

Secotan ^[1]

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Secotan



A watercolor drawing of the village of Secotan prepared by John White from observations he made in 1585-86 while a member of the Ralph Lane expedition. Trustees

by William S. Powell, 2006 of the British Museum.

Secotan was a large village of Algonquian-speaking Indians that was encountered in July 1585 along both banks of the [Pamlico River](#) ^[2] by [Sir Richard Grenville](#) ^[3], an explorer sent by [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) ^[4]. The village was documented in a detailed watercolor drawing by [John White](#) ^[5] in 1585-86. Titled "[Indian Village of Secotan](#) ^[6]," the drawing depicts a well-ordered village with family units, storehouses, fields with growing crops, and individuals performing different tasks. In 1690, [Bath](#) ^[7], the first town of English settlers in North Carolina, was established in the vicinity of Secotan, which had been abandoned by the Indians.

References:

Paul Hulton and David B. Quinn, *The American Drawings of John White, 1577-1590*, vol. 1 (1964).

Quinn, *The Roanoke Voyages, 1584-1590* (2 vols., 1955).

Douglas L. Rights, *The American Indian in North Carolina* (2nd ed., 1957).

Subjects:

[Precolonial period \(pre-1600\)](#) ^[8]

[Colonial period \(1600-1763\)](#) ^[9]

[American Indians](#) ^[10]

[UNC Press](#) ^[11]

Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) ^[12]

Origin - location:

[Beaufort County](#) ^[13]

[Bath](#) ^[14]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[15]

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- [4] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/raleigh_walter.shtml
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