FACTS ABOUT BARRIER ISLAND EXHIBIT

Through the shop window you can see a picture of Harvey Jones' home, one of the first built on the island. Harvey negotiated with the Corps of Engineers to construct the house, and reside in it for one year; after which the Corps would dredge a cut from the house to the mainland.

Harvey's Cut can be viewed from Queen's Grant today . An aerial view of that cut is on display.

Barrier Islands are dynamic, mobile and ever changing.

Barrier Islands move in response to waves caused by strong storms such as hurricanes.

Sea levels have changed over time. 18,000 years ago sea level was 425 feet lower than it is today. 7,000 years ago sea level was 40-50 feet lower than it is today.

Peninsulas of sand become Barrier Islands.

500 years ago our Barrier Islands had more inlets cut into them than exist today. This can be verified by maps drawn by early colonists and explorers of the east coast of the United States.

Simple Barrier Islands come and go and are not habitable.

Complex Barrier Islands become wider with shifting sands forming Flood Tide Deltas which add width to the Island.

Complex Barrier Islands develop Dunes and Maritime Forests making them more suitable for habitation.

Today, due to development, there are not a lot of building lots left and Shorelines are receding. This causes the dilemma of how to maintain existing structures, roads and bridges on the Island.

In 1985 North Carolina decided that they did not want hardened shorelines and prohibited the building of Jetties. Although sandbagging was allowed...the practice was abused and did little to deal with the problem of rising sea levels .

Beach Nourishment attempts continue to look for sand on the Continental Shelf to redeposit on Barrier Islands. This process involves sand sampling, dredging and is very costly. Sand Fencing and planting of sea oats help to maintain existing sand.