

OVERHILLS, OIL HOUSE
(Building No. 30)
Overhills Historic District
West of Railroad ROW & South of Overhills Lake
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-Q
NC-407-Q

HABS
NC 407-Q

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, OIL HOUSE

(Building No. 30)

HABS No. NC-407-Q

Location: West of railroad ROW & south of Overhills Lake, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.3899084.678988

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

Original Use: Post Office

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Oil House in the Shops Complex 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 Oil House was constructed ca. 1920 as the post office for the Overhills, and was originally located on Nursery Road near the Hunt Stable. It was moved to the Shops Complex ca. 1935 and transformed into an oil storage facility for the maintenance area of the compound and golf course. The Shops Complex 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. 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: None.

B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Built on a north-south orientation, the Oil House is a simple rectangular box with a gable roof. There are three six-over-six double-hung windows; one is on the rear elevation and two on the west elevation. The siding is droplap and the roofing is composed of three-tab asphalt shingles. The siding is painted red, while the trim and rafters are painted white. The mullions and muntins of the windows are painted the same red as the siding.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The foundation of the Oil House is in poor condition which has caused the floor to buckle. The condition of the roof is also poor, but the rest of the structure, along with the windows and doors, are in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Oil House is a simple one-story, rectangular mass (Photo NC-407-Q-1) which sits at a north-south orientation. The building measures 12'-4" long x 10'-4" wide. The walls are 8'-5½" tall and the total height from the floor to the gable is 11'-6½". The exterior finish is composed of droplap siding which was painted red. Each corner has vertical boards painted white. These corner boards are two ¾" x 4" boards butt jointed together.

The south (front) elevation (Photo NC-407-Q-1) contains the entrance door. The door is centered on the elevation, 3'-7¾" from each end of the facade.

The west elevation (Photo NC-407-Q-1) is blind with droplap siding.

The north (back) elevation (Photo NC-407-Q-2) has one six-over-six window centered on the elevation, 4'-2" from each end of the facade. The window opening is located 3'-7¾" above the foundation.

The east elevation (Photo NC-407-Q-2) contains two six-over-six windows. The window openings start at 3'-7¾" above the foundation.

2. Foundations: Foundation is concrete block piers. No crawl space is extant.
3. Walls: The Oil House has 5¼" x ½" droplap siding. The drop on the droplap is 1¼" with a 4" lap.
4. Structural System, Framing: The Oil House wall and roof structural system could not be determined due to lack of access, although it is most likely wood studs.
5. Porches, Balconies: None.
6. Chimney: None.

7. Openings:

- a. Openings: None.
- b. Doorways and Doors: The entrance to the building is located on the south facade, 3'-7³/₄" from the southwest corner. The doorway measures 3'-0" x 6'-11" and has 4¹/₂" x ³/₄" on the top and sides.
- c. Windows: The three windows are six-over-six double hung windows. The window on the on the north facade is located 3'-3" from the east wall. The opening measures 2'-10" x 4'-6" and has 4¹/₂" x ³/₄" trim on the top and sides and a 5¹/₂" x ³/₄" sill. The glass panes measure 10" x 1'-0".

The windows on the east facade are slightly narrower than the north facade window. The opening for each of these windows measures 1'-4" x 4'-6" and has 4¹/₂" x ³/₄" trim on the top and sides with a 5¹/₂" x ³/₄" sill. The glass panes measure 8" x 1'-0". The southern window is located 1'-2" from the south wall and the northern window is located 2'-¹/₂" from the north wall.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof of the Oil House is a gable roof of moderate slope. The roof deck is composed of 1" thick boards of undetermined width. It could not be determined if tarpaper was laid across the decking. Gray three-tab asphalt shingles are utilized for the roof covering.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: The Oil House roof has overhanging rakes and eaves. The rakes overhang the front and rear elevations by 1'-0". The eaves overhang the east and west elevations by 9". The rake boards are 1³/₄" x 4" with a 1" x 3" trim nailed to the top edge of the fascia. The eaves have exposed rafter tails. The rafter tails are 2" x 4". The rakes and the rafter tails are painted white.
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The plan of the Oil House is a rectangle with the long side running north-south. The plan measures 9'-3" x 11'-3¹/₄".
2. Stairways and Ladders: None.
3. Flooring: The floor is dirt.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls and ceiling have a 3/4" beadboard finish. Each bead is 2/16" wide and the channels are 1/16" wide.
5. Openings:
 - a. Openings: None.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: None.
 - c. Windows: None.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: There is a 3/4" quarter-round molding along the ceiling, floor, and in all corners.
7. Hardware: Original hardware appears to be extant for all of the windows and doors in the Oil House. No manufacturer for the hardware could be found.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
 - b. Lighting: There is no original lighting.
 - c. Plumbing: None.
 - d. Fixtures: None.
9. Original Furnishings: There are built-in shelves along two walls of the Oil House; three shelves run the entire length of the west wall. The bottom shelf is 14" deep and 3/4" thick. The middle shelf is 12" deep, and the top shelf is 10" deep. The shelves are supported by 2"x 3/4" wood supports nailed to the wall.

A shelving unit is located on the east wall between the windows. The unit is 1'-3" deep, 2'-1" wide, and 7'-8 1/2" tall. The unit is not original to the building.

A table is located along the north wall. The table is a trapezoid that is 2'-0" deep and 2 1/2" thick. The long side of the table is 6'-1" and runs along the rear wall; the shorter side measures 5'-1". The table is located 2'-4" above the floor and is supported by one 2"x 1 1/2" leg. A shelf is located in the north east corner 1'-7" above the table and measures 10 1/2" x 1'-8" x 3/4". The long side of the shelf runs along the east wall.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The Oil House is part of the Shops Complex and is located east of the Shop (No.31) and west of the Shop Garage No. 1 (No.28). It is south of the Woodworking Shop (No.35) and No.34. The building is north of the creek that

runs northwest to southeast across the site. A dirt road from the main Overhills road curves around the shops complex toward the golf course.

2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is no overall planting scheme for the Oil House.

The north facade faces an open area of dirt, grass, and weeds, including dog fennel. The south elevation faces a wooded area consisting of pine and maple trees. There is a large loblolly pine tree located 5'-6" from the southwest corner. A volunteer holly is located along the south wall. The east elevation faces an open area of grass with no landscaping. The west elevation faces a grass area with a loblolly pine tree located 11'-1" southeast of the building and another loblolly pine tree in the northeast corner 4'-2" from 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.

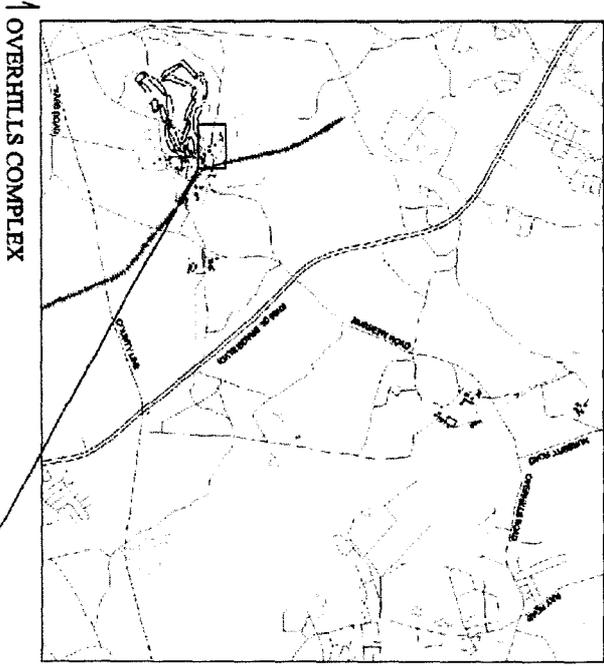
E. Likely sources not yet investigated: None.

PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

The Cultural Resources Management Program in the Directorates 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.

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MAPS NOT TO SCALE

