SELECTED FOSSIL COLLECTING LOCATIONS IN DELAWARE

1. Cretaceous fossils - found all along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in the spoil dumps and occasionally in Canal banks.

2. Miocene fossils - found poorly preserved at Coursey and Killen Ponds in banks at water level.

3. Pleistocene marine fossils - found in particular abundance where Highway 113 crosses Pepper Creek at Dagsboro.

4. Pleistocene plant impressions - found in State sand and gravel pit just south of Middletown on Highway 896.

5. Silicified wood - found in Odessa and Smyrna areas in base of gravel pits and occasionally in plowed fields.

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The collecting of minerals in Delaware is not nearly as fruitful as collecting fossils. Accordingly, most collectors go to adjacent Pennsylvania.

However, there are some places of interest to the mineral collector in Delaware. Sand and gravel pits, which abound in the Coastal Plain, frequently have interesting pebbles brought into Delaware as glacial outwash within the last million years. These are commonly black, tan, or reddish cherts, sometimes containing Paleozoic fossils.

Glaucnite (greensand) is found in old pits in the Odessa-Middletown area. Greensand is a source of potash and has potential use in the cleaning of waste waters.

Small garnets are found in rocks of the Piedmont, particularly in Wooddale Quarry, near Hoopes Reservoir.

White kaolin clay in this area was formerly used for fine china. The clay can be seen in pits between Hockessin and Yorklyn.

Serpentinite is exposed on Road 269 on the west shore of Hoopes Reservoir near Mt. Cuba.

Limonite, goethite and other iron minerals are found in Pleistocene gravel pits in the Coastal Plain, and in weathered gabbro on Iron and Chestnut Hills.

Feldspars and large mica books are found in Piedmont pegmatite dikes.