

Brief History of Arrowhead

Early reports from 16th-century explorers indicated some significant native American settlements along the Chowan River, one of the largest a relatively short distance from the mouth of Indian Creek. The White-DeBry Map of 1590 names the Indian village of Waratah, located south of Indian Creek. Excavations of the site in 1962 dated settlements of at least 2000 years of continuous settlement.

The European settlement of the area paralleled that of Edenton, one of colonial North Carolina's first capitals. Indeed, in the early 1700's the area known as "Indian Town" was owned by an Anglican minister, the Reverend Daniel Earl, who was rector of St. Paul's in Edenton. In 1760 he constructed the first permanent home and developed the area into a sizeable plantation and fishery. It became known as Bandon Plantation. In 1796 the plantation was left to Charles Johnson, a distant relative who consolidated Bandon and the adjoining lands. Bandon was the centerpiece of a vast plantation enterprise of fisheries, grain crops, and timber. After the death of Charles Johnson, Jr. in 1850, Bandon, including 2,350 acres was sold at auction to William J. Holly. By 1860 Holly was one of the wealthiest planters in Chowan County. Holly, along with most antebellum slave owners, fell on hard times at the termination of the Civil War. By his death in 1890 what was left of Bandon went to his creditors. It was subsequently auctioned (house and 1600 acres) to John M. Forehand. He and his heirs retained the property for over fifty years.

In 1944, Bandon was sold to John and Inglis Fletcher. Inglis Fletcher enjoyed a successful career as an historical novelist. Her most notable works were the "Carolina Series" based on the early history of Northeastern North Carolina. In 1963 Bandon caught fire and was destroyed.