

TRIVPOINT ▲ TRIVPOINT ▲ TRIVPOINT ▲ TRIVPOINT



NORTH CAROLINA - GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA

DATE VISITED: February 9, 1997 and July 22, 1998

ACCESS ROUTE: From Sylva, NC go S on route 107 about 27 miles to Cashiers. From there continue on 107 almost 7 miles to a R (west) turn on Bull Pen Road which has two trailheads for Ellicott Rock. On the E side of the Chattooga R. is the Bad Creek trail, starting at about 2.6 miles in on Bull Pen road. Farther west, about 1.0 mile beyond the bridge over the Chattooga is the other trail head. Both trails are about 7 miles round trip to the tri-point on the Chattooga. The point where the trails cross the river is about 0.1 mile N of the tri-point rocks. The trails are easy walking, but become steep as they descend into the Chattooga gorge. Since the stones are near the E side of the river, access is easier from that side, especially in the winter when the river is too cold and swift for wading. Bull Pen road can also be accessed from the west from Highlands, NC.

At first, we thought this tri-point was in the Chattooga R. with no marker, but the USGS topo map shows "Ellicott Rock" at this location. Research disclosed that Ellicott Rock was considered by some to be the tri-point. Ten feet upstream from Ellicott Rock is Commissioner Rock and a little farther upstream is Chattooga Rock which has a bronze marker disc on top. Ellicott Rock bears the inscription: "Lat 35 AD 1813 NC + SC". Another 0.1 mile downstream from the Rocks in the middle of the river is another large boulder with tripoint markings scratched on the top. It is suspected that this is graffiti. No one of these four rocks is at the exact tripoint, but Ellicott and Commissioner come closest.



Brian Butler at Ellicott Rock in 1999.
Coordinates are N 35° 0,077', W 83° 6.513'



Daniel Butler, in front, points at Commissioner Rock
while his father, David, points at Ellicott Rock.
1998 photo by Gregg Butler