



Above: Site of the ancient Cherokee town of Kituwah showing the mound as it is today.



Above: The sign on Highway 19 identifies the Kituwah Site.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT KITUWAH:

Kituwah Mound is believed to have been built by the Mississippian culture about 1000CE and adopted by the Cherokee when they settled there at a later time. During the Anglo-Cherokee War (1758-1761), the British army destroyed the ancient town and its inhabitants moved west to settle among the *Overhill Cherokee* on the Little Tennessee River. During the 1820s the Cherokee lost control of the area in one of the many land cession treaties with the United States. After the Cherokee had been forced from the area, the mound area was leveled to be used for agricultural purposes, becoming known as Ferguson's Field.

In 1996 the Cherokee regained control of the Kituwah site when the EBCI purchased the mound site and the surrounding 309 acres. At the time of my visit in 2007, this site had not yet been officially incorporated into the EBCI Qualla Boundary, the technically accurate name for the "Cherokee Reservation" in North Carolina, the land held in trust for the Cherokee by the Federal Government. I have no more recent status.

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