

OVERHILLS, POLO BARN HOUSE
(Building No. 19)
Overhills Historic District
West of Nursery Road & North of Thurman Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-L
NC-407-L

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NC 407-L

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

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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 17.3899056.679346

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

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Polo Barn House 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 House was constructed ca. 1922 for the manager of the Polo Barn. 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: Ca. 1922.
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: Mismatched weatherboards on the southeast facade indicate that the southeast portion of the front porch has been enclosed, or is a later addition. The roof structure over the rear rooms and weatherboards visible above the ceiling indicate that the kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom may have been a porch or a later addition.

B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Polo Barn House is a single story house with weatherboard siding. All rooms fit neatly into the rectangular perimeter of the plan. A screened porch is located on the front of the house and a rear porch is located on the north corner. Both porches have roofs that are supported by skinned tree trunk posts. There are few original windows and almost no original doors. The ceilings in the front and rear rooms are sloped where they meet the front and back wall of the building to account for the roof slope.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The roof is in good condition although there are no gutters and pine needles cover the roof. The foundation and exterior are in good condition as well. The interior, however, is in poor condition. Also, the rear porch floor and steps have rotted and all windows are in bad condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Polo Barn House is a single story house with a gable roof and measures 40'-½" along the northeast and southwest facades; the southeast and northwest facades are 35'-9½" long. The height of the ridge is 14'-10".

The northeast elevation (Photo NC-407-L-2) is the rear facade. It has four windows and a covered porch on the north corner. There is also a 1'-3¾" x 1'-3¾" chimney located between the two middle windows of this facade. The siding is weatherboard.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-L-1) is a gable wall with weatherboard siding and two windows of different size. Mismatched weatherboards at the southwest end of the southeast elevation, where the enclosed porch meets the southeast wall, give evidence that the screened porch may have originally spanned the entire southwest facade. A 1'-1" x 2'-0" vent is located in the gable.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-L-1) is the front facade. An incised, screened porch with an entry door is located to the northwest end of this facade; the southeast end of the porch has been enclosed and has a two-over-two window on the weatherboard facade.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-L-2) is a gable wall with weatherboard siding and three windows of various size. The ends of the rear porch and the front screened porch are visible on this elevation.

2. Foundations: The foundation is inaccessible, covered by a skirt of various width boards with ¼" spaces. The skirt on the southeast facade and the enclosed part of the porch is composed of corrugated metal roofing. The skirt covers the bottom 1'-10" of all facades.
3. Wall Construction: The exterior sheathing is ¾" thick weatherboards with 6¾" reveals. Corner boards are butted and painted black; they measure 1¾"x 3¾". The southwest corner has only one end cap, on the southwest facade. The wall structure is inaccessible.
4. Structural System, Framing: The roof structure is composed of 2"x 5" rafters and 1"x 7½" decking with ½" gaps. The rafters above the rear portion of the house are not original. An exposed rafter reveals a notch in the original rafter where a new 2"x 5½" rafter has been fitted into the original structure.
5. Porches, Balconies: There is a screened porch on the southwest facade. The porch is 24'-9½" wide and 7'-0" deep. Four 10" stripped tree trunk posts (Photo NC-407-L-4) support the porch roof and are spaced 7'-6" apart, on average. Screens are placed outside the columns with 2"x 2" frames. Horizontal framing pieces are located along the floor, 2'-10" above the floor, and along the roof line. The southeast end of the porch has been enclosed, but a 4"x 9" porch beam is still extant in the room. The ceiling in the porch is slanted at the front of the room where the ceiling height meets the roof. Three steps leading to the porch are located at the front entrance. The treads are 3'-4" wide, 11" deep and 1½" thick, risers are 7", and the stringer is 1½" thick. The southwest facade screen door is not original to the house.

A rear porch is located on the north corner of the building (Photo NC-407-L-3). The roof is supported by a single stripped tree trunk post at the north corner. Three steps to the porch are located on the northwest side of the porch.

6. Chimney: There are two chimneys for this house. An original chimney is located on the northeast side of the roof.

A second chimney, which is not original to the house, is external and abuts the rear facade between the two middle windows of the northeast facade; it measures 1'-3¾"x 1'-3¾". The chimney continues through the roof overhang to a height of 15'-1".

7. Openings:
 - a. Openings: None.

- b. Doorways and Doors: There are two doors located on the rear porch, one is an entrance to the house and the other is a door that leads into a storage area. Another door, which provides entry to the screened front porch, is located on the front facade. There are three additional doors which provide access to the building from the screened porch.

The door leading to the enclosed portion of the porch (Photo NC-407-L-5) is not original to the house, but was installed when the porch was enclosed. The door measures 2'-11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6'-7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and has a two-pane window centered near the top of the door, each pane measures 1'-7" x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the trim is a 2" brick molding.

The door from the porch to the living room is 2'-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6'-6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and is located 17'-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the northwest facade. The door, trim, and hardware are not original to the house. The top of the door has three horizontal glass panes which measure 2'-0" x 12" and the bottom of the door has three horizontal wood panels which measure 2'-0" x 7".

The door to the south bedroom is an original 2'-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6'-4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " five-panel door with 2 sets of coupled vertical panels and one horizontal panel (Photo NC-407-L-6). Top vertical panels are 9" x 2'-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", bottom vertical panels are 9" x 1'-5", and the middle horizontal panel is 1'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7". The doorway is located 1'-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the northwest facade and measures 2'-8" x 6'-5".

The rear entrance to the house is located on the north porch and leads into the kitchen. Even though the wall that the door is located on may not have been original to the house, this door fits the time period of the house and therefore may have been the original front door to the house which was later moved to its location at the rear entrance. The door measures 2'-6" x 6'-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and has a nine-light window over two vertical wood panels. The glass panes are 7" x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and the wood panels are 9" x 2'-0".

A separate storage area is located off the north porch and has a five-panel door with horizontal panels.

- c. Windows: The northeast facade has four windows. The bathroom window is a six-over-six, double-hung window in a 2'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3'-9" opening and is located 4'-8" above grade. The window has 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim on the top and sides and a 1" thick sill; glass panes measure 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8". The middle windows are framed in 2'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4'-8" openings, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim, and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " sill; they are located 3'-5" above grade. The kitchen window is a four-over-four double-hung window in a 2'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4'-8" opening with 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " sill; it is located 3'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " above grade.

The southeast facade has two windows. A four-over-four double-hung window is located in the center of the facade, and measures 2'- $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 4'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The other window, located toward the south end of the facade, is a two-over-two double-hung window that measures 2'-7"x 3'-2 with 2'-4"x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " glass panes. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim with 2" brick mold is mitered at the corners with a 1" thick sill.

The southwest facade window and trim is the same two-over-two double-hung window as the southern window on the southeast facade. It measures 2'-7"x 3'-2 with 2'-4"x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " glass panes and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim. The two-over-two windows and their trim date to the enclosing of the porch.

The northwest facade has three windows. The storage room off the rear porch has one window, located 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the north corner of the house and 5'-9" above grade. This window is a six-paned window that measures 2'-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 2'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; each pane measures 9"x 12" with $\frac{3}{4}$ " muntins. It is undetermined if the window is operable, as the storage room is inaccessible. Trim is 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " on the sides and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the top; there is no apron and the sill is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. The other two windows on this facade are located in the front bedroom. These windows were likely six-over-six windows, but the original sashes are no longer extant. The middle window is a four-over-six window and only the bottom sash appears to be original. The third window is a four-over-four window and does not appear to be original. Each pane in the four-pane sashes measures 10"x12"; the six-pane sash has 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " panes. Both windows are 2'-0"x 3'-9" and are located 4'-4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " above grade. Trim for both windows is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the sides and top with a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " trim nailed to it, and the sill is 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick.

There are three windows located on the screened porch (Photo NC-407-L-5). These windows are nine-over-nine double-hung windows and are all original to the house; the trim, however, is not original. Two windows are identical, and measure 2'-5"x 5'-7" with 8"x10" glass panes and $\frac{3}{4}$ " muntins. The third window on the right is narrower, measuring only 2'-1" wide. The windows are located 6'-11", 14'-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and 21'-11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the northwest facade.

All exterior window trim and sills are painted black.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof is a gable roof whose ridge runs northwest to southeast. The shingles are three-tab asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: The eaves are open and have 1"x 6" fascia and 1"x 4" rake boards. The roof overhang is 1'-6" on the northeast and southwest, and 2'-0" on the southeast and northwest sides. There are no gutters.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The floor plan of the Polo Barn House is a rectangular box. A screened front porch provides entrance to the 12'-1½" x 16'-4" living room, the 12'-11" x 16'-4" west bedroom, and a small 12'-8" x 6'-8" room on the southeast end of the porch. The living room and small porch room provide entry to the 13'-2" x 16'-4" south bedroom. The rear of the house has, from northwest to southeast, a 5'-1" x 3'-11" storage room on the porch, a 14'-4" x 10'-11" kitchen, a 12'-7½" x 10'-11" dining room, and 5'-5" x 10'-11" bathroom.
2. Stairways and Ladders: None.
3. Flooring: The southeast bedroom has its original 4¼" tongue-and-groove flooring. The flooring in the rest of the house has been replaced with a 2½" wood strip floor, and the front porch deck is 3" wide wood strips.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The interior wall finish in all rooms is 4'x 8' sheets of modern wood paneling. The inside walls of the bedroom closets are finished with beadboard that has 3/16" beads spaced 3" apart, with 1/16" channels. The ceiling in the southeast bedroom is finished with various width tongue-and-groove boards, though 6" wide seems to be the average. Ceilings in the living room and two front bedrooms are 8'-½" above the floor. The rear rooms have a 7'-1" ceiling that slopes toward the rear wall for 3'-9", where it is 6'-2" above the floor.
5. Openings:
 - a. Openings: The living room has one opening that leads to the dining room. The opening measures 2'-6¼" x 6'-5½".

An opening in the ceiling of the rear bedroom reveals the original structure. Weatherboards are on the exterior side of the rear living room wall, indicating that the kitchen, rear bedroom, and bathroom may have been a rear porch or a later addition.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: Original doors are five-panel doors with two sets of paired, vertical panels and one horizontal panel (Photo NC-407-L-6). Top vertical panels are 9" x 3'-11½", bottom vertical panels are 9" x 1'-5", and the middle horizontal panel is 1'-10½" x 7". The door between the living room and southeast bedroom is a five-panel door with 2'-0" x 10" horizontal panels. This door measures 2'-8" x 6'-6½" and is not original to the house. The door between the living room and west bedroom is an original five-panel door. The southeast bedroom has one original five-panel door leading to the enclosed porch space. The door measures 2'-7" x 6'-7¼" and has no original hardware. The door to the bathroom is a five-

panel door with 1'-9½" x 10½" horizontal panels and no original hardware. The door is 2'-4¾" wide and 6'-4¼" tall. The other bathroom door is a six-panel door with 2'-10½" x 7½" horizontal panels. The door measures 2'-6½" x 6'-5¼". The doorway between the kitchen and dining room measures 2'-4½" x 6'-8".

The west bedroom closet has a 2'-7¼" x 6'-4¼" five panel door with 2'-11¾" x 10½" horizontal panels. This door is contemporary to the contributing period, but not original to the house. The closet door in the east bedroom is a tongue-and-groove plank door that measures 2'-1" x 6'-5½".

c. Windows: None.

6. Decorative Features and Trim: Interior trim throughout the house is not original.

The living room has a modern fireplace that was constructed over the original fireplace in the north corner of the room. The modern fireplace measures 4'-3" from the floor to the top of the mantle and is 5'-1" wide and 4" deep. Bricks measure 7½" x 1¾" with ½" mortar. The hearth is 4'-6" wide, 1'-4" deep and 5" thick. The original fireplace is still extant behind the modern fireplace. The original mantle is 3'-9" tall, and 2½" deep.

Another fireplace is located in the east corner of the west bedroom and shares a chimney with the living room fireplace. The mantle is 3'-10" above the hearth and is 4" thick. This is the original concrete hearth which measures 4'-2" wide and 1'-4" deep. There is a 6½" diameter stove pipe opening in the brick 2'-1" above the hearth and 2'-8" from the edge.

7. Hardware: Original hardware is not extant for windows and doors unless noted otherwise. No manufacturer for the hardware could be found.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: A 6½" diameter stove pipe opening is located in the rear bedroom between the windows 2'-5" above the floor.

b. Lighting: There is no original lighting in the house.

c. Plumbing: There is no original plumbing.

d. Fixtures: There are no original fixtures. The date on the toilet is 1961.

9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings. A nine-over-nine window in the southeast bedroom, between the bedroom and the enclosed part of the porch, was covered and used as a shelving unit.

D. Site:

1. **General Setting:** The building is located north of the Polo Barn (No.18). An unpaved driveway is located along the northwest side of the building that connects the Polo Barn House Garage (No.20) with the Entrance road to the complex.
2. **Landscaping, Enclosures:** There is an overall planting scheme for the Polo Barn House on the southwest (front) side of the house. Magnolia trees, holly trees, and day lilies line the screened porch on this elevation. There is an open grassy area in front of the building with two pine trees located approximately 23'-0" from the building. The northeast elevation faces an expanse of overgrown grass and dog fennel with a wooded area of various pine trees and oak trees in the distance. A volunteer oak tree is located in the northwest corner. The northwest wall has small volunteer pine tree and oak trees next to the foundation by the porch steps. The southeast elevation faces an area of grass with weeds and dog fennel. Overgrown grass, dog fennel and volunteer oak trees surround the building. There is one large loblolly pine tree planted on the southwest elevation in the west corner.

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:

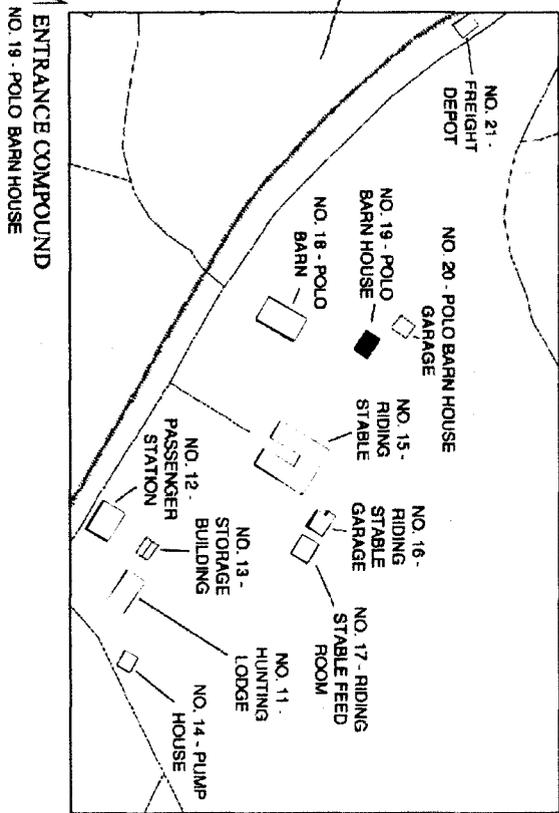
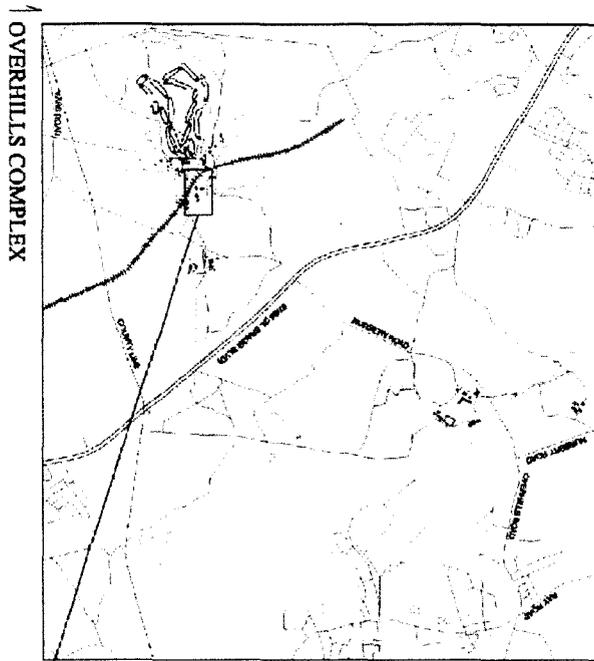
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Hood, Davyd Foard. "Overhills Historic District. Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places" (draft), 1992. On file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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.



MAPS NOT TO SCALE