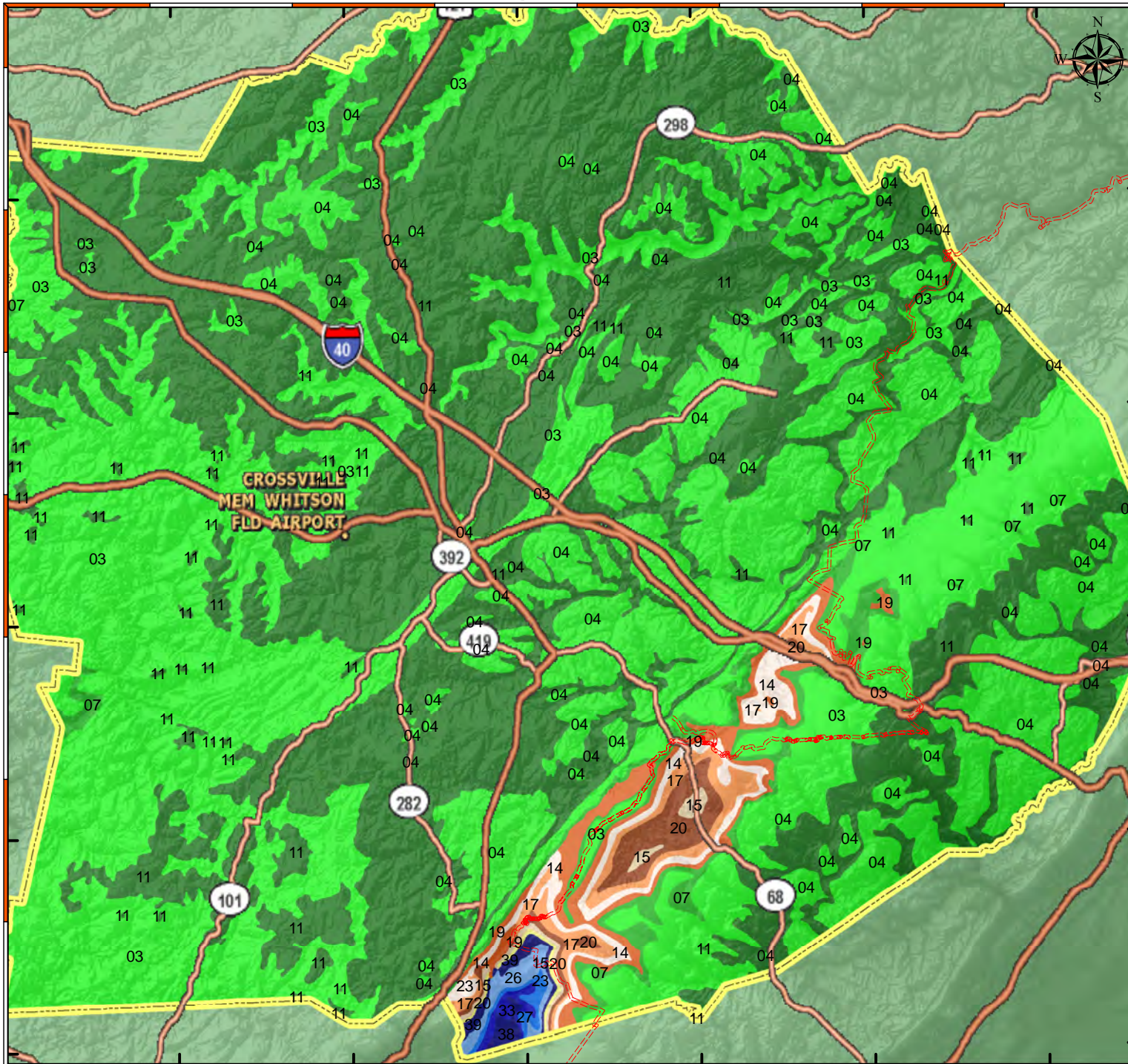


# Cumberland County Geological Formation



Cumberland County is on the west-central margin of East Tennessee. Its total area makes it the largest county in this division of the state. Part of the Cumberland Plateau, the county has dominant rock strata of generally level Pennsylvanian-age sandstones, conglomerates, and shales. These rock units underlie most of the plateau and form the hills and mountains rising above its surface. Mississippian-age limestones underlie several coves of solutional origin in the county's southeastern part, the largest of which is Grassy Cove. At the south-central county line is the head of Sequatchie Valley. The valley's walls are lined by Mississippian-age limestones, and to a lesser extent dolomites, sandstones, shales, and chert. Its floor is underlain primarily by limestones of Ordovician age. Relatively level strata make up the rock units in the coves and Sequatchie Valley. In the county's western and central parts, the plateau's tableland has elevations of 1,850 to 1,950 feet. The highest elevations, slightly over 2,000 feet, are at the county's northwest corner.

"Tennessee Topology"  
by David D. Starnes  
TN Div of Geology, Bulletin 86

