

FOREWORD

The Middletown Pegmatite District, centered at Middle Haddam, lies within the Eastern Highland Region of Connecticut on both sides of the Connecticut River. In Hartford and Middlesex Counties roughly from Glastonbury south to East Haddam and from East Hampton west to Middletown this area contains dozens of quarries, mines and prospects which have produced beryl, feldspar, mica and other minerals in commercial quantities.

The instructions are oriented to entering the area from the north via Routes 2-17 at Exit 88 on Route 15, the Wilbur Cross Highway, just before the Charter Oak Bridge in Hartford. The locations are arranged as nearly as possible in an orderly sequence from Glastonbury south to Portland, Cobalt, Haddam Neck and East Hampton, crossing the Connecticut River at East Haddam and proceeding north on old Route 9 through Haddam to Middletown, again crossing the River on Route 6A to Portland and Route 17, then north on Route 17 toward the starting point. Mileages are as accurate as possible but in some cases only approximate.

This pamphlet is neither an exhaustive list of locations nor of minerals. Its intent is to increase the collector's appreciation of this area by offering a variety of locations with instructions for finding them and lists of some minerals which may be found there. No one will find all of the listed minerals but everyone should find some and still others will find minerals not on these lists.

Bring someone with you, ask permission whenever possible, respect the owners' property, closing gates and being especially careful in parking, and, above all, avoid injuring yourself or others.

GOOD HUNTING

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BOSTON MINERAL CLUB

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SPINELLI SAMARSKITE PROSPECT
Glastonbury

Entering the area from the north on Route 15 (the Wilbur Cross Highway) take the combined Routes 2 and 17 just before the Charter Oak Bridge in Hartford. Follow this route south to the point where old Route 2 branches in a southeasterly direction. About 3 miles southeast on the right side of Route 2 at the edge of a power line is the Spinelli Samarskite Prospect. The dumps of this small prospect are at present within sight of the highway. Park on the opposite side of the road. No permission needed as far as is known.

While the pegmatite contains little but red feldspar and quartz, massive specimens of samarskite measuring as much as four inches across and smaller good xls of samarskite have been found here. It has been the most important source of this mineral in New England and small xls and masses may still be found. Garnet, muscovite and tourmaline also reported.

HOWE QUARRY
Glastonbury

About 2.4 miles south of South Glastonbury on Route 17 is a large white house on the east side of the highway with the name "D. Andrews" on the mailbox. Permission to enter the Howe Quarry (sometimes called the "Old Andrews" Quarry) may be obtained here. A poorly graded dirt road leads east from the house between two barns, past an occupied house, right at the first turn and right at every choice until it finally curves uphill to the left. A concrete structure can be seen at the narrow entrance to the water-filled quarry.

This quarry is interesting chiefly for its great size and as an example of a once large feldspar operation. It is now a long, water-filled pit with very steep stained sides, and numerous large dumps scattered throughout the woods. Other than the common pegmatite minerals, molybdenite and ferrimolybdenite have been reported from the Howe Quarry.

HOLLISTER QUARRY
Glastonbury

The Hollister Quarry is NOT easily accessible. Taking the road leading between the barns on the Andrews property proceed straight at the first turn (the Howe Quarry is to the right). The road is little more than a trail, in places overgrown and, at best, passable only on foot. The quarry is about a mile from the highway and there are other prospect pits along the way. No permission needed as far as is known but one might ask for information at the Andrews house.

Fine large spessartite garnet xls and excellent microlite xls may reward the collector hardy enough to find the Hollister Quarry. Some other minerals reported: beryl, cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, gahnite, graphic granite, lepidolite, muscovite, quartz and tourmaline.

HALE-ANDREWS QUARRIES
Portland

Three miles south of South Glastonbury (.6 mi. beyond the Andrews house or .25 mi. south of the Glastonbury-Portland town line) turn left on Isinglass Hill Road .2 mile to mine road on the right. This leads first to the Andrews Quarry with dumps directly across the road from the narrow entrance, then to a house and parking area at the end of the road. The large Hale Quarry, a working operation, is downnan incline to the right. Ask at the house for permission to enter the Hale Quarry and for information on entering the Andrews Quarry.

The Andrews Quarry is noted mostly for its radioactive minerals: autunite, columbite, cyrtolite, monazite, and uraninite. Also reported are apatite, beryl, garnet, rose quartz and muscovite.

The Hale Quarry, although not as productive in specimens, is interesting as an example of a large working feldspar quarry. However, this location has produced such minerals as ferri-molybdate, hyalite, large pyrolusite dendrites, pyrrhotite, spessartite, uraninite and uranophane.

CASE QUARRIES
Portland

Continuing east on Isinglass Hill Road for .6 mile beyond the Hale-Andrews Mine Road, turn right on Thompson Hill Road .8 mi. to Cotton Hill Road. Turn left on Cotton Hill Road .4 mile to a power line. Park here. Walk across a swampy area and to the top of the hill along the power line. The first Case Quarry is on the west side of the power line between the second and third set of poles. There are two other quarries. One is 100 feet NW of the first, the other about 300 feet north of the first. Apparently no permission is needed.

Look for the bismuth minerals - bismite, bismuthinite and bismutite. The first mine dump is the best place to dig for these. The second dump is best for beryl xls in matrix. Other minerals reported are albite, almandite, apatite (white xls), autunite, biotite, chalcocopyrite, columbite, cyrtolite, goethite, microcline, muscovite, spessartite, torbernite and tourmaline.

STRICKLAND-SCHOONMAKER QUARRIES
Portland

.5 mile east from the power line on Cotton Hill Road, turn right at Old Marlborough Road (Old Marlborough Rd. becomes Rose Hill Rd. and then Collins Hill Rd. Regard these 3 as one road.) Continue about 2.5 miles to the intersection of Collins Hill Rd. and Bartlett Street Extension. On the left side of Collins Hill Rd. opposite Bartlett St. Ext. a mine road leads steeply uphill. The mine road is passable to some cars but most are better parked at the foot of the hill along Collins Hill Rd. The property has been posted but none has been barred from entering as yet. Apparently no permission needed.

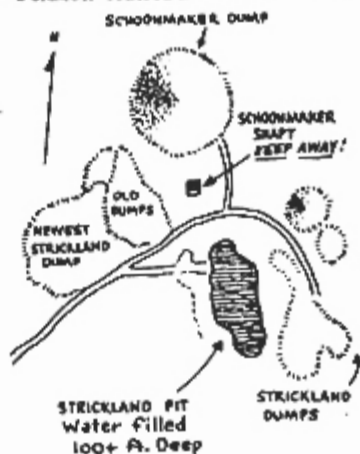
(Alternate instructions from Route 17. South .6 mile from the intersection of Routes 17 and 17A bear left .3 mile to Bartlett St. Ext. then .6 mile east to intersection at Collins Hill Rd. Mine Road directly opposite.)

This is one of New England's classic mineral locations. Over 90 species have been reported from the quarries and the adjacent extensive dumps. It is an excellent hunting ground for micromounts of many of the rarer minerals.

STRICKLAND-SCHOONMAKER QUARRIES
(continued)

Some of the more common minerals are listed here:

actinolite
albite
almandite
autunite
beryl
biotite
calcite
chalcopyrite
columbite
cookeite
fluorite
hornblende
hyalite
lepidolite
limonite
manganapatite
microcline
muscovite
orthoclase
pinite
pyrite
quartz
spodumene
tourmaline



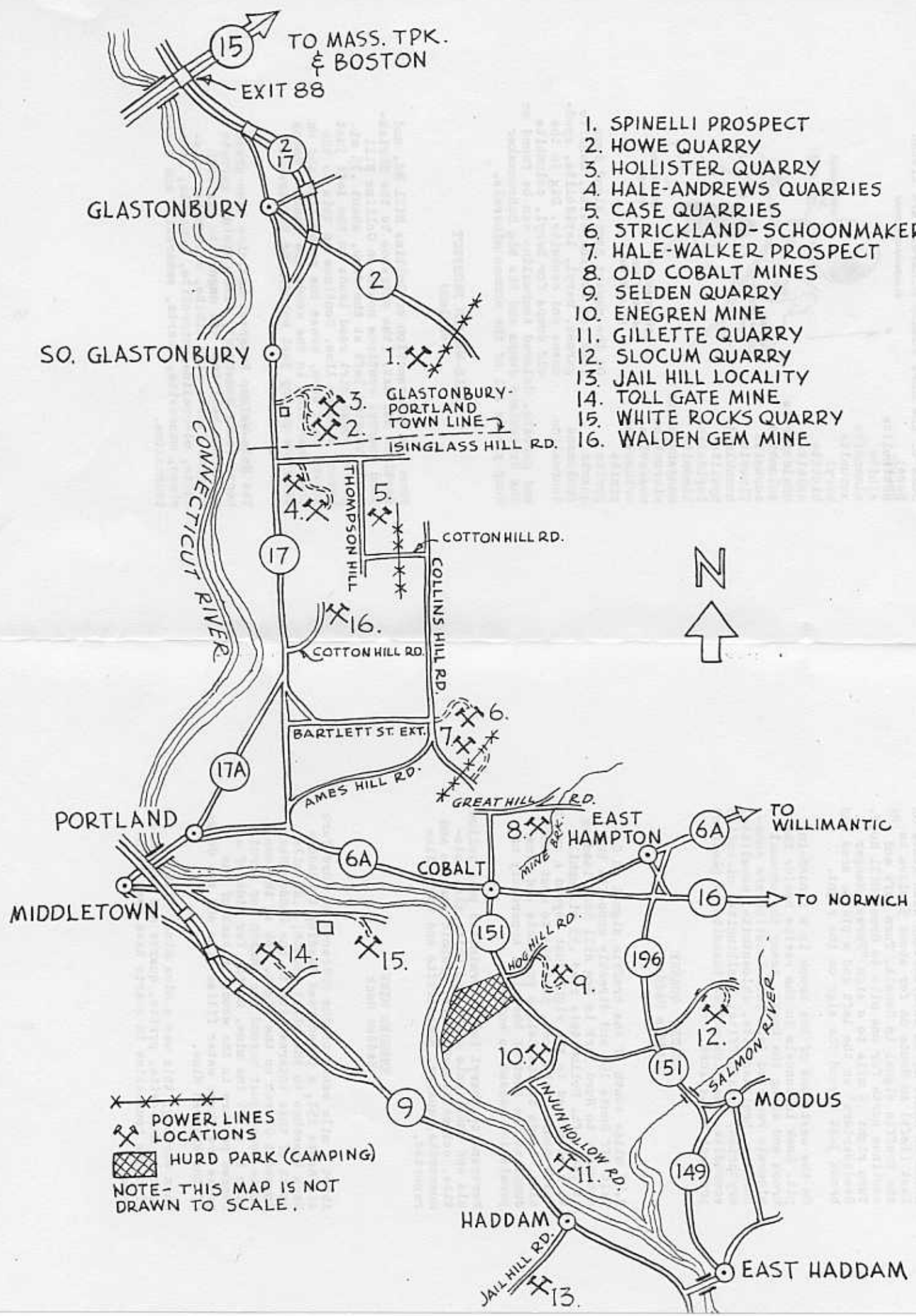
On the newest Strickland dump look for manganapatite, massive garnet, beryl, lepidolite, spodumene and cookeite. Dig in the old dumps for beryl, columbite and garnets. Colored tourmaline can be found on the Strickland dumps and the big Schoonmaker dump yields all of the common minerals.


HALE-WALKER PROSPECT
Portland

From the intersection of Collins Hill Rd. and Bartlett St. Ext. (the entrance to the Strickland Quarry) continue south on Collins Hill Road, bearing left at the fork, about .75 mi. A very rough dirt road leads to the left just beyond a power line. Continue on this to the second left turn, cross the power line and on the other side in the woods are shallow dumps with the quarry just beyond. No permission needed.

The Hale-Walker Prospect has nice blue-green beryl (some gemstock), black stained garnets up to one half inch and magnetite xls with stepped faces. Also albite, columbite, malachite, microcline, microlite, monazite, moonstone, muscovite, quartz, samarskite and black tourmaline.

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2. HOWE QUARRY
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4. HALE-ANDREWS QUARRIES
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11. GILLETTE QUARRY
12. SLOCUM QUARRY
13. JAIL HILL LOCALITY
14. TOLL GATE MINE
15. WHITE ROCKS QUARRY
16. WALDEN GEM MINE



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 POWER LINES
 LOCATIONS

 HURD PARK (CAMPING)
 NOTE - THIS MAP IS NOT
 DRAWN TO SCALE.

OLD COBALT MINES
Cobalt

South on Route 17 to intersection with Route 6A East (left) on Route 6A for about 5 miles to the traffic signal in Cobalt. Turn left and continue north for one mile to Great Hill Road. Turn right .5 mile to a sign "Forest Ranger Headquarters" on the left and a picnic area and brook just beyond the sign on the right.

On the west bank of the brook is a fenced-in pit. Look in tunnels in the ravine beside the brook and along the banks. Among the unusual minerals reported from this location are annabergite, breithauptite, chloanthite, cobaltite, erythrite, gersdorffite, loellingite, niccolite, scorodite, smaltite and smithsonite. A pleasant prospect to explore.

SELDEN QUARRY
Middle Haddam

2.45 miles south of the traffic signal in Cobalt off Route 151 and directly opposite the entrance to Hurd Park is Hog Hill Road leading to the left. Follow this road .35 mi. uphill to a mine road to the right just beyond a small white house. This road, passable to most vehicles, leads to the Selden prospects and mine dumps at the foot of the hill. Apparently no permission needed to enter.

Bertrandite, beryl (well terminated pale yellow xls and small pale green and white xls), biotite, columbite-tantalite, graphic granite and muscovite, quartz, spessartite and tourmaline reported.

ENEGREN MINE
Haddam Neck

About 1 mile south of the entrance to Hurd Park off Route 151, a paved road leading to Haddam Neck branches to the right (south). .25 mile south of this intersection is the Haddam Neck Covenant Church on the right. Ask at the small white house just beyond the church for permission to visit the mine. On the far side of a fenced pasture in the woods in back of the house are three water filled pits and the dumps of the Enegren Mine.

When working, this was a mica mine. Albite, garnet, muscovite, pyrite, quartz and good xls of black tourmaline in quartz have been found here.

GILLETTE QUARRY
Haddam Neck

From the intersection of Routes 6A and 151 at the traffic signal in Cobalt take Route 151 south for about 3.5 miles (1 mi. beyond entrance to Hurd Park) turn right onto paved road toward Haddam Neck. (This is the road to the Enegren Mine.) Continue 1.7 miles to Injun Hollow Road on the left. Follow Injun Hollow Road 1 mile to a house on the right. The quarry is in back of the house and the dumps extend well along the river bank.

This location is often closed to collectors. Ask for permission at the second house from the corner of Injun Hollow Road. If permission is granted, a fee may be charged.

The Gillette Quarry, a very well known and productive location, has in turn been operated for feldspar, gem tourmaline and mica and feldspar together. Among the especially fine specimens found here are red fluorite, microlite, bicolored and gemmy tourmalines and morganite beryl. Other minerals include albite, almandite, pink and green beryl, biotite, cassiterite, columbite, cookeite, fluorapatite, graphite, gypsum, lepidolite, limonite, magnetite, microcline, pink muscovite, orthoclase, pyrite, pyrolusite, quartz, scheelite, sillimanite, spodumene and uraninite.

SLOCUM QUARRY
East Hampton

Follow Route 151 south from Cobalt to its intersection with Route 196, turn left on Route 196 .2 mile to a partially paved road on the right leading through Camp Ramah. Continue 1.1 miles to house on the right just before the second bridge. The quarry road leads through a gate to the left of the house about .25 mile to the quarry on top of the hill. This road may be passable to vehicles in dry weather. An entry fee is charged. Ask permission and pay fee at the house.

This quarry is famous for its gem quality gold en beryl xls and is represented in many museum collections . Other minerals reported are: albite, autunite, green and blue beryl, bertrandite, biotite, columbite, cyrtolite, pink fluorapatite, fluorite, grossular, microcline, microlite, muscovite, pyrochlore, quartz, scapolite, scheelite, spessartite, and good doubly terminated black tourmaline xls.

JAIL HILL LOCALITY
Haddam

Follow Route 151 south to Route 149, turn right on Route 149 and continue into East Haddam. Cross the Connecticut River at East Haddam, turn right at the traffic signal at Route 9 and continue about 5 miles north to Haddam. The Jail, an unmistakable dark gray stone building, is on the left. Just south of the Jail, turn left on Jail Hill Road and continue to the top of the hill. Just before reaching a brown house on the left is a narrow grassy area. A stand of pine trees can be seen on the right. On the far side of the grassy area a small prospect is visible from the road. No permission needed.

This small cut is known for its manganese minerals including rhodonite, manganite and pyrolusite. Recently large translucent masses of spessartite garnet suitable for cutting have been discovered. Quartz and manganapatite are associated with the garnet. Almost all of the material is massive.



TOLLGATE MINE
Middletown

About 6.7 miles north of the Haddam Jail on old Route 9 make a very sharp right turn onto paved road. Continue about 450 feet and left onto a mine road leading to the Tollgate Mine.

Like most of the other locations in this area the Tollgate Mine was once worked for mica and feldspar. Some minerals found here are apatite, autunite, bertrandite, beryl, biotite, cleavelandite, columbite-tantalite, garnet, muscovite, torbernite and tourmaline.

WHITE ROCKS QUARRY
Middletown

1.1 miles beyond the paved road which turns off old Route 9 toward the Tollgate Quarry (7.8 mi. north of the Haddam Jail) is a rotary in Middletown. Take East Main Street to the right at the rotary. Continue .3 mile, turn right onto Silver Street which leads past the Connecticut State Hospital. 2.4 miles from E. Main Street markers point to a gravel road on the right which leads uphill through a trailer camp to the quarry. A parking fee may be charged but no further permission is needed as far as is known

Minerals reported from this location: actinolite, autunite, beryl, biotite, chalcopyrite, columbite, cookeite, grossular, lepidolite, microcline, microlite, monazite, muscovite, orthoclase, quartz, samarskite, scheelite, topaz, colored tourmaline and uraninite.

WALDEN GEM MINE
Portland

About 3 miles north from the junction of Routes 17 and 6A on Route 17 (or 6 miles south on Rte. 17 from South Glastonbury) Cotton Hill Road turns to the east. At this point there are signs concerning the Walden Gem Mine. The first farm house on the right on Cotton Hill Road is the Walden farm house. Pay entrance fee here and ask for instructions.

This location, opened in 1962, is the newest of the lithium pegmatites to be operated in Connecticut. There is frequent blasting. The most choice mineral at this location is pollucite. Among others are apatite, albite, almandite, amblygonite, autunite, beryl, biotite, columbite, cyrtolite, lepidolite, microlite, pyrochlore, montebbrasite, hyalite, quartz, spodumene, colored tourmaline (especially rubellite) uraninite and uranophane.