



# THE DIAMOND HILL MINE

## ABBEVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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*For many decades the Diamond Hill quartz mine in northwestern South Carolina has been a popular destination for mineral collectors, especially from the southeastern states. In recent years it has produced a large volume of interesting milky, smoky and amethystine quartz crystals in an uncommonly large variety of crystal habits.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Piedmont of the southeastern United States consists of the low, rolling hills between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Piedmont is well-known for a variety of minerals and crystals, some of the more famous being the rutile and lazulite crystals of Graves Mountain, Georgia (Cook *et al.*, 2008), the emerald and hiddenite crystals near the town of Hiddenite, North Carolina (Freeman and Speer, 2008), and the amethyst crystals near the town of Due West, South Carolina (Lininger, 1997) and near the community of Jacksons Crossroads, Georgia (Cook *et al.*, 2008).

The Diamond Hill Quartz mine is located in the Piedmont of northwestern South Carolina. For many decades, it has been a popular destination for mineral collectors, especially from the southeastern states. In recent years, it has produced both a large volume of interesting quartz crystals and an uncommonly large variety of quartz crystal types. Increasing numbers of specimens have been appearing at gem and mineral shows throughout the US, and also at online websites. Several short articles about the Diamond Hill mine have already appeared in rockhounding magazines (Streeter, 2005; Jacquot, 2006; Jacquot and Karwoski, 2009; Peterson, 2014) but, given the continued production at this site and its promising future prospects, a more detailed report is warranted.

### LOCATION

The Diamond Hill mine is located in the township of Diamond Hill, in Abbeville County, South Carolina, about halfway between the cities of Anderson and Abbeville. The nearest community is Antreville, but Antreville is small and does not even have a post office.



Figure 1. Location map.

### HISTORY

People often ask how “Diamond Hill” got its name. The earliest information relevant to this question appears in a 1763 report by George Milligen Johnston entitled “A Short Description of the Province of South Carolina,” printed in London in 1770. It includes the following: