

demonstrates the extreme contrast between the worldviews of the treaty signers and the supporters. Of note is the creative use of a theatrical set featuring a Dakota tepee and a U.S. military A-frame canvas tent on either side of the projection screen. The sounds of crackling fires provide verisimilitude, and the dwellings alternately glow to signify the "camp" to which the speakers belong.

But it is not only the leaders who are given voice in *Tales of the Territory*. Indeed, throughout the exhibit, curator Brian Horrigan worked to include the voices of everyday Minnesotans. James Goodhue makes an appearance as an animated hologram next to the original press he used to print *The Minnesota Pioneer* in 1849. Interactive "travel stories" share the perspectives of a heterogeneous group of immigrants ranging from African American Emily Goodridge Grey to Irishwoman Mary Jane Hill Anderson. Most notably, mid-century Dakota child Maza Okiye Win—portrayed by Win's great, great, great granddaughter, Autumn Wilson—appears as a projection in a replica Dakota tepee. In her endearing presentation, Wilson draws on oral traditions as she laments the changes in her nation's culture. Overall, the use of "stories" in this exhibit offers preservationists a model for conceptualizing the many ways social history can be told. In *Tales*, the oral tradition, no less than the material object, is valued as worthy of collection, preservation, and innovative presentation.

This exhibit is one of several featured at the Minnesota History Center in downtown St. Paul. Overlooking the State Capitol, the Center is the hub of the Minnesota Historical Society, whose founding coincides with the designation of the Minnesota Territory in 1849. The Society's mission is to cultivate "among people an awareness of Minnesota history so they may draw strength and perspective from the past and find purpose for the future." In exploring "Minnesota 1849-1858" as a place of conflict and compromise rather than as a territory characterized by inevitable "progress"

towards statehood, *Tales of the Territory* accomplishes the Society's broader mission, and its 1999 opening managed to mark the Sesquicentennial anniversaries of both the Territory and Society without unquestioningly celebrating them.

For all of its strengths, *Tales of the Territory* left this reviewer in the dark several times. The exhibit is dimly lit to protect the artifacts on display, and the motion-sensor lighting helping to illuminate the exhibit seemed slow to respond (and sometimes did not). Reproductions of the "Trader's Paper" and the Treaty of 1851 were difficult to read. Despite these drawbacks, this Sesquicentennial exhibit is both visually and intellectually engaging, and should be of interest to anyone seeking a model for presenting multiple and conflicting perspectives on a delicate topic. *Tales of the Territory: Minnesota 1849-1858* manages to capture the optimism of Minnesota's territorial settlers and the efforts of American Indians to preserve their culture equally well. Overall, by including multiple perspectives, and in working to correct historiographical deficiencies, this otherwise dimly lit exhibit is exceptionally illuminating.

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WEBSITES AND MULTIMEDIA

Texas Beyond History: The Virtual Museum of Texas' Cultural Heritage

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>

Maintained by the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin; accessed May 23, 2005; July 16, 2005; September 9, 2005.

The stated purpose of the *Texas Beyond History* website is "to interpret and share the results of archeological and historical research on the cultural heritage of Texas with the citizens of Texas and the world."¹ The Texas Archaeological Research

Laboratory (TARL) at the University of Texas at Austin is the primary website sponsor and content provider, with 12 other organizations contributing data or assistance. The consortium includes one nonprofit organization, one local cultural resources management firm, two volunteer groups, three academic departments, and five state and federal agencies.

The *Texas Beyond History* website is geared toward archeologists, historians, anthropologists, and, to a lesser extent, ethnographers and architectural historians. Although the website content might not be relevant to all heritage stewardship professionals, the website may prove helpful in other ways. For example, the site's layout, presentation of maps, engravings, historic and contemporary photographs, private and public documents, and artifacts may provide museum professionals with a conceptual framework for a similar online project.

The website offers assistance with teaching Texas heritage. Two sections include materials tailored to elementary school students and teachers. The "Kids" section includes links such as "Fantastic Facts," "Fun Stuff to Do," "Ask Dr. Dirt," "New Words," and "Cool Links." The "Teachers" section includes lesson plans, unit plans, teacher links, as well as an open-ended survey on the usefulness of the site for instructors. Despite its educational focus, "Cool Links" contains 19 links to governmental, academic, and professional websites that would appeal to anyone interested in the state's cultural resources. Topics in "Cool Links" include "Texas Archaeology," "Rock Art," "North American Archaeology," "General Archaeology," and "World Archaeology."

Texas Beyond History achieves its goal of interpreting and sharing the state's cultural heritage by focusing on the stories of the peoples who have settled the land. The "Special Exhibits" section of the website was of particular interest to this reviewer. Not only are the exhibits rotated like they would be at a physical museum, previous exhibits are archived

with active links and dates that the exhibits premiered. Moreover, the addition of new exhibits, newly acquired historic documents, and recently recovered artifacts are announced with a special link on the homepage. These features allow website users to scan the site quickly for new contributions on subsequent visits.

"Special Exhibits" covers the history and prehistory of Texans and of those who have crossed the region. Virtual exhibits present the state's prehistoric treasures and discuss topics ranging from the contact period between local American Indians and Europeans, Spanish presidios and missions, and antebellum plantations, to German farmers, Mexican laborers, and 19th-century logging in East Texas. One of the site's four theme exhibits highlights the Caddo Nation, one of the state's indigenous populations, and presents prehistoric Caddoan life through artifacts and features, modern Caddoan life through profiles of tribal members, and modern and prehistoric aspects of the culture.

Elsewhere on the site, visitors can learn about the role of the Buffalo Soldiers—the U.S. Army, 9th Cavalry Troopers—on the Texas frontier. *Texas Beyond History* also highlights the descendants of the Jornada Mogollon who established pit houses and pueblo dwellings in the valley and foothills of the Hueco Mountains of far western Texas. These examples demonstrate the breadth of the Lone Star State's cultural legacy and the sizeable task of bringing this information to the Web.

The "About Texas Beyond History" section allows users to glean additional information about the virtual exhibits and the professionals responsible for disseminating facts and theories regarding Texas's cultural heritage.

The strengths of *Beyond Texas History* are in the presentation of the complex cultural heritage of Texas and the region. The text is easy to read and accessible without being parochial. When professional jargon is necessary, sidebars offer defini-

tions. The site is very colorful, well designed, and easy to navigate. The "Kids" section uses whimsical fonts and children-friendly terminology (e.g. "cool"). All images are in high resolution, making for sharp visuals, which is not always the case with websites.

Finally, the *Texas Beyond History* homepage includes a useful map of Texas marking the locations and names of select cultural resources. Dragging a cursor over each resource activates a preview of what lies beyond the hyperlink, and double clicking on that link takes the reader to detailed information on that resource. By presenting a modern map of Texas, readers not familiar with Texas and its geography can peruse the exhibits based on their area of interest.

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1. A list of the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory's partners is available online at <http://www.texasbeyonhistory.net/aboutbhp/partners.html>.

Los Adaes: Life at an Eighteenth-Century Spanish Outpost

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/siteexplorer/>

Los Adaes State Historic Site, Louisiana Office of State Parks; maintained by Louisiana Division of Archaeology; accessed August 27, 2005.

In every region of the United States there are historic sites dedicated to settlement. These sites, whether they are found in Massachusetts, South Carolina, Louisiana, Missouri, or California, all have similarities. But it is the regional flair and historical details that make them unique. The website for Los Adaes State Park in Louisiana does an excellent job in providing a regional view of a national past. Through its high-quality visuals, ease of navigation, and wealth of information, the web-

site succeeds in creating an interesting and exciting experience for the online visitor.

Located in western Louisiana, Los Adaes has had a long and varied history. Archeological evidence shows that the cultural traditions of the Caddo Indians began over 1,000 years ago in an area that includes parts of modern day Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The name *adaes* is the Caddoan word for "place along a stream." Even today, descendants of the interaction of Caddoans and French and Spanish settlers, known as *Adaesena*, still influence the area.

According to the website, the Caddos were a powerful group that viewed both the French and Spanish as trading partners and peers. At the request of the local population, a Spanish mission was established in 1716. Two years later, a new mission and a presidio were built a few miles away. Los Adaes not only served as a religious and military center, but it was also the capital of the Province of Texas from 1729 to 1770. The settlement was short-lived, however; by 1773, the presidio and mission had closed.

Today, the Louisiana Office of State Parks manages the site as Los Adaes State Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark. While only 5 percent of the entire site has been excavated, archeological evidence has provided a wealth of information on the locations of several structures and the techniques used in their construction. Produced by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, the website highlights artifacts and other archeological evidence in an online exhibit. Images of Caddoan pottery, French trade kettles, Spanish lead seals, and artifacts relating to religious, military, domestic, and agricultural life reinforce the significance and diversity of Los Adaes.

The website is divided into three sections. "At the Edge of an Empire" tells the story of colonial settlement. Those familiar with settlement patterns

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