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Description of a rock specimen from McPartlan Pass

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The following is a description of a rock specimen collected by geologist V. Threader on the H.E.C. road at McPartlan Pass.

The specimen is a dark grey to black lustrous, fine grained rock showing both bedding and cleavage at angles of about 45° to one another. The rock breaks with equal ease in either direction to give rhomboidal shaped blocks.

In thin section the rock consists of very fine granular quartz and sericite, and opaque carbonaceous material, possibly graphite. The sericite has occasioned a tabular schistosity which has been followed by crenulation and the development of a strain slip cleavage and segregation of graphitic material into fine bands. Parallelism of the sericite flakes in the slipped bands results in their simultaneous extinction.

The bedding, which is much less prominent in thin section than the cleavage, is marked by concentrations of granular quartz, and also of carbonaceous material, which have not been entirely obliterated by the strain slip cleavage.

The rock is a graphitic sericite schist.

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