

OVERHILLS, LAKE BATHHOUSE
(Building No. 23)
Overhills Historic District
East of Railroad ROW & North of Thurman Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-N
NC-407-N

HABS
NC 407-N

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, LAKE BATHHOUSE

(Building No. 23)

HABS No. NC-407-N

Location: East of railroad ROW & north of Thurman Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3899216.679258

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

Original Use: Changing facilities and pump house.

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Lake Bathhouse in the Overhills Lake 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 Lake Bathhouse, constructed ca. 1920, contains changing rooms on the first floor and a pump room in the basement. The Overhills Lake area is at the northern 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. 1920.
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 Lake Bathhouse is a two-story brick structure located just west of the Overhills Dam. The bathhouse faces the lake and is built slightly off a northwest-southeast axis. The building contains two rooms with separate entrances that served as changing rooms for male and female swimmers. The location of the Lake Bathhouse on the back of the dam wall causes the building to appear to have only one story on the lake side, while the back side shows two stories. The southeast and northwest facades show the steep slope down the back of the dam.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The foundation, structure, and roof are sound, but window and door condition is poor. The basement is in poor condition, as it is muddy and has standing water on the floor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Lake Bathhouse is a two-story brick structure. The basement level is built into the dam wall, therefore the southwest facade shows two levels and the northeast facade shows only one. The building is rectangular in plan with the long side running east-west. The building measures 14'-0" x 23'-1 1/2". The roof is a hip roof with a ridge height of 6'-4 1/2", measured from the bottom of the roofline. Differences in window/door placement and changing ground levels produce four distinct elevations.

The northeast elevation (Photo NC-407-N-1) is symmetrical with two doors that give entrance to the changing rooms.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-N-1) has a single window on the first level. The basement level is exposed to the southwest side, showing the sharp level change.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-N-2, Photo NC-407-N-3) is a symmetrical facade with two windows on the first level. The entire basement level is exposed on this elevation. A large pipe is located in the lower east corner, but its use is undetermined.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-N-2) has double doors on the main level and a smaller opening on the basement level. The basement level is exposed to the southwest side, showing the sharp level change sloping away from the dam wall.

2. Foundations: The basement level is a battered concrete foundation. Horizontal lines are evident on the foundation level, indicating that form boards were 8" wide. The basement level can only be seen on the southeast, southwest, and

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northwest elevations. There is no basement level on the northeast side. The ground level is higher on this side because the dam wall connects to the southeast wall of the foundation of the bathhouse and works as a retaining wall by raising the ground level on the northeast side to the first floor level.

3. Wall Construction: The walls of the first level are brick. The bricks are 7½"x 2½" with ¾" mortar joints.
4. Structural System, Framing: The wall structure is a load bearing masonry frame on a concrete wall foundation. The roof is a hip roof with 2"x 6" rafters and 1"x 7" decking with 3" spaces. The ridge beam is a 1"x 7" beam, 12'-5¾" long, running east to west. Roof ties are 2"x 6".
5. Porches, Balconies: None.
6. Chimney: None.
7. Openings:
 - a. Openings: The northwest elevation has an opening that provides entry to the lower level. The opening is located 5'-4 ½" from the southwest facade and measures 3'-4"x 4'-½" with 5¼" trim on the sides and 3½" trim at the top.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: There are three doorways on the first level of the building. The northeast facade has two doors. The northwest door on the northeast facade is located 6'-1" from the northwest facade. The opening measures 3'-1½"x 7'-1" with 3¾"x 5¾" framing members and a 2½"x ½" door stop. The door is trimmed with 5¼" trim on the sides and a 3½" top trim. The door measures 2'-9¾"x 6'-9¼" and has five panels. The top two panels run vertically and measure 10"x 3'-1½". The middle panel is horizontal and measures 2'-½"x 7". The bottom panels are vertical and measure 10" x 1'-5". The door has original hardware, but the doorknob is missing.

The southeast door on the northeast facade is located 6'-1" from the southeast facade. The opening measures 3'-1½"x 7'-1" with 3¾"x 5¾" framing members and a 2½"x ½" door stop. The door is trimmed with 5¼" trim on the sides and 3½" trim at the top. The door measures 2'-9¾"x 6'-9¼" and is the same style as the other door on this side.

The northwest facade contains the third doorway on the building. This doorway measures 7'-5½" with a height of 6'-10" with double doors. The doors measure 2'-8"x 6'-7½" and have six horizontal panels, each measuring 2'-0"x 8". The door is trimmed with 5¼" trim on the sides and 3½" trim at the top. This doorway was originally an arched opening, but

the arch has been enclosed. The arch above the doorway is formed with soldier bricks.

- c. **Windows:** There are three windows in the bathhouse. The southwest facade has two windows. These window openings are topped by segmental arches with two brick courses as voussoirs. The southeast window opening on the southwest facade is located 4'-7½" from the southeast wall and measures 3'-5" with a height of 4'-3" at the center of the arch. The window is located 2'-4" above the finished floor and even though the opening has an arch, the window does not. The window is double-hung and glass panes are 2'-4" x 1'-8½". The northwest window is also an arched opening and is located 5'-2½" from the northwest wall and 2'-4" above the finished floor. The opening measures 3'-5" with a height of 4'-3" at the center of the arch and the glass panes are missing. Both windows have a brick sill.

The southeast facade has one window. The opening is arched with two courses of brick voussoirs. The opening measures 3'-6" with a height of 4'-4½" at the center of the arch. The window is a double-hung window; each sash has a single pane of glass that measures 2'-5" x 1'-9½". The window is located 4'-8" from the northeast facade and 2'-4" above the finished floor.

All windows may have been arched windows originally, but there are none on the building now. The space below the arch and above the present window has been filled with concrete that is not original to the structure.

8. Roof:

- a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof is a hip roof whose ridge runs parallel to the northeast facade. The 2" x 6" rafters have a 1" x 7" decking and a red standing seam metal roof.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves:** The eaves are all open with exposed rafter tails. A thin strip of trim is located along the roof edge.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The floor plan is divided into two rooms on the main level; each is accessed from doors on the northeast facade. The northwest room is 9'-4¼" x 12'-9½". The southeast room is slightly larger and measures 12'-9¼" x 12'-9½". The basement level of this structure is inaccessible, but the main perimeter walls follow those of the upper portion of the building.
2. Stairways and Ladders: None.

3. Flooring: The floors are plywood.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The inside of the main perimeter walls are brick, with no sheathing (Photo NC-407-N-4).

The interior partition wall is 8'-3" tall with 5¼" vertical tongue-and-groove boards.

There is no ceiling on the first level, the main elements of the structure and roof decking are exposed (Photo NC-407-N-4).

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: Original hardware appears to be extant for all of the windows and doors in the bathhouse. No manufacturer for the hardware could be found.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
 - b. Lighting: The original lighting is still extant but not operable. It consisted of porcelain fixtures hanging from the underside of the roof deck.
 - c. Plumbing: The plumbing network was inaccessible and its type is unknown.
 - d. Fixtures: A large, red pipe is located on the southwest facade 2'-2" from the southeast wall and 3'-4" above the ground. The pipe is 6" in diameter and has a 10" diameter shutoff valve located 2'-1" above the pipe. Its use is undetermined.
9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The Lake Bathhouse is situated on a hill, just west of the Overhills Dam and Gates (No.22). A 10'-8" wide unpaved road is located to the west of the building running north to south and continuing in a westerly then southerly direction forming a small island.

2. Landscaping, Enclosures: The island encircled by the road contains a maple tree, scrub oak tree, and two loblolly pine trees. There is an overall planting scheme around the Bathhouse. The northeast facade faces Overhills Lake and contains several pine trees and cypress trees lining the lake. A majority of the ground cover is dirt and sand; ivy covers the foundation of the structure. One oak tree is located 16'-0" away from the building. There are four 4½"x 4½" wooden posts located next to the building. The southwest elevation contains six volunteer maple trees located in the southeast corner and two more on the south corner. There are also volunteer oak trees and pine saplings spread around the area. The northwest elevation faces a grassy area in front of the road, and the southeast elevation faces the dam with a steep, ivy covered bank next to the building.

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

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with the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program through preservation planner Cris Armstrong and architectural historian Michelle Michael. The documentation was completed May 2007.

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