

# The Catawba Project: Native Adaptation and Colonial Expansion

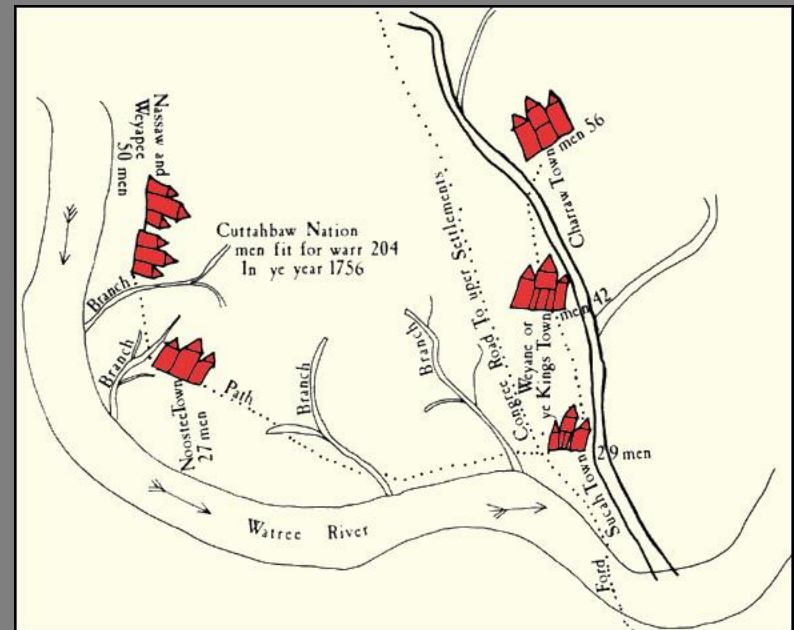


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# Background

The goal of this project was to explore the interaction between Catawba Indians and Anglo-Americans in colonial piedmont South Carolina through the analysis of artifacts recovered from Catawba archaeological sites. Emphasis was placed on the artifacts recovered during the 2009 UNC Field School at Old Town, a Catawba settlement from the 1780s. As I sought to research connections between the Catawba and colonials, the importance of trade emerged. Therefore, my research focused on those artifacts related to this process. Analysis of these items would hopefully reveal the extent of Catawba adaptation to European society. Additionally, traditional Catawba items are also necessary to develop an idea of what areas of Catawba culture were maintained during pressure from Euro-Americans.



# Results



The Field School at Old Town was a successful setting in which to recover and examine Catawba artifacts. A wide range of European- and American-produced trade goods were recovered, indicating a very strong connection between the Catawba and the colonials and a high level of adaptation to the colonial landscape by the Catawba. Artifacts recovered included glass beads, metal nails, pottery, and sealing wax. Additionally, Catawba pottery was recovered in great abundance, indicating that it was an important, traditional aspect of the Catawba economy. After interaction with Europeans, Catawba potters adapted the forms of their pottery to appeal to both colonials and fellow Native Americans. This process can be interpreted as a successful attempt to retain tradition while still maintaining economic competitiveness.

