

INTRODUCTION
The bedrock surface in Iowa is covered nearly everywhere by unconsolidated deposits of glacial drift and alluvium which range in thickness from less than 1 foot to more than 400 feet, and from less than 1 foot to about 60 feet, respectively. The bedrock surface is the result of a complex system of ancient drainage courses, which were developed during the long period of preglacial erosion and during shorter, but more intense, periods of interglacial erosion.

BEDROCK TOPOGRAPHY
Primary control for the map is log data and information from queries and outcrops. Published data provide additional control, but information from the latter literature (Norton, 1912) may not be as precise as the log data. Project data are information obtained from the consolidated rocks of southwestern Iowa. More detailed information about the control data is available in the cooperative files of the Iowa Geological Survey and the U. S. Geological Survey, Iowa City, Iowa.

The accuracy of the map is related to the density of control points; the greater number of points there are in a given area, the more exact is the placement of contours. In several instances limited outcrop data were used where it seems reasonable to continue a ridge or valley.

The bedrock topography of the map area reflects the erosional history of the bedrock surface and the influence of the underlying rocks. South of U. S. Highway 34, deeply buried bedrock channels—most of which probably are preglacial—are the most conspicuous physical features. The channels are cut in bedrock that is dominantly shaly and characteristically are relatively wide with gently-sloping walls. These channels are the headward extensions of ancient bedrock drainage courses that continue into Missouri. Hitt and Howe (1923) applied the names Albany Valley, Hartfield Valley, and Thompson River Valley to several valleys in Missouri that originate in or cross the map area. In the present report the names Albany and Thompson have been retained, but the name Decatur has been assigned to place of Hartfield River. Also, in the present study, the term "channel" is used instead of "valley" to denote the bedrock surface in Iowa reports.

North of Highway 34, Decatur Channel is a conspicuous bedrock feature, however, in most of the northern area the bedrock surface has been sculptured by present-day streams. Most of these streams have deeply incised the bedrock uplands and have extended their valleys by headward erosion. Generally, the bedrock stream valleys are narrow and steep-walled. This present-day drainage pattern is in marked contrast to the drainage south of Highway 34 where most stream valleys lie above the bedrock and where those valleys that have incised the bedrock usually are of limited extent. At some locations present-day streams have cut their valleys into the buried-channel bedrock with the result that the bedrock surface at those points of intersection is common to both the stream valleys and the buried channels. This is exemplified by the intersection of the valleys of Middle and North Branches of Decatur Channel in northeastern Warren County.

At numerous places where present-day streams have incised the bedrock surface, dissection of the bedrock is more advanced than is indicated by the map contours. The contours show the configuration of the bedrock surface and adjacent to the principal streams and tributaries but they generally do not depict the dissection of the surface by minor streams. Therefore, to more precisely interpret the bedrock topography subject to principal stream valleys, the map user should refer to available U. S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps for the location and surface altitudes of minor streams not shown on this map.

USES OF MAP
The bedrock map, when used in conjunction with land-surface altitudes, is a vital tool for making hydrologic, environmental, and geologic problems.

Hydrology.—The map is an aid in locating sources of ground water. The areal distribution of available supplies in the map area is based primarily on data from 711 test borings drilled during a cooperative U. S. Geological Survey and Iowa Geological Survey water resources investigation in nine of the 11 counties. These data indicate a relationship between the physical features of the bedrock surface and ground-water occurrence in the overlying unconsolidated deposits. The areas most favorable for the development of ground-water supplies are: (1) buried bedrock channels and (2) alluvial valleys of present-day streams which may or may not have incised the bedrock.

Sand and gravel aquifers often are distributed irregularly and are not present at all places within the drift-filled bedrock channels; however, they do occur more frequently and are more extensive in areas underlain by bedrock channels than in areas underlain by bedrock uplands. Relatively few wells tap the deeper channel aquifers, but available drilling data indicate that individual wells tapping these deeper aquifers have static water levels ranging from 10 to 50 gpm (gallons per minute) and that total yields may be larger. Buried bedrock channels often are the only source of potable water within 1,000 feet or more of the land surface because bedrock that is predominantly shaly (Hershey, 1969) underlies most of the map area. To obtain maximum yields from channel aquifers a well should be drilled to bedrock to clean and develop all water-bearing sands and gravels.

Alluvial deposits have a maximum thickness of about 60 feet and contain sand and gravel aquifers that will yield from 10 to 50 gpm or more to individual wells. A well in the alluvium should tap the full saturated thickness of sand and gravel.

The map will help the drilling contractor when planning the construction of a well. By determining the depth to bedrock, the contractor can estimate casing needs and prepare more accurate cost estimates. Also, where the overburden is particularly thick, the contractor can be better prepared for any problems attendant to drilling this material.

Other uses for the map are in river hydrology studies and in determining surface-water and ground-water relationships at selected locations.

Environment.—The bedrock information is particularly valuable to state, regional, and local planners concerned with environmental problems such as the location of landfill sites. A knowledge of the thickness of overburden, which can be computed with the aid of this map, is important in determining whether ground-water supplies may be subject to potential contamination.

Geology.—The bedrock map shows the location of bedrock highs, which are of interest to survey engineers and to construction engineers concerned with foundation problems. The map also is used in the interpretation of drainage changes caused by glacial advances and in mapping the areal distribution of consolidated rocks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Acknowledgment is made to Dr. H. C. Hershey and Dr. S. J. Trettel, executive Director of the Iowa Geological Survey, and to present and former staff members of the Iowa Survey, for their contributions to this study. Over the past years, Iowa Geological Survey personnel have collected and analyzed drill-hole samples, determined land-surface altitudes, and compiled other information which has aided greatly in the preparation of this map. Special acknowledgment is made to two former Iowa Survey staff members, Mr. E. C. Northup and Mr. R. A. Karsten, who made significant contributions. Mr. Northup analyzed rock samples from many of the wells used as control points on the map, and Mr. Karsten, as field assistant to the author, collected substantial amounts of basic data.



EXPLANATION

Log, published, and project data were obtained from wells or test borings	•
Log data	•
Bedrock potential	•
Bedrock outcrop	•
Published data	•
Project data	•
County well boundary	—
Quarry or outcrop	—

Bedrock contours
Shade indicates the bedrock surface
Dashed lines approximately located
Contours inferred to show features as seen on soil

Base from U. S. Geological Survey 1:250,000 Contour, Des Moines, Iowa, 1964, and Nebraska City, 1955

BEDROCK TOPOGRAPHY OF SOUTH-CENTRAL IOWA

By Joseph W. Cagle 1973

Iowa (Iond.-Central) - Structure - 1:125,000 - 1973. Cagle

