

OVERHILLS, WATER TANK
(Building No. 10)
Overhills Historic District
East of Nursery Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-C
NC-407-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OVERHILLS, WATER TANK

(Building No. 10)

HABS No. NC-407-C

- Location: East of Nursery Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3899222.680251
- Present Owner: Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Fort Bragg
- Original Use: Water storage for the Overhills area.
- Present Use: Vacant
- Significance: The Water Tank in the Hunt Stable portion of the Overhills area at Fort Bragg is a contributing part of an eligible Fort Bragg historic district for the National Register of Historic Places. The Water Tank was constructed ca. 1925 to supply water for the entire area. The Hunt Stable area is at the eastern edge of the Overhills historic district as identified in the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Overhills Tract, Fort Bragg, May 2000.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: Ca. 1925.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: Rockefeller Family, Fort Bragg.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: None could be located.
6. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Overhills Water Tank is a cylindrical, all-wood water tank with a sixteen sided roof. The tank was built with wood stave construction and held together by huge iron rings. The water level in the tank was controlled by an apparatus similar to that which controls the water level in a toilet. The water tank was later replaced with a newer water tower to the north.
2. Condition of the Fabric: Although the entire structure leans somewhat to the northeast, the foundation is actually in good condition. The vertical boards are in poor condition and have developed gaps between them. All but one of the stave rings have fallen, the roof is in poor condition, and the paint has failed.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Overhills Water Tank has a 12'-8" inner diameter, 5½" thick walls, and an outer diameter of 13'-1½". The tank walls are 13'-9½" tall and the peak of the roof is 17'-3½" without the spirelet.
2. Foundations: The foundation is a 10" thick concrete slab.
3. Wall Construction: The main perimeter walls are comprised of two layers of 2¾" thick wood staves of various widths that form the circular facade.
4. Structural System, Framing: The floor framing consists of 1½"x 11" floor joists that sit directly on the concrete slab.

The staves are held together by 5/8" diameter iron hoops (Photo NC-407-C-2). Ghost lines indicate that these rings were originally spaced 1'-3" to 1'-8" apart, but have since fallen to the bottom.

The roof structure is composed of 2"x 4" rafters that form a sixteen part roof. The rafters frame into a circular board at the peak. The roof deck is composed of various width boards running horizontally with ¼" spacing between each board.

5. Porches, Balconies: None.
6. Chimney: None.
7. Openings:
 - a. Openings: There is a 1'-6"x 1'-6" opening in the roof that allows access to the tank.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: None.
 - c. Windows: None
8. Roof:

- a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is a cone with a moderate slope. The covering material is green rolled asphalt roofing material.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves:** The roof overhang is 1'-0" all around. Rafter tails are chamfered with sixteen 1"x 2" fascia boards around the roof line.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There is a spirelet at the peak of the roof. It is 3'-0" tall and is 12" in diameter at its base.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The plan of the Water Tank is a circle with a 12'-8" inner diameter and 5½" thick walls.
2. Stairways and Ladders: There are two ladders for the Water Tank. The iron exterior ladder is located on the northeast side of the tank. This ladder is 14'-5" tall and 1'-1" wide. It has thirteen rungs that are each 2" deep and are located 1'-0" apart.

The wooden ladder on the interior of the tank is 1'-6" wide. It has 2"x 4" sides which have bird's-mouth notches that hold the rungs. This ladder is attached to the interior wall with two iron bars.

3. Flooring: The floor is 1½" thick floor boards of assorted widths. The finished floor level is 2'-4½" above grade.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The interior wall is the inner layer of staves. The staves are 2¾" thick with various widths.

The ceiling has no interior finish and the rafters and roof deck are exposed.

5. Openings:
 - a. Openings: None.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: None.
 - c. Windows: None.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: There are no decorative features.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.

- b. Lighting: None.
 - c. Plumbing: The water level in the tank was controlled by an apparatus similar to that which controls the water level in a toilet.
 - d. Fixtures: None.
9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings.
- D. Site:
- 1. General Setting: The Overhills Water Tank is located to the south of the 1950s metal Water Tank (No.9) that was its replacement. The Hunt Stable Residence No. 2 is located to the east along with its support buildings, the Hunt Stable Residence No. 2 Shed (No.8), and the Hunt Stable Residence No. 2 Garage (No.7). The Hunt Stable (No.2) is in the distance to the southeast.
 - 2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is no designed landscaping scheme in the area surrounding the Water Tank.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are none.
- B. Historic Views: There are none.
- C. Interviews: None
- D. Bibliography:

- 1. Primary and unpublished sources:
- 2. Secondary and published sources:

Alexander, Frances and Richard Mattson. "Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Overhills Tract, Fort Bragg, Harnett and Cumberland Counties, North Carolina, Final Report." Charlotte, NC: Mattson, Alexander and Associates prepared for US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, May 2000.

Hood, Davyd Foard. "Overhills Historic District. Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places" (draft), 1992. On file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated: None.

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

The Cultural Resources Management Program in the Directorate Public Works at Fort Bragg, North Carolina sponsored this project. The project was completed at the Land and Heritage Conservation Branch of the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) part of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The project historian was Adam Smith (CERL). Adam Smith, with assistance from Christella Lai and Jennifer Feucht, produced the architectural description section of the report. Martin Stupich produced the large-format photographs contained in the report. Documentation was coordinated with the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program through preservation planner Cris Armstrong and architectural historian Michelle Michael. The documentation was completed October 2003.

