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Molybdenum-(Copper)

Laura

Laura Mines Ltd.

By A. Sutherland Brown

(55° 127° N.W.) This property is held by Laura Mines Ltd.,

Vancouver; , president. Exploration is managed by MacDonald Consultants Ltd. under the overall supervision of Earle D. Dodson. Patrick Henry was in charge on the property which is 20 miles north of Hazelton. The porphyry plug that is the centre of mineralization is on the western flank of Mount Thomlinson between McCutcheon and Sterritt Creeks between 4,000 and 4,700 feet. The property consists of 187 located claims in five groups. The porphyry body is held by the Bear 1 to 26 claims. The ground was first staked in 1960 as the Mike group by Kennco Explorations, (Western) Limited as the result of a follow up on geochemical copper and molybdenum anomalies. It was dropped after preliminary examination and restaked by E. and H. Simpson of Hazelton in 1965. The property was acquired by Laura Mines Ltd. in 1967. Most exploration was conducted in 1968 with a detailed soil survey, 10,000 feet of BQ diamond drilling in 17 holes, 28,600 feet of trenching, and 3 miles of access road.

Geology

The Laura porphyry plug is a satellite of a group of small plutons in the core of Mount Thomlinson. These epizonal plutons are outriders in a zone of small plutons that mark the northern flank of the Skeena Arch. In this zone the thick sequence of clastic sediments of the Bowser Group are punctured by isolated intrusions that mark the zone of transition from the Bowser Basin proper to the frayed, faulted, and digitated southern margin. The Bowser Group in the vicinity of the Laura pluton originally consisted mainly

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of lithic sandstones and siltstones. These have been moderately compressed into northwesterly trending folds. The Laura plug occurs in the western flank of a major anticline but locally the attitudes are discordant and where bedding can be determined the beds dip commonly northeasterly. Surrounding the plug the volcanic sandstones have been hornfelsed in an irregular halo up to 1,500 feet wide characterized by the growth of new felted purply brown biotite. Near the porphyry plug this has an intense fracture stockwork.

The Laura pluton is an irregular but fairly simple porphyry plug consisting of two nearly identical phases. Figure—is a map based partly on company maps. Considerable interpretation is necessary in projecting dyke-like masses and the contact of the phases because surface exposure is only fair and the phases are very similar. The earlier phase (P₁) is the most irregular for it combines elements of lineal and arcuate dyke systems with central intrusion. The later phase (P₂) is a central subcircular plug concentric with the first.

Contacts between the two phases appear gradational over a short distance but this may be more apparent than real because of their great similarity.

In hand specimen P₁ is an obvious porphyry; P₂ commonly appears more granitoid.

This results partly because P₂ is more crowded with phenocrysts. Both are rusty weathering, mid grey rocks with prominent plagioclase, hornblende, and scattered hexagonal biotite books.

P₂ has intruded the P₁ for it has hornfelsed adjacent parts, indicated by conversion of original hornblende into a felted mass of brown biotite, or more restrictedly fine acicular actinolite.

Microscopy

Both phases of the Laura pluton are composed of rocks that in classification straddle the quartz monzonite-granodiorite boundary in that the potassium feldspar content varies narrowly on either side of one-third of the total feldspar. The average compositions of both are just within the granodiorite field. The following table gives estimated modes in volume per cent based on comparison charts for four and six fresh specimens respectively.

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hit	P ₁		P ₂		
	Average	Range	Average	Range	
Phenocryst	7/				
Plagioclase	30.25	20-41	39.3	30-51	
Composition	An ₄₃₋₂₀		An ₄₄₋₂₅		
Quartz	.25	0-1	-	-	
Hornblende	8	5-12	8	7-10	
Biotite	1.4	.5-3	0.5	0-2	
Ores	1.4	.5-2	0.5	0-2	
Total					
Plagioclase	44.4	37-57	44.3	36-55	
Potassium feldspar	20	10-26	21.3	16-25	
Quartz	20.4	17-24	20.3	15-25	
Hornblende and biotite	13.2	11.5-17	13.1	11-16.5	
Ores	1.8	.5-4	1	0-2	

The chief differences evident microscopically between the two phases are a small difference in percentage of plagioclase phenocrysts and a variation in grain size of the matrices. In P₁ the matrix is fine (average about 0.03 millimetre) but in P₂ is somewhat coarser (average about 0.1 millimetre). Also rare quartz phenocrysts are present in P₁ but absent in P₂. Most quartz and all potassium feldspar is confined to the matrix in both. The plagioclase phenocrysts which form such a prominent part of the rocks are chunky crystals mostly 1 millimetre to 4 millimetres long. They are all intensely oscillatory zoned over quite a wide range in composition from about An₄₅ to An₂₀. Most larger crystals show five or six major cycles over a large part of the total range. Many show the coarse (accidental attachment in melt during flow) at intermediate stages of the oscillatory zonal growth stage. Plagioclase in the matrix shows only one normal zonation. Hornblende crystals are characteristically long diamond-shaped prisms with ragged terminations. Biotite occurs in scattered large hexagonal books. Sphene and apatite are the commonest accessory minerals and together form one-tenth to one-quarter of 1 per cent of the rock. Disseminated

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opaque minerals are chiefly pyrrhotite, but may be pyrite.

Alteration

Hydrothermal alteration is rather erratically distributed. In the drill core from most holes there is an alternation of fresh and altered rock, mostly kaolinized (and carbonate) or sericite with pyrite and quartz. Rarely there is some potassium feldspar alteration or intense silicification. The altered zones appear to be oriented relatively flatly but with the widely spaced vertical drill holes it is difficult to be sure. Intense sericite zones appeared most closely associated with mineralization.

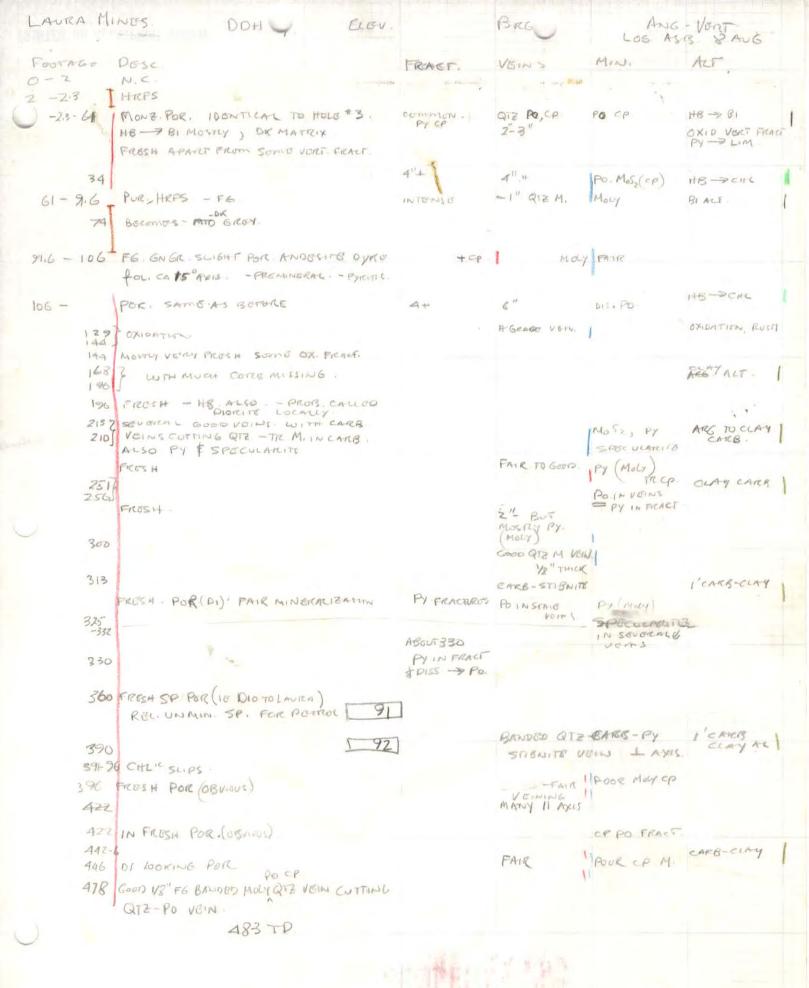
Disseminated pyrite and pyrrhotite appear to be rather erratically distributed also but with a tendency to pyrrhotite with depth and to pyrite in hydrothermally altered rocks.

Mineralization

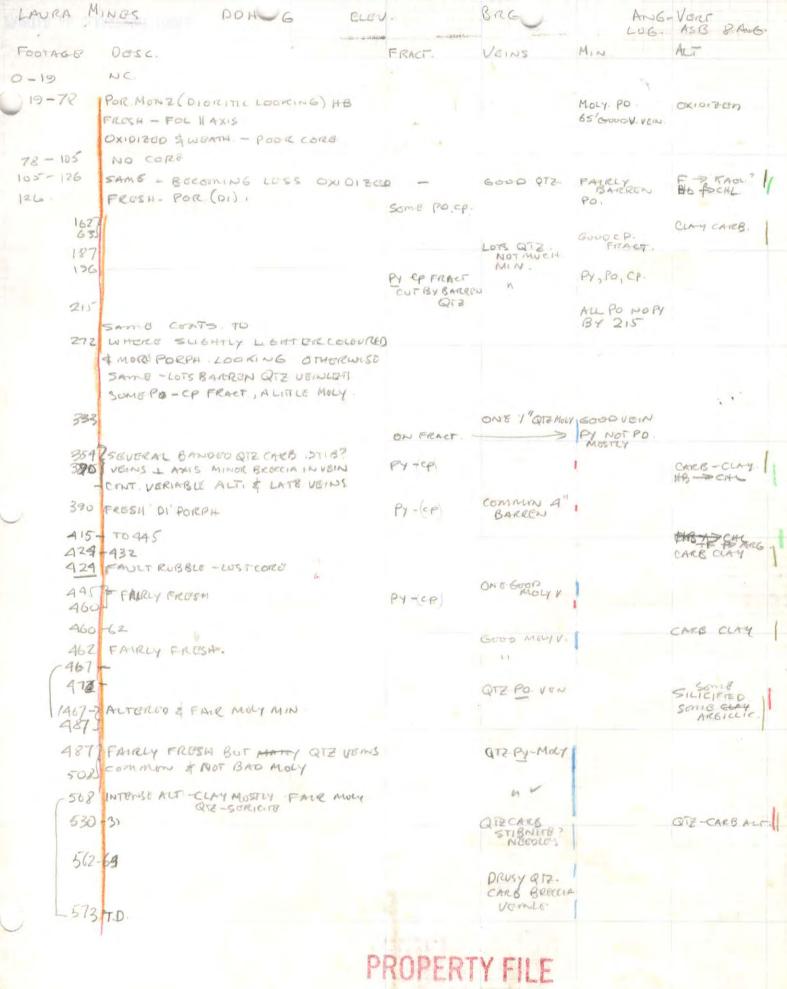
Diamond drilling has established that molybdenum and minor copper mineralization is widely distributed within the pluton with a tendency to better grades toward the periphery. The detailed distribution is, like the alteration, fairly erratic. Molybdenite and chalcopyrite occur in quartz veinlets and as dry fractures in a stockwork. Four stages of fracturing and veining are evident:

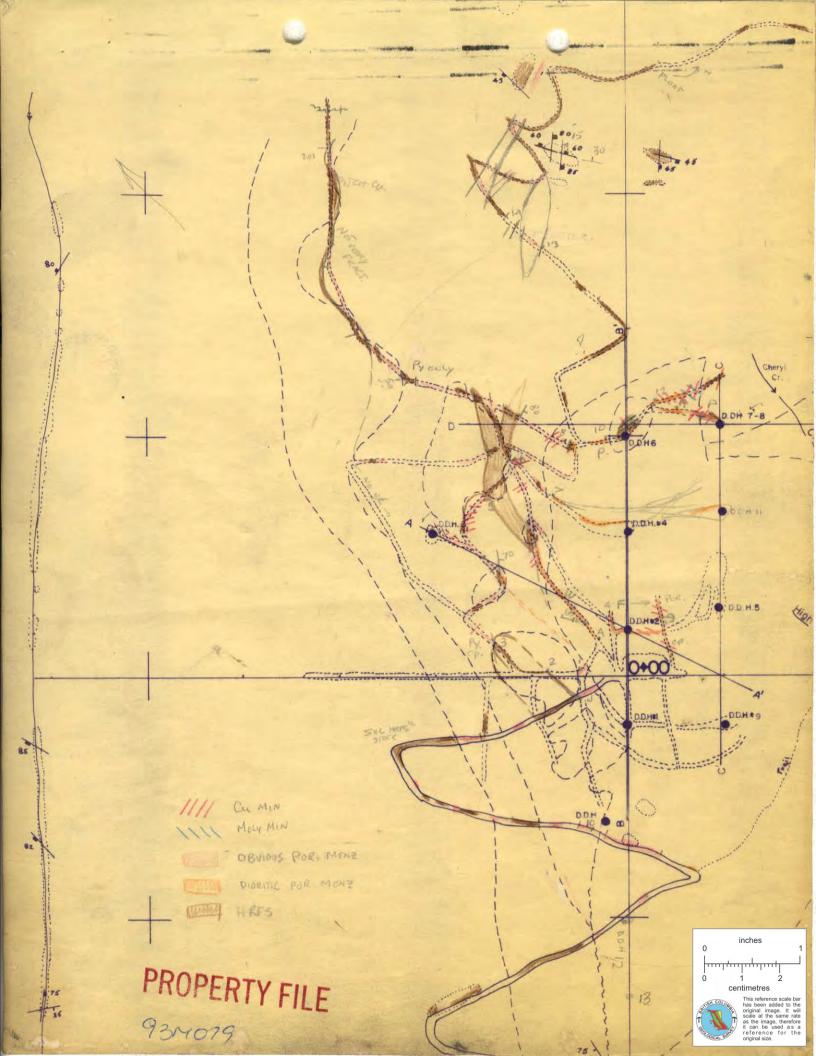
- (1) Dry pyrite fractures with traces of chalcopyrite and amphibole.
- (2) Quartz-pyrite-molybdenite stockwork with chief orientations steeply dipping.
- (3) Quartz-pyrite.
- (4) Quartz-carbonate bonded veins with vuggy openings and minor pyrite, sphalerite, specularite, arsenopyrite, and a hair-like stibnite or bismuthinite--oriented chiefly near horizontally.

The company has not announced the discovery of any mineable reserves.

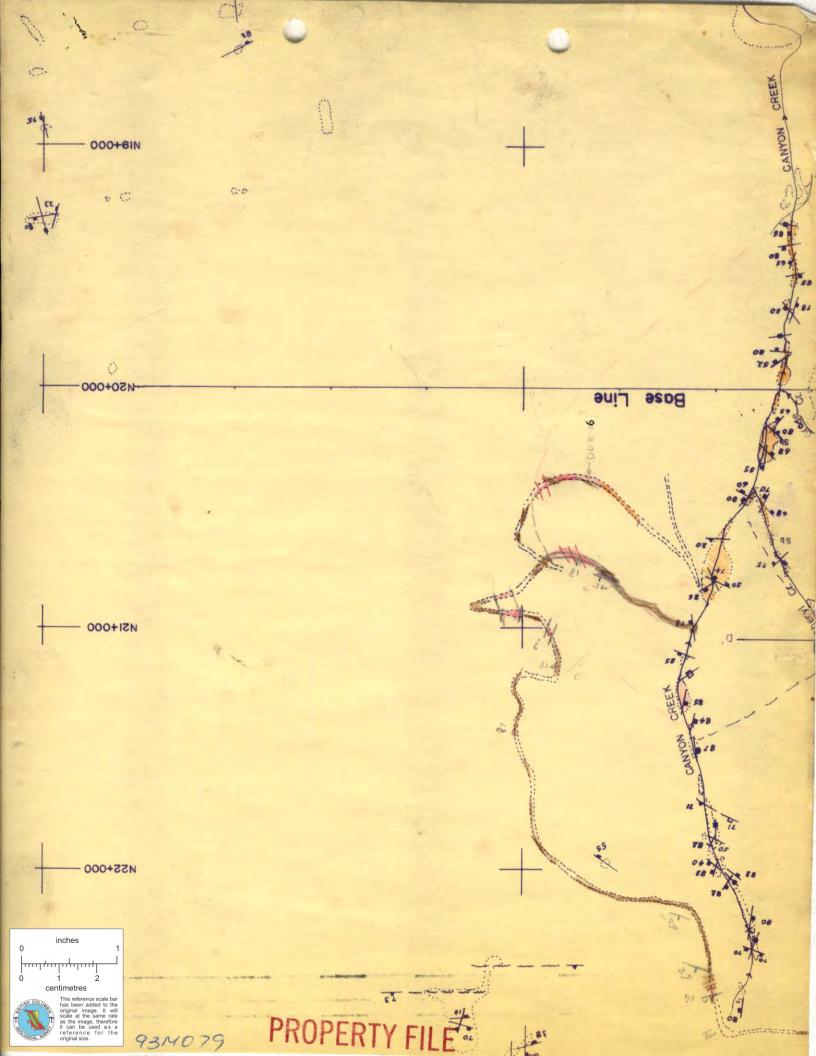


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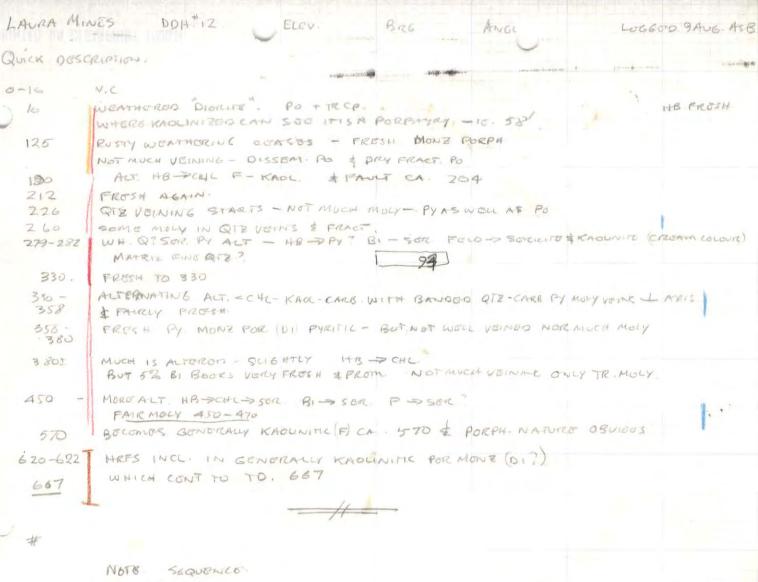




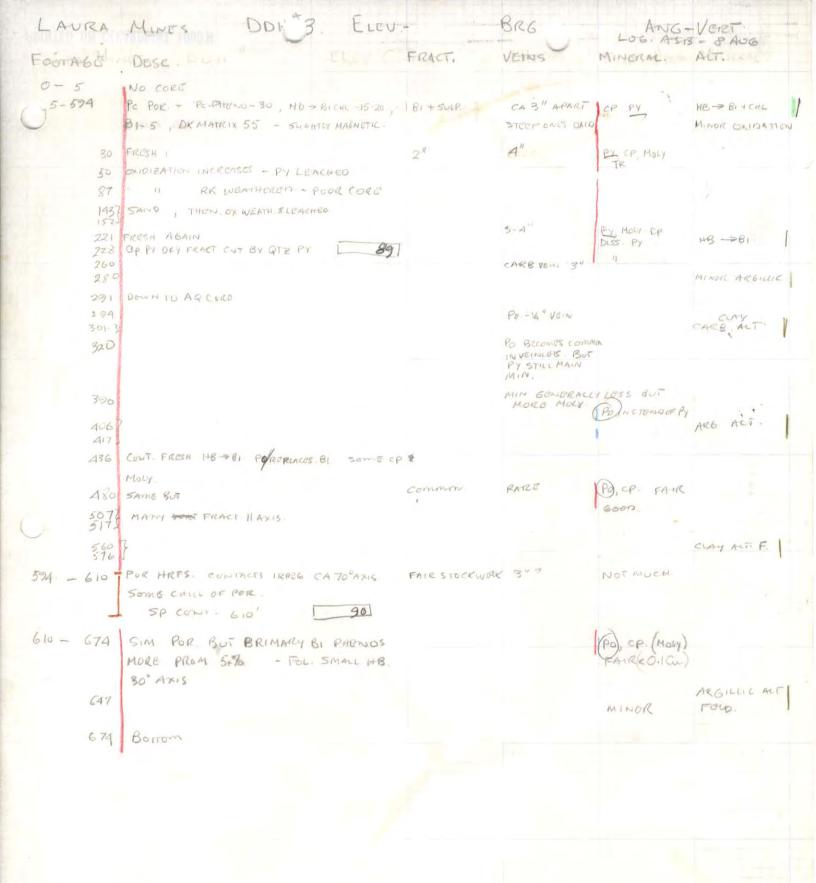








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- (2) QTZ PY MOLY STOCK. MAIN OKIGNITATION VERTA
- (3) QTE (DY) BARREN
- (4) QTZ-CARB BANDOD VEINS & (HORIZ.) WITH DUGS WATER BRETCIA. MINOR MIN. PY(PO) SPHAL? SPECULARITE, ARSONOPY. STIBNITE, BISMUTHINITE HATELIKO XLS.



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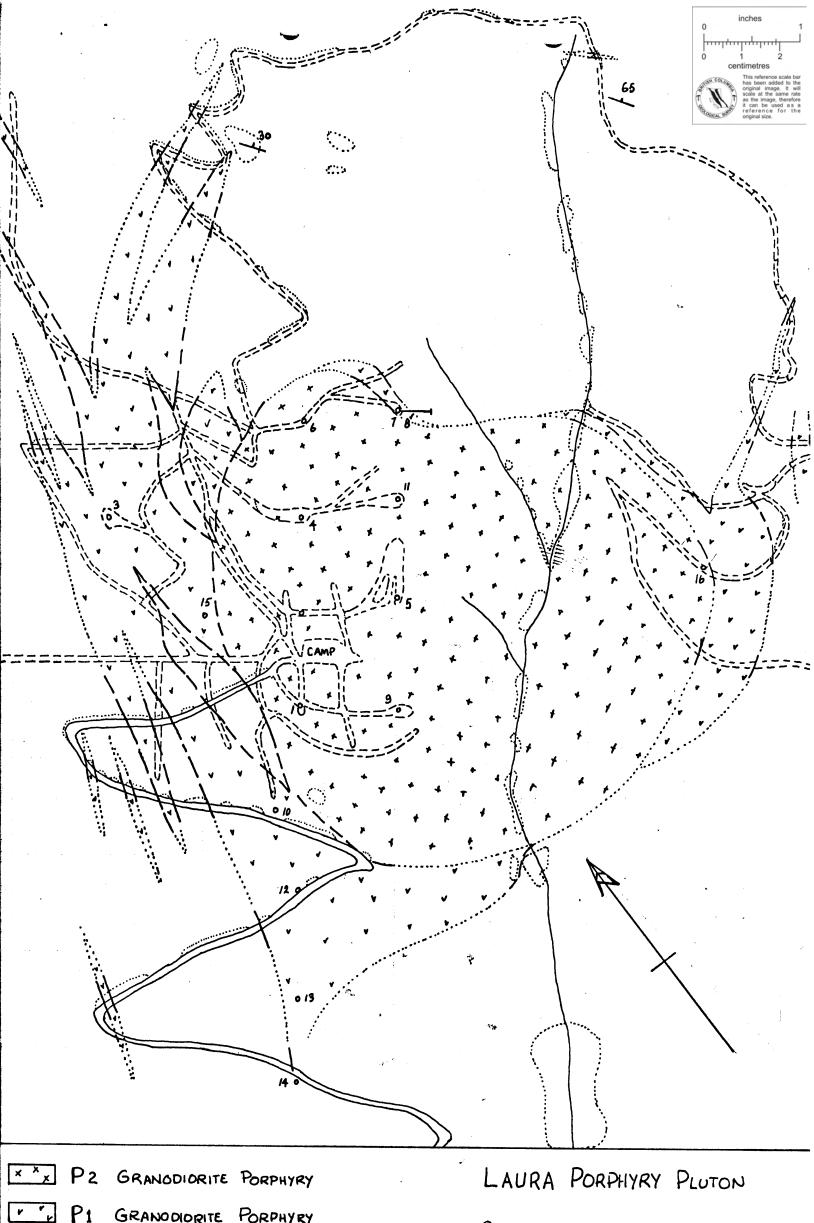
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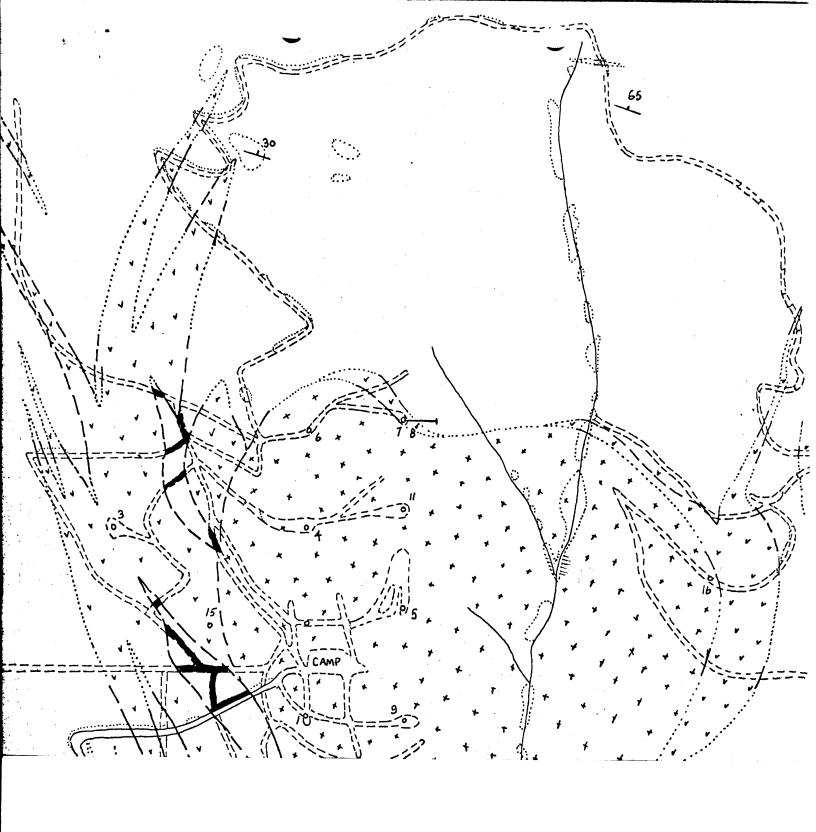


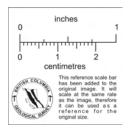
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