The Architecture of Contact: Exploring the Built Environment of Fort San Juan

In January 1567, a Spanish expedition under Captain Juan Pardo arrived at the native town of Joara, located at the Berry site in the Catawba Valley of western North Carolina. Here, Pardo established Fort San Juan and manned it with thirty soldiers who lived at Joara for a year and a half. From 2007-2008, excavations at the Berry site focused on two of the five burned buildings that are believed to have housed Pardo's soldiers. This paper compares these buildings and links architectural distinctions between them to deteriorating relations between Joara and its Spanish guests.