

TABLE 2.--GEOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURFICIAL UNITS

Geologic characteristics	Colluvium Qco	Post-Piney Creek alluvium Qpp (Scott, 1960)	Piney Creek Alluvium Qp (Hunt, 1954)	Eolian sand Qes	Loess Qlo	Broadway Alluvium Qb (Scott, 1960)	Louviers Alluvium Ql (Scott, 1960)	Slocum Alluvium Qs (Scott, 1960)
Dominant sediments	Stony sand, silt, and clay.	Sand, silt, and fine gravel; some clay.	Silt, sand, clay, and fine gravel.	Sand; some silt.	Silt; some fine sand.	Clayey silt, sand, and gravel.	Sand, silt, and gravel.	Sand, silt, and gravel.
Maximum observed thickness	15 ft (4.6 m) in roadcut; commonly mantles slopes to depths less than 5 ft (1.5 m).	15 ft (4.6 m) by hand auger; may be thicker in stream valleys.	15 ft (4.6 m) in excavation. May be thicker in stream valleys.	30 ft (9.1 m) by power hand auger.	22 ft (6.7 m) by power hand auger. Thickest on upper parts of southeast-facing slopes.	25 ft (7.5 m) in stream cut.	20 ft (6 m) with power hand auger.	25 ft (7.5 m) with power hand auger.
Color	Generally shades of brown and gray, dependent on source unit.	Light yellowish gray to grayish yellow.	Brown, brownish gray, and pale brown.	Reddish orange to reddish brown.	Reddish brown, yellowish-brown, grayish brown.	Dark yellowish brown to medium gray.	Light reddish brown to yellowish brown.	Dark reddish brown, yellowish brown, and olive gray.
Bedding ⁴ (fig. 1)	Chaotic to poorly graded bedding.	Trough-shaped crossbedding; local gravel bars.	Trough-shaped crossbedding; tabular and lenticular layers; local gravel bars.	Trough-shaped and tangential crossbedding.	Tangential crossbedding, poorly developed.	Tangential and trough-shaped crossbedding; lenticular layers.	Low-angle trough-shaped and tangential crossbedding.	Trough-shaped crossbedding dominant.
Grain size (fig. 2)	Ranges from clay to boulders.	Mostly less than 1 mm.	Mostly less than 0.5 mm.	Mostly less than 0.125 mm.	Mostly less than 0.02-4 mm.	Mostly 0.01-0.25 mm; local boulder gravel as large as 25 mm.	Mostly 0.01-0.25 mm; local boulder gravel as large as 25 mm.	Mostly 0.01-0.25 mm; local boulder gravel as large as 25 mm.
Sorting ⁵ (fig. 2)	Unsorted to moderately sorted.	Well sorted in horizontal layers; poorly sorted vertically.	Moderately well sorted.	Well sorted.	Poorly sorted; contains some secondary fine grain sand.	Poorly sorted.	Unsorted.	Unsorted to moderately well sorted.
Grain shape ⁶	Equant, tabular.	Equant, tabular.	Equant, tabular.	Equant.	Equant.	Equant, tabular.	Equant, tabular.	Equant.
Grain roundness ⁷	Mostly subrounded to rounded.	Subrounded to subangular.	Mostly subrounded; some subangular.	Mostly subrounded.	Mostly angular to subrounded.	Mostly rounded.	Mostly rounded; some subangular.	Mostly well rounded.
Grain surface	Variable from rough and broken to smooth.	Frosted, pitted, smooth.	Frosted, pitted, smooth.	Frosted, pitted.	Rough, pitted; some quartz grains frosted.	Mostly smooth; some rough.	Smooth to irregular.	Mostly smooth.
Composition, in order of abundance	Variable; depends on composition of source unit.	Quartz, mica, feldspar, minor rock fragments, organic debris.	Quartz, mica, organic debris, rock fragments, clay.	Quartz; some kaolinized feldspar.	Clay (kaolinite, illite, some montmorillonite, mixed-layer), quartz, feldspar.	Quartz, clay, mica, organic debris, rock fragments.	Quartz, feldspar, mica, clay, ironstone, rock fragments.	Quartz, kaolinized feldspar, mica, clay, metamorphic rock fragments.
Consistency (firmness) of engineering soils ⁸	Mostly hard when dry; stiff when wet. Moderately cohesive. Locally poorly drained.	Soft when dry; moderately stiff when wet. Noncohesive. Well drained.	Very stiff when dry; soft and sticky when wet. Locally poorly drained. Moderately cohesive.	Incoherent; loose when dry; gains some cohesion when wet.	Moderately hard when dry; very soft when wet. Cohesion provided by clay.	Moderately hard when dry; very soft and sticky when wet.	Moderately firm when dry; locally soft and sticky when wet.	Stiff to hard when dry; stiff to firm when wet.
Distribution	Mantles slopes and forms lens-shaped deposits at bases of slopes.	Valley floors and beds of modern streams and some adjacent flood plains.	Forms low terraces adjacent to modern streams. Occupies valley floors, some drainage ways.	Mantles low rounded slopes in western part of the quadrangle.	Mantles ridges and upland slopes in central part of the quadrangle.	Low terraces in stream valleys, 10-30 ft (3-9 m) above modern streams.	Terraces on upland surfaces, 30-80 ft (9-24 m) above principal streams in east part of quadrangle.	Pediment deposit on gently sloping upland surfaces 50-200 ft (15-60 m) above principal streams.
Development of soil zone	Uneven, irregular; depends on characteristics of source unit.	Sand and sandy clay. Soil zone locally as much as 2 ft (0.6 m) deep. Noncalcareous.	Thin sandy clay, calcareous, as deep as 6 ft (1.8 m).	Clayey sand; silty where locally mixed with loess; as deep as 4 ft (1.2 m). Non-calcareous.	Silty sandy clay. Blocky. Contains layers of fine gravel. Very calcareous. Best agricultural land.	Silty sandy clay with layers of fine gravel. Soil zone as deep as 5 ft (0.9 m). Non-calcareous.	Clayey silty sand with fine gravel layers. Slightly noncalcareous, as deep as 5 ft (1.5 m).	Silty sand; some clay; some thin beds of fine gravel. Zone as deep as 4 ft (1.2 m). Calcareous; calcic films on particles and calcic blocks at 1.5-3 ft depths (0.45-0.9 m).
General remarks	Derived by gravity, slopewash, and weathering from bedrock and surficial geologic units.	Derived by erosion and reworking of old soils, sediments, and bedrock. Very susceptible to flooding.	Includes post-Piney Creek deposits too small to map. Very susceptible to seasonal flooding.	Deposited by northwesterly winds; derived from sediments west of and in the South Platte River valley.	Deposited by northwesterly winds; derived from sediments west of and in the South Platte River valley. Very high shrink-swell potential.	Deposited by streams, by reworking of older sediments and bedrock units. Locally subject to seasonal floods.	Deposited by meandering streams, eroded from older sediments and bedrock to the south.	Deposited by aggrading streams, overlies interbedded Danson sandstone and claystone in this quadrangle.

TABLE 3.--COMPARISON OF GEOLOGIC UNITS ACCORDING TO SELECTED ENGINEERING CHARACTERISTICS

Geologic units	Relative permeability	Relative frost-heave susceptibility		Relative trafficability		Relative erosion susceptibility		Relative ease of excavation in unweathered material		Relative stability of dry natural slopes		Relative stability of dry cut (manmade) slopes		Relative foundation stability ⁹	
		Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	Best	Worst
Bedrock units															
Tcr Castle Rock Conglomerate	Highest	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet	Tcr	Wet
Dawson Arkose, upper part		Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc
Tda Arkose sandstone facies		Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc	Tda	Tdc
Tdc Conglomerate facies		Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc
Tds Sandstone facies		Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc
Tdv Claystone facies		Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc	Tdv	Tdc
Tdv Variegated claystone facies		Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc
Denver Formation, upper tongue		Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc
Tds Sandstone facies		Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc	Tds	Tdc
Tdc Claystone facies															
Surficial units															
Qpp Post-Piney Creek alluvium	Highest	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes	Qpp	Qes
Qp Piney Creek Alluvium		Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes	Qp	Qes
Qes Eolian sand		Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes	Qes
Qlo Loess		Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes	Qlo	Qes
Qb Broadway Alluvium		Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes	Qb	Qes
Ql Louviers Alluvium		Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes	Ql	Qes
Qs Slocum Alluvium	Lowest	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes	Qs	Qes

TABLE 4.--GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED SURFICIAL UNITS¹⁰

All test data are results of tests on moderately weathered samples. Laboratory tests performed by George S. Erickson and Philip S. Powers, U.S. Geological Survey, 1971-73.

Geotechnical characteristics	Loess ¹¹ Qlo					Slocum Alluvium Qs					Louviers Alluvium Ql				
	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y ¹³	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y
Particle-size distribution, in percent (hydrometer and sieve analysis--see fig. 2)															
Gravel		0-2	0.9	1	2.3		0-28	15.6	18	0.9		0-22	12.7	7	1.8
Very coarse and coarse sand		0-9	2.7	3	.9		0-35	18.2	20	.9		5-28	12.5	14	.9
Medium sand		1-10	2.9	3	.9		7-46	19.5	27	.7		5-7	1	6	.2
Fine and very-fine sand	9	8-22	4.3	13	.3	3	7-33	14.4	14	1	5	9-18	4.9	12	.4
Silt		31-53	7.0	43	.2		0-31	15.2	11	1.4		14-29	8.4	24	.4
Clay		28-45	7.2	37	.2		0-29	16.7	10	1.7		20-52	16.1	37	.4
Plasticity characteristics¹⁴, in percent (tested on part of sample passing No. 35 sieve, 0.5 mm)															
Liquid limit	13	28-64	9.4	46		4	32-54	9.8	46		5	37-71	15.8	53	
Plastic limit		21-45	5.9	28			20-28	3.6	25			21-38	6.9	29	
Plasticity index		7-34	6.9	18			12-29	7.1	21			14-33	7.9	24	
Plasticity index/Percent clay		----	----	0.5			----	----	0.7			----	----	0.7	
Potential volume change¹⁵ (tested on part of sample passing No. 10 sieve--2 mm)															
lb/ft ²	13	600-3,200	717	1,873		4	900-4,100	1,325	2,430		5	400-6,900	2,680	2,960	
kN/m ²		29-153	34	90			43-196	63	116			19-351	128	142	
Mean rating (1-10) Classification	13	0.6-3.9	---	2.3		4	1.1-5.2	---	3.0		5	0.3-8.2	---	5.6	
		Marginal					Marginal					Marginal			
Heave¹⁶															
Percent	1	6					Not tested					Not tested			
pH ¹⁷	6	7.1-7.7	0.3	7.6			7.7, 7.8	---	7.75			5.5, 7.6	---	6.5	

TABLE 5.--GEOTECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED BEDROCK UNITS

All test data are results of tests on fresh and moderately weathered samples. Laboratory tests performed by George S. Erickson and Philip S. Powers, U.S. Geological Survey, 1971-73.

Geotechnical characteristics	Dawson Arkose, upper part												Denver Formation, upper tongue												
	Arkose sandstone facies Tda				Sandstone facies Tds				Claystone facies Tdv				Variegated claystone facies Tdv				Sandstone facies Tdes				Claystone facies Tdc				
	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y ¹³	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y	No. of samples tested	Range	Standard deviation	Mean	Y
Particle-size distribution, in percent (whole-rock, hydrometer, and sieve analysis--see fig. 2)																									
Gravel		0-44	15.3	16	0.96		0-16	0.4	1	4.0		0-26	5.2	1	5		0-4	1.8	2	0.9		0-4	1.3	1	1.3
Very coarse to coarse sand		12-69	16.8	36	.47		0-46	15.2	12	1.1		0-10	2.6	1	3		0-9	3.8	4	1		0-4	1.3	1	1.3
Medium sand	13	8-27	5.8	14	.41		1-42	13	21	.6		0-9	3.8	4	1.4		0-40	14.1	11	1.3		1-29	9.7	14	.7
Fine to very fine sand		6-28	8.1	15	.34		16-65	12.8	35	.4		3-44	10.9	16	.7		3-50	17.3	22	.8		1-29	9.7	14	.7
Silt		2-27	9.0	10	.9		6-35	9.2	18	.5		16-50	10.3	35	.3		13-54	14.7	35	.4		37-65	9.8	48	.2
Clay		0-32	10.6	9	1.18		2-33	9.4	13	.7		4-70	14.9	33	.4		10-52	16.3	30	.5		12-55	14.6	37	.4
Grain specific density (average)	3		2.64			1		2.77			1		2.66			1		2.70							
Plasticity characteristics¹⁴, in percent (tested on part of sample passing No. 35 sieve--0.5 mm)	15					13					23					6					15				
Liquid limit		0-51	17.1	32	0.53		21-56	9.5	39	0.2		37-87	11	55	0.2		40-65	10	48	0.2		51-95	10.8	68	0.2
Plastic limit		0-36	14	15	.93		0-37	14	19	.3		25-56	9.1	37	.3		26-45	7.8	36	.2		28-59	8.4	44	.2
Plasticity index		0-23	8.4	8	1.1		0-23	9.1	3	1.1		9-51	6.7	18	.4		3-16	5.9	12	.5		11-52	10.2	24	.4
Plasticity index/Percent clay		----	----	0.8			----	----	0.6			----	----	0.4			----	----	1.03				----	----	0.65
Potential volume change¹⁵ (tested on part of sample passing No. 10 sieve--2 mm)	16					15					19					6					15				
lb/ft ²		0-4,500	1,338	940	1.4		0-3,100	1,075	1,470	0.7		1,100-6,550	1,170	3,160	0.4		1,400-3,500	970	2,750	0.4		1,250-9,900	3,254	5,242	0.6
kN/m ²		0-216	64.1	45	1.4		0-148.5	51.5	70.4	.7		52.7-313.7	56	151.3	.4		67.1-167.6	46.5	131.7	.4		69.9-474.1	156	251	.6
Mean rating (1-10) Classification		(0-5.7)	----																						