

OVERHILLS, GREAT CIRCUS
(Building No. 1)
Overhills Historic District
East of Nursery Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HAER NC-49-A
NC-49-A

HAER
NC-49-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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- Location: East of Nursery Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17
Northing 3899021
Easting 680420
- Present Owner: Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Fort Bragg
- Original Use: Training and gathering space for the horses and hounds.
- Present Use: Vacant
- Significance: The Hunt Stable 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. Constructed in the early 1920s; the Great Circus was the centerpiece of the Hunt Stable complex and served the Rockefeller family and guests as the ceremonial gathering space for the horses and hounds, which were stabled on the north and south sides of the circus, prior to a foxhunt. The Great Circus was also utilized as an exercise and training area for the hunt horses. The Hunt Stable area is at the eastern 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: Early 1920s.
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: Overhills.

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- A. Physical Description: The centerpiece of the Hunt Stable complex is the Great Circus, a grassy circular area (Photo NC-49-A-1), which served as the ceremonial gathering place for the horses and hounds stabled on the north and south sides. Originally, the Great Circus was bordered by a circular clay avenue lined with a hedge, but only vestiges of the hedge remain. The four cardinal points of the circus are marked by pairs of tall, paneled pylons, constructed of concrete (Photo NC-49-A-2 and Photo NC-49-A-3), which served as entrances to the circus. These gateways were flanked by American holly and magnolia trees, which remain as mature specimens. Raised, grassy paths crossed the circus along the axes reaching a raised circular area at the center. These paths and the central meeting point for the hunt parties are still evident. From the center of the Circus, the hunt began through the west gateway up the pine-lined trail towards the Hill.
- B. Condition of the Fabric: The landscape has overtaken the physical elements of the Circus.
- C. Site:
1. General Setting: The Great Circus is located off of an unnamed east-west road that connects to Nursery Road. The entire Hunt Stable complex is between the Hill and the Lindley Nursery/Preventorium areas.
 2. Landscaping, Enclosures: See physical description.

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,

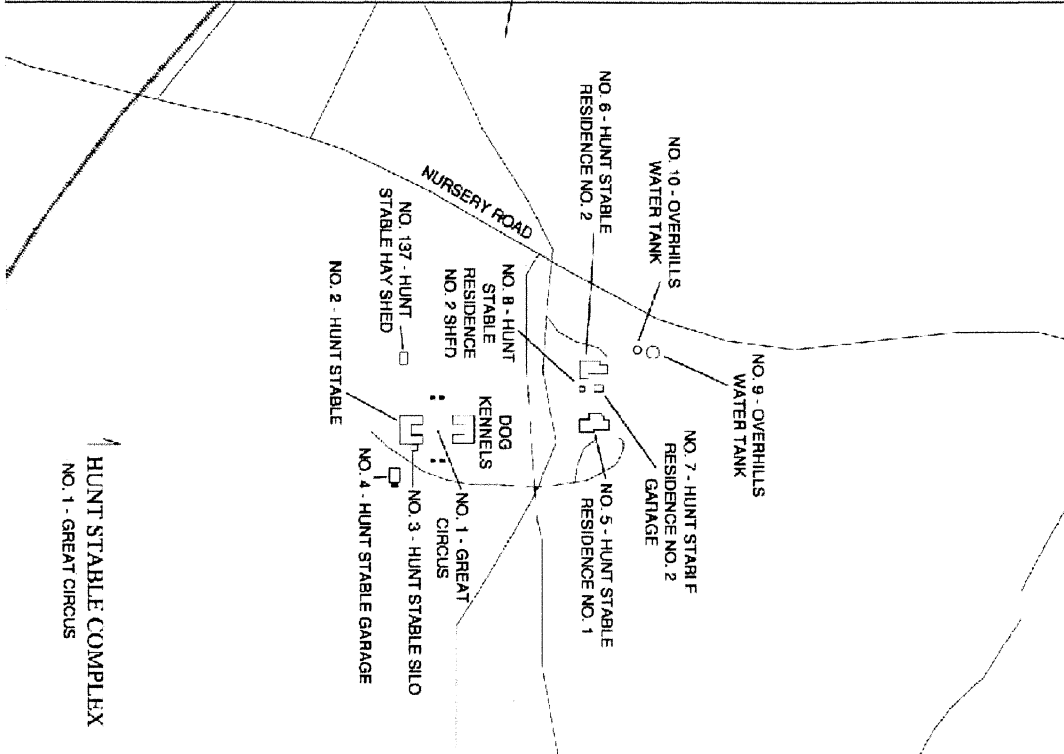
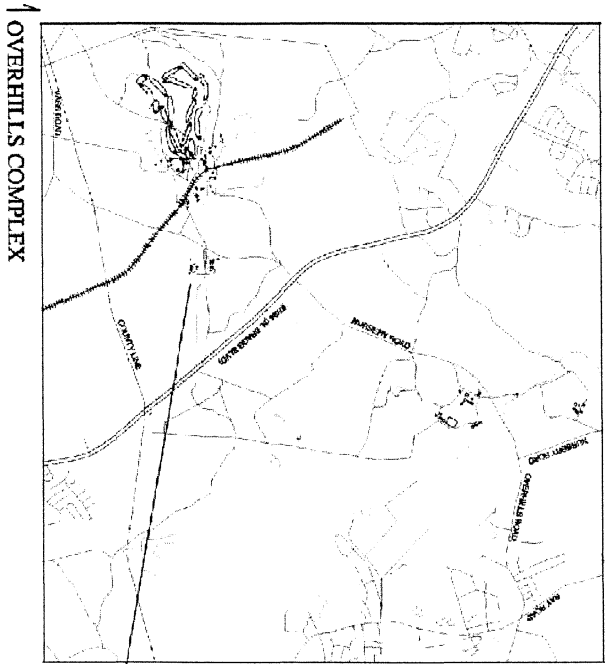
Alexander and Associates prepared for US Army Corps of Engineers,
Savannah District, May 2000.

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 May 2007.



MAPS NOT TO SCALE