

OVERHILLS, POLO BARN
(Building No. 18)
Overhills Historic District
West of Nursery Road & North of Thurman Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-K
NC-407-K

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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, POLO BARN

(Building No. 18)

HABS No. NC-407-K

Location: West of Nursery Road & north of Thurman Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3898990.679338

Present Owner: Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Fort Bragg

Original Use: Barn

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Polo Barn in the Entrance Compound 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 Polo Barn was remodeled from its original use as an equipment and hay barn ca. 1922. The construction date of the original barn is unknown. The Entrance Compound area is at the center 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: Unknown.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: Unknown (Harriman), Rockefeller Family, Fort Bragg.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: None could be located.
6. Alterations and additions: The Polo Barn was originally an equipment and hay barn that was remodeled ca. 1922. Exact details of the remodeling are unknown.

B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Polo Barn is a two-story wood frame building with horse stalls, tack rooms, and a hayloft. Originally an equipment shed, the Polo Barn was remodeled in 1922 to house polo horses during the winter season. The Polo Barn has sixteen horse stalls, each with a window and wide Dutch door that opens into a sheltered open area either along the southeast or northwest side. A fence that creates a large corral area for the polo horses beginnings at the south end of the southwest facade and ends at the north end of the northeast facade. Many elements still exist throughout the barn that depicts how it functioned during its period of use, saddle and bridle racks adorn the walls of the barn, a painting in the northeast tack room depicts polo equipment, and a chalk drawing in another tack room shows a horse and rider. With its weatherboard siding and batten Dutch doors, the Polo Barn is a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century horse barn.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The barn's structure and siding are in good condition. The floors and roof, however, are in poor condition. There are also several missing windows and doors. The building is surrounded by overgrown vegetation.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Polo Barn is a two-story building with horse stalls on the first level and a hayloft on the second. The building measures 59'-0" x 80'-5¼" and is built on a northeast-southwest axis. Weatherboard siding is painted red, and doors and trim are painted blue-grey on all facades.

The northeast elevation (Photo NC-407-K-3, Photo NC-407-K-4, and Photo NC-407-K-5) is a gable end with openings on two levels and a nearly symmetrical facade. The first level has four large windows on each side of a central door and a small window located to the left of the door. A small bracketed pent roof shelters the entrance door and adjacent window. The second level has a set of hayloft doors centered in the gable and a vent located directly above these doors.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-K-2, Photo NC-407-K-4) is a single story open facade with six posts that support the roof. At both ends of the building, tack rooms are enclosed with red 7½" weatherboards.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-K-1, Photo NC-407-K-2) is a gable wall with windows on two levels and a nearly symmetrical facade. The first level has

eight large windows, four on either side of a central door and an additional smaller window located to the right of the door. The second level has a hayloft door centered under the ridge of the roof.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-K-3) is identical to the southeast facade with six posts and enclosed tack rooms.

2. Foundations: Undetermined.
3. Wall Construction: The walls in the hayloft and southwest bay of the barn have 2"x 4" wood studs. The weatherboard siding is ¾" thick with 7½" reveals and is nailed to the wall studs. Weatherboard covers the exterior side of the stall walls.
4. Structural System, Framing: The southeast and northwest facades have sheltered open areas on the main level with 6, 9'-1½" tall posts supporting the roof overhang. The posts taper from a 7" diameter at the base to 6" diameter at the top and support a 2"x 6" coupled girder which supports the rafters. The girder has a 2"x 6" board nailed to the inside which covers the girder and extends 2" beyond the face. The rafters in the southeast and northwest sheltered areas are supported by diagonal braces (Photo NC-407-K-8) that frame into a 1"x 4½" piece of wood nailed to the wall above the stall doors. The exterior wall framing is composed of 2"x 4" wood studs, with 2, 2x4s sistered together as a top plate and a 1"x 7" sill plate. Posts have been added along the center partition wall to support the loft floor. The posts are 3½" square, have a capital, and support a 2½"x 3½" beam.

The roof framing is composed of 2"x 6" rafters and 1"x 6" decking with 5" spaces. The southwest bay of the roof has a different roof deck (this might be a remnant of the original equipment in the hay barn). Thirteen 4"x 6" posts in the hayloft support the roof structure. A ¾"x 6" partition cap tops the posts and runs the entire length of the hayloft. 1"x 7½" roof ties rest on the partition cap. Diagonal supports and king post are 1"x 7½".

5. Porches, Balconies: None.
6. Chimney: There is one chimney located above the north tack room. The chimney measures 1'-5"x 1'-4¾" with 8"x 2½" bricks and ½" mortar joints; the chimney runs up the southwest wall of the tack room, 4'-2½" from the door. A 7" diameter stove pipe opening on the chimney is located 6'-4" above the floor. The chimney rises 40 courses above the roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Openings: The southeast and northwest elevations have openings on each side that are 63'-8¼" long and located 7'-11½" from the ends of the facades. The roofs over the openings are supported by six posts with random spacing.

There are two louvered vents above the hayloft doors on the northeast facade. The overall size is 3'-0" x 3'-0" with a 3¾" mullion between the vents.

- b. Doorways and Doors: The northeast and southwest elevations each have one door on the lower level. These doors are identical Dutch wooden batten doors which are in 3'-6" x 7'-5" openings (Photo NC-407-K-6). The upper door is 3'-5" wide and 3'-5¼" tall and the bottom door is 3'-5" wide and 3'-11" tall. The upper doors are composed of 1½" v-channel tongue and groove boards with 1" x 4½" diagonal braces and 4½" horizontal and vertical battens. The bottom doors are composed of 1½" v-channel tongue and groove boards with 4½" diagonal braces and 4½" top and side battens; the bottom batten is 8½" wide. Both the top and bottom doors have iron latches and each door has an iron handle that measures 1½" wide and 7½" tall (Photo NC-407-K-7).

There are hayloft doors on both gable ends of the building. The hayloft doors are located on the second floor and centered under the ridge of the roof on each end. The southwest facade has a single door that is 3'-6½" wide and 5'-1" tall and is composed of 1" thick random width boards with two 1" x 4¾" horizontal battens. The opening is 3'-8" wide and 5'-1½" tall and the door swings inward. The northeast facade hayloft doors are in a 5'-10½" wide and 6'-3" tall opening. Double doors for the opening are each 2'-11" wide and 6'-2¾" tall and composed of ¾" x 3" tongue and groove boards with two 1" x 9½" horizontal battens and a 1" x 4" diagonal support. All battens are located on the interior side of these doors and the doors swing outward.

- c. Windows: The northeast facade has nine windows. Four large windows are located to either side of the door; the openings are identical and measure 2'-7¾" x 4'-8¼". There are no original windows left and some openings have wood window protectors. The protectors have 1" thick random width vertical boards with three 1" x 2" horizontal supports. The windows in these openings were double hung at one time, as tracks and some weights are still extant. The windows are located 2'-6½" above the floor and interior trim on the windows is 4½". An additional small window is located to the left of the door.

The southwest facade has the same window configuration with the exception of the small window being located to the right of the door.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof is a gable roof; the ridge runs northeast to southwest. The roof covering is crimp metal roofing.

There is a small bracketed pent roof over the door on the northeast facade (Photo NC-407-K-6). The roof is 2'-8" deep, and 5'-4" wide. Two brackets support the decking which is 5½" tongue-and-groove boards which are covered by wood shingles. The brackets are 1½"x 3½" with a 1½"x 3½" diagonal support; a smaller bracket is located in the center of the roof. There is a 1½"x 3½" fascia board.

- b. Cornice, Eaves: The roof overhang is 1'-11" on the northwest and southeast facades and the eaves are open with exposed rafter tails. The rake boards are 1"x 4".
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The first story has six tack rooms, sixteen horse stalls, and two sheltered open areas; the second story hayloft runs the entire length of the building and about half the width, directly over the horse stalls. Three tack rooms are located at each end of the barn and all are different sizes. The northeast tack rooms are 7'-2 ¼" deep and the southwest tack rooms are 7'-11½" deep. The northeast tack rooms measure 23'-6", 11'-7½", and 21'-6" long from northwest to southeast. The southwest tack rooms measure 23'-4½", 11'-11½", and 21'-3½" long from northwest to southeast. The sixteen horse stalls are each 15'-4½" deep and range in width from 7'-9½" to 7'-5¼". There are two long, rectangular areas located between the stalls and the exterior perimeter of the building on the southeast and northwest sides of the building. These areas are 13'-6" deep and 63'-8¼" long and are protected by the roof. The second story of the building contains the hayloft, which measures 34'-6"x 79'-7½".
2. Stairways and Ladders: There are two ladders located in the tack rooms of this building. One ladder is in the north tack room at the north corner of the building, located 6'-8½" from the door on the southwest wall. The ladder is 2'-0" wide with 1"x 1½" rails and ¾"x 2½" rungs. There are nine rungs spaced 1'-½" apart. A second ladder is located in the east tack room on the east corner of the building. This ladder has the same dimensions as the ladder in the north tack room, and is located 9'-7" from the door on the same wall.
3. Flooring: The floors in the stalls and open areas are dirt. Most tack rooms have tongue-and-groove plank floors; others are plywood or dirt floors. The hayloft floor is composed of varied width wood planks.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: On the first level, the tack room walls and ceilings have a 5½" tongue-and-groove plank finish of an undetermined thickness. The interior partition walls between the horse stalls are 6'-4" tall and 5" thick and composed of 2"x 4" studs and tongue-and-groove wall boards. The ceiling above the stalls is also tongue and groove.

The wall and roof structure is exposed in the hayloft (Photo NC-407-K-15).

5. Openings:

- a. Openings: The southwestern stalls have vents between each stall. The vents are 3'-11" wide by 1'-4" tall and have two horizontal louvers. The original openings on the hay loft floor for the hay feeders have been boarded over, but the original openings measured 46"x 46".
- b. Doorways and Doors: Each corner of the building houses a tack room. The northwest tack rooms have original five-panel doors and the southeast tack room doors are missing. Doors are 2'-11³/₄"x 7'-0" with 2'-4"x 11¹/₂" horizontal panels and retain their original hardware.

All horse stalls have Dutch doors (Photo NC-407-K-9) in 3'-6" wide openings. The upper doors are missing from all openings, but ghost lines of hinges suggest that these doors existed at one time. The bottom doors are identical to the exterior doors of the barn, 3'-5" wide and 3'-11" tall. The door is composed of 1¹/₂" v-channel tongue and groove boards with 4¹/₂" diagonal braces and top and side battens; the bottom batten is 8¹/₂" wide. All doors have iron handles measuring 1¹/₂" wide and 7¹/₂" tall and two T-hinges. The floor of the barn slopes to the northwest, but door headers remain level.

The loft has three trapdoors. The north corner trapdoor is 1'-10" square. The other trapdoors are 2'-1¹/₂" square. The doors are composed of random width planks. The north and east corner trapdoors lead to the respective tack rooms below. The middle trapdoor leads to an iron hay crib below.

- c. Windows: Each horse stall has one window next to its door (Photo NC-407-K-10). The window opening measures 2'-¹/₂" wide and 3'-6" tall. Trim on all sides of the opening is painted blue-grey and is 4¹/₂" wide; the sill is 1¹/₂" thick and the top trim has a drip edge. Each window has three horizontal bars ¹/₂" in diameter; the bars are spaced 5" apart and the bottom bar is 10¹/₂" above the window sill. The floor of the barn slopes to the northeast, but the windows remain level. The top of the windows are slightly lower than the top of the doors.

6. Decorative Features and Trim: The tack room in the north corner of the building has the shapes of polo equipment painted on the northwest wall (Photo NC-407-K-12). The painting is 4'-7" wide and 3'-11" tall and located 2'-2" from the floor. The white background of the painting is surrounded by a red border.

A chalk drawing of a horse and rider is located on the wall of the middle tack room on the southwest end of the building (Photo NC-407-K-13).

Interior trim for all tack room windows and doors is 1"x 4½". On most doors and windows, the interior door or window head extends ½" beyond the casing on either side.

7. Hardware: Original hardware appears to be extant for all of the windows and doors in the Polo Barn. No manufacturer for the hardware could be found.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
 - b. Lighting: Lighting from the period is still extant in the Polo Barn.
 - c. Plumbing: None.
 - d. Fixtures: None.
9. Original Furnishings: Each stall has a hay crib that is filled from the hayloft, but the 3'-10" square openings have been closed in the hayloft.

There are several hay cribs and troughs in the Polo Barn (Photo NC-407-K-14). Four hay cribs are located in the horse stalls. Each crib is shared by four stalls. No manufacturer could be found.

A Higbee Oat Cleaner is located in the corner of the southeast sheltered open area. The oat cleaner is 9" deep, 1'-1" wide, 6'-2" tall, and extends through the hayloft floor.

A water trough is located in the middle southwest tack room. The trough manufacturer is JW Fiske Ironworks, NY.

There are also several saddle and bridle racks in the tack rooms and open areas of the barn. Saddle racks (Photo NC-407-K-11) are 1'-5" deep, and the bracket is 1'-8" tall and 8" wide at the top and 4¼" wide at the bottom. A 1"x 2½" diagonal brace supports the rack and a 1" diameter peg is located at the bottom of the rack. Bridle racks are 7" wide, 11" tall, and ¾" deep with two 1" diameter pegs.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The building is located to the northeast of the entrance road for the complex. A 12'-9" wide unpaved driveway leading north toward the Polo Barn House (No.19) runs to the northwest of the building.
2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is no overall planting scheme for the Polo Barn. The building is located on an expanse of grass, now overgrown with weeds and dog fennel. The southwest elevation is planted with one large loblolly pine tree located in the northwest corner 8'-7" from the building. A small volunteer oak tree

is located at the southeast corner. A wooden post and rail fence running northwest to southeast is located 11'-8" from the south corner of the building. An 11'-8" long wooden gate is located on the northwest side of the fence. The fence is 7'-9" long, at which point another fence joins this one and runs perpendicular toward the entrance road. There is a gap between the two fences, but it appears that there was once fencing in that gap.

The northeast elevation faces a field that is now overgrown with grass and weeds, and a large loblolly pine tree is located in the southeast corner approximately 18'-0" from the building. A wooden post and rail fence is located on the north corner and runs northeast. A metal gate, 15'-7" long, is located 15'-9" from the building along this fence. The northwest elevation faces a wooded area of pine, oak, and maple trees in the distance across the unpaved driveway. The southeast elevation faces a field that is now overgrown with grass and weeds, and has no landscaping.

The northeast and southeast yards were inaccessible due to the overgrowth of grass and weeds; accurate descriptions of these areas are unavailable, but there appears to be no plantings near these elevations.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are none.
- B. Historic Views: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.
- 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 May 2007.

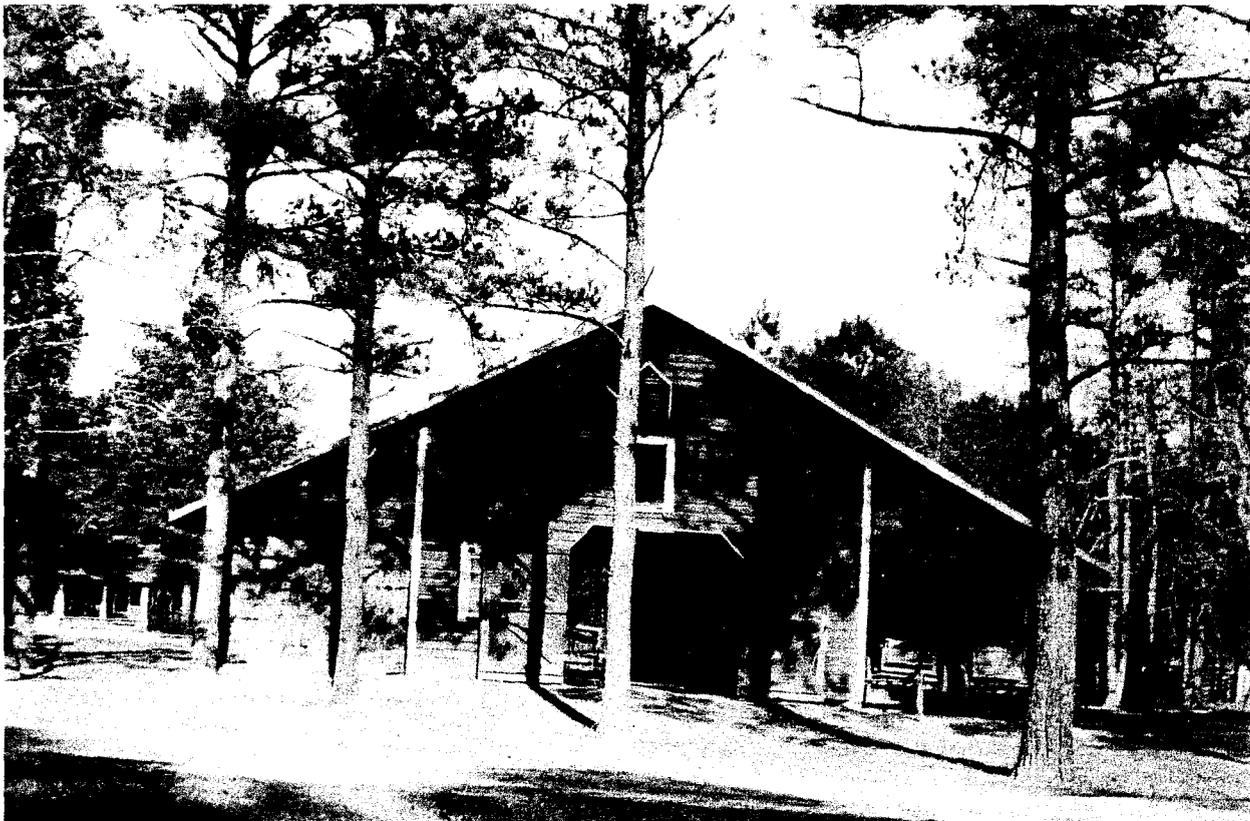


Figure 1: Overhills Hay Barn before renovation into Harriman's Polo Barn Ca. 1920 (courtesy NC SHPO).

OVERHILLS, POLO BARN
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HABS No. NC-407-K (page 10)

