

Mount Albert, is either bare rock or is slightly clothed with a scattering growth of stunted spruces from five to twelve feet high, and small ponds with marshy edges occupy the depressions. The width of this mass of serpentine and associated rocks is about three-eighths of a mile. It rests upon the south flank of the hornblende schists, and terminates abruptly on the east bank of the branch, though a spur from its southern flank, of forty yards in width, crosses the stream in close contact with crystalline dolomitic rock.

The serpentine of this mountain apparently lacks the stratification seen in that of Mount Albert, and no traces of asbestos or chromic iron were discovered. On weathered surfaces it is exceedingly rough and ochreous.

Although the serpentines of this area have generally been regarded as an integral portion of the metamorphic series and contemporaneous in age, there are indications, at several places, which point to an eruptive origin. The position of the eastern or Mount Albert mass in particular, breaking, as it does, apparently across strata of Pre-Cambrian and Silurian age, gives it the aspect of an immense dyke, while the exposure noted as crossing the Salmon Branch, much of which is of peculiar character, is also like an intrusive rock.

In the Geological Survey Report for 1882-84, Mr. A. P. Low reports as follows of the olivine and serpentine of the Shickshocks:—

“These rocks are largely developed at the eastern extremity of the Shickshock range, and form the prominent peak of Mount Albert. They extend in a south-westerly course from the west side of Table-top Mountain across the south branch of the Ste. Anne River to Mount Albert, which is about the centre of the mass, and thence to the head water of the east fork of the Salmon Branch of the Cascapedia River, making a total length of twelve miles. The greatest breadth is four miles, on Mount Albert, but the average is not more than two and a half miles.

The rocks are chiefly olivine, more or less changed into a dark green serpentine, associated with patches of mottled brownish-red, the whole overlaid by banded beds. The green serpentine has sometimes a coarse, fibrous structure (picrolite), but the quantity is small and the quality not fine enough to make it commercially valuable as asbestos.