Nanih Waiya is a Choctaw Indian name variously translated as “leaning or stooping hill,” 
Nanih a waiya “A Place of Birth,” or Nani a waiya “Place of fish birth or plentiful fish.”

The period of construction of Nanih Waiya Mound is uncertain. Although its rectangular, flat-topped 
form is often assumed to be typical of Mississippian period mounds (AD. 1000—1500), evidence 
suggests a possible Middle Woodland time range (A.D. 0 – 500). Until more archaeological 
investigations are completed, the mound’s actual age will remain unknown.

The lands including Nanih Waiya were taken from the Choctaw in the 1830 treaty of 
Dancing Rabbit Creek. In 2007 the state of Mississippi under legislation signed into law 
the return of Nanih Waiya to be once again under the stewardship of 
the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.