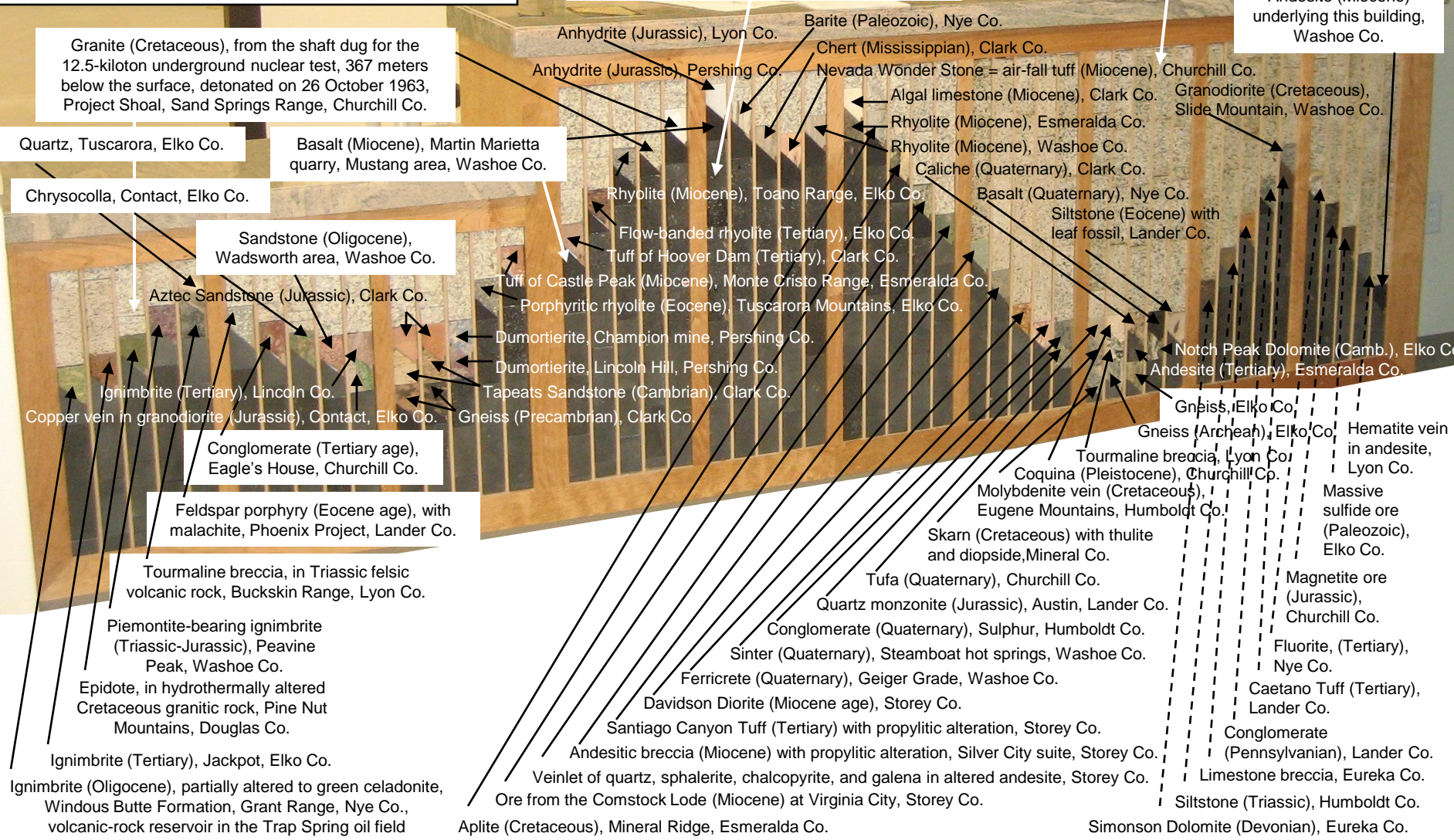


Rocks at the Reception Counter of the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library



All the rocks in the wooden core boxes on the front of the reception counter are from Nevada. They include some geologically and historically significant rocks: the Nevada State Rock (sandstone), one of the oldest rocks in Nevada (2.5-billion-year-old gneiss from Angel Lake), rocks from the "Great Unconformity" separating Precambrian gneiss and Cambrian sandstone (from Frenchman Mountain, where rocks like those at the base of the Grand Canyon are exposed), ore from the Comstock Lode at Virginia City (important in statehood, our nickname, the *Silver State*, and the motto "Battle Born"), rock from the top of Slide Mountain (which, as measured by high-precision global positioning system instruments, moved up and to the northeast in 2003 in response to probable magma injection at the north end of Lake Tahoe), and some of the youngest rocks in Nevada (caliche from Las Vegas Valley and ferricrete from Geiger Grade). These rocks have been cut to simulate diamond drill core. The Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library houses many boxes of core and cuttings from various mineral, oil, geothermal, and water exploration holes drilled in the State. Slabs of a few different background rocks provide contrast with the Nevada-shaped pieces. The countertop itself is polished Juparana Columbo "granite," which is actually, by geological definitions, a gneiss; it comes from India and looks somewhat like 1.7-billion-year-old gneiss from southern Nevada.