El Cuartelejo pueblo as it may have appeared when occupied.

Only Known Indian Pueblo in Kansas

Stone from the surrounding hills was used to build El Cuartelejo.

After 1899 much erosion and disintegration took place. When the Kansas State Historical Society re-excavated the pueblo in 1970, portions of the stone hearths, two sections of the outer wall, and several post holes were found. All evidence that the pueblo had been destroyed by fire was gone. Only charred corn, adobe, and coal, burned tools, and adobe, and the hearths and openings in the roof suggested entrance by ladders through openings in the roof. Small paired post holes in the corners of most rooms were no indications of doors or windows.

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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and/or handicap. Individuals or organizations wishing to file a complaint alleging discrimination should please contact the Equal Opportunity Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327.

All material taken from the surrounding hills was used to build El Cuartelejo.
According to Spanish accounts, two groups of Pueblo Indians from New Mexico fled into the Plains to escape Spanish rule. The first were the Taos Indians who fled to the south and were eventually returned to New Mexico in 1691. The second were the Picuris who joined the Apache in 1696 and were returned to New Mexico 10 years later by Juan de Ulibarri.

A Spanish expedition of some 100 men under Pedro de Villazur camped at El Cuartelejo in 1720 on its way north to determine the location and strength of the French to the north and east. The Spanish were attacked and most of them killed by Pawnee and Comanche. The Spanish, led by de Villazur, retreated.

In 1889, archeological excavations located and exposed the lower portions of stone walls of a pueblo in Scott County, Kansas. In 1971, the Kansas State Historical Society investigated the site and reconstructed it. The site has been recognized as El Cuartelejo.

In 1970, the Kansas State Historical Society undertook additional archeological investigations and reconstruction of the site as found in 1899. Interpretive markers were placed at the site, and it is open to the public. The site is located within the boundary of Lake Scott State Park and is maintained by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

EL CUARTELEJO

Pueblo ruins in Scott County, Kansas, investigated in 1899 by Prof. Williston and recognized as El Cuartelejo.