

The Wilderness Road passed southwest along the Powell Valley (E) until it turned northwest to cross Cumberland Mountain (F) by way of Cumberland Gap (G). Cumberland Mountain is the primary drainage divide in this area, streams falling off the north slope flow toward the Cumberland River, streams on the south side are tributaries of the Tennessee River. The Middlesborough Basin (H), some four miles in diameter, is an anomalous area of level land in an otherwise mountainous area. The basin is thought to be a crypto-explosive crater created by a meteor impact. Middlesborough, named for an industrial town in England, was founded in 1889 by investors from Great Britain to exploit the area's timber and coal.

**Route of early
Wilderness Road**

