

OVERHILLS, BLACK SERVANTS' QUARTERS  
(Building No. 44)  
Overhills Historic District  
West of Thurman Road & East of Overhills golf course  
Fort Bragg  
Harnett County  
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-Y  
NC-407-Y

HABS  
NC-407-Y

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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, BLACK SERVANTS' QUARTERS  
(Building No. 44)

HABS No. NC-407-Y

Location: West of Thurman Road & east of Overhills golf course, Fort Bragg,  
Harnett County, North Carolina  
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3899159.679005

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

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Black Servants' Quarters on the Hill 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 Black Servants' Quarters was constructed ca. 1913, and was utilized by the African-American employees of the original Overhills Country Club. The building was used as the Overhills estate office until 1960. The Hill area is at the southwest portion 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. 1913.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: Kent-Jordon Company, Rockefeller Family, Fort Bragg.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: Not found.
6. Alterations and additions: The front facade was originally symmetrical with one entry door that was flanked by three windows on either side, but at some point the second window on the south half of the facade was replaced with an entry and screen door. The exterior molding for the

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added door was made to mimic the original molding around the original entry door.

The common room of the Black Servants' Quarters originally occupied the entire central section of the house, stretching from the front of the house to the back with the chimney placed in the center of the room. The common room was altered to create two rooms; a wall was constructed that bisects the fireplace so that the front of the fireplace is in the now smaller common room and the back is in the kitchen. A door was placed in the wall to the south of the fireplace to provide access from the common room to the rear rooms.

A rear porch and bathroom were added to the back of the main mass and can be accessed by means of the kitchen. The foundation for this porch does not match the brick foundation of the main mass; instead, the porch is supported by a haphazard wood frame constructed from random tree trunk pier supports (Photo NC-407-Y-5)

A 3'-11 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x 6'-10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " closet was added to the northeast corner of the southwest chamber. The original door opening that provided access to this room from the common room was blocked during the closet addition because one of the closet walls intersected with the center of this opening.

### B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Built on an east-west orientation, the Black Servants' Quarters is an one-story, side gabled building, with an engaged, screened porch supported by skinned pine tree columns. A small, shed roofed lean-to addition houses a bathroom and porch on the rear elevation of the Quarters. The Quarters has original eight-over-eight double-hung windows in single configurations. Single doors lead from both the central common room and southwest chamber onto the wide front porch. The interior walls and ceilings are composed of beadboard. Floors are wide width pine. Original doors and windows have detailed surrounds. The doors consist of four vertical panels, and a horizontal panel between them. A large brick fireplace with a corbelled brick mantel shelf supports is the center of the common room. There are brick chimneys between each of the chambers on the north and south side of the quarters. The ground slopes precipitously down from the front elevation, so that the ground level at the back elevation is considerably lower than at the front.

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2. Condition of the Fabric: The Quarters is sinking/sloping towards the back. Water damage and rot is extensive in many places throughout the quarters: the end grain of the porch floor is deteriorating because it is not properly sealed and the paint has been worn off, the verge boards are 40 percent rotten and 20 percent of the end grains of the rafter tails are rotten. Paint is delaminating extensively on the skinned pine tree trunk columns, open eaves, rafter tails, purlins, and verge boards. Windows and doors also have severe paint alligating and delamination, plus putty is missing entirely on some window panes. The gutters are full of pine needles and are missing several sections; in addition the downspouts are missing in several places. On the interior several rooms have water damage, and generally the beadboard at the base of the walls has swelled due to moisture. The door and window hardware is 75 percent rusted. There is a hole next to the fireplace hearth allowing free access by animals from the crawl space into the quarters.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: the Black Servants' Quarters is composed of a large rectangular mass with a smaller rectangular addition on the back. The main rectangle measures 45'-3" x 37'-10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and the smaller rectangular addition measures 21'-8" x 6'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The ridge height on the north facade is 19'-11 $\frac{7}{8}$ " above grade and 18'-7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " on the south facade. Weatherboard siding that has been painted white is used for the exterior wall finish on all elevations.

The north elevation (Photo NC-407-Y-3) has two windows which have been boarded up. The brick foundation is exposed where the ground slopes to the east.

The east elevation shows the porch and bathroom addition. Other elements on this facade include three eight-over-eight, double-hung windows, two windows that have been boarded up, and an entry door located on the porch. The brick foundation is exposed and an opening in the brick is located on the southern end of the facade.

The south elevation (Photo NC-407-Y-2) has three, eight-over-eight, double-hung windows and shows the brick foundation where the ground slopes to the east. A door is located on the south facade of the enclosed room on the porch.

The west elevation (Photo NC-407-Y-1, Photo NC-407-Y-4) is the front facade and is composed of two entry doors and five eight-over-eight, double hung windows.

2. Foundations: The foundation of the main building and front porch is brick with an open basement crawl space. Tree trunk posts are located in the center of the foundation wall on the each gable end facade. There is a boarded up basement window flanking both sides of the central trunk support. There is a third tree trunk support at the rear corner wall and a wood frame that sits atop the foundation. The porch foundation is a wood frame comprised of tree trunk piers.

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3. Wall Construction: The wall construction is unknown.
4. Structural System, Framing: The rafters are 2"x 6" with no consistent spacing and purlins are 1"x 8".
5. Porches, Balconies: The structure has a front porch on the west facade which measures 45'-3"x 7'-8". The porch flooring is comprised of 3" wood planks located to the right of the central entry door and 2" boards located in front of the central door and continuing to the left edge of the porch. The porch planks rest on 4"x 8" joists spaced approximately 21" on center and run perpendicular to plank orientation. The porch foundation is brick, like that of the house. Six randomly spaced tree trunk columns that were painted white support the porch roof. The porch ceiling is 3¼" beadboard that has also been painted white.

The rear porch, which measures 10'-10"x 6'-0", was a later addition to the main mass and provides access to the bathroom addition and kitchen. The foundation for this porch does not match the brick foundation of the main mass; instead, the porch is supported by a haphazard wood frame constructed from random tree trunk support piers (Photo NC-407-Y-5).

6. Chimney: The Quarters has three chimneys composed of common brick. Two of the chimneys are located on the ridgeline of the structure; one is located above the north chambers and the other is above the south chambers. The third chimney is located to the east of the ridgeline, near the center of the roof.
7. Openings:
  - a. Openings: There are none.
  - b. Doorways and Doors: There are four entrances to the building; two are located on the front porch, and two are located on the back porch. The 2'-11"x 6'-11½" central door on the west facade is original to the structure and has six 7⅞"x 1'-7" rectangle panes of glass on top, one horizontal rectangular panel below the glass, which measures 2'-3"x 6¾", and two 11½"x 1'-5" vertical rectangular panels below the horizontal panel. This door is located 21'-4⅞" from the north end of the facade. The second door on the west facade is a 2'-9¼" x 6'-9¼" five panel door with two large 11⅞"x 3'-3" rectangular vertical panels on the top, one 2'-2¼"x 7" horizontal rectangular panel in the middle, and 2 smaller vertical rectangular panels on the bottom, which measure 11⅞"x 1'-7". This door is located 9'-2⅞" from the south end of the facade.

The entry doors on the back porch are located on the east facade and on the south facade of the bathroom; both of these doors are missing. The opening on the east facade is 3'-10¼" wide and is located 20'-4¼" from the

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south end of the facade. The door on the south facade of the bathroom is 2'-11½" wide and located 2'-0" from the east end of this facade.

- c. **Windows:** All windows are wooden, eight-over-eight, double hung windows with the exterior wood painted green (Photo NC-407-Y-8). The north elevation has two windows which have been boarded up. The windows are located 9'-8¾" and 20'-8" from the west facade. The east elevation has five windows and the two northernmost windows have been boarded up. The windows are located 2'-8½", 25'-11¾", 31'-11¾", and 39'-8½" from the north end of the facade and the last window is located 4'-2½" from the north end of the bathroom facade. The south elevation has three windows located 5'-3⅛", 17'-5", and 23'-2¾" from the east end of the facade. The west elevation has five windows located 3'-2¼", 16'-0½", 26'-0⅛", 26'-0⅛", and 39'-2¾" from the south end of the facade. All windows are 2'-10¾" wide and 4'-5¾" tall. Each pane of glass measures 7¼" x 11½".

8. Roof:

- a. **Shape, Covering:** The main gable roof was most likely originally covered with wood shingles, but now is covered with diamond asphalt shingles in a honeycomb patten with a terra cotta ridge cap. The addition has a shed roof.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves:** Eaves are open with exposed rafters and there are no gutters on the building.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are none.

C. Description of Interior:

1. **Floor Plan:** The floor plan is divided into seven unequal rooms. Both the front and back porches provide entry to the Quarters. The common room and the southwest chamber can be accessed by the front porch and the bathroom and kitchen are accessed by the back porch. The common room provides access to the kitchen, which is the central room on the east side of the house, and to the other three chambers, located in the northwest, northeast, and southeast corners. The common room measures 15'-1¾"x 18'-4½", the kitchen measures 15'-1¾"x 10'-5½", and the bathroom measures 5'-8"x 9'-11". All four chambers have slightly different dimensions; the northwest chamber is 14'-2"x 13'-5", the northeast chamber is 14'-2"x 15'-5¾", the southeast chamber is 14'-2¼"x 14'-6", and the southwest is 14'-2¼"x 14'-4½".
2. **Stairways and Ladders:** There is one set of wooden stairs leading to the back porch.

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3. Flooring: The floor is 2¼" wood tongue and groove flooring in all rooms. The wood floors were not treated nor are they finished.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The Quarters has a ¾" beadboard interior wall finish, which has been stained and finished in all rooms except the common room, where all walls except the fireplace wall have been painted a cream color.

The interior ceiling height is 110½" and the finished material is beadboard, which once again has been stained in all rooms except the common room, where it has been painted.

5. Openings:
  - a. Openings: There are none.
  - b. Doorways and Doors: All interior doors are 2'-7¼" wide and 6'-7" tall and have two 10⅛" x 3'-1" vertically orientated rectangular wainscot panels at the top, a 2'-0¼" x 7" horizontal rectangular panel slightly below center, and two smaller 10⅛" x 1'-7" vertical rectangles at the bottom. Each door also has a threshold.

There are two doors on the north wall of the common room located 5'-3" and 14'-7⅞" from the west perimeter wall; one door leads to the northwest chamber and the other leads to the northeast chamber. Another two doors are located in the southeast corner of the common room; one located on the east wall that leads to the kitchen and the other on the south wall that leads to the southeast chamber. The door on the east wall is located 1'-3" from the south wall of the common room and the door on south wall is located 4½" from the east wall of the common room. There is a second door on the south wall of the common room that is located 6'-0⅛" from the west perimeter wall, but it has been filled. Another door is located on the east wall of the kitchen that leads to the bathroom; this door is 1'-10½" from the north wall of the kitchen. The southwest chamber has access to the southeast chamber by means of a 2'-8¼" wide door located 2'-7½" from the south perimeter wall, it also has a door on the west wall of the added closet located 1'-3 1/8" from the in filled door on the north wall.

- c. Windows: There are none.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: Instead of a base board, there is a quarter-circle trim piece where the wall meets the floor.

All interior doors and windows have molding trim on all sides with roundels at the upper corners.

The fireplace in the common room (Photo NC-407-Y-7, Photo NC-407-Y-8) is brick with a wood mantle and is in fairly good condition.

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7. Hardware: Hardware on all the doors is 100 percent rusted; and therefore is not bronze because of lack of patina.
  8. Mechanical Equipment:
    - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: The house contains three radiators. The first is located in the kitchen on the east wall under the window, the second is located in the common room on the west wall under the south window, and the third is located in the northwest chamber under a window on the west wall.
    - b. Lighting: Original ceiling fixtures are located in the center of each room; these are 2" diameter fixtures with a hanging bare bulb and a pull chain.
    - c. Plumbing: The plumbing network was inaccessible and its type is unknown.
    - d. Fixtures: There are no original fixtures.
  9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings.
- D. Site:
1. General Setting: The Black Servants' Quarters is located to the southwest of the Laundry (No.45) and east of the eighteenth hole of the golf course. A road is located to the west, between the Black Servants' Quarters and the golf course.
  2. Landscaping, Enclosures: The north elevation faces three loblolly pine trees, one more loblolly Pine is located off the northeast corner, along with two southern magnolias. The east elevation faces five Southern magnolias, one loblolly pine, and one hackberry. Two redbud trees are located in front of the front porch. Two dogwood trees and an atlas cedar are located off the southeast corner of the building and a camellia and a southern magnolia are located off the southwest corner. There is one crab apple located to the south of the building. Located across the road to the west of the Quarters, there are five loblolly pines, three southern magnolias, and two dogwood trees.

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:

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1. Primary and unpublished sources: There are none.

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.

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Figure 1: The Black Servant's Quarters was directly behind the Overhills Country Club (courtesy NC SHPO).

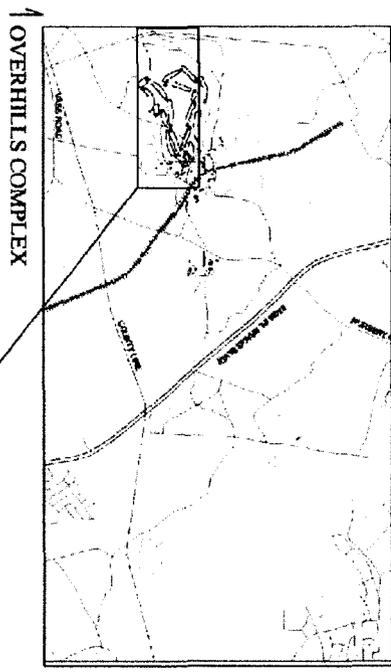


Figure 2: The White Servants' Quarters (similar to the Black Servants' Quarters) can be seen in the middle of the photograph, view to the northeast Ca. 1920s (courtesy NC SHPO).

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MAPS NOT TO SCALE

