

Interpreting Contour Lines



Typical Map Symbols

CONTOURS

Topographic

Intermediate	
Index	
Supplementary	
Depression	
Cut; fill	

SURFACE FEATURES

Levee	
Sand or mud area, dunes, or shifting sand	
Intricate surface area	
Gravel beach or glacial moraine	
Tailings pond	

VEGETATION

Woods	
Scrub	
Orchard	
Vineyard	
Mangrove	

SUBMERGED AREAS AND BOGS

Marsh or swamp	
Submerged marsh or swamp	
Wooded marsh or swamp	
Submerged wooded marsh or swamp	
Rice field	
Land subject to inundation	

RIVERS, LAKES, AND CANALS

Intermittent stream	
Intermittent river	
Disappearing stream	
Perennial stream	
Perennial river	
Small falls; small rapids	
Large falls; large rapids	
Masonry dam	
Dam with lock	
Dam carrying road	
Perennial lake; Intermittent lake or pond	
Dry lake	
Narrow wash	
Wide wash	
Canal, flume, or aqueduct with lock	
Elevated aqueduct, flume, or conduit	
Aqueduct tunnel	
Well or spring; spring or seep	

BUILDINGS AND RELATED FEATURES

Building	
School; church	
Built-up Area	
Racetrack	
Airport	
Landing strip	
Well (other than water); windmill	
Tanks	
Covered reservoir	
Gaging station	
Landmark object (feature as labeled)	
Campground; picnic area	
Cemetery: small; large	

BOUNDARIES

National	
State or territorial	
County or equivalent	
Civil township or equivalent	
Incorporated city or equivalent	
Park, reservation, or monument	
Small park	

MINES AND CAVES

Quarry or open pit mine	
Gravel, sand, clay, or borrow pit	
Mine tunnel or cave entrance	
Prospect; mine shaft	
Mine dump	
Tailings	

ROADS AND RELATED FEATURES

Roads on Provisional edition maps are not classified as primary, secondary, or light duty. They are all symbolized as light duty roads.

Primary highway	
Secondary highway	
Light duty road	
Unimproved road	
Trail	
Dual highway	
Dual highway with median strip	
Road under construction	
Underpass; overpass	
Bridge	
Drawbridge	
Tunnel	

RAILROADS AND RELATED FEATURES

Standard gauge single track; station	
Standard gauge multiple track	
Abandoned	
Under construction	
Narrow gauge single track	
Narrow gauge multiple track	
Railroad in street	
Juxtaposition	
Roundhouse and turntable	

TRANSMISSION LINES AND PIPELINES

Power transmission line: pole; tower	
Telephone line	
Aboveground oil or gas pipeline	
Underground oil or gas pipeline	