

“Peach-Bottom’ Slate”

(York County, Pennsylvania)

In *The Manufacturer and Builder*, Vol. 22, No. 10
October 1890, pp. 225

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“The finest roofing slate in the world is that known in commerce as ‘Peach Bottom’ slate, and which is taken from a ridge extending about seven miles from Peach Bottom, on the Susquehanna River, in York County, Pennsylvania, southwardly into Harford County, Maryland, about two miles of the ridge being in the latter State. The first quarries were opened at Peach Bottom, which gave the name to the slate. Since that time the industry has worked back along the ridge, until now three-fourths of the so-called Peach Bottom slate is taken from quarries in Harford County.

“Stretched out for over a mile along the base of the ridge and hemmed in between it and Scott’s Run is the thriving borough of Delta, which sprang up with the slate industry, and is dependent on it for existence. As the quarries moved toward the southwest the town followed them until it, too, has crossed Mason and Dixon’s line and has extended into Harford, where, under the name of South Delta, it is now booming, if that progress may be called a boom which is the result of natural causes.

“There are now in operation on the Harford side six quarries, giving employment to over two hundred men. The demand for Peach Bottom slate was never so great as now. The quarries in operation are being worked to their full capacity, new quarries are being opened and old ones reopened, and as the supply of slate is practically inexhaustible, there is every reason to believe that, with proper management, the business of the quarries will continue to increase.”

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For photographs and information on Peach Bottom slate, visit the following online links:

“**Peach Bottom Slate**,” U. S. Geological Survey, “Mineral Resources” section.
<http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geology/state/sgmc-unit.php?unit=MDpbs%3B4>

“**Delta, Pennsylvania**,” Wikipedia (See the “History and Landmarks” section.)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta,_Pennsylvania

Peach Bottom Slate Regional Marker, The Historical Marker Database
<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=1285>

Peach Bottom Slate, in “General Features,” by T. Nelson Dale, in *Slate Deposits and Slate Industry of the United States*, Bulletin 275, 1906, pp. 75. (Internet Archive)
<http://archive.org/details/slatedepositsan00coongoo>