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The Berry site dates to the 15th and 16th centuries A.D. and archaeologists believe it represents an ancestral Catawba Indian town that predates the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island. Archaeologists point to evidence indicating the site is the native town of Joara, where Spaniard Juan Pardo in 1567 built Fort San Juan.

Pardo renamed the native settlement Quenca, after his hometown in Spain, and archaeologists believe it is the earliest European settlement in the interior of the United States.

The Berry site is located on Henderson Mill Road off N.C. 181. There is a $5 entrance fee per car. For more information visit www.exploringjoara.org or call 439-2463.
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