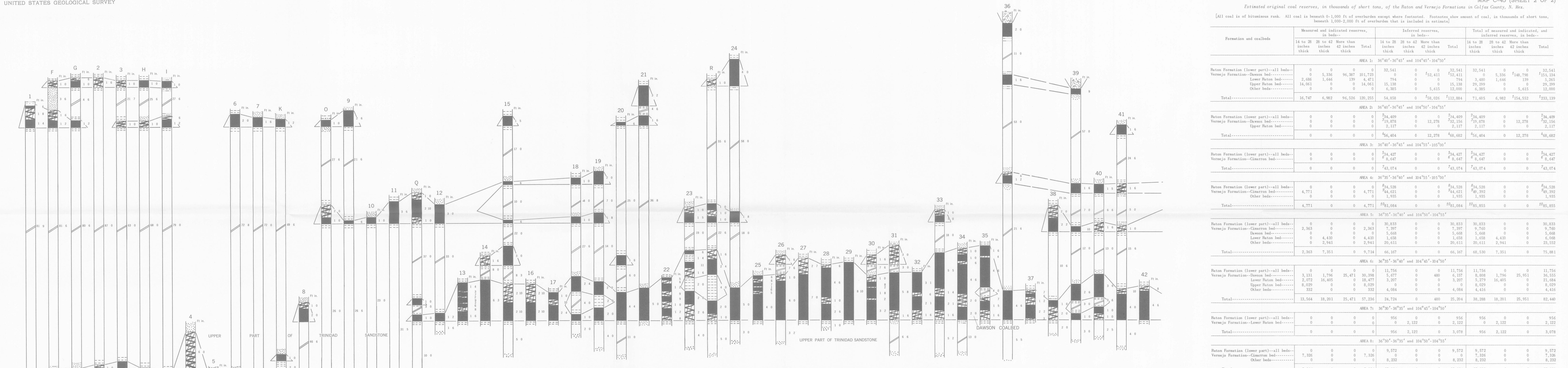
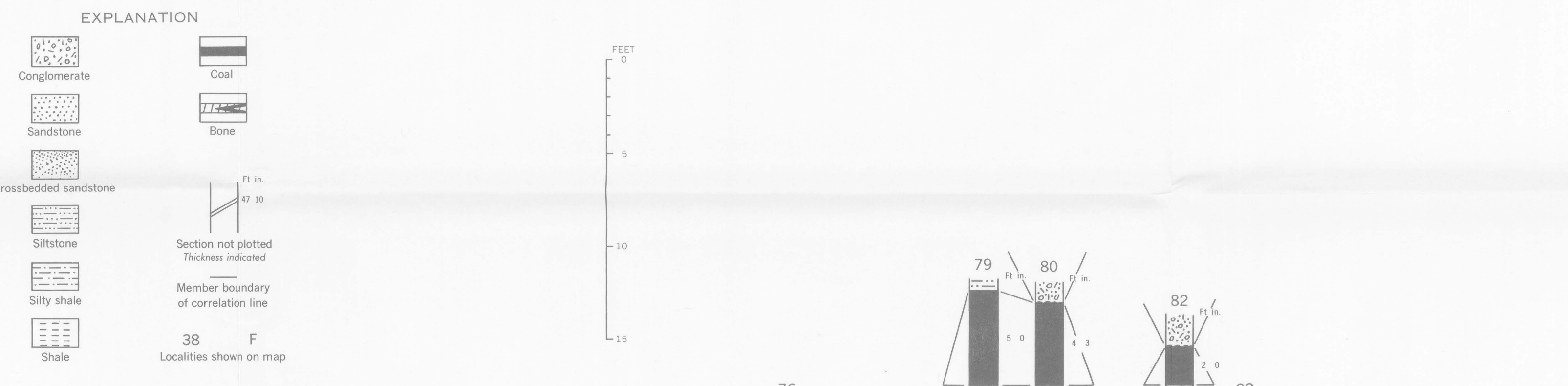


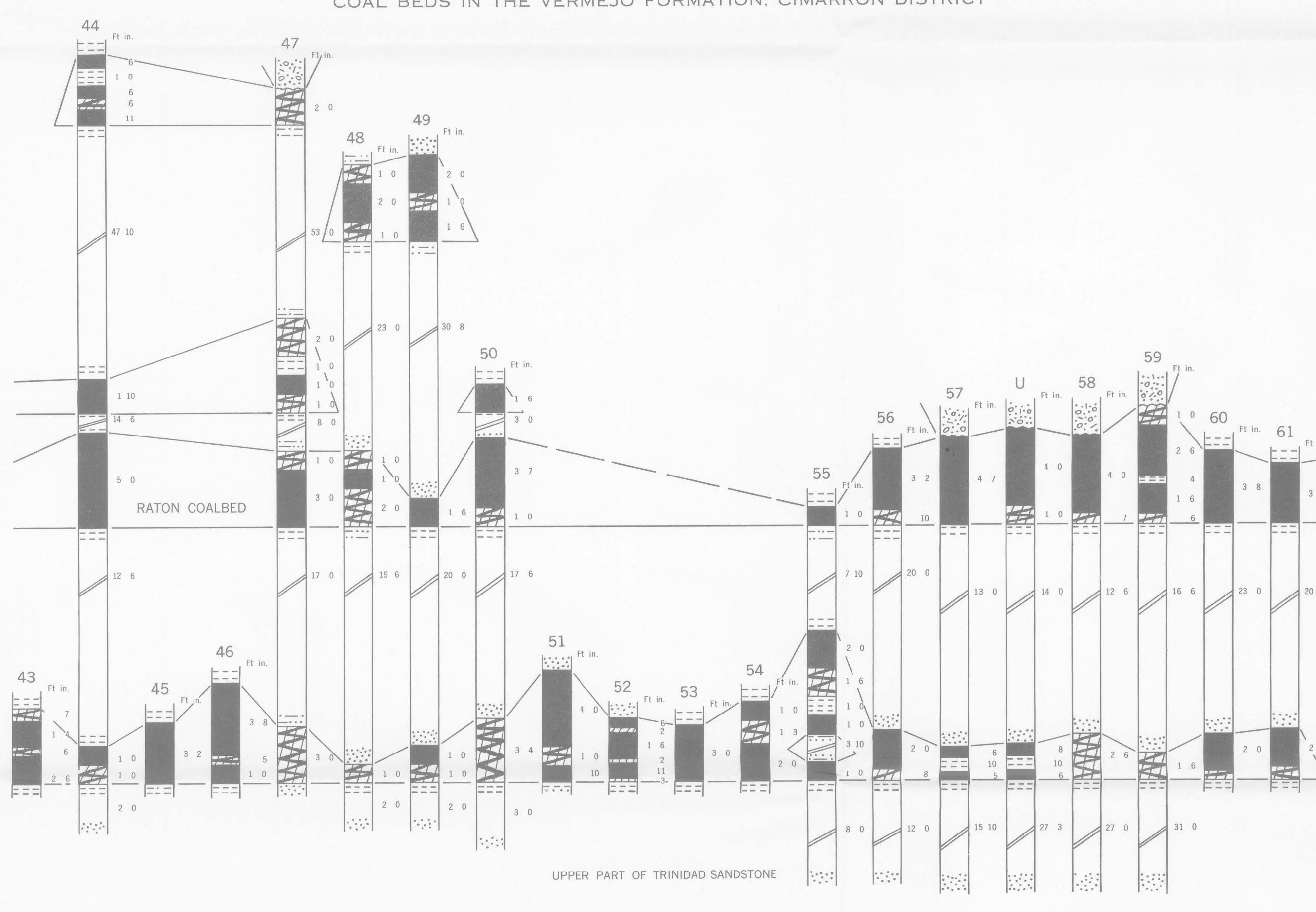
Estimated original coal reserves, in thousands of short tons, of the Raton and Vermojo Formations in Colfax County, N. Mex. [All coal is of bituminous rank. All coal is beneath 8,100 ft of overburden except where noted. Reserves also amount of coal, in thousands of short tons, beneath 1,000-8,000 ft of overburden that is included in estimates.]



COAL BEDS IN THE VERMOJO FORMATION, DAWSON DISTRICT



COAL BEDS IN THE VERMOJO FORMATION, CIMARRON DISTRICT



COAL BEDS IN THE VERMOJO FORMATION, DAWSON DISTRICT

COAL BEDS IN THE VERMOJO FORMATION, KOEHLER DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION The area of this report includes the southwestern part of the Raton coal field, which is part of the Raton-Mesa coal region that lies in New Mexico. The Raton coal field has been an important source of high-volatile C bituminous coal of coking quality, and coal mining was active in the field until 1946. Present mining operations are limited, but much coal remains in the ground for future exploitation. The coal-bearing formations are the Vermojo Formation of Late Cretaceous age and the Raton Formation of Late Cretaceous and Paleocene age.

Upper Cretaceous and Paleocene rocks.—Strata of the Raton Formation, 1913, p. 301) crop out over most of the coal field and form conspicuous sandstone cliffs that cap the Raton and Mesa mountains. They grade into and intertongue with the rocks of the overlying Poison Canyon Formation of Paleocene age (Hill, 1888) in a southwesterly direction. This relation occurs along the central and western margins of the Raton Mesa west to Ute Park. The Raton Formation is of Late Cretaceous and Paleocene age (Horn, 1943, p. 82-84). Brown, on the basis of paleontological evidence gathered along the Utechua River west of Valerius, Colo., placed the boundary between the Cretaceous and Tertiary in the lower part of the Raton Formation.

where in the map area the basal conglomerate appears to rest discordably upon Vermojo strata. In the central and western part of the Raton Mesa region in Colorado the coal-bearing strata of the Raton Formation are conformably overlain by and intertongue with beds of coarse-grained arkose (Johnson and Wood, 1956, p. 714-717), which here are considered as the equivalent of the lower part of the Poison Canyon Formation (Hill, 1888) of Paleocene age in Huerfano Park, Colo. In the vicinity of Ute Park, strata previously described by Lee (1917, p. 61-61, 62-66) as Raton are followed by Johnson and Wood (1956, p. 715) to be a facies of the Poison Canyon, and in this report they have been mapped as the Poison Canyon Formation along the western margin of the Raton coal field from Vermojo Park to Ute Park in the southern part of the coal field.

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