

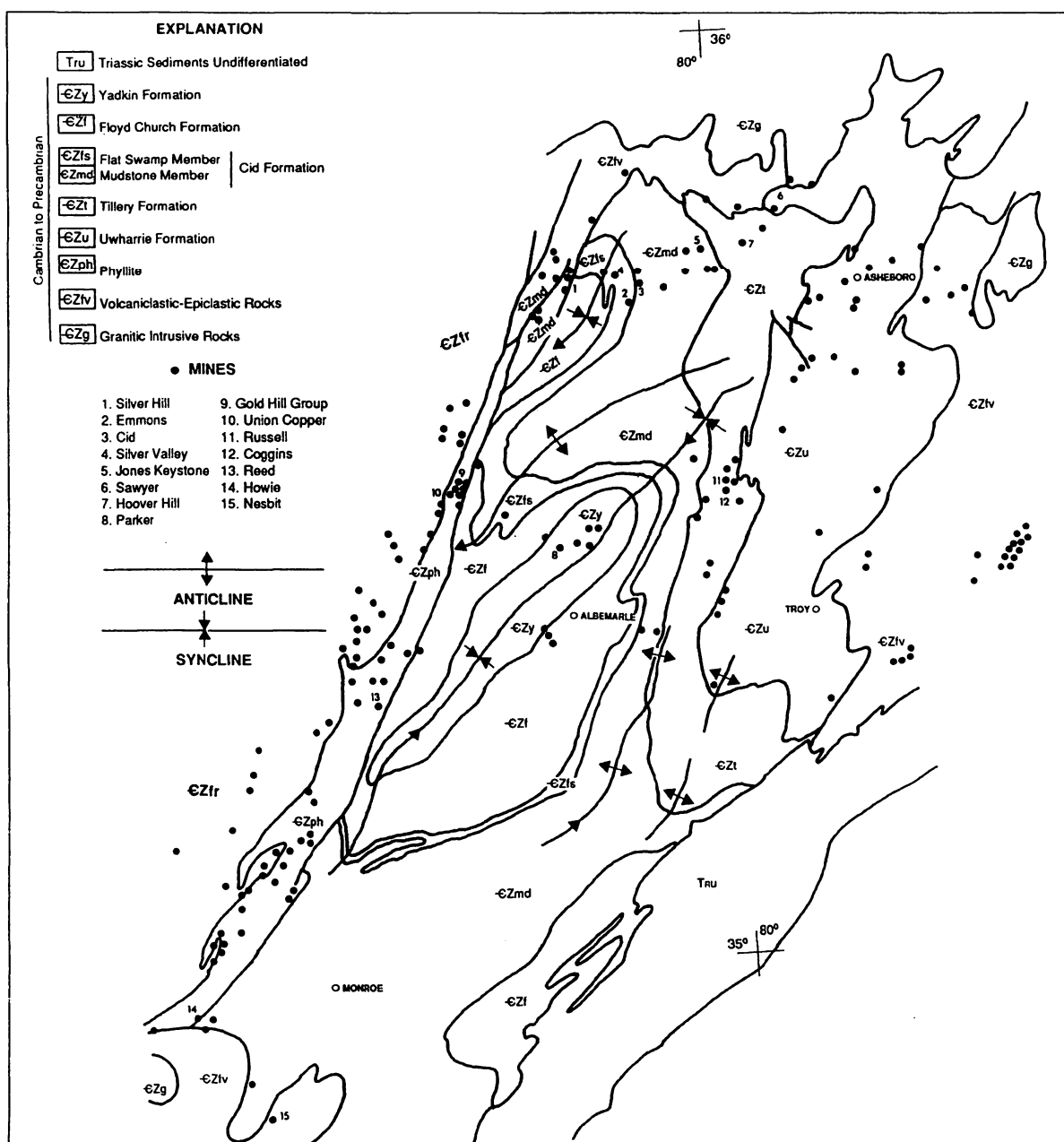


Figure 11. Generalized geologic map showing major gold mines in the central and southern Carolina slate belt in North Carolina (Base modified from North Carolina Geological Survey, 1985).

Placer Deposits

Placer deposits are found most commonly along small streams flowing through areas where lode deposits occur. The placers include deposits in existing stream channels, in old stream gravels on hillsides above the stream bed and in residual deposits in saprolite overlying weathered lode deposits. In alluvial deposits (stream deposits), the gold is found with the coarser gravels, usually near

the bottom of the deposit close to bedrock. Other heavy minerals such as magnetite, rutile, ilmenite, and zircon frequently are concentrated with the gold. Placers vary in thickness and width depending upon a number of factors including the amount of material available for transport, the size and velocity of the stream and the terrain through which the stream flows.