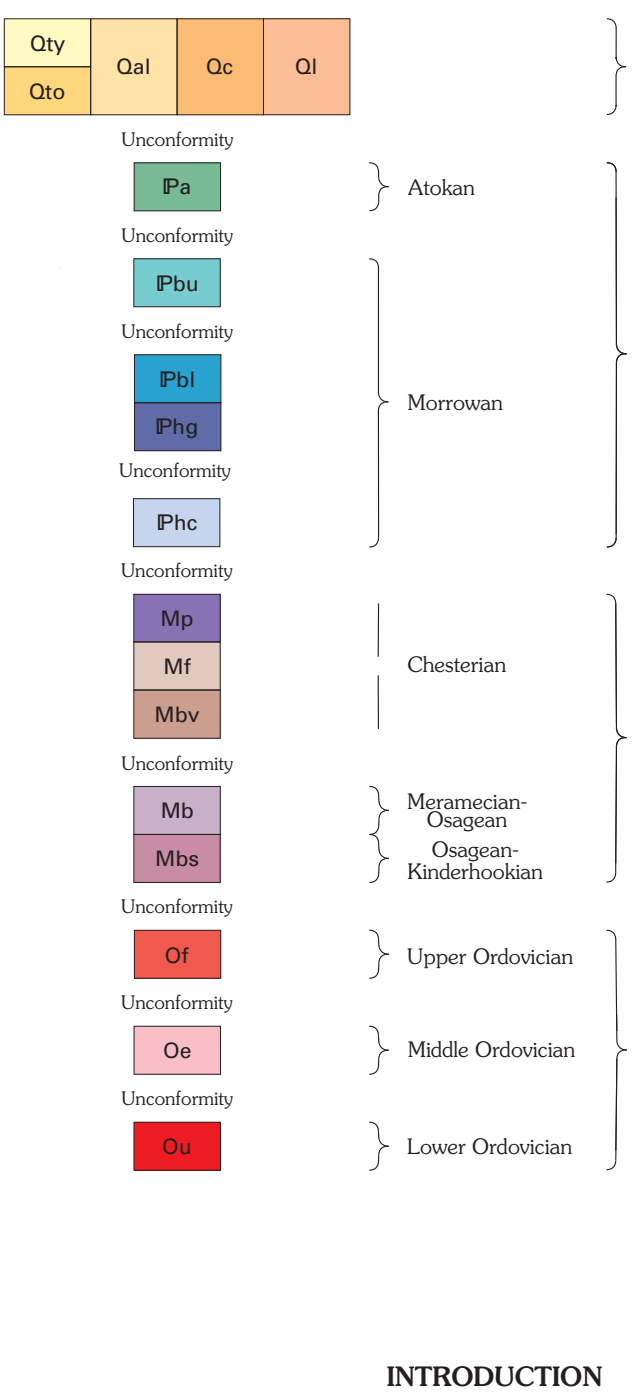


CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



INTRODUCTION

This map summarizes the geology of the Boxley 7.5-minute quadrangle (fig. 1) in the Ozark Plateau region of northern Arkansas. Geologically, the area is in the southern flank of the Ozark dome, an uplift that has the oldest rocks exposed at its center, in Missouri. Physiographically, the Boxley quadrangle is within the Boston Mountains, a high plateau region underlain by Pennsylvanian sandstones and shales (Purdee and Meier, 1916). Valleys of the Buffalo River and its tributaries expose an approximately 1,600-ft-thick sequence of Ordovician, Mississippian, and Pennsylvanian carbonate and clastic sedimentary rocks (fig. 2) that have been mildly deformed by a series of faults and folds. The Buffalo-National River area, which encompasses the Buffalo River and adjacent land that is administered by the National Park Service, extends through the eastern part of the quadrangle.

Mapping for this study was conducted by field inspection of numerous sites and was compiled as a 1:24,000-scale geologic information system (GIS) database. Locations and elevations of sites were determined with the aid of a global positioning satellite receiver and a handheld barometric altimeter that was frequently recalibrated at points of known elevation. Hill shade relief and slope maps derived from a U.S. Geological Survey 10-m digital elevation data set as well as U.S. Geological Survey orthophotographs from 2000 were used to help trace ledge-forming units between field traverses within the Upper Mississippian and Pennsylvanian part of the stratigraphic sequence. Strike and dip of beds were typically measured along stream drainages or at well-exposed ledges. Bed-dipping less than 2° are shown as horizontal. Structure contours, constructed on the top of the Boone Formation and the base of the Boone Formation, are shown as dashed lines. The Boone Formation is a common bed of coarsely and sandstone. The elevations of control points as well as other limiting information for their maximum or minimum elevations.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

- Qtr** Younger terrace and active-channel alluvial deposits (Quaternary)—Unconsolidated sand and gravel of Buffalo River and tributaries. Terrace deposits are principally composed of light-brown fine sand; smooth upper surfaces are about 20 ft above river. Gravel deposits of active channel are composed of subangular to rounded Paleozoic rock clasts of mixed lithology along drainages and are interspersed with bedrock exposures too small to show at map scale. Low-lying parts of deposit subject to periodic flooding. As thick as 20 ft.
- Qto** Older terrace and alluvial deposits (Quaternary)—Unconsolidated gravel and sand deposits adjacent to Buffalo River, found at one locality in northeast map area. Deposits are brown, well-sorted, subangular to rounded Paleozoic sandstone cobbles in brown, silty to sandy matrix about 40 ft above river. Thickness about 10 ft.
- Qal** Alluvial deposits (Quaternary)—Unconsolidated alluvial deposits of Swaden Creek (northeast map area). Light-brown fine sand underlies smooth sand surfaces that are 10 to 15 ft above of creek. Deposits are silty as 15 ft thick. Thickness about 10 ft.
- Qc** Colluvial deposits (Quaternary)—Unconsolidated deposits of subhorizontal to angular blocks as large as 20 ft in diameter, commonly in an orange-brown silty clay matrix. Blocks are mostly derived from the base sandstone of the Mississippian Fayetteville Shale (Mf). Upper parts of alluvial deposits are composed of subangular to rounded Paleozoic rock clasts of mixed lithology along drainages and are interspersed with bedrock exposures too small to show at map scale. Low-lying parts of deposit subject to periodic flooding. As thick as 20 ft.
- Ql** Landslide (Quaternary)—Large slide blocks of limestone, sandstone, and shale derived from the Pennsylvanian Boyd Formation (Pb) through the Mississippian Fayetteville Shale (Mf). Upper parts of alluvial deposits are composed of subangular to rounded Paleozoic rock clasts of mixed lithology along drainages and are interspersed with bedrock exposures too small to show at map scale. Low-lying parts of deposit subject to periodic flooding. As thick as 20 ft.
- Pa** Atoka Formation (Middle Pennsylvanian, Atokan)—Alternating shale, sandstone, and siltstone intervals underlying upper hills of map area. Where exposed, shale throughout unit is buff and dark gray to black. Siltstone is thin bedded with ripple cross lamination. Upper sandstone intervals as thick as 10 ft underlie highest hills in southwestern part of quadrangle and vary from tan, very fine to fine grained, ripple to planar bedded, to white, medium to coarse grained, medium planar bedded to thick crossbedded with sparse white quartz pebbles. Lower sandstone interval (fig. 2A) is about 100 ft thick and is homogeneous tan, fine to medium bedded, fine to very fine grained, and forms prominent topographic ledges. Beds typically ripple trough laminated, and locally turbidated. Base of unit placed in poorly exposed shale interval that forms topographic flat. Thickness as much as 400 ft.
- Pto** Upper part—Dominantly sandstone with interbedded siltstone and shale. Upper part of sequence contains deep to black shale and siltstone beds that form topographic flat interbedded with sandstone beds that form ledges. Upper sandstone beds are commonly extensively laminated, including horizontal, radiating hummocky (locally as long as 3 ft in fig. 3B). Upper sandstone intervals are 5–20 ft thick and vary from orange-brown, fine to coarse grained with local quartz pebbles, and medium to thick planar bedded to crossbedded, to tan or olive, fine to very fine grained, ripple cross-laminated to planar bedded that locally contain concretionary lenses. Base of unit is a crossbedded sandstone as thick as 80 ft that forms prominent cliffs in the central part of area. This basal sandstone is white to light brown, fine to medium grained quartz arenite that has a sharp erosional base and is commonly a composite of several subolar and trough-crossbed sets. Sandstone contains local concentrations of white quartz pebbles and casts of wood fragments. In northwestern and eastern parts of map area, basal interval forms a low prominent cliff exposed of fine- to medium-bedded sandstone interbedded with siltstone and shale. Rocks of upper part of Boyd Formation were originally assigned to Woodrow Formation by Purdee and Meier (1916). Zachry (1977) concluded that basal sandstone was a time equivalent unit with Woodrow Member of Boyd Formation farther west and designated it informally as "middle Boyd sandstone." Thickness is 200–300 ft.

Lower part—Dominantly shale and siltstone with interbedded limestone and thin beds of sandstone. Shale and siltstone are dark gray to black, thin, ripple bedded. Sandstone is tan, very fine to fine grained, thin bedded with ripple marks. Limestone includes medium to thick bedded, ripple bedded, concretionary, with clasts of fossil fragments and subrounded sandstone and siltstone. The Brentwood Limestone Member at the base of formation first mapped is a 5- to 20-ft-thick limestone interval varying from massive gray micritic to red-gray, coarse bedded limestone. Unit is conformable with underlying Hale Formation. Forms moderate to steep slopes and is poorly exposed. Unit ranges from 40 ft thick in north to over 100 ft thick in south.

Hale Formation (Lower Pennsylvanian, Morrowan)—Interbedded sequence of sandstone, siltstone, shale, and thin beds of limestone. Thickness 100–180 ft.

Prairie Grove Member—Brown to reddish-brown, fine to medium grained, thick bedded, calcareous sandstone. Locally contains quartz pebbles at base. Beds are planar or crossbedded, and crossbeds may have been in directional dips. May contain interbeds of reddish-brown coarse biotitic limestone. Weathered sandstone forms rounded surfaces with elliptical conchoidal to subconchoidal fracture. Sandstone is tan to light brown, fine to medium grained, ripple trough laminated, and locally turbidated. Base of unit placed in poorly exposed shale interval that forms topographic flat. Thickness 20–60 ft.

Cane Hill Member—Interbedded sequence of shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Upper part mostly composed of fine to ripple, thin bedded, dark gray shale and siltstone but locally contains ripple, thin bedded, very fine grained sandstone interval as thick as 5 ft. Upper part of unit is poorly exposed and forms gentle to moderately steep slopes. Lower part is a 10- to 20-ft-thick sandstone interval that generally changes downward from olive-brown, very fine grained to fine grained, thin bedded sandstone with ripple cross-lamination or parallel lamination to reddish-brown, medium- to thick-bedded, very fine grained to medium-grained sandstone with rough crossbedding. Lower sandstone locally contains basal conglomerate lenses as thick as 3 ft containing quartz pebbles and subangular to subrounded clasts of sandstone, siltstone, shale, and limestone. Sandstone beds throughout unit locally affected by well-sorted slump and folds. Unit unconformably overlies Pto. Limestone (Mf) and Fayetteville Shale (Mf). Thickness is 80–160 ft.

Pekin Limestone (Upper Mississippian, Chesterian)—Medium- to dark-gray, fine lenticular. Limestone varies from micritic to base to coarse grained and locally calcitic near top. Limestone beds that may contain abundant crinoids, brachiopods, corals, and bryozoan Archimedes. Black fissile shale interbeds as thick as 3 ft are present within limestone part of unit. Contact with Fayetteville Shale (Mf) is conformable, although rarely exposed. Pekin generally outcrops as a prominent ledge or cliff. Thickness as much as 130 ft in south, locally absent in northeast part of quadrangle.

Fayetteville Shale (Upper Mississippian, Chesterian)—Main body composed of black shale with interbeds of sandstone. Tan, calcite-cemented sandstone as thick as 12 ft, representing the Woodbury Limestone Member (Purdee and Meier, 1916), is sparsely exposed within upper 40 ft of unit. Sandstone is very fine grained in medium to thin planar to ripple bedded, and contains parallel laminations. Main body of unit is black, fissile shale that is poorly exposed in low slopes. Lower part of Fayetteville outcrops along stream drainages where it consists of black shale that may contain abundant crinoids, brachiopods, corals, and bryozoan Archimedes. Black fissile shale interbeds as thick as 3 ft are present within limestone part of unit. Contact with Fayetteville Shale (Mf) is conformable, although rarely exposed. Pekin generally outcrops as a prominent ledge or cliff. Thickness as much as 130 ft in south, locally absent in northeast part of quadrangle.

Batesville Sandstone (Upper Mississippian, Chesterian)—Fine grained to very fine grained, light to medium brown, calcite-cemented sandstone with interbedded shale. Upper part of unit in southern map area is a 3- to 5-ft-thick bed of dark-gray fine lenticular with common crinoid fragments. Sandstone of main body of unit present in this to medium planar to hummocky beds that are parallel laminated. Sandstone may contain disseminated pebble fragments that oxidize to reddish spots. Basal limestone (Mf) is locally preserved and consists of angular white chert clasts in gray limestone matrix, 2–4 ft thick. Top of Batesville is a common topographic flat that may host sandstone formed by collapse into dissolution cavities in underlying Boone Formation. Thickness is 5–30 ft.

Boone Formation (Upper to Lower Mississippian)—Limestone and cherty limestone of main body that grade into basal St. Joe Limestone Member (Mf). The Boone Formation is a common bed of coarsely and sandstone. Total thickness is 380–405 ft.

Main body (Upper to Lower Mississippian, Morrowan to Chesterian)—Medium- to thick-bedded, chert-bearing biotitic limestone. Limestone is light to medium gray on fresh surfaces and generally coarsely crystalline with interspersed crinoid nodules. A 1- to 3-ft-thick bed of siltstone is locally present in upper 10 ft of the Boone Formation. Dense, fine grained beds of limestone are present in upper one-third of unit. Beds are typically parallel planar to wavy. Chert is present in upper one-third of unit and laterally within the Boone and is locally greater than 50 percent. Chert is light to medium gray and forms bedded to massive irregular lenses. Chert-rich horizons are generally poorly exposed but produce abundant flake of white, weathered chert on outcrops. Chert is composed of part of unit contains common brachiopod molds. Thickness 310–375 ft.

St. Joe Limestone Member (Lower Mississippian, Osagean to Chesterian)—Thin bedded, biotitic limestone with thickness 3 to 6 nm-wide crinoid fragments in fine matrix. Limestone is commonly pink to red on fresh surfaces due to hematite in matrix, but color and hematite concentrations vary with location. Thin beds are typically wavy in form. Chert nodules are uncommon but, where present, are tabular and reddish. Contact with the underlying main body of the Boone Formation (Mf) is gradational. Middle to lower part of the St. Joe Limestone Member may contain shaly limestone interval. Base of unit is a 0.5- to 1-ft-thick bed of ten sandstone containing phosphate pebbles. Unit only exposed in northeastern map area. Thickness approximately 30–50 ft.

Ferrule Limestone (Upper Ordovician)—Medium- to thick-bedded, coarse-crystalline biotitic limestone. Limestone is light reddish gray to medium gray on fresh surfaces and contains abundant 3- to 10-mm-wide cylindrical to hemispherical crinoid nodules. Unit only exposed in northeastern map area. Thickness 10–30 ft.

Evertown Formation (Middle Ordovician)—Interbedded limestone, dolomite, and sandstone sequence. Upper part of Evertown Formation contains 3- to 20-ft-thick, light- to dark-gray lenticles of limestone and dolomite that are interbedded with sandstone. Directly below contact with Ferrule Limestone (Ofr) exposed along Highway 43 (NE corner of sec. 5, T. 15 N., R. 23 W.) medium gray, fine-crystalline dolomite contains light gray chert lenses that are uncommon elsewhere in formation. Chert nodules of unit are typically finely crystalline and sparsely fossiliferous, and commonly display irregular lamination. Sandstone is quartz arenite with well-sorted, rounded, and fine to medium grained grains. Sandstone is present in medium to thick planar beds and a light tan to white and cemented by dolomite and (or) calcite. As much as 40 ft of upper Evertown Formation is exposed along Whiskey Creek in northeast part of quadrangle, but unit is about 300 ft thick to the northeast in Ponce and Madison Counties (Hudson and Meier, 2003).

Lower Ordovician rocks, undivided—Sedimentary rocks shown on cross section only.

STRATIGRAPHY

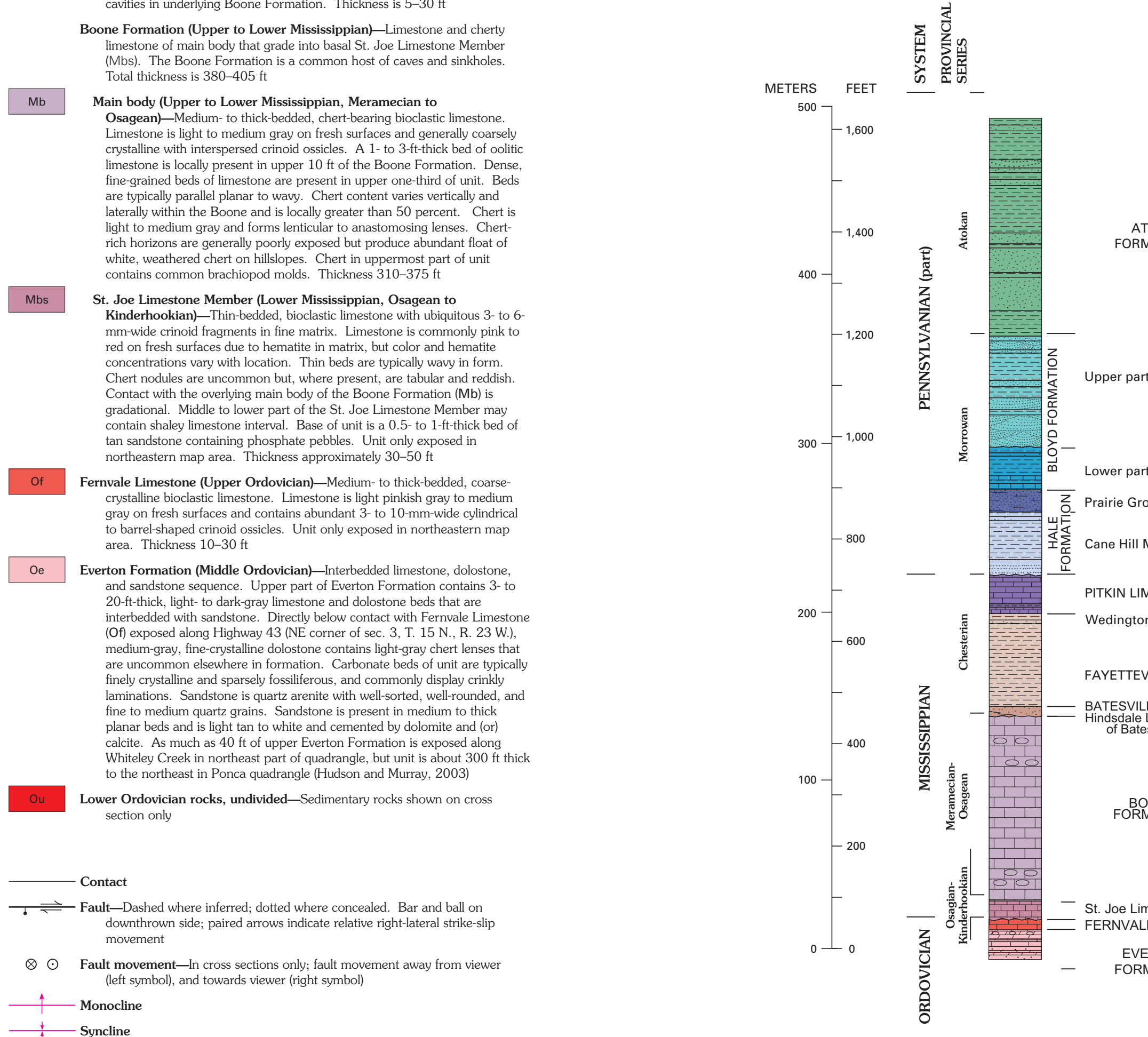
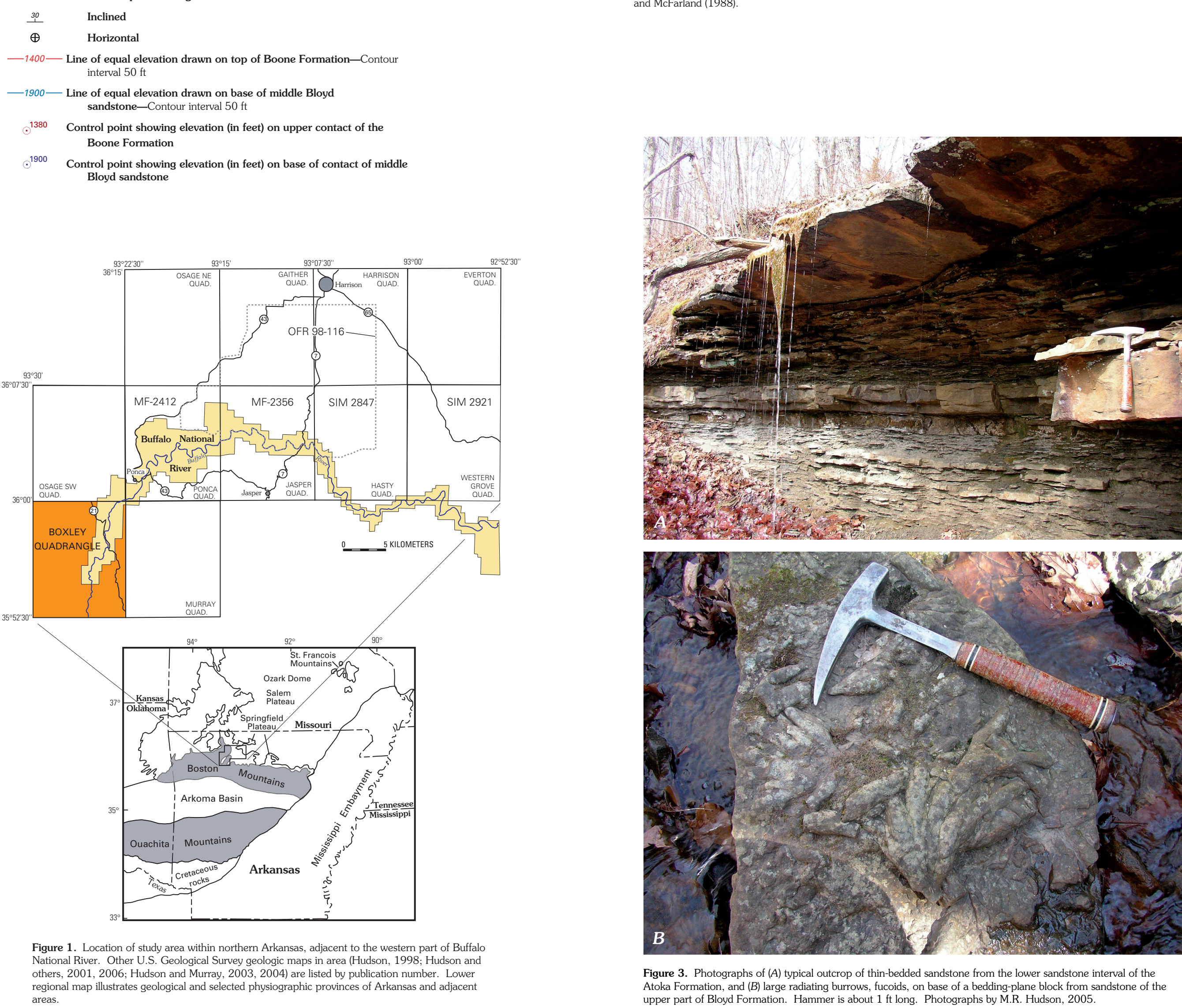


Figure 2. Stratigraphic column of Paleozoic rocks in the map area. Provincial series are from Purdee and Meier (1916) and McFarland (1988).



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE BOXLEY QUADRANGLE, NEWTON AND MADISON COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

By Mark R. Hudson and Kenzie J. Turner, 2007

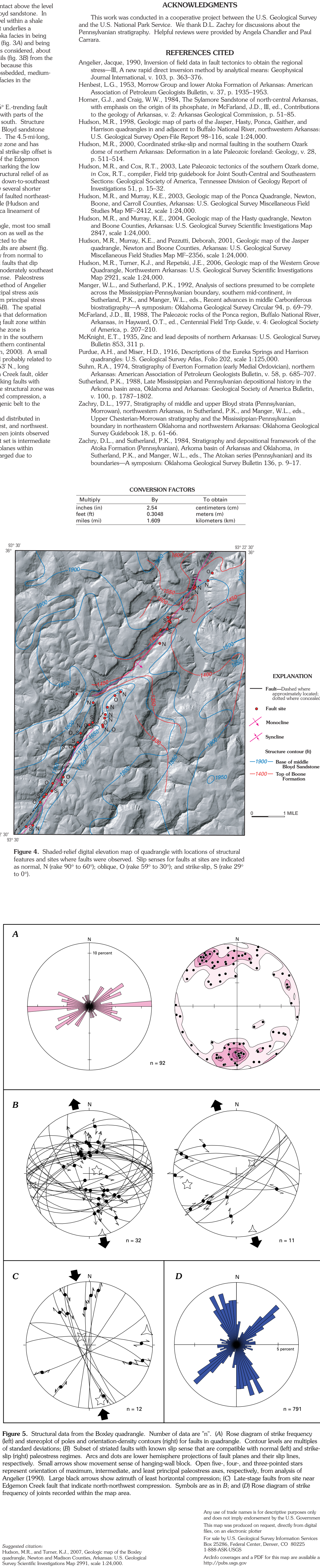


Figure 5. Structural data from the Boxley quadrangle. Number of data are "n". (A) Rose diagram of strike frequency (left) and stereonet of poles and orientation-density contours (right) for faults in quadrangle. Contour levels are multiples of standard deviations. (B) Subsets of striated faults with known slip sense that are compatible with normal (left) and strike-slip (right) paleotectonic regimes. Area and data are lower hemisphere projections of fault planes and their slip lines, respectively. Small arrows show movement sense of hanging wall block. Open line, face, and three pointed stars represent orientation of maximum, intermediate, and least principal paleotectonic axes, respectively, from analysis of Edgemoor Creek fault that indicate north-northeast compression. (C) Late-stage faults from near Edgemoor Creek fault that indicate north-northeast compression. Symbols are as in (B) and (D). Rose diagram of strike frequency of joints recorded within the map area.