



In preparation for the grand opening of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the historic guardhouse from the Longhorn Army Ammunition plant (now the site of the Refuge) was refurbished to create The Caddo Lake Ramsar Wetlands Center.



The project was undertaken by members of the Caddo Lake Clearinghouse, which includes the Caddo Lake Institute, the City of Uncertain, the Caddo Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, the Greater Caddo Lake Association of Texas, and the Friends of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

In mid-July, Clearinghouse members obtained permission to save the building for use as the wetlands center.

The guardhouse was moved from the refuge entrance to the visitor's area. A slab was poured at the new location.





In remodeling the guardhouse, the goal of the Caddo Lake Clearinghouse was to restore the 1942 building as closely as possible to its original dignity, while adapting it for use as an educational center, and improving its energy efficiency. The original building had eight-lite wood-framed windows, pine exterior siding, and pine interior tongue-and-groove walls.



During the 1970's, the original eight-lite wooden windows had been replaced with broad-pane aluminum-clad windows.



The aluminum windows were removed, and insulated Pella Thermastar eight-lite windows that closely matched the originals were installed.



In the 1970's synthetic paneling had been used to replace the original tongue-and-groove pine interior walls.

Insulation was installed before replacing the paneling with tongue & groove pine.





An aluminum drop-grid ceiling with synthetic tiles had been added in the 1970's. The tiles were removed, revealing a plywood ceiling.



The plywood was removed, revealing the quality of the 1942 carpentry in the vaulted ceiling. The rafters were power-washed and hand-oiled with Old English.



Inside the octagonal building, a central unit, “the octagon”, was designed and constructed to display posters about the importance of wetlands to man and animals.



On the exterior, vinyl siding had been added in the 1970's.



The vinyl siding was removed, revealing the original pine siding, still manufactured by East Texas Lumberyards. To complete the exterior, new pine siding was installed, and finished with a water-based stain...



The wetlands center opened on Sept. 26, 2009, thanks to generous contributions from Don Henley, the City of Marshall, the Marshall Convention and Visitor's Bureau, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jerry and Judy Cargill, and The City of Uncertain.



Improvements planned for phase two of the project include a new insulated roof, energy-efficient heating and air conditioning, additional educational displays, and continuing work and development.