

OVERHILLS, DAM & GATES  
(Building No. 22)  
Overhills Historic District  
East of Railroad ROW & North of Thurman Road  
Fort Bragg  
Harnett County  
North Carolina

HAER NC-49-C  
*NC-49-C*

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. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

OVERHILLS, OVERHILLS DAM & GATES

(Building No. 22)

HAER No. NC-49-C

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 17.3899243.679285

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

Original Use: Dam

Present Use: Dam

Significance: The Overhills Dam and Gates 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 Dam and Gates were reconstructed in 1938 for Avery Rockefeller. The dam subsumed an earlier dam at the same location. 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. 1938.
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. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- A. Physical Description: Built on the south side of the Overhills Lake, the Overhills Dam and Gates (Photo NC-49-C-2) served to control the water level of the lake and allow water to spill into a creek to the south. Five gates in the wall lower to control the water level.

The concrete dam wall is 24'-0" long and contains the five gates (Photo NC-49-C-1). 1'-4½" thick concrete retaining walls are 20'-4½" long to the east and west of the gates. The west wall has a ladder well that leads to a dock below. The ladder is no longer extant. The entire dam is about 40'-0" thick. A 1'-4" wide concrete beam supports retaining walls perpendicular to the dam on either side of the concrete wall. The walls and foundation of the dam are concrete. The center wall contains five concrete gates that are operable to allow water to flow through them. Concrete retaining walls to either side of the dam and gates support the earthen walls of the dam. Concrete buttresses on the lake side of the wall are rounded so water can easily flow around them.

There are five gates in the center wall of the dam (Photo NC-49-C-4). The gates are 3'-4" wide, spaced 1'-3" apart. The gates are operable to allow water to spill over them. The openings are framed with 5" x 5" x ½" steel angles.

The opening mechanisms for the gates are comprised of five large, 7" diameter screws, one embedded in each gate, which operate the gates. Above each gate is a large metal support which holds the screw in place (Photo NC-49-C-3). Each support is 2'-6"x 1'-4" at the bottom and all are spaced 2'-2" apart. The supports are attached to the top of the dam by a ½" thick metal plate at the base of the support which is bolted down with 4, 1" diameter bolts with a 2" square nut. The circular tops of the supports are 1'-3" in diameter and are 2¼" thick. One 3" tall, 11½" nut sits on top of each support.

A wrench was found on one of the opening mechanisms. The wrench is 4'-9" long and has a 7" diameter head (Photo NC-49-C-4). The wrench, labeled as the Superector No. E3-4A, is manufactured by J.H. Williams, Buffalo N.Y.

- B. Condition of the Fabric: The structure of the Dam is in good condition, but there are leaks in the sides.
- C. Site:
1. General Setting: The Overhills Dam is located to the south of Overhills Lake. The Lake Bathhouse (No.23) is located just southwest of the Dam.
  2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is no designed landscaping scheme in the area surrounding the Dam.

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