

# MOUNT PLEASANT - CROSS MTN - SIMPSON'S PLATEAU (122-25)

7/17/14 with Paul Miskot & Joan Burroughs

Descent

$R_3 = 0.854$

(Q) Cross Mtn-Summit, 2nd	28.90	1.30	1110	2500 ✓	2500'	2:52
(R) COL, west	29.04	1.16	991	2381	2370'	3:05
(S) begin long upgrade	29.05	1.18	1008	2398		3:17
(T) Knob	28.97	1.23	1050	2440	2400"	3:34
(U) steps up ledge; switch backs	28.98	1.22	1042	2432		3:40
(V) mature spruce	28.86	1.34	1144	2534		
(W) Open spruce ledges	28.75	1.45	1238	2628		3:53
(X) high pt. on trail	28.63	1.57	1341	2731		4:05
(Y) more climbing	28.70	1.50	1281	2671		4:12
(Z) 2 brooks, in 1?	28.70	1.50	1281	2671		4:20
(AA) 1st Junction	28.68	1.52	1298	2688	2630'	4:38
(BB) 2nd Junction	28.75	1.45	1238	2628	MK 2621'	4:45
(CC) Blueberry Conglomerate	28.86	1.34	1144	2534	2540	5:08 to 5:45
(DD) Terrace lean-to	29.09	1.11	948	2338	2350'	6:09
(EE) Fiddler's Elbow	29.36	0.84	717	2107	2090'	6:40
(FF) LAVORTEA "sea"	29.60	0.60	512	1902		
(GG) gate	29.81	0.39	333	1723	1620 ‡	7:22
(HH) leave back road	30.23	-0.03	26	1364	‡	7:45
(B) Cross Mtn. Hollow	30.27	-0.07	60	1330	<del>1230</del>	7:56
(A) Woodland Valley Camp	30.20	0.00	—	—	1390'	—

$$R_3 = \frac{2500' - 1390'}{3620' - 2890'} = \frac{1110'}{730'} = 0.854$$

Mileage

0.0	2810
24.0	Woodland Valley Campground
26.4	Anne Mc Ginnis'
28.2	Woodland Valley Campground
52.3	2810

8:29 AM  
9:09

‡ plotted on Phoenixa Quad. in 1970s - 1620'  
 © from MK previous calcs. ---  
 See pp. 150-24 of (M).  
 ☒ about 10 to 20' lower than BM 2556', not found this day

∴ the 2 side trips Anne's house and constituted 52.3 - 48.0 = 4.3 mi.



Ascent

$R_1 = 1.037$

122-26

Site	p	$\Delta p$	$\Delta e$	e calc	e map	time	$R_1$
(A) Woodland Valley Camp.	30.14	0.00	—	—	1390	9:09 AM	$\frac{2800' - 1390'}{3614'' - 2178''} = \frac{1410'}{1436''} = 1.037$
(B) Cross Mtn. Hollow	30.20	-0.06	62	1328	<del>1230</del>	10:50	
(C) Quarry road switchback	29.88	0.26	270	1660*			
(D) Stone Cabin, X	29.57	0.57	591	1981**		11:45 AM	
(E) terrace, bank road 1st	29.45	0.69	716	2106			
(F) end terrace	29.37	0.77	798	2188		12:18 PM	
(G) top 2nd ledge set	29.22	0.92	954	2344			
(H) top 3rd ledge set	29.08	1.06	1099	2489			
(I) bank road, 2nd	28.97	1.17	1213	2603		12:55	
(J) on trail 28.85 ← 28.82	28.82	1.32	1369	2759		1:05 to 1:30	
(K) Mt-Pleasant Summit	28.78	1.36	1410	2800 ✓	2800'	1:37	

↑ actual summit is just to N & maybe 10' higher.

$R = 1.654$

							$R_2$
(K) Mt-Pleasant Summit	28.78	0.26	430	2800 ✓	2800'	1:37	$\frac{2800' - 2370'}{2904'' - 2678''} = \frac{430'}{226''} = 1.654 \text{ ?!}$
(L) SW lookout	28.80	0.24	397	2767		1:53	
(M) ramp & stump	28.84	0.20	331	2701		2:05	
(N) col, east	29.04	0.00	—	—	2370'	2:20	
(O) small VACC opening	28.95	0.09	149	2519			
(P) 1st Cross Mtn. Summit	28.93	0.11	182	2552		2:38	
(Q) 2nd Cross Mtn. Summit	28.90	0.14	232	2601 ↔ 2500		2:52	

?! discrepancy!?

\*, \*\* 1535' and 1782' respectively from 10/15/13 hike - see p. 122-16  
 Why such a great disparity? No upper elev. control on 10/15/13.



# Vegetation

122-27

(C) 1663' OAK, BB, VACER, BIGTOOTH.  
Understory B+MO

(D) 1981' Quarry & Stone Cabin ruins.  
BB, OAK, Galium circaeazans,  
‡ C. quadrisulcata ‡

(E)(F) 2106/  
2189' Terrace between 2 sets  
of ledges with bank road & deer  
trail heading up to SE. Top  
of Quarry ledge (D). Base of 2nd  
ledge set (G) with boulders.  
Pass crevice ledge below  
split off from main ledge  
supporting the terrace (E)(F).  
No hemlock anywhere.  
SUB-ASH-BASSOST, only a few  
OAK. Terrace narrows to (F)

(G) 2344' Top 2nd ledge set.  
‡ Circaea alpina, 2nd spp of Circaea  
on this slope. KAMAM-MO abun.  
under OAK common again

(H) 2489' SORB & OAK seedlings.  
AA here, replacing ADIV of  
down slope. RM. nil SUB.  
Forest more ridge hardwoods.

(I) 2603' 2nd bank road on  
terrace atop ledge (3rd) ca-20ft  
high. 2nd DP glade, more PB,  
R-twiste? (no skunk odor), OX

(J) 2759' On trail. Lurch rock  
is a 2' tall flat boulder about  
4 to 5 feet long.  
2 spruce saplings, Amel,  
SORB seedlings, KEM sapling, →

Lobocnum annotinum,  
TB, AA

(K) 2800' Mount Pleasant  
Summit. Lookout to NE  
faces Twin Mtn. Difficult  
to see the "3-T" peaks  
across the Escopus to the E.  
Highest pt. on peak is  
a short distance N,  
maybe only 10' higher.  
Two 5" spruces.  
BC-B-RM-MO-VACC and  
ILEX MONT-OX?-LANNOT  
& OBSCURUM, AA, TU, MC,  
DP, SINT. Ridge hardwoods

1:45 on W shoulder: large  
OAK & more SORBUS  
seedlings

(L) 2767' SW Lookout with  
several SORBUS, OAK  
to 30" dbht & MO abun.  
View to Cross Mtn,  
Samuels Pt, Wittenberg,  
Friday & Balsam Cap,  
Shokan High Pt.

(M) 2701' Ramp down through  
ledge looks like a log  
road. Stump ca 40y old.  
OAK abun. on terrace  
below.

Then descend into  
knife edge at E end of  
Cross Mtn through dense  
PCILI choking young  
BCs. ASH-OAK

(N) — Cross Mtn. east col.  
B dom. Few OAK. MC, OX,  
SINT, PCILI, RA, LL,  
28" BC.

(O) 2519' Small VACC and opening  
with much rock exposed.  
OAK-RM-RS-RA-PCILI

(P) 2552' ? 1st CROSS MTN. summit.  
Azalea; OAK dom; occasional  
open ledges with shallow  
soils & stunted forest, dom.  
by Dorc hampsia

2:49 Spruce sapling, 1st  
of several.

(Q) 2500 OR  
2601' Main CROSS MTN. summit.  
DP glade, 2nd SPR saplings &  
seedlings

2:57. Lookout to SE toward  
Dividing Weir, Samuels Pt.  
Still a distance to Wittenberg's  
E scarp.  
2nd lookout a short distance  
W on spur trail, not explored.

(R) 2381' Cross Mtn. West col.  
Then up 1st set of steps.  
3 more spruce saplings.

(S) 2399' 1st SUB obs in a long  
while — maybe since (E)(F)?  
as soil moisture deepens.  
Long up grade begins. B-OAKS—  
1st PB observed? SPR saplings.

(T) 2400' (over) →  
Knob 2440'



(U) 2432' Off Cross Mtn. — finally (!) — and onto slopes descending NE into Cross Mtn. hollow. 2nd set of steps. NEM saplings + mature switchbacks — 3 or 4 of them — up ledges.

(V) 2534' Maturer spruce — prob the seed source for all the repro. scattering NE all the way to Mt. Pleasant.

(W) 2628' "2nd Blueberry Conglomerate" with bedrock openings, VACCINUM, SPRUCE mature, KEMLOCK, 1st CB in semi-open scrub. Find this on aerial photos!

Subboreal forest — NO fir. Turn W then N through BEECH forest above.

(X) 2731' High point on trail. Descends slightly after this before reascending. SPR saplings. B dominant. 2671'

4-20 Cross 2 breaks which soon join. 34" live but hollow ASK. More ASK + sub-  
(Z) 2671' 36" YB.

First growth needs careful examination. Could tie onto Paul's reported 10 W of Wittenberg Trail. The 2 tracts interrupted by Simpson's bank road. Old large trees of several spp. at (Z)

(AA) 2688' New trail junction has no sign boards yet. Trail markers red + blue present, but Long Vath marker present only heading into new Cross Mtn. segment — not up to Wittenberg. Junction

(BB) 2628' New trail junction. Signs made by a colleague of Paul's, not DEC, to replace worn old ones.

(CC) 2534' "Blueberry Conglomerate" VACCINUM-AZALEA-BRACKEN-SORBUS. Could not find BM trail 2556 this time.

But Paul found cong. boulder shown in a photo he had with 2 geologists studying it. Where is source of cong. boulders? Wittenberg ledges above are DOWN glacier. Bedrock here is SS, not cong.

5-52 Lone KLAT poplar

(DD) 2338', 2358' Lean-to. Road down from here impossible to find. Must be located by an ascent from below.

(EE) 2107', 2090' Old bank road with occasional blowdown, some RAT some fern overgrown.

(FF) 1902' A series of

(EE) continued. Someone cut some of the SUB + ASK logs that had fallen across the road to keep it open — recent cut.

is BELOW end of bank road

(FF) continued — The 2005-2006 Forest tent caterpillar epidemic defoliated SUB + ASK in several patches. Some dead trees still stand, but many are concealed beneath dense LAP glades. Some RAT some SOMB, but mainly LAP in open forest. A few undefoliated BEECH stands break this slow difficult descent. Worst LAP thickets mark the road & continue for hundreds of yards at a time.

Had there been lookouts from Mt. Pleasant across the valley, the dead trees + canopy gaps would have been noted, and the route changed down to the Campground

(GG) 1723' Old SUV gate posts remain. 1st NEM obs since (DD) — young.

(HH) 1364' Derzhavits have visible through trees. Leave bank road just before NEM forest on till knobs (?)



