

**CROSS TIMBERS GEOGRAPHICAL SITE  
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**

**Site Medallion No. 3  
2602 Mayfield Road  
Tarrant County**

The Cross Timbers comprises a total of more than 3.5 million acres. The western Cross Timbers include the wooded section west of the Grand Prairie in Central North Texas. They extend from the Red River southward to the north edge of Brown County and include a total area of about 2.7 million acres. The eastern Cross Timbers include a long, narrow strip of wooded soils that separate the northern parts of the Blacklands and Grand Prairies. This strip is only a few miles wide and extends from the Red River southward into the Hill Country and includes a total of about one million acres.

The seven-million-acre Grand Prairie includes the flatlands just west of the Blackland Prairie in North Central Texas. This unique total area of approximately 15 million acres, alternating woodlands and broad grassy prairies, offered a bountiful harvest of the essential survival ingredients to the native Indian cultures from the pre-history era through the settlement of Texas.

A mild enough climate, good soil and frequent rains fostered prairie grasses in quantities to support large herds of horses and buffalo. Several salt deposits were featured along with large fresh water springs as special attractions among the many migratory Indian trails.

About 900 A.D., the Co-cho Teichas, left "Che-Ida-Ho" and came into the present southeast Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. They overran the country and drove out the Apaches, who previously had driven out the Shoshoni Indians. Many tribes were to wander into the Cross Timber area. Some brief periods of sharing did occur, however, and cultures merged and modified.

Significant to this area is the arrival in 1519 of the white man. For the next three centuries, explorers and missionaries passed through the Cross Timbers with a desire to control it, based on the same general needs as the Indian.

In the mid 1700's, the Spaniards felt very secure in their impression that their Emperor and his Viceroy held sovereignty over this geographic area, proving very unpopular with local residents, resulting in battles in the overthrow of colonialism in North America.

In 1747-1749, the important event taking place was the peace between the Wichitas and the Comanches. It opened the way to French trade with the Spanish settlements of New Mexico, it allowed the Comanches to obtain firearms, and it made possible a lucrative trade for the Wichitas, as well as giving them an ally instead of an enemy at their western flank.

Many battles were fought, many warriors and soldiers died before time and history could heal the cultural wounds.

There is hardly a more significant large geographical area in Texas related to man's struggle for freedom. White men fought white men, Indians fought Indians and Indians fought whites, all struggling for a homeland in which to live without bondage.

To those who died, to those who lived, to all who saw a vision of living a good life in the Cross Timbers . . . To each who resisted oppression, to all who sought the overthrow of colonialism . . . To the water of life, the soil of sustenance, to the warmth of the campfire and the song of the free spirit that sang in the hearts of all the people of the CROSS TIMBERS . . . . Salute!

Marker research condensed by Ruthe Jackson, September 12, 1981.