

OVERHILLS, NURSERY WORKER HOUSE No.1
(Building No. 70)
Overhills Historic District
West & North of Nursery Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-AG
NC-407-AG

HABS

NC-407-AG

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, NURSERY WORKER HOUSE No.1
(Building No. 70)

HABS No. NC-407-AG

Location: West & north of Nursery Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina
USGS Anderson Creek, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.2904231.682015

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

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Nursery Worker House No. 1 in the Lindley Nursery 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 Nursery Worker House No. 1 was constructed ca. 1911. The Lindley Nursery area is in the eastern 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. 1911.
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. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Nursery Worker House No.1 is a modest house on two levels with four rooms and two wide, covered porches. The house has red weatherboards, skinned pole porch supports on the front porch and a rear screened porch, and a chimney on the southeast facade. Inside, a simple fireplace and skinned pole stair rails make up the modest decorative elements of the house.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The house is in poor condition. Both the first and second level floors are in bad shape. The roof is in good condition, but weatherboards have rotted. The house is surrounded by overgrown weeds.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The footprint of the building is a cross plan with an axis that runs northeast to southwest. The long dimension of the building (including front and rear porches) is 37'-5½", and the cross dimension is 26'-2½". All facades have 6½" red weatherboards and red trim.

The northeast elevation is the rear facade and has a screened porch, a rear entrance door, and no windows.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-AG-4) shows the gable wall of the living room and the shed kitchen. The front and rear porches are visible on this facade, and a chimney is located in the center of the gable wall. There are two windows on the first level, and one on the second level to the left of the chimney.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-AG-1, Photo NC-407-AG-2) is the front facade. A front porch with skinned pole porch posts dominates the facade. Two windows are on the front facade, one on either side of the front door.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-AG-3) has the same configuration as the southeast elevation with a central gable roof and shed kitchen and rear porch. There are three windows on the northwest elevation, two on the first level, and one on the second level.

2. Foundations: 1'-0" square brick piers are located at most corners of the house and at the center of the porches. The bricks are the same as those used for the chimney.
3. Wall Construction: 1" thick weatherboards with 6½" reveals are nailed directly to the wall studs on the exterior. Beadboard is nailed directly to the studs on the interior.

4. Structural System, Framing: The house framing is a wood frame system with 2"x 4" (actual dimension) wall studs. There are some intermittent 4"x 4" posts (Photo NC-407-AG-10) between some of the 2"x 4" studs toward the middle of the front and rear walls that have 2"x 4" diagonal braces. Ceiling joists are 2"x 4", and the rafters are 2"x 4" on the front and 2"x 6" on the rear.
5. Porches, Balconies: There are two porches. The front porch, located on the southwest side of the building, is 18'-3" wide and 6'-3" deep. The porch deck is 1'-5" above grade and is composed of 2³/₄" wood strips with a 1/4" spacing. A 4"x 8" beam supports the floor along the front of the porch, and 2"x 8" joists frame into it. Four skinned pole porch posts are 5" in diameter and spaced 6'-1" on center and support a 1"x 5¹/₂" top plate nailed to a 7"x 5¹/₂" beam. The beam supports the 2"x 4" rafters. The ceiling of the porch is a tongue-and-groove ceiling with v-grooves, and is 7'-3¹/₂" above the porch floor. There is 1" quarter-round trim along the edges of the ceiling, the ceiling was painted blue at one time, and the posts are red.

The rear porch, located on the northeast side of the building is 18'-1" wide and 7'-1" deep. The deck is composed of the same 2³/₄" wood strips at 1/4" spacing and 2"x 8" beam support. The porch is enclosed with screens in 1¹/₂"x 1¹/₂" supports and 4¹/₂"x 4¹/₂" corner posts. An opening for a screen door is located on the northeast wall, but no screen door was found. The corner posts support a 1"x 5" top plate nailed to a 5"x 5" beam that supports the 2"x 6" rafters. The ceiling is a tongue-and-groove ceiling with v-grooves along the joints, and is 7'-2¹/₄" above the porch floor. There is a 1" quarter-round strip of trim along the edges of the ceiling.

6. Chimney: A brick chimney (Photo NC-407-AG-4) is located on the southeast facade of the building, centered on the wall. The chimney is 3'-8" wide and 1'-4" deep at the base. 4'-11" above the base of the chimney, five courses step in 2" each, making the rest of the chimney 2'-0" wide and 1'-4" deep. The chimney has two corbelled courses at the top which are partially intact.
7. Openings:
 - a. Openings: None.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: There are two entrances to the house. The front entrance, located on the southwest facade, is 2'-8" wide and 6'-8" tall with 4¹/₂" trim on the sides and top with drip edge. The door is located 11'-9¹/₄" from the west corner of the house. The original door for this opening is missing. The rear entrance to the building is into the kitchen, off the rear porch, 7'-7³/₄" from the north corner. The opening is 2'-8"x 6'-8" with 4¹/₂" trim on the sides and top with drip edge.

- c. **Windows:** Windows throughout the house were presumably four-over-four double-hung windows, but no windows remain to verify this. There are two windows in the living room, both 2'- $\frac{3}{4}$ "x 5'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " with 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim, a 2" sill, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " apron. One window is located on the southeast facade, 1'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the south corner and 2'-1" above the foundation, the other window is located on the southwest facade, 5'-3" from the south corner and 1'-6" above the porch floor. The first floor bedroom has two windows, located on the northwest and southwest facades, 5'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 5'-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the west corner, respectively. The openings are the same size as those in the living room; the northwest facade window is located 2'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the foundation and the southwest facade window is located 1'-6" above the porch floor. There are two windows in the kitchen, one located on the northwest facade, 3'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the north corner and 2'-2" above the foundation, another located on the southeast facade, 3'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the east corner and 2'-2" above the foundation. The openings are the same as all other first floor windows.

There are two windows in the second floor bedroom, both have the same measurements. Openings for the windows measure 2'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 5'-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and have 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " trim, 2" sill, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " apron. The window on the northwest facade is located 5'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the north corner and the southwest window is located 2'-0" from the south corner; both are 1'-1" above the floor.

8. Roof:

- a. **Shape, Covering:** The roof over the house is a gable roof whose ridge is 20'-5" above the foundation above the center of the living room and bedrooms. The kitchen and rear porch have a shed roof that abuts the main roof and has a shallower slope. The front porch roof is a shed roof that abuts the southwest facade 11'-2" above the foundation.
- b. **Cornice, Eaves:** The eaves are open with exposed rafter tails. Rakes and eaves overhang 1'-0" on all roofs.
- c. **Dormers, Cupolas, Towers:** There are none.

C. Description of Interior:

1. **Floor Plan:** The plan of the first floor includes three rooms and rear and front porches. The main entrance is located off the front porch into the living room, from which a bedroom and kitchen are accessed. Stairs in the kitchen provide access to a second floor bedroom. The living room, on the south corner of the building, measures 14'-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 13'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The bedroom, adjacent to the living room, in the west corner, measures 10'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 13'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The kitchen is located behind the living room and bedroom and measures 17'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "x 9'-7". The front and rear

porches are 18'-3"x 6'-3" and 18'-1"x 17'-1", respectively. The second floor bedroom is 25'-3½"x 13'-3½".

2. Stairways and Ladders: There is a stairway along the northeast wall of the kitchen (Photo NC-407-AG-7). The stairway is 3'-3" wide and 8'-½" tall. Treads are 3'-3" wide and 9" deep and are tongue-and-groove wood strips; there are twelve steps. There is a peeled branch railing on peeled wood brackets (Photo NC-407-AG-8) along the northeast wall of the stairway and a similar hand carved railing on the open side of the staircase. The space enclosed under the stairway is a closet.
3. Flooring: The floor on both levels is a tongue-and-groove wood floor. Wood strips range in width from 2¼" to 3".
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Two sizes of beadboard are intermixed to compose the wall finish, 3½" and 4½". Beadboard is oriented horizontally and painted white; the bottom two strips of beadboard are painted red-brown to serve as a baseboard. Beadboard in the kitchen is painted white, but was originally blue. The ceiling is finished in the same beadboard as the walls, and is 7'-1½" above the floor.

Upstairs, beadboard is a uniform 4½" on the walls, and 3½" beadboard on the ceiling. The ceiling is slanted on the northeast and southwest walls, 5'-3" above the ground, and reaches a height of 6'-1½". The sloped part of the ceiling is covered in the same baseboard as the ceiling.

5. Openings:
 - a. Openings: There are none.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: There are two doors in the living room. The northwest wall has one door, leading to the first floor bedroom. The door is located 6'-5½" from the north corner of the room, and is 2'-8" wide, 6'-8" tall, and has 4½" trim on all sides. The door is a 2'-8"x 6'-7½" five-panel door with coupled top and bottom panels and a middle horizontal panel. Vertical panels on the bottom are 9"x 2'-11", the middle panel is 1'-10½"x 7", and the top panels measure 9"x 1'-5". The door between the living room and kitchen is located 7" from the north corner of the living room. The opening measures 2'-8"x 6'-7½" and has the same five-panel door as the other. This door retains no hardware other than a 2" diameter rose.

A trap door is located at the top of the stairs in the second floor bedroom (Photo NC-407-AG-9). The opening is 3'-2" wide and 5'-9" long, and has a door with the same measurements. The door is composed of five planks nailed to two rails on the top of the door.
 - c. Windows: There are none.

6. Decorative Features and Trim: Trim throughout the house is 1"x 4½", and there is a 1" quarter-round molding around the ceiling and along the floor in the first floor rooms.

There is a fireplace (Photo NC-407-AG-5) on the southeast wall of the living room. The firebox is brick, 2'-8" wide, 2'-4" tall, and 1'-3" deep; bricks are 9"x 2½" with ½" mortar joints. The wooden fireplace surround has 6½" wide sides, which have 3" trim placed in the center and a 3½"x 10" piece as a base. 1' of beadboard and a mantle shelf that is 4'-4" long, 9" deep, and ¾" thick are located above the firebox.

7. Hardware: The trap door on the second floor has a 3" wide wooden hinge that spans the entire width of the door 6" from the edge.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
- a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
 - b. Lighting: The original lighting is extant in the living room and on the front and rear porches.
 - c. Plumbing: Undetermined.
 - d. Fixtures: A ceramic sink is located in the south corner of the kitchen (Photo NC-407-AG-6). The sink is 2'-0"x 1'-6", and is located 3'-2" above the floor. The original fixtures are no longer extant.
9. Original Furnishings: The kitchen sink sits on a counter that is 4'-8½" long, 1'-9" wide, and is located 2'-10" above the ground. The counter is supported in the front by wood corner posts, and by the wall in the rear.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The building is approximately 16'-0" northeast of an unpaved road. The Nursery Worker House No. 2 (No.71) is far to the southeast and the Lindley House (No.69) is far to the south.
2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is an overall planting scheme for the Nursery Worker's House No. 1. The southwest facade faces an area of grass and weeds; a large oak tree is located 12'-0" from the building and 14'-0" from the west corner and a camellia bush is located in the south corner next to the porch.

The northeast elevation faces an expanse of trees in the distance. There is a blueberry plant 6'-8" from the edge of the porch, near the middle of the elevation. An oak tree and a blueberry plant are located approximately 12'-0" from the building and 6'-0" from the east corner.

The northwest elevation faces a wooded area. There are three blueberry plants and two large longleaf pine trees approximately 12'-0" from the building in the north corner.

The southeast elevation has two trees located near the building; a maple is to the east side and a dogwood to the south. There are several other trees located in the distance.

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.

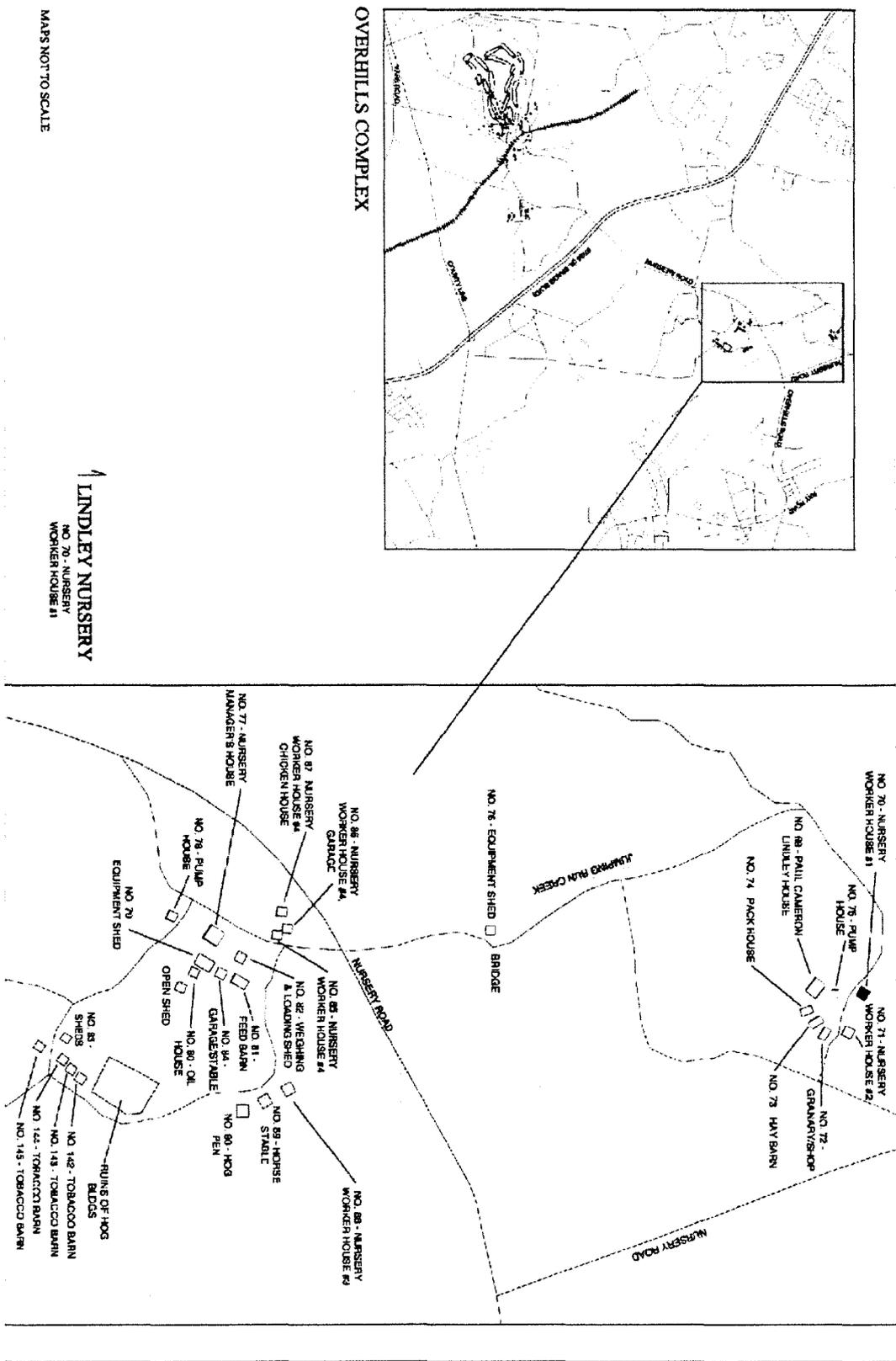
Hood, Davyd Foard. "Overhills Historic District. Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places" (draft), 1992. On file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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.

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MAPS NOT TO SCALE

LINDLEY NURSERY
 NO. 70 - NURSERY
 WORKER HOUSE #1