

Sweet Water Town Site

The surrounding land was once part of Sweet Water Town. Named for a Native American who lived in the area, this Cherokee village was a trading center that was significant enough to have been referenced on maps as late as 1864. A series of land lotteries in the early 1800s encouraged white settlement and gold prospecting, and contributed to the demise of the village.

Sources – Sweet Water Town Site

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Sweet Water Town Site¹

The surrounding land² was once part of Sweet Water Town. Named for a Native American who lived in the area³, this Cherokee village was a trading center⁴ that was significant⁵ enough to have been referenced on maps as late as 1864⁶. A series of land lotteries in the early 1800s encouraged white settlement⁷ and gold prospecting,⁸ and contributed to the demise of the village.⁹

¹ Most of the older references site the name of the town as Sweet Water Town, whereas the more recent ones state Sweetwater as one word. See Davis Plate LVIII, map 2 and Plate LXII, map 10, both from 1864; Knight, 455; Secrist; Temple, 37; White (Collections), 404; and White (Statistics), 191.

² The location is identified by Secrist as being adjacent to a bend in Sweetwater Creek and encompassing the present-day intersection of Maxham Road and Old Alabama Road. Davis Plate LVIII, map 2 (which doesn't show any roads) depicts the village as being adjacent to a bend in the creek southeast of Salt Springs. Plate LX, map 1 (1864) shows the bend in the creek southeast of Salt Springs. An unnamed road (present-day Maxham Road) runs adjacent to the bend. North on this road, past its intersection with another unnamed road (present-day Old Alabama Road) the Gorsey (Causey) residence is listed. The idea that Gorsey and Causey are one and the same is supported by the fact that the name Gorsey appears again a short distance east and north of this location and Causey also owned the land lots east of the area in question. White (Collections) 404 and Knight, 455, both refer to the village as being on the plantation now/then owned by Israel Causey. (Knight lists the last name as Casey.) The Causey-Maxham House still stands today at 5909 Maxham Road, which is north of Old Alabama Road. More about Israel Causey's land holdings will be discussed in the write-up for the Causey-Maxham House.

³ Shadburn, 96, White (Collections), 404. (White referred to Sweet Water as the chief.)

⁴ Roth, 9, Secrist.

⁵ Knight, Roth and Temple described the village as "important". Secrist used the word "significant" in relation to the Civil War maps.

⁶ Davis, Plate LVIII, map 2, Plate LXII, map 10.

⁷ Roth, 7,9.

⁸ Roth, 9.

⁹ Knight, 455.