

OVERHILLS, PADDLE COURT  
(Building No.56)  
Overhills Historic District  
West of Thurman Road & East of Overhills golf course  
Fort Bragg  
Harnett County  
North Carolina

HAER NC-49-E  
NC-49-E

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

## OVERHILLS, PADDLE COURT

(Building No. 56)

HAER No. NC-49-E

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: 17.3898704.678966

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

Original Use: Paddle Court

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Paddle Court 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 Paddle Court was constructed in 1929 for Percy and Isabel Rockefeller and their family. 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: 1929.
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. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- A. Physical Description: The Paddle Court, built as a recreation facility for the Rockefellers, gives a good indication of the pastimes enjoyed by the residents of Croatan. The deck is a regulation size paddle court, but no lines could be found on the floor. There are remnants of a wire mesh wall that may have stood around the edge, and one net post remains standing on the south side of the court.

The paddle court measures 30'-½" wide and 60'-8". A regulation size 20'-0"x 44'-0" paddle court was likely painted on the floor. Two net posts are located to either side of the center of the court, only one of which is still standing. The posts are 3'-2" from the outer edge of the deck. The posts are 3'-3" tall and 2½"x 2½" with a beveled top. Diagonal supports begin 1'-10" from the bottom of the net posts and meet the post 2'-0" above the floor.

3" ghost images along the edge piece above the joists seem to indicate that there were once wire screens enclosing the court. Some bolts still remain around the edge that project 3" from the rim.

There are three 8½" diameter skinned posts that lean over the court at the west end. The middle post has two 10" bolts at the top. The purpose of the posts is undetermined, although they may have been used for lighting.

The southwest corner of the court is 4'-3" above grade, the middle of the south side is 3'-10" above grade and the southeast corner is 4'-4" above the ground. The north side sits directly on grade.

The foundation is composed of concrete block piers (Photo NC-49-E-1). Sixteen piers are located under the south edge of the court, spaced 2'-8" apart. The piers are composed of six 15½"x 7½"x 7½" concrete masonry units, with a 15½"x 3½"x 7½" block on top. There are sixteen posts in rows of four behind the first, eighth, fifteenth, and sixteenth piers.

The platform is supported by 3½"x 5½" beams that extend 1'-0" beyond the concrete block piers. The fifth, ninth, and thirteenth beams from the east end appear to have been cut off, as the tip extends less than the typical 1'-0" beyond the deck.

The deck is composed of 5½"x 1½" wood boards with ½" spaces. The decking spans the long direction of the court. There is a 1½"x ¾" edge board bolted to the decking with 10" bolts; the bolts run through the rim, the deck and the joists.

- B. Condition of the Fabric: The Paddle Court is in poor condition, but the foundation is sound. The whole deck is covered in pine needles.
- C. Site:

1. **General Setting:** The Paddle Court is located south of Croatan (No.54) and southwest of Croatan Garage (No.55). The entrance to the Paddle Court from Croatan is in the northwest corner of the court.
2. **Landscaping, Enclosures:** The Paddle Court is set amidst several volunteer trees, most of which are loblolly pine.

### 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The project historian was Adam Smith (CERL). Adam Smith, with assistance from Christell and Jennifer Feucht, produced the architectural description section of the report. Martin Stuy produced the large-format photographs contained in the report. Documentation was coordinated with the Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program through preservation planner Armstrong and architectural historian Michelle Michael. The documentation was completed in 2007.

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