

## **Secotan** <sup>[1]</sup>

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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](#) <sup>[2]</sup> by [Sir Richard Grenville](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, an explorer sent by [Sir Walter Raleigh](#) <sup>[4]</sup>. The village was documented in a detailed watercolor drawing by [John White](#) <sup>[5]</sup> in 1585-86. Titled "[Indian Village of Secotan](#) <sup>[6]</sup>," the drawing depicts a well-ordered village with family units, storehouses, fields with growing crops, and individuals performing different tasks. In 1690, [Bath](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, 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 \(pre-1600\)](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Colonial period \(1600-1763\)](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

[American Indians](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

### **Authors:**

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

### **Origin - location:**

[Beaufort County](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Bath](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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- [3] <http://www.famous-explorers.com/famous-english-explorers/sir-richard-grenville/>
- [4] [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/raleigh\\_walter.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/raleigh_walter.shtml)
- [5] <http://www.biography.com/people/john-white-9529444>
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