



**Explanation**

**Description of map units**

**Debris deposits - sediment deposited by diffusive processes such as small landslides, tree-throw, faunalurbation, seasonal creep, etc. Internal sedimentary structure is massive to poorly sorted diamict. Colluvium has a mappable slope morphology when it attains approximately 1.2 m thickness. However, thickness of mapped units may be as little as 0.5 m. Maximum and average thicknesses are unknown.**

**Qfc** Fine colluvium. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Clay- to gravel-size particles; angular to sub-angular. Massive diamict, friable to compact. From source areas with gentle slopes on gneissic basement, schistose greenstone, and metasediments.

**Qcc** Coarse colluvium. Dark gray to reddish brown. Clay- to boulder-size particles; dominated by boulders and cobbles; angular to sub-angular. Dominated by boulders, some without interstitial matrix. Varies from well-sorted block fields (or talus) to poorly sorted, massive diamict. From source areas with steep slopes on Weverton Quartzite and Cacocin Formation (greenstone).

**Qc** Undifferentiated colluvium. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Intermediate particle-size distributions with clay- to cobble-size particles; angular to sub-angular. Massive diamict, friable to compact. Mapped in areas where source areas are mixed and have characteristics intermediate of those above.

**Debris deposits - sediment deposited by a combination of debris flow, fluvial transport, and, in places, periglacial processes. Internal sedimentary structure dominated by combinations of matrix-supported diamict, poorly sorted framework-supported alluvium, and well-sorted alluvium. Unit may be as thin as approximately 50 cm. Maximum and average thicknesses are unknown. Older generations of debris terrace deposits are designated by successively higher arabic numbers, for example Qcd2.**

**Qld** Fine debris. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Clay- to gravel-size particles; dominated by sand to gravel; sub-rounded to angular. Varies from massive diamict to well-sorted, friable to compact. From source areas with gentle slopes on gneissic basement, schistose greenstone, and metasediments.

**Qcd** Coarse debris. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Clay- to boulder-size particles; dominated by boulders, much of it without interstitial matrix; sub-rounded to angular. Varies from well-sorted block streams to poorly sorted diamict with variable amounts of well-sorted alluvial sediment. From source areas with steep slopes on Weverton Quartzite and Cacocin Formation (greenstone).

**Qd** Undifferentiated debris. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Intermediate particle-size distributions; dominated by clay- to cobble-size particles; sub-rounded to angular. Varies from massive diamict to well-sorted, friable to compact. Mapped in areas where source areas are mixed and have characteristics intermediate of those above, and downslope of Qcd on low-angle fan slopes where debris has more interstitial matrix.

**Qbt** Probable landslides. Composed of large, jumbled coherent rock blocks. Individual blocks are up to approximately 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> volume; landslides are up to approximately 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> in volume.

**Alluvial deposits - sediment deposited by fluvial processes. Identified by low gradient surface that laterally truncates debris fans and meandering stream pattern. Older generations of terrace deposits are designated by successively higher arabic numbers, for example Qal2.**

**Qal** Alluvium. Dark gray to light reddish-brown. Generally fining upward from gravel- to boulder-size material to sand- to clay-size material. Bedding includes massive, planar, trough cross-bedded, and rippled. Particles are sub-rounded to rounded. Friable, moderate- to well-sorted.

**Man-made deposits - sediments and areas disturbed by excavation and filling.**

**Dist** Areas disturbed by man, including scraped areas, artificially filled areas, and urbanized areas.

**af** Areas of artificial fill, including impoundment dams.

**w** Areas of impounded water not shown on base map.

**Thin colluvium over residuum - Areas with 0-2 m of colluvium overlying residual weathering profiles, saprolite, or unweathered bedrock. This unit is mapped from slope morphologies that reflect control by underlying bedrock. Denoted on map by bedrock geologic mapping symbol.**

**Mdz** Mesozoic diabase dike. Clayey residuum, 0-1 m thick.

**Mz** Mesozoic sedimentary rocks, undifferentiated. Clayey residuum, 0-1 m thick.

**Ca** Antietan Quartzite. Sandy, micaceous residuum, 0 to greater than 10 m thick.

**Ch** Harpers Formation, phyllite and siltstone. Micaceous, silty residuum, 0 to greater than several m thick.

**Cw-Ch** Weverton Quartzite and Harpers Formation undifferentiated, phyllite and phyllitic quartzite, mapped south of Leesburg along Cacocin Ridge. Micaceous, silty and sandy residuum, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**Cw** Weverton Quartzite, undifferentiated. Sandy residuum, 0-0.5 m thick.

**Cwp** locally mappable phyllite to metasiliclastic beds. Micaceous, silty residuum, 0 to greater than several m thick.

**Cwq** quartzite mapped south of Leesburg along Cacocin Ridge. Sandy residuum, 0-0.5 m thick.

**Cl** Loudoun Formation, undifferentiated, phyllite and conglomerate. Sandy to gravelly residuum on conglomerate (0 to 0.5 m thick) and micaceous, silty residuum (0 to greater than 3 m thick) on phyllite.

**Clp** Phyllite unit. Sandy to gravelly residuum, 0 to 0.5 m thick.

**Clc** Conglomerate unit. Silty residuum, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**CpCc** Cacocin Formation, metabasalt, phyllite, and tuffaceous sediments. Locally contains some phyllitic unit of the Swift Run Formation. Clayey, stony residuum on massive metavolcanic units, 0-2 m thick. Clayey to silty, stony residuum on phyllitic units, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**CpCa** Tuffaceous unit differentiated on block Z after Gathright and Nystrom (1974). Clayey to silty, stony residuum, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**CpCs** Swift Run Formation, undifferentiated. Clayey to sandy, micaceous residuum with areas of sandy, stony residuum where underlain by quartzites, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**CpCp** Phyllite unit, locally may contain some phyllitic units of the Cacocin Formation. Clayey to silty, stony residuum, 0 to greater than 3 m thick.

**CpCb** Limestone lenses mapped by Parker (1968). Clayey residuum, 0-1 m thick.

**Pc** Middle Proterozoic granitic/gneissic rocks, locally intruded with Cacocin Formation dikes and sills. Sandy, micaceous, to clayey residuum, 0 to greater than 10 m thick.

**Explanation of map symbols**

**○** Areas of continuous rock outcrop and areas of high density of rock outcrop, mappable from aerial photographs.

**○** Springs Springs and seeps conspicuous on April 1986 color aerial photographs. Usually at heads of alluvial channels and debris accumulations.

**○** Landslide scar

**○** Surficial unit contact

**—** Bedrock contact

**—** Edge of mapped area

**Mapping methods**

These maps were produced under a cooperative funding agreement with the Department of Natural Resources, Loudoun County, Virginia. Surficial geologic mapping was based on aerial photographic interpretation and limited field mapping. Mapping at field sites helped to establish general landscape models showing correspondences between slope morphologies and underlying surficial units. Small numbers of exposures, lack of subsurface exploration data, and lack of sedimentological and mineralogical analyses limit our ability to define these units.

The final map was prepared using color aerial photographs of Loudoun County (April, 1986, 1:12,000 approximate scale) on a Kern PG-2 stereoplotter. Units were plotted with a pantograph onto mylar topographic bases at 1:12,000 scale and 5 foot contour interval.

Bedrock geology was compiled from unpublished, ongoing USGS mapping by the authors and maps by Gathright and Nystrom (1974), Lee (1979a, b), Nickelson (1956), and Parker (1968).

**References cited**

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Nickelson, R. P., 1956, Geology of the Blue Ridge near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Geologic map of the Blue Ridge from Harpers Ferry West Virginia to Purcellville, Virginia (Plate 1, 1:25,000 scale); Geol. Soc. America Bull., v. 67, p. 239-270.

Parker, P. E., 1968, Geologic investigation of Lincoln and Blumont quadrangles, Virginia: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, Report of Investigations 14, 1:24,000 scale.