



Temple mound

HISTORY

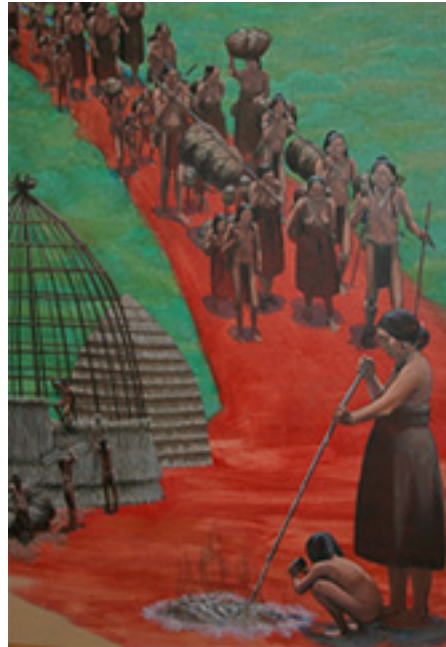
The Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site is a 93.8-acre site in Cherokee County, southwest of Alto. It was the home of Mound Builders of Caddoan origin, who inhabited the region for 500 years beginning approximately A.D. 800.

In 1974, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department obtained Caddoan Mounds for its significance as an important prehistoric culture resource. It opened to the public in June 1982.

It consists of two temple mounds, a burial mound and a large portion of the adjacent village area. Facilities include a headquarters/interpretive center, a museum, an archaeological experiment exhibit and a .7-mile interpretive trail.

THE EARLY CADDOS

The Mound Builder culture expanded the length and breadth of the woodlands of eastern North America for over 2,5000 years. The Caddoan Mounds was a frontier settlement of the Early Caddos, the western-most group of Mound Builders, whose culture centered in the region of the Great Bend of the Red River in southwest Arkansas.



*Painting
Of the
Early
Caddos.*

The Early Caddos selected this particular site for permanent settlement because it possessed the ideal qualities for the establishment of a village and ceremonial center: abun-

dant natural food resources in the surrounding forest and a permanent water source from the nearby Neches River.

LIFE AT THE CADDOAN MOUNDS

The Early Caddos dominated life in the region. They drew local native groups in the economic and social dependence through trade and a sophisticated ceremonial and political system. They established trade connections and perhaps religious and political ties with similar cultures in the Mississippi Valley and beyond.

Life at the Mounds centered on the religious, political and economic practices of the “elite” ruling class, who lived around the ceremonial temple mounds. The common people of the village grew and harvested food for the settlement and provided the labor force to construct the mounds and temples. They became the most highly developed prehistoric culture known to Texas.



Painting of common Caddos.