This map shows the elevation, in feet above sea level, of the top of the Cretaceous Pierre Formation in North Dakota. Throughout the western part of the state the Pierre Formation is conformably overlain by the Cretaceous Fox Hills Formation, except in southwestern North Dakota along the Cedar Creek Anticline, where it is exposed at the surface (green area). In eastern North Dakota, where the Fox Hills Formation is absent (not in the shaded areas), the Pierre Formation has been removed by erosion that occurred prior to and during the glacial epochs so that the top of the formation is a topographic rather than a structural top. In some places, especially in eastern North Dakota along the edge of the Red River Valley, shale of the Pierre Formation is exposed at the surface (areas shown in green). Many of these exposures are too small to show on a map of this scale and the shapes of the areas of exposure as shown on the map are generalized.