



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,  
south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue

UTM GRID AND 1960 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty  
Medium-duty  
Light-duty  
Unimproved dirt  
State Route

AVELLA, PA.  
SW 1/4 BURGETTSTOWN 15 QUADRANGLE  
N4015-W8022 5/7.5  
1954  
PHOTOINQUIRED 1969

Landslides and related features interpreted  
from aerial photographs:  
1:24,000 scale black and white 1975-1976

Photointerpretation and field check 1976.  
This map has not been edited or reviewed  
for conformity with Geological Survey  
standards and nomenclature.

## LANDSLIDES AND RELATED FEATURES

OF THE AVELLA, PA. QUADRANGLE

by

JOHN S. POMEROY

1978

U. S. Geological Survey  
OPEN FILE MAP 78-1057(C-13)

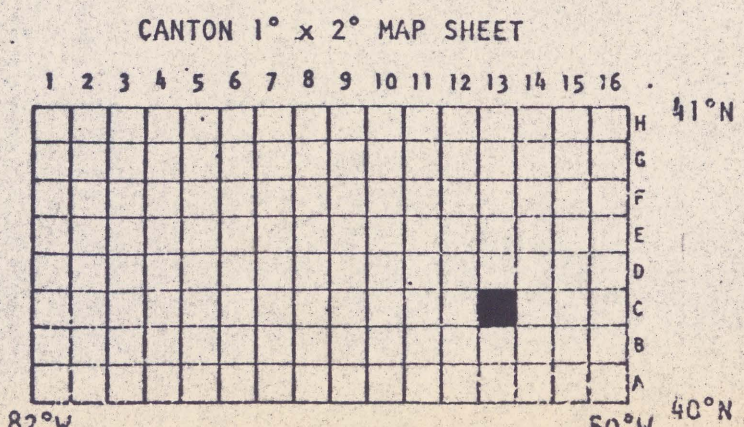
NOTE  
Information shown is intended as a  
general guide to ground conditions as of  
the date of field check. Additional  
landslides and rockfalls should be anticipated  
in all map units. The map unit depicts  
the dominant condition in the area  
delineated and variations in slope stability  
may occur at any point in the unit. This  
map is suitable for general planning  
purposes and as a supplement to more  
detailed studies for site selection. The  
map cannot be used as a substitute for  
detailed geologic and engineering inves-  
tigations to establish design and  
construction criteria of specific sites.  
Some symbols may not appear on this map because  
the description is applicable to a series of maps.

- ACTIVE OR RECENTLY ACTIVE LANDSLIDE**  
Complex landslide composed of earthflow, debris slide, earth and rock slump. Identified from historical records, and from scars, debris and other field evidence. Ground extremely unstable; sliding accelerated by excavation, loading and changes in drainage conditions. May include areas with several active slides too small to be shown separately. Questioned where doubtful.
- LANDSLIDE**  
Area of extensive hummocky ground caused by earthflow and earth and rock slump. Lacks clear evidence of active sliding. Relatively stable in natural, undisturbed state, generally not affected by small structures properly sited in areas away from the edge of the toe; can be reactivated by extensive, rapid excavation, loading, and changes in ground water and surface water conditions. Area of old landslide probably includes recent ones not identified from field evidence or otherwise documented. Upslope boundary of landslide generally defined by modified scarp, but downslope (toe) may be gradational and not well defined. Questioned where doubtful.
- COLLUVIAL SLOPE**  
Valley wall along major streams with slope as steep as 40° (85%); stony, clayey silt soil up to 50 ft. (15 m) thick; commonly buttressed by a terrace or bench at the toe of the slope; very susceptible to sliding by cutting of toe area, removal of terrace or bench, and overloading; landslide commonly activated without apparent cause.
- AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO DEBRIS FLOWS AND DEBRIS AVALANCHES**  
Primarily shallow, narrow ravines and chutes with accumulation of stony colluvium generally 10 ft. (3 m) or less in thickness; susceptible to rapid movement during intense rainfall. Most ravines designated show evidence of former debris flows and avalanches. Symbol - **a** - designates historical debris flow or debris avalanche.

- AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ROCKFALL**  
Steep, locally vertical, natural and man-made slopes and cliffs, 15 ft. (4.5 m) or higher. Formed dominantly of sandstone, limestone, sandy shale, mudstone and claystone. Interbedded mudstone, claystone and shale weather rapidly leaving sandstone and limestone rock faces unsupported.
- COVE UNDERLAIN BY CLAY LAYER**  
Rounded or U-shaped valley with steep concave slope of valley floor (coves) and valley heads underlain by clayey soils forming a coherent layer generally 8 ft. (2.5 m) or less in thickness. Zone of water commonly at the base of the clay layer is under 2 to 8 ft. (0.6 - 2.5 m) artesian head. Clay soil is underlain by claystone and shale. Clay slab moves as a coherent mass up to 1 ft. (0.3 m) per year; very susceptible to more rapid sliding when overloaded by fill or structure and by excavations that break the continuity of slope. Recent soil slips (earth flows) as much as 40,000 square feet (3,700 square meters) in size are common.
- SOIL AND ROCK SUSCEPTIBLE TO LANDSLIDING**  
Soil and rock similar to that involved in landslides elsewhere in map area; primarily areas underlain by claystone, mudstone and shale associated with other rock types. Rock weathers rapidly on exposure forming clayey soil highly susceptible to sliding.
- All hillsides on this map are susceptible to sliding.
- AREAS LEAST PRONE TO LANDSLIDES**  
Map areas in which no patterns or symbols are shown; primarily valley floors, ridge tops and broad benches; modification by excavation and fill may lead to local landslides.

- MAN-MADE FEATURES**  
Strip mines (combination of letter symbols indicates complex formed of more than one type of strip mine)  
sh bench with high wall  
sf furrowed with high wall  
sd multiple furrows and multiple benches  
srg reclaimed by grading  
sru reclaimed by secondary use  
sh/r regraded in part, high wall remains  
Coal refuse banks  
r identified on aerial photographs; not classified in field check  
rb not burnt nor on fire  
rbh burnt  
rbd burning  
rbs sludge  
Quarries  
q quarry site  
qub spoil bank, quarry waste  
Gravel pits  
g site of gravel pit  
Slides in man-made features  
a/f earth flow in fill  
a/s earth flow in strip castings  
a/r earth flow in coal refuse

The first five digits of the open file number designate the specific 1:250,000 scale map sheet of which this quadrangle is a part. The last two digits designate the position of the quadrangle in a subdivision of the 1:250,000 scale map based on rows and tiers shown in the diagram to the right. The location of this quadrangle is shown by the black square.



M(200)  
R290  
no. 78-1057  
Avella, PA  
no. C-13  
c.1

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
RESTON, VA.  
MAR 7 1979  
LIBRARY  
3 1818 00364384 6