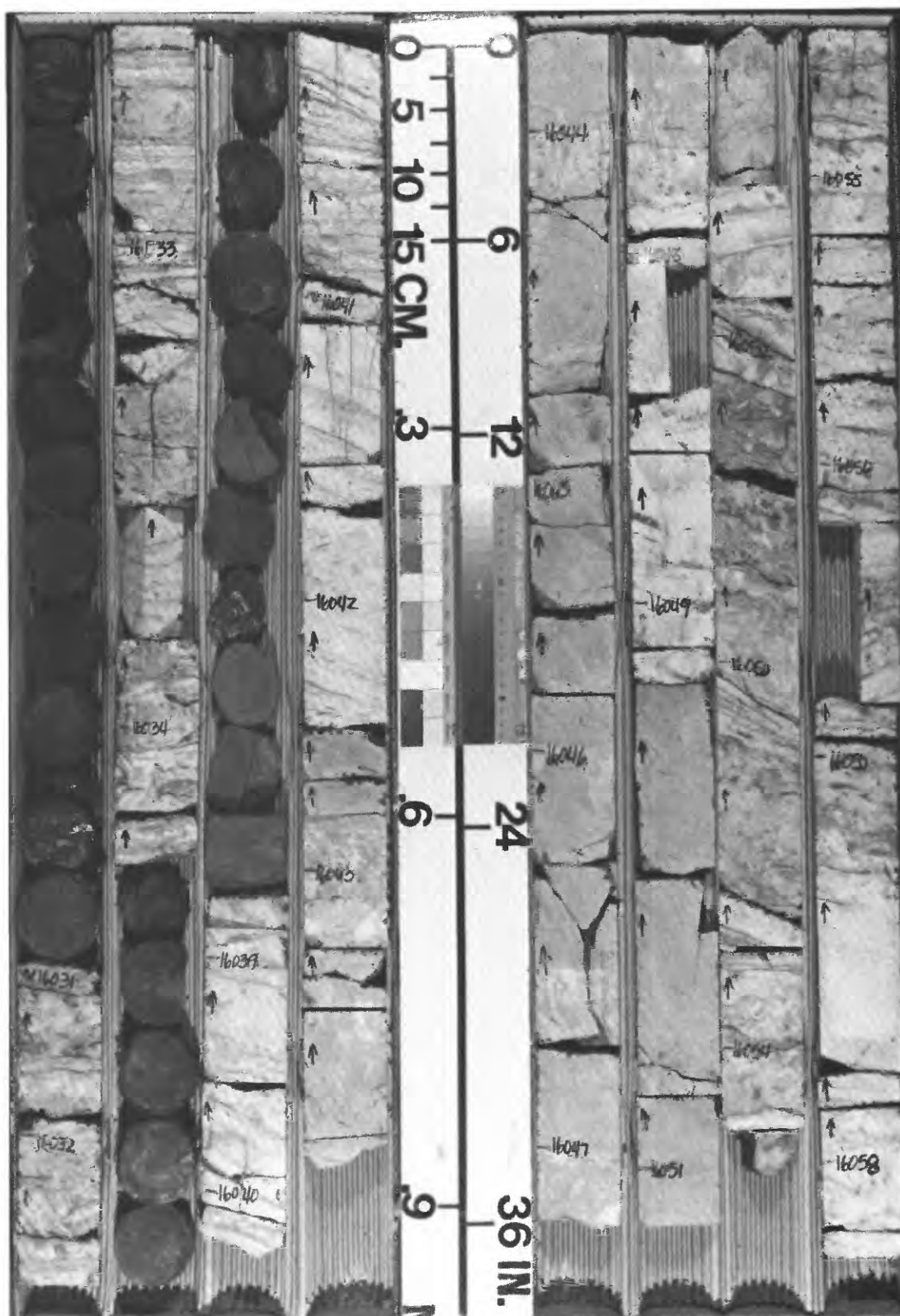


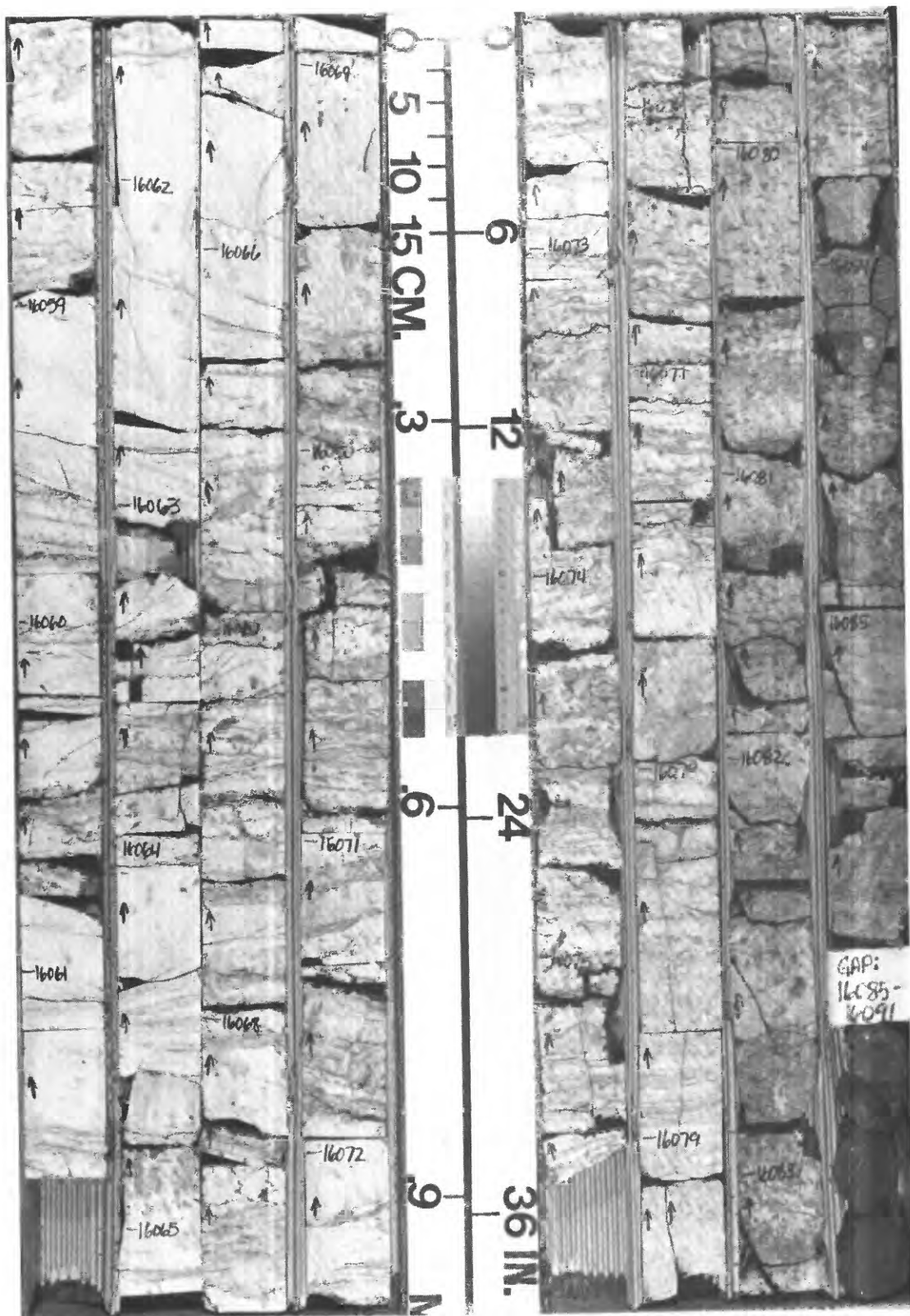




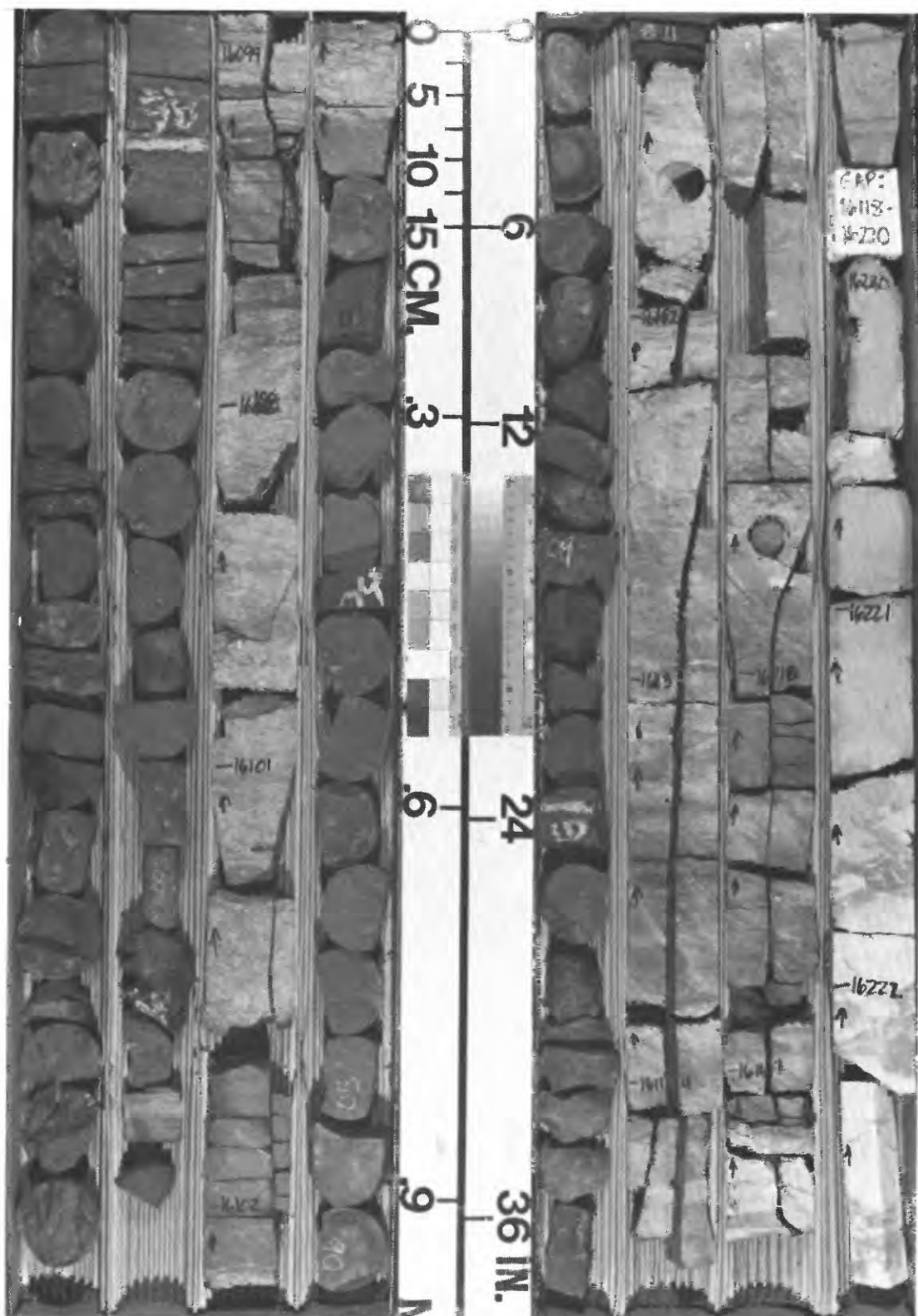


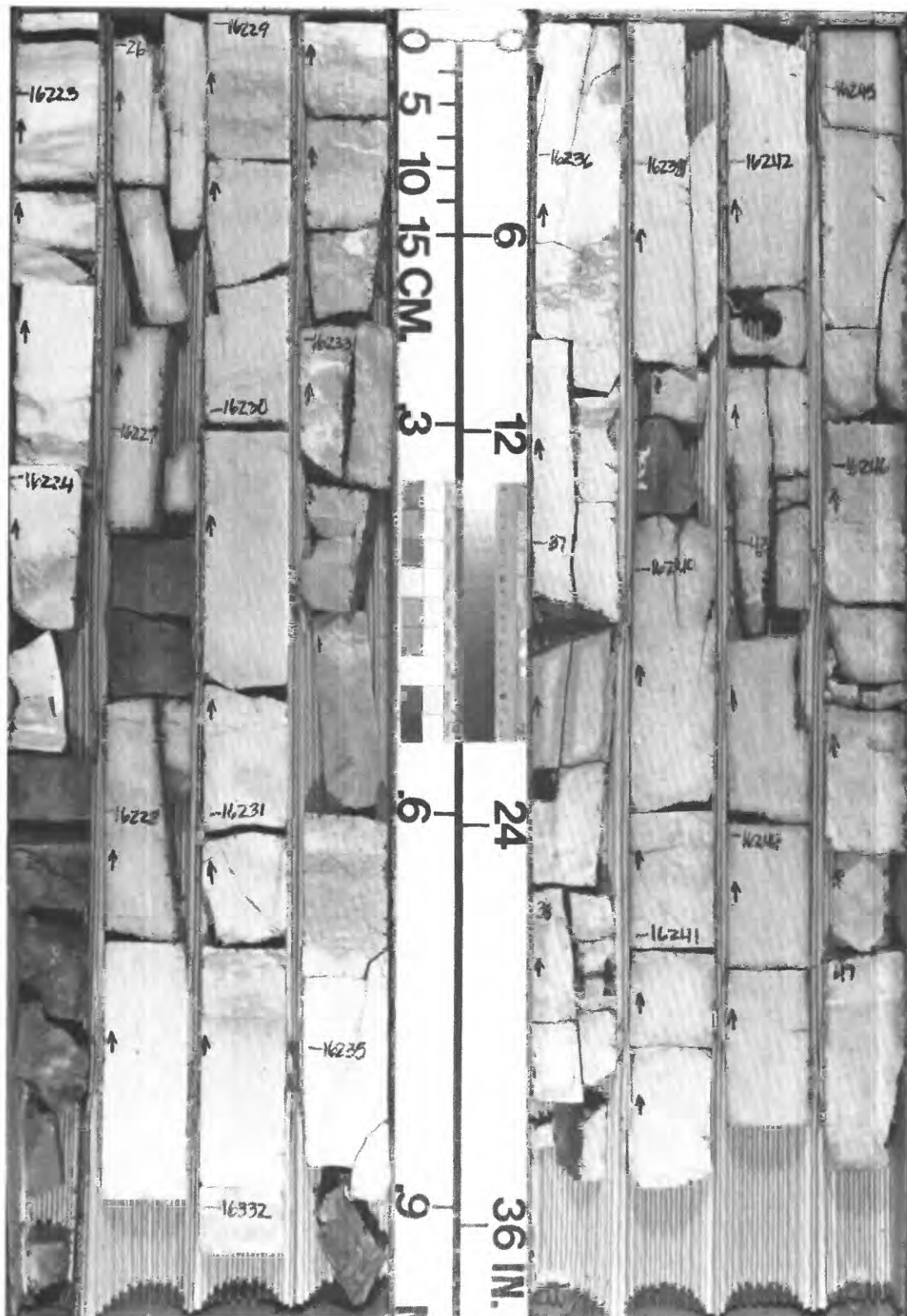




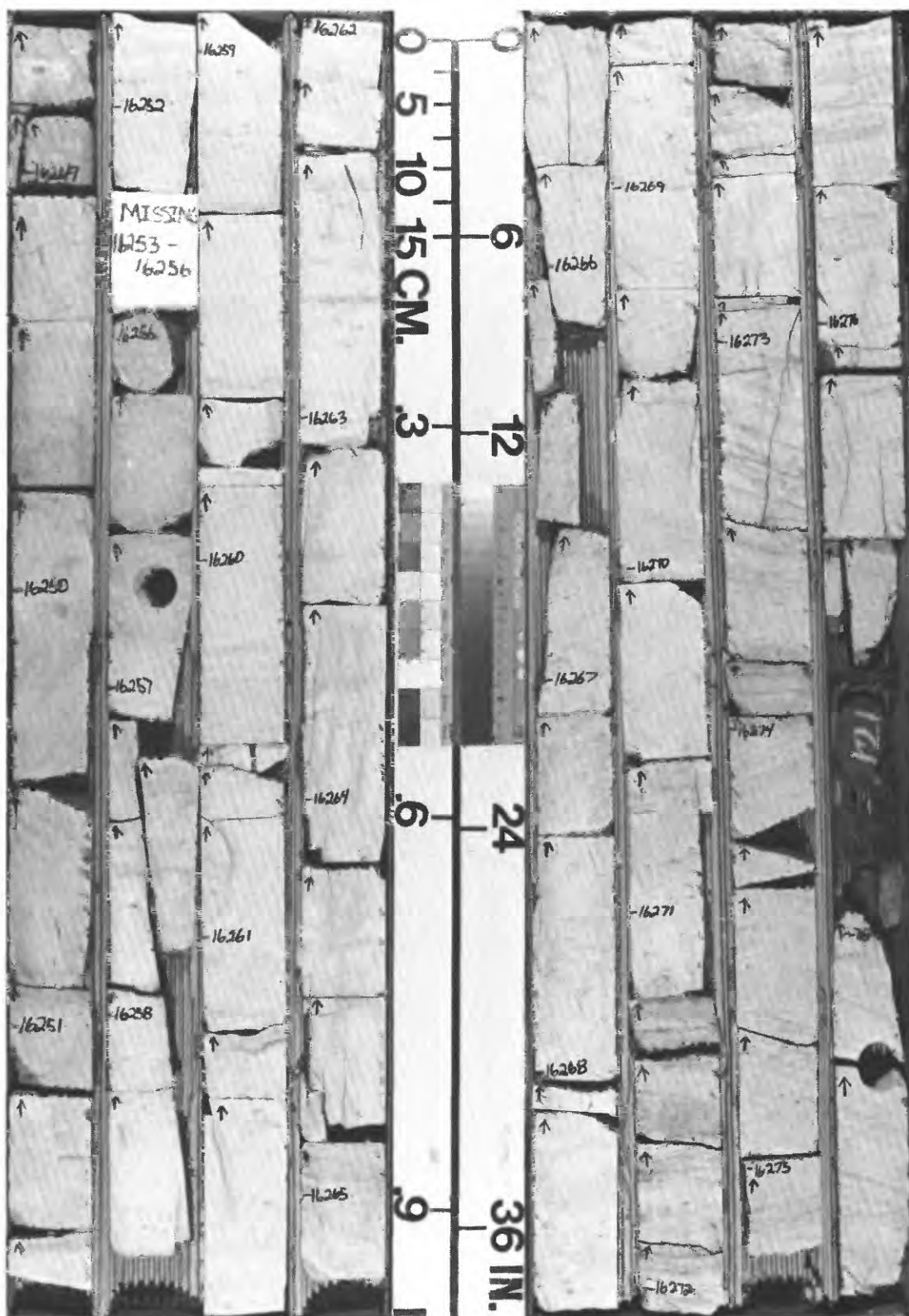




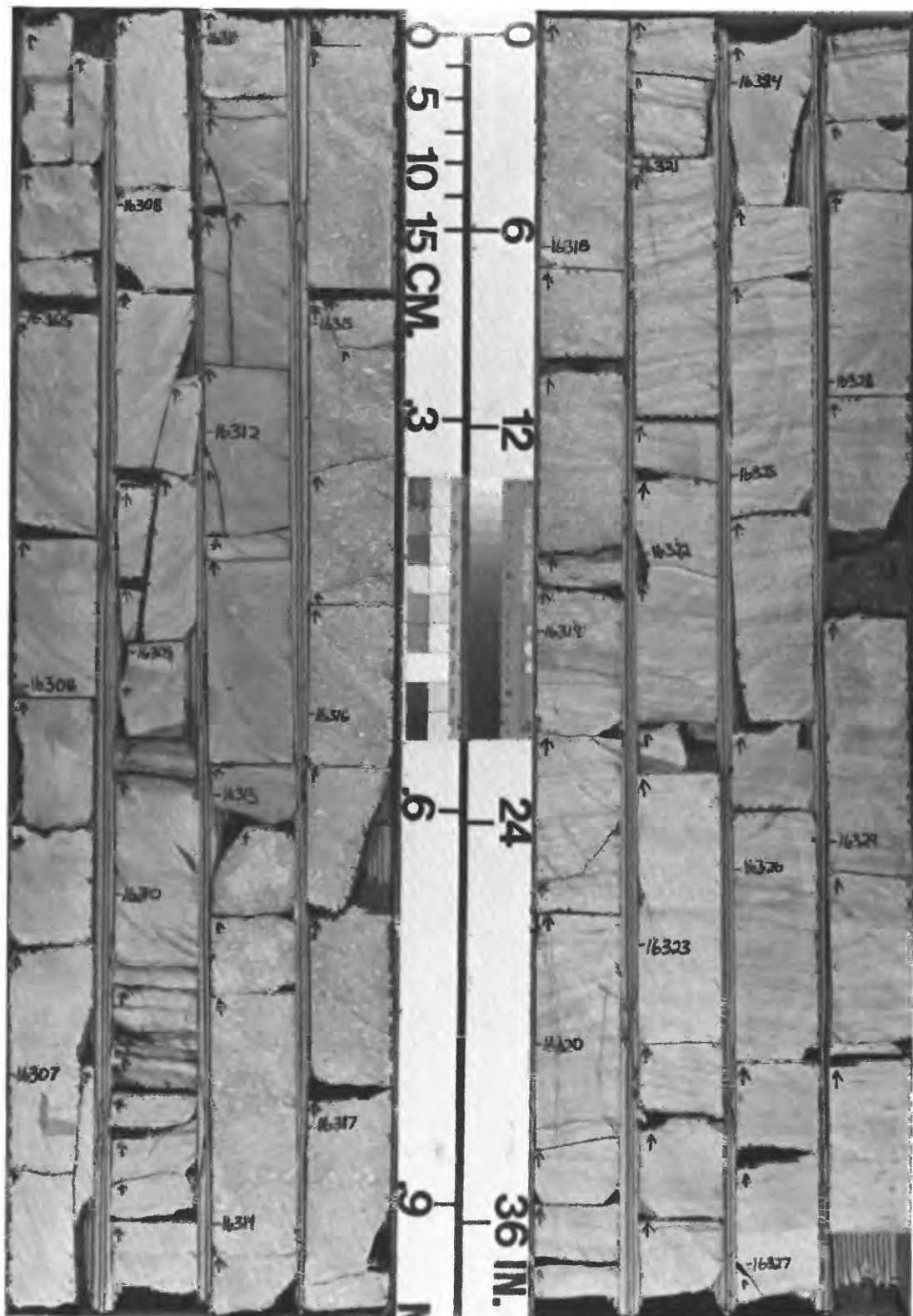


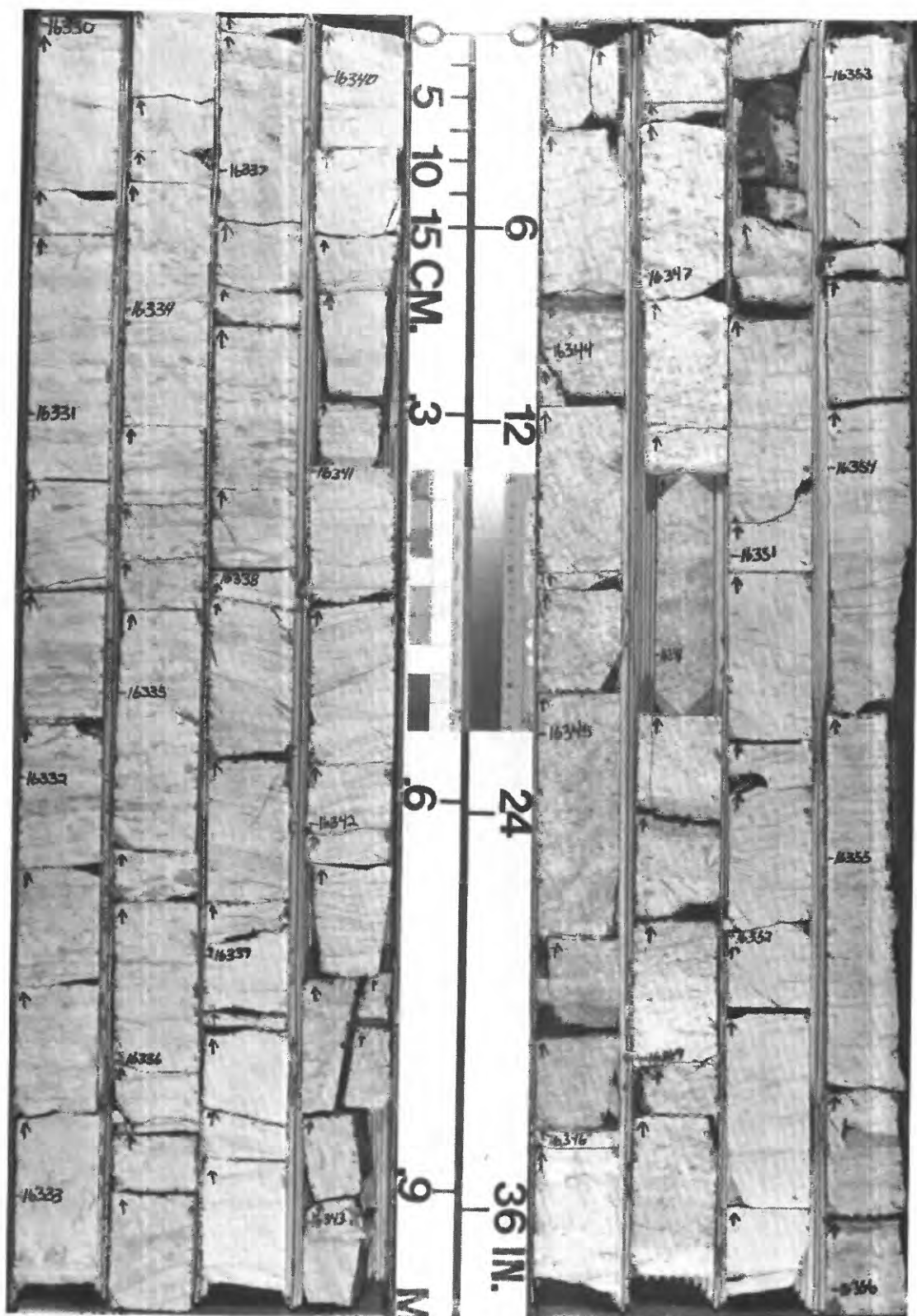


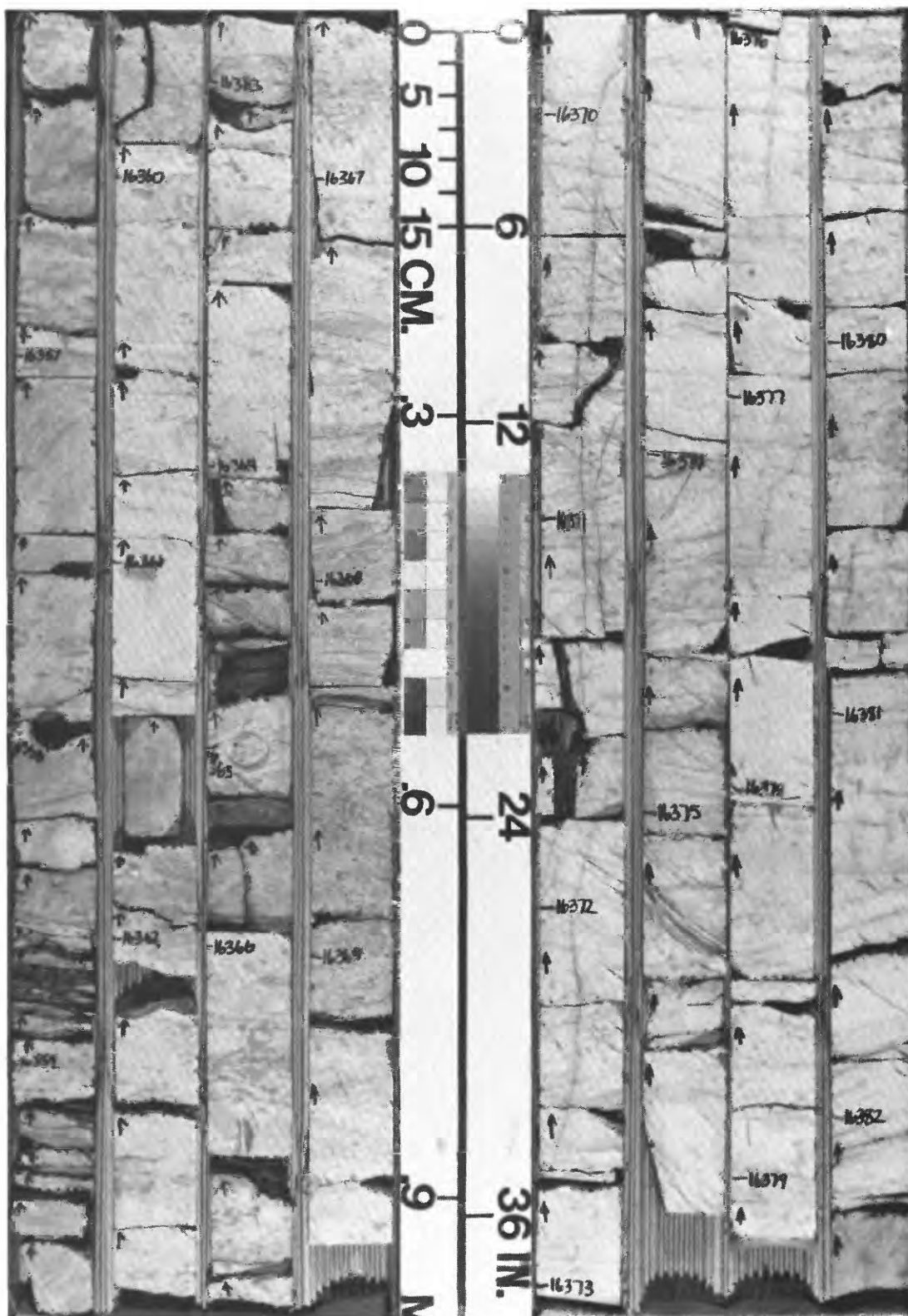




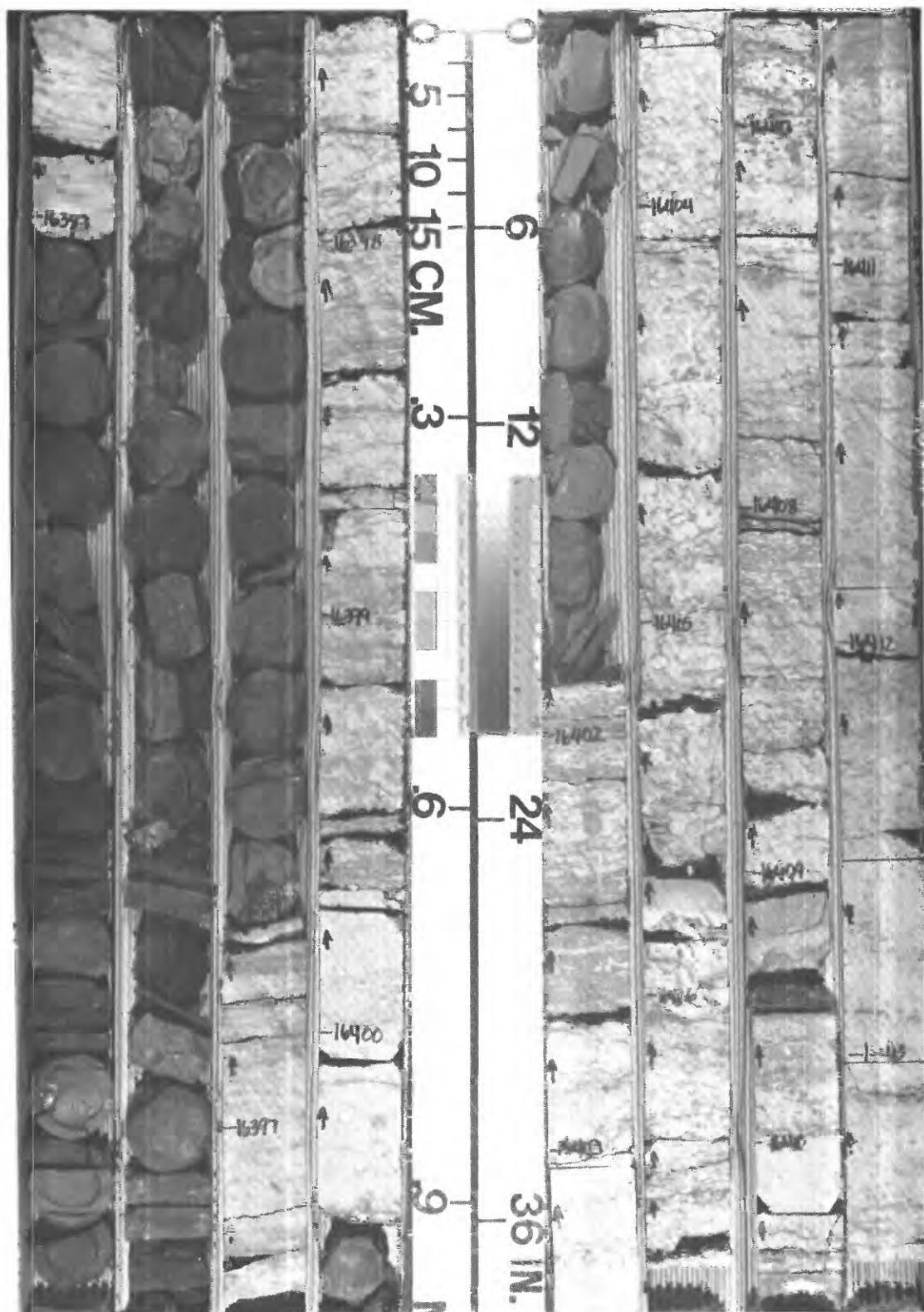












**Appendix 2.** Photographs of selected sedimentologic and (or) lithologic features in core from the Mazur well, McLish, Tulip Creek, and Bromide Formations of the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group. Centimeter scale shown.



2-1. Erosional contact (siltstone clast?) in litharenite. Depth 16,306.5 ft.

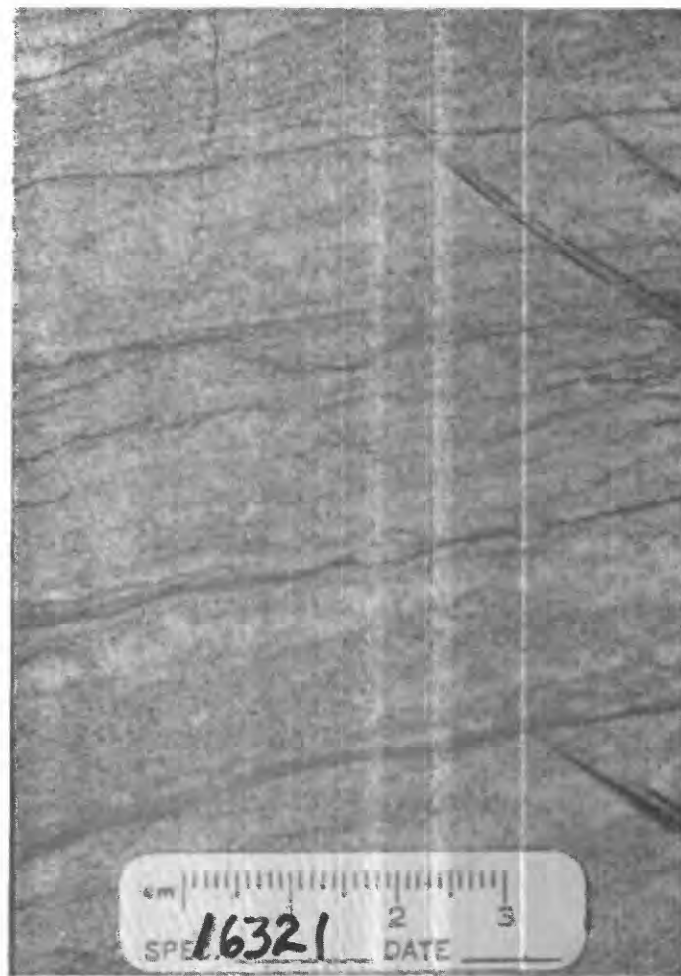


2-2. High-angle cross lamination in litharenite. Depth 16,382 ft.





2-3. Low-angle cross laminations and ripple laminations in litharenite. Depth 16,337.8 ft.



2-4. Ripple laminations in litharenite. Depth 16,321 ft.



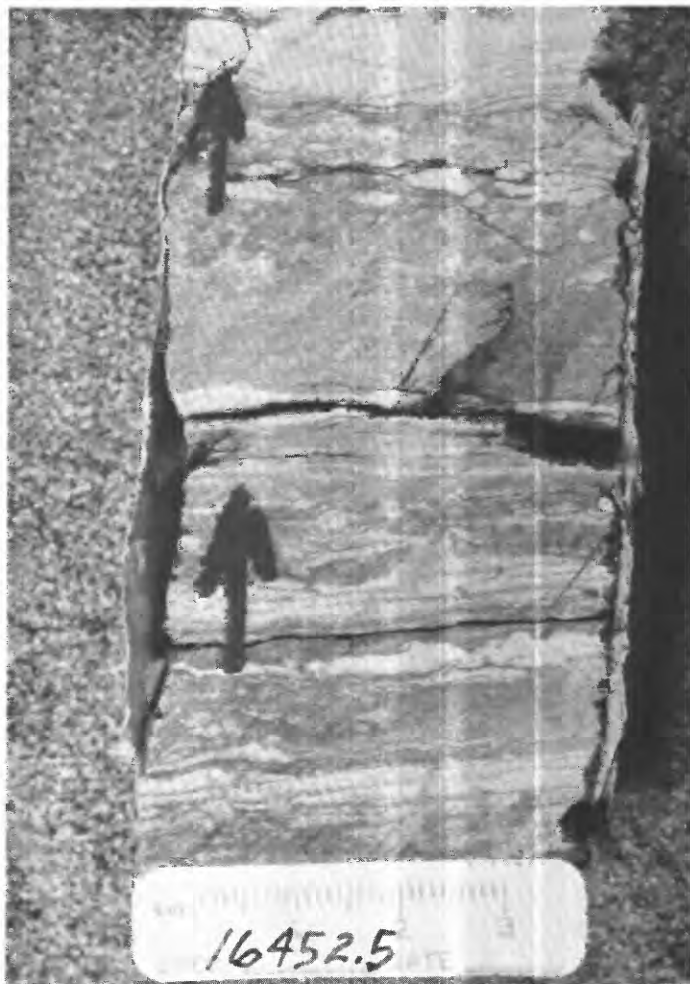
2-5. Intense bioturbation in sandstone. Depth 16,404 ft.



2-6. Interbedded white quartzose siltstone and gray siltstone. Depth 16,097 ft.



2-7. Ripple laminations in siltstone. Depth 16,098 ft.



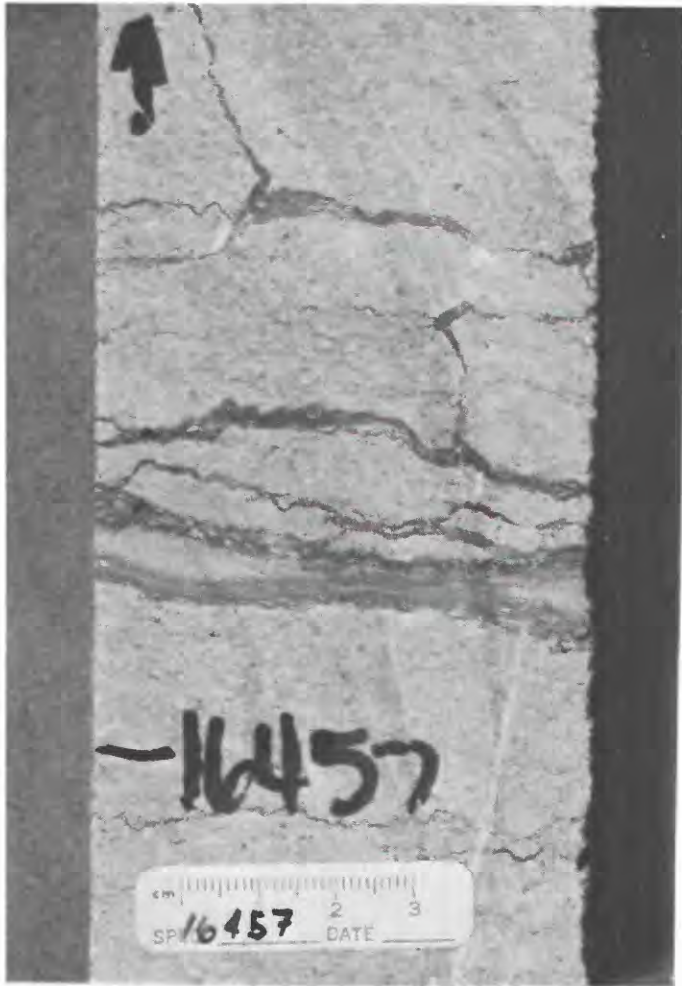
2-8. Combination of vertical and horizontal burrows in flaser unit in siltstone. Depth 16,425.5 ft.



2-9. Dark-gray, waxy mudstone. Depth 16,386 ft.



2-10. Vertical and horizontal burrows in mudstone. Depth 16,396.8 ft.



**2-11.** Light-gray dolomitic limestone (biosparite) interbedded with light-gray micrite. Depth 16,457 ft.

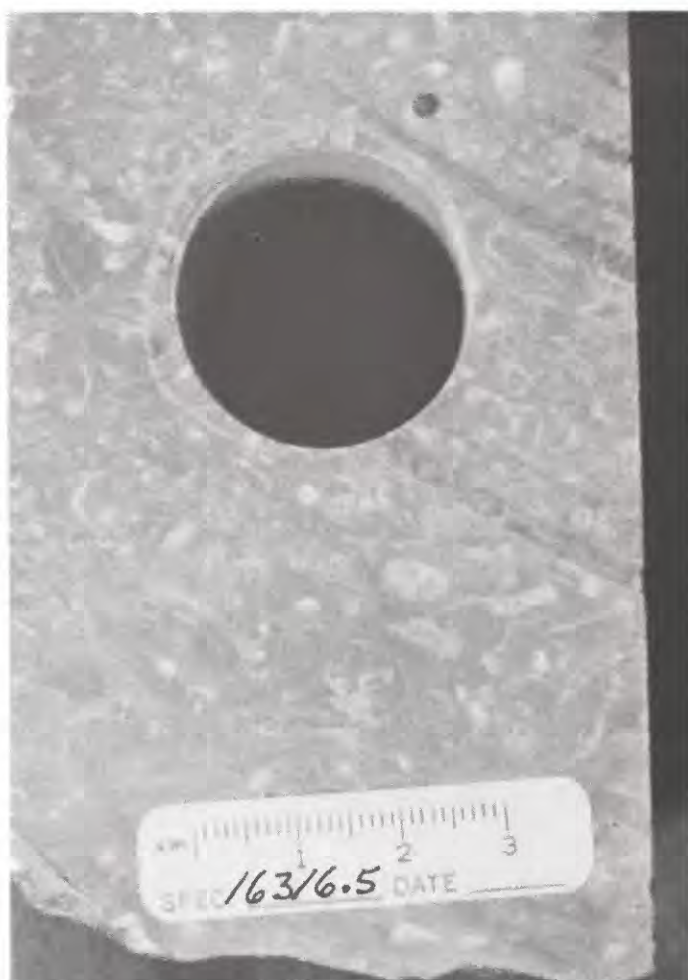


**2-12.** Nodular bedding of limestone; local concentrations of brachiopod fossils. Depth 15,919 ft.





**2-13.** Dessication mudcracks in limestone. Depth 16,575.3 ft.

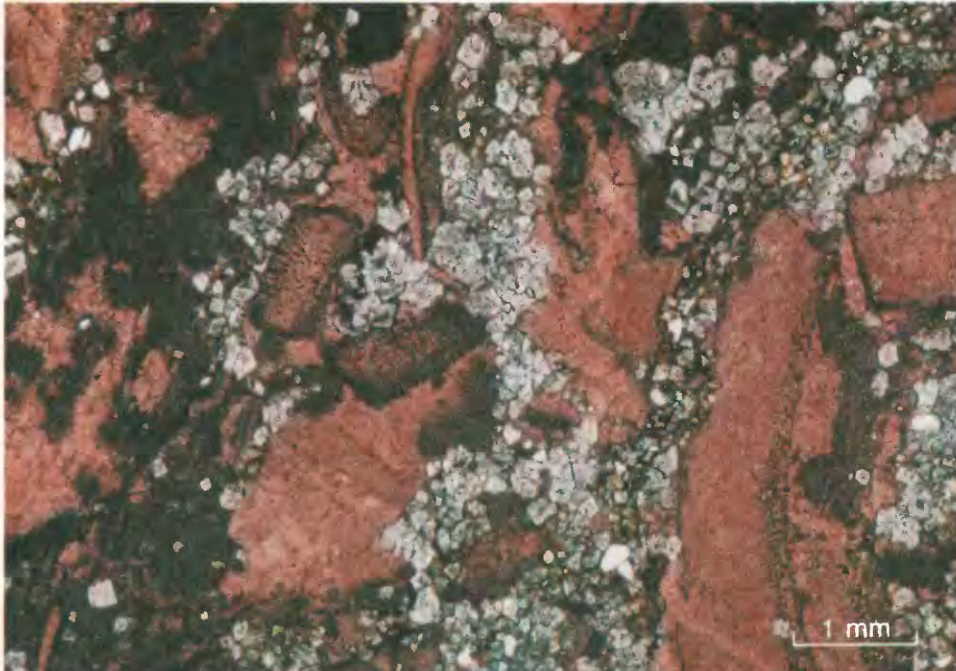


**2-14.** Brachiopod and crinoid fossil fragments in limestone. Depth 16,316.5 ft.

**Appendix 3.** Photomicrographs showing features typical of core samples from the Middle Ordovician Simpson Group, Mazur well. Depths below surface.

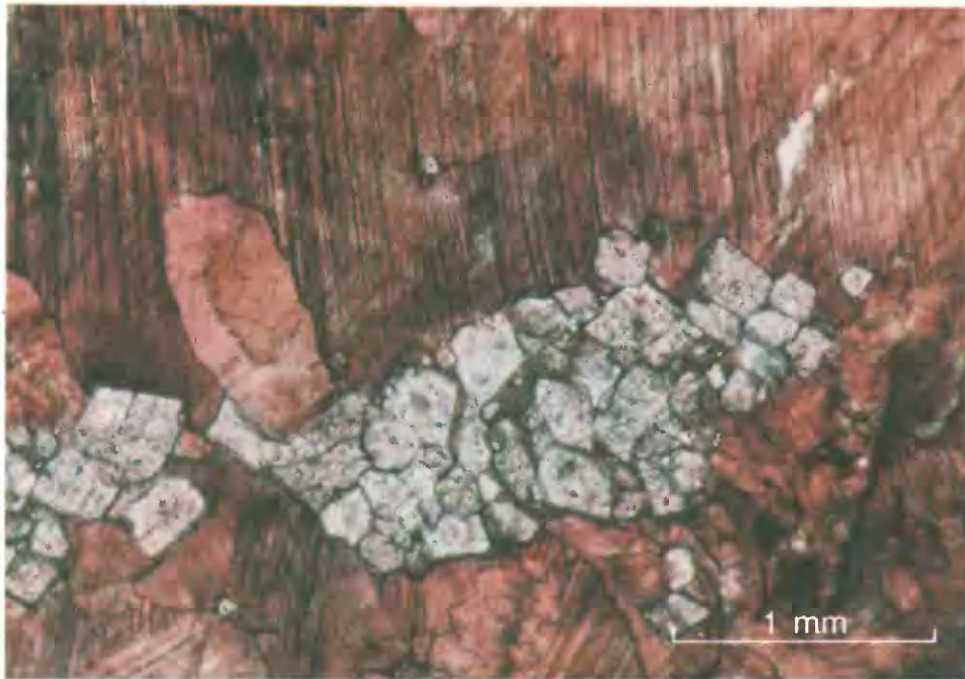


**3-1.** Sandy siltstone containing potassium feldspar (K). Scale bar 0.5 mm; plane-polarized light. McLish Formation, 16,422 ft.

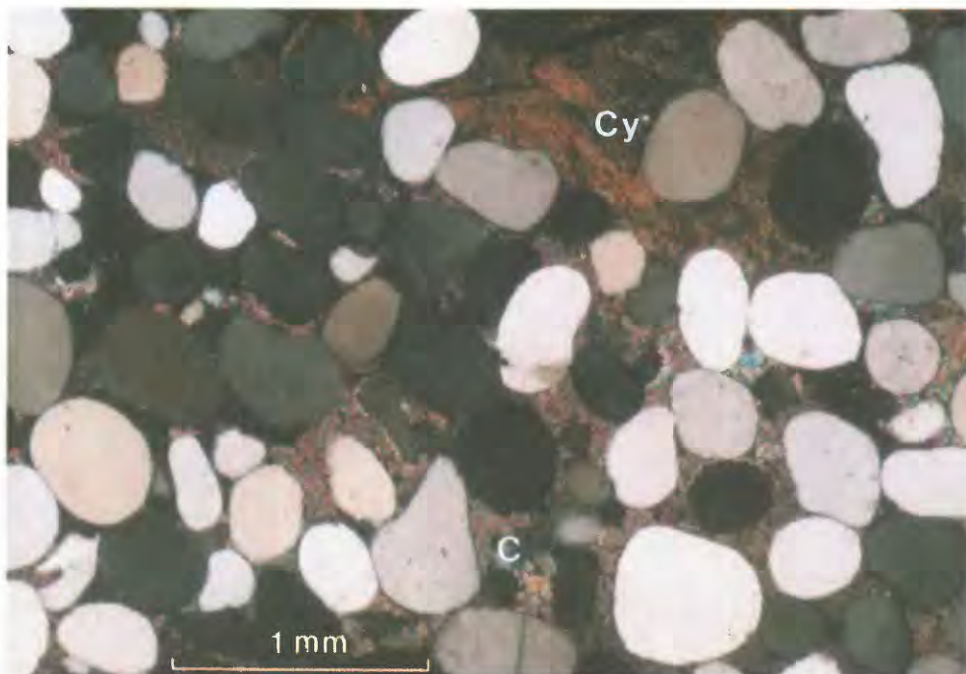


**3-2.** Fragments of brachiopods and crinoids (red-stained calcite) surrounded by (slightly) iron-bearing dolomite(?). Scale bar 0.1 mm; plane-polarized light. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,832.9 ft.





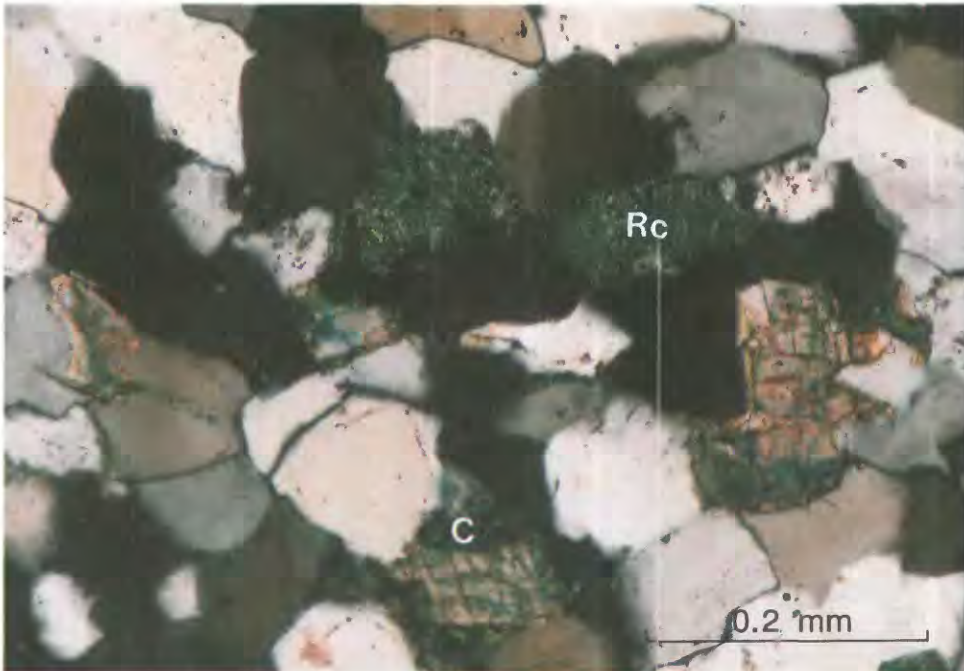
3-3. Rhombohedral crystals of dolomite(?) surrounded by poikilotopic calcite. Scale bar 1 mm; plane-polarized light. McLish Formation, 16,555.3 ft.



3-4. Sandstone, very tightly cemented by calcite (C); some quartz grains embedded in clay clast (Cy). Scale bar 1 mm; crossed nicols. Bromide Formation, 15,928.9 ft.

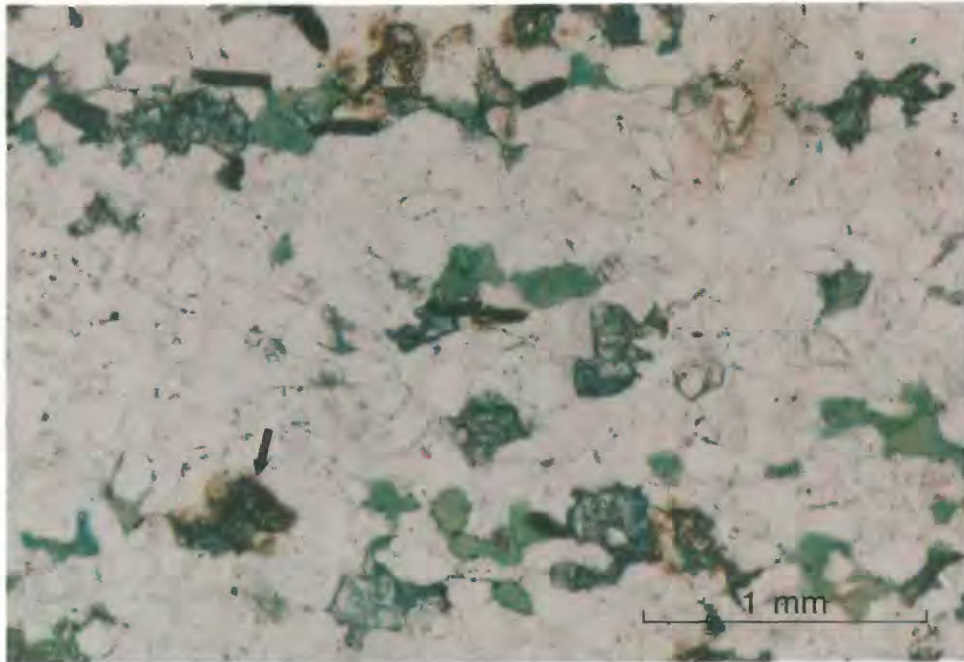


3-5. Intergranular quartz overgrowths (arrows) on rounded quartz grains and polycrystalline quartz grains. Scale bar 0.1 mm; crossed nicols. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,338 ft.

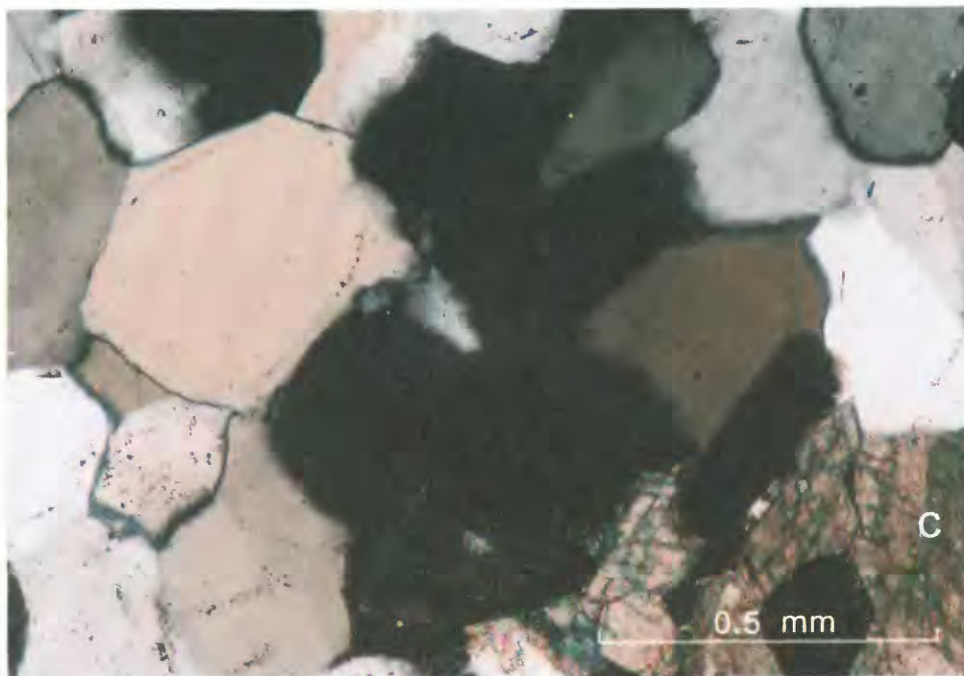


3-6. Low-porosity sandstone containing angular to subangular grains of quartz, partially leached chert (Rc), and calcite (C), which has replaced some earlier detrital minerals. Scale bar 0.2 mm; crossed nicols. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,354 ft.

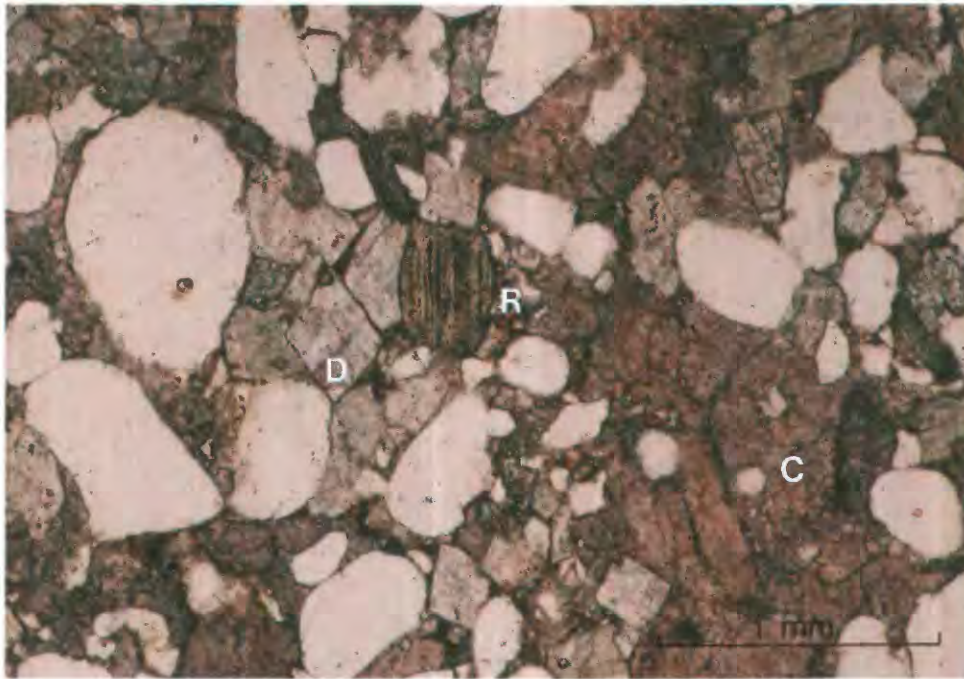




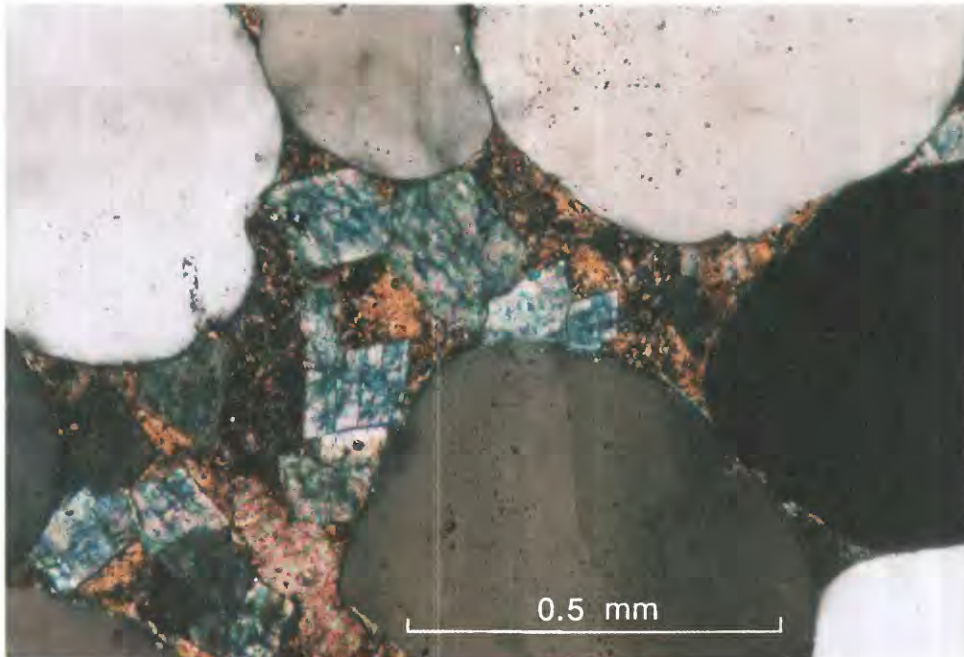
3-7. Low-porosity sandstone; porosity essentially limited to partially leached chert grains (arrow). Scale bar 1 mm; plane-polarized light. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,354 ft.



3-8. Sandstone cemented by quartz overgrowths and intergranular poikilotopic calcite (C). Scale bar 0.5 mm; crossed nicols. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,338 ft.

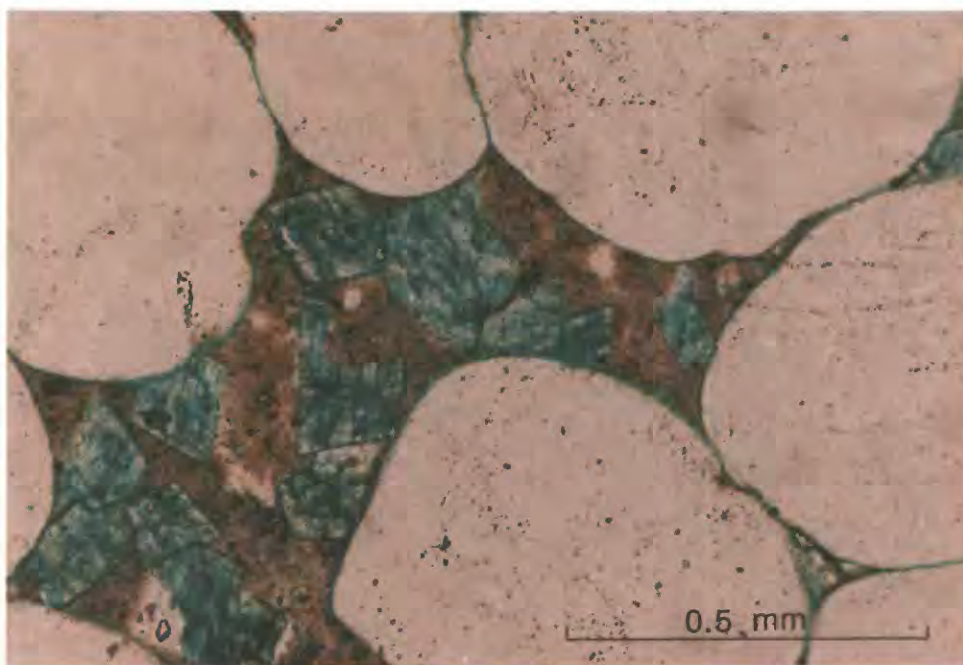


**3-9.** Rhombohedral grains of iron-bearing dolomite (D) intergrown in poikilotopic calcite (C), and detrital quartz grains and rock fragments (R). Scale bar 1 mm; plane-polarized light. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,302 ft.

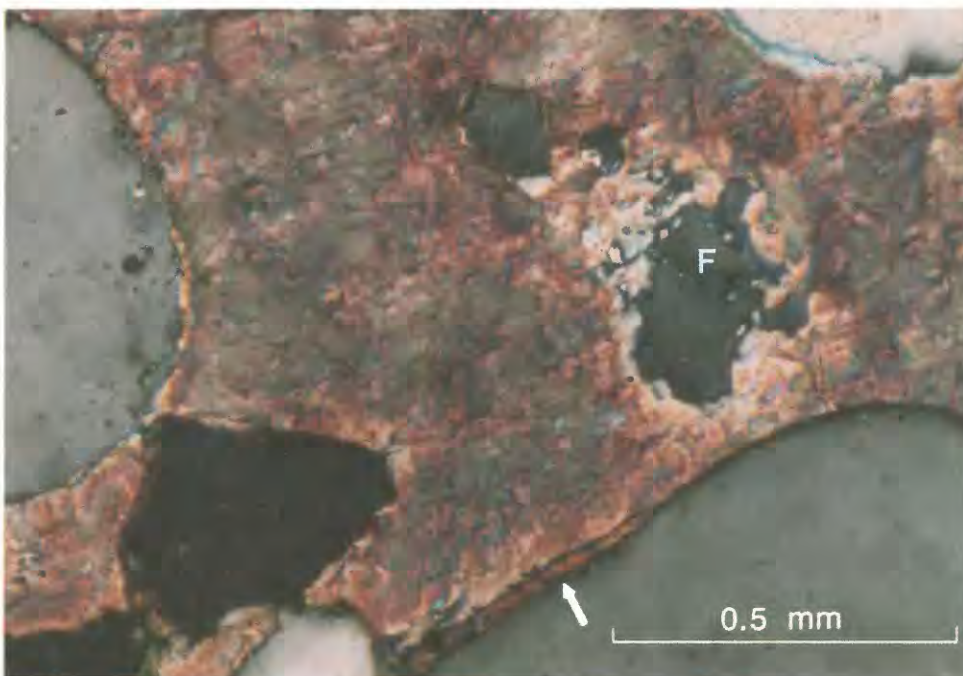


**3-10.** Rhombohedral grains of iron-bearing carbonate (ankerite?) in intergranular matrix-pseudomatrix of clay between subrounded detrital quartz grains. Scale bar 0.5 mm; crossed nicols. Bromide Formation, 15,966 ft.

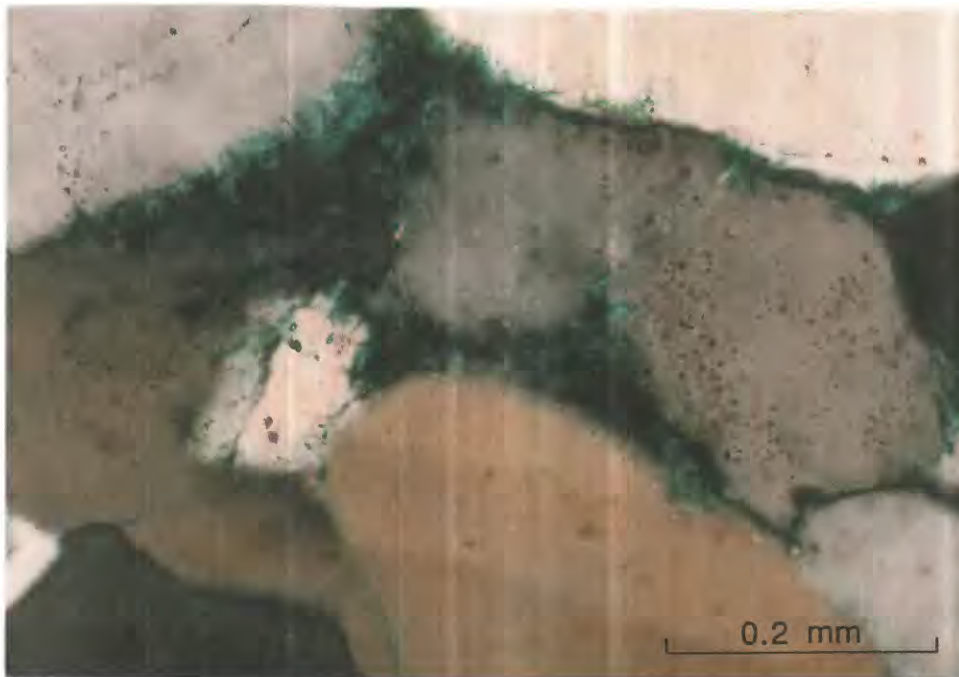




3-11. Same as photograph 10; plane-polarized light.



3-12. Remnant of feldspar(?) (F) in intergranular, pore-filling calcite; thin layer of clay (arrow) partially coats one quartz grain. Scale bar 0.5 mm; crossed nicols. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,251 ft.



**3-13.** Intergranular porosity and slight dissolution of quartz grain surfaces. Scale bar 0.2 mm; crossed nicols. Tulip Creek Formation, 16,230 ft.









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