



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiple methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953  
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 1989 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy duty ——— Light duty ———  
Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

VANDERGRIFT, PA.  
SE/4 FREPORT 15 QUADRANGLE  
N4030-7930/75  
1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1969

Landslides and related features interpreted  
from aerial photographs:  
1:40,000 (black and white) 1974

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 VANDERGRIFT, PA. QUADRANGLE

by  
John S. Pomeroy  
1979

U.S. Geological Survey  
OPEN FILE MAP 79-1314 (E-4)

**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 suit-  
able for general planning purposes and as a  
supplement to more detailed studies for site  
selection. The map cannot be used as a sub-  
stitute for detailed geologic and engineering  
investigations 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.

- 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 (In Allegheny County  
benches and furrows are shown by sh).
  - sf furrowed with high wall
  - sd multiple furrows and multiple benches
  - ss hilltop removed
  - srq 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
  - rbb 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/s earth flow in fill
  - a/f earth flow in strip castings
  - a/r earth flow in coal refuse

- 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.
- OLD 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 exca-  
vation, 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.
- COMBINATION LANDSLIDE**  
Area of recent and old slides in which  
individual slides are not identified.
- 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;  
slide commonly activated without apparent cause.
- SCREE**  
Residual accumulations of coarse rock material  
lying on quartzite slopes of the Valley and  
Ridge province. Generally stable except where  
subjected to extreme rainfall.

- COLLUVIAL SLOPES WITH LANDSLIDES**  
Landslides too small or obscure to map  
individually.
- 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  
and chutes designated show evidence of former  
debris flows and avalanches. Symbol & design-  
ates 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 more high;  
formed dominantly of sandstone, limestone, sandy  
shale, mudstone and claystone. Interbedded mud-  
stone, claystone and shale weather rapidly leaving  
sandstone and limestone rock faces unsupported.
- SOIL AND ROCK SUSCEPTIBLE TO LANDSLIDING**  
Soil and rock similar to that involved in land-  
slides 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. Includes coves (U-shaped,  
shallow valleys) containing thick layers of clayey  
soil that are very susceptible to sliding where  
excavation breaks continuity of slope and where  
overloaded by artificial fill.
- 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.  
Includes slopes where landslides are sparse.  
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.

