

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Texas Archeological Society

Excerpt from Spring 2013 edition: 26



West view of the large temple mound at the Pine Tree Mound site. The site, containing three temple mounds and more than a dozen residential compounds, was the political and social heart of the Caddo province of Nadaco, starting in the 1300s and continuing perhaps as late as the 1700s. Inset painting of Caddo chief by Reeda Peet.

NEW ON TEXAS BEYOND HISTORY

Pine Tree Mound

www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pine/

This 5-section exhibit covers the history and archeology of an important Caddo ceremonial and residential area in the middle Sabine River Basin and how project sponsors, archeologists, and the Caddo Nation worked together to bring this history to light.

Investigations conducted between 2004 and 2012 by Prewitt and Associates, Inc., revealed that Pine Tree Mound was the site of more than a dozen residential household compounds ringing a ceremonial precinct and three temple mounds. From the 1300s to perhaps as late as the 1700s, this site was the political and social heart of the Caddo province of Nadaco. Archeologists know of no other site of the same age in this region that has such a well-defined ceremonial landscape, and it is clear that this was home to a powerful ruler.

Written by Ross Fields and Eloise Gadus of Prewitt and Associates, the exhibit presents key findings and interpretations from the site with detailed graphics and photos. A special ceramics section explores the symbolic motifs of Ripley Engraved vessels from Pine Tree Mound burials and implications for connections to the larger Mississippian world.



A vibrantly illustrated section on ceramics recovered from Pine Tree Mound deals with the decorations the Nadaco Caddo put on their pottery and what those decorations tell us about the symbols that were meaningful to them. In the image above, designs on a bowl with a pedestal base from a burial at Pine Tree Mound is compared to that on a shell gorget from Spiro in eastern Oklahoma, a key Mississippian moundbuilder site. The form of the bowl and the pot on top of a pole on the gorget are very similar. Both may show how important pottery vessels were in depicting a multilevel world.