

OVERHILLS, NURSERY MANAGER'S HOUSE
(Building No. 77)
Overhills Historic District
East of NC 87 & South of Nursery Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-407-AL
NC-407-AL

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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 MANAGER'S HOUSE
(Building No. 77)

HABS No. NC-407-AL

Location: East of NC 87 & south of Nursery Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County,
North Carolina
USGS Olivia, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3902664.681872

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

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Nursery Manager's House 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 Manager's House 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: A rear ell was added at an unknown date. The ell contains a kitchen and rear porch. A window on the rear facade was converted into a doorway to the kitchen. Two rooms in the house have been subdivided for bathrooms. Another window on the rear facade was covered for the first floor bathroom addition.

B. Historical Context:

See HABS No. NC-407 for Overhills context.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Nursery Manager's House is a two-story Georgian Revival house with a hip roof, prominent chimneys, front gable dormer, and six-over-six, double-hung windows with shutters. The plan of the original house is a double pile plan, typical of the Georgian style, with a central hall leading to two rooms on each side. The rooms are divided by a thick wall that contains a fireplace and closets to either side. The fireplaces in the southwest rooms have been covered with paneling. Two rooms, one on each level, have been subdivided for bathrooms, and a rear ell with a gable roof and attached porch was added at a later date.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The foundation is sound and the structure and siding are in good condition. Many windows are missing glass and muntins.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Nursery Manager's House is a two-story house with a rear ell addition. The original structure is almost square, measuring 38'-5" along the front facade and 32'-5" along the side. The ell is 14'-3¼" wide and 22'-¾" long. A rear porch is located along the rear facade of the house and the southwest wall of the ell, and a front porch is located on the front facade, 2'-0" from each corner. Weatherboard siding is ¾" thick with 6¾" reveal and painted white; all corners have 2"x 6" end caps.

The northeast elevation (Photo NC-407-AL-2) is a side elevation with five windows on the original structure and two more on the rear ell addition; all are six-over-six double-hung windows. Two windows on the first level are coupled and the one on the ell is smaller. The windows have shutters, which were originally painted green; the coupled window is missing a shutter.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-AL-1) is the front elevation, which is symmetrical and dominated by a large front porch with turned spindle columns. A large gable dormer is centered on the front facade, creating a central pavilion on the principal axis of the house. The front door is not original and the opening has been modified. The five windows on this facade are all original windows.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-AL-4) is a simple facade with windows on both levels; two windows are located on the first level and two on the second.

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The facade is almost symmetrical but the second level rear window is 1'-0" closer to the end of the facade than the one below it.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-AL-3, Photo NC-407-AL-5) is the rear elevation, composed mainly of the rear ell addition and porch. The rear gable wall of the ell has one window with no shutters; the rear screen door is located at the southwest end of the facade. On the first level of the addition, a screened porch stretches the length of the rear facade. Two windows on the second level are original to the main house, and a third was covered with weatherboards when the kitchen was added.

2. Foundations: The foundation is a brick wall foundation. There are three vents in the foundation wall on each side of the house. Four 2" spaces arranged in a diamond pattern in three courses of brick compose a vent; two spaces are located in the middle course with one space in the course above and below.
3. Wall Construction: Undetermined.
4. Structural System, Framing: Undetermined.
5. Porches, Balconies: There are two porches. The front porch (Photo NC-407-AL-9) is 34'-4" long and 8'-1" deep. The porch is supported on a brick foundation wall, and a 1"x 8" sill board covers the top of the foundation wall. The front porch is open, supported by four spindle columns, each 7'-5½" tall. The columns support a 6"x 1" top plate and 6"x 6" beam. The porch roof is a partial hip roof with a 1'-8" overhang. The ceiling is finished in beadboard and is 8'-0" above the 2¼" tongue-and-groove porch floor. The floor boards extend 2" beyond the sill board. A quarter round trim is located along the porch floor at the bottom of the front facade. There are four steps to the porch, composed of 15"x 7"x 7" concrete masonry units.

The screened rear porch is located along the southwest wall of the ell and the southeast wall of the house (Photo NC-407-AL-7, Photo NC-407-AL-10). The porch is 6'-10" deep and 15'-5¼" long along the southeast ell, and 6'-7½" deep and 15'-1¼" long along the southeast side. The porch screen is framed by 2"x 4" studs, a 2"x 4" sill plate, a 2"x 4" top plate, and a 4"x 4" beam. Horizontal framing members are located 1'-10½" and 4'-10" above the porch floor. The southwest end of the porch has a lattice screen with 1/8"x 1½" crossed wood strips. There are two screen doors on the porch; one located on the southeast end of the ell, and another along the southwest side of the ell. The screen doors are identical, with a 1"x 4" frame and 1"x 7½" bottom rail. The bottom half of the door has four screened panels with a 1"x 3" frame. Both doors are 3'-0" wide and 6'-9" tall. The ceiling is 7'-2" above the 2¼" tongue-and-groove porch floor. A beam supporting the outside edge of the porch is 3"x 6", and rests directly on the foundation. The roof has a shallow hip at the southwest end and a half gable at the southeast with a 2'-8" return. There are four steps to the porch at the southeast end

of the ell. The steps are brick, painted grey, and are 6'-10" wide; tread width varies from 1'-0" to 1'-2" and risers are 6".

6. Chimney: There are two chimneys, located to either side of the front door on the center line of the roof. Both chimneys are identical, capped by three corbelled courses, a soldier course, and then two more corbelled courses.

7. Openings:

- a. Openings: There is a vent on the southeast wall of the ell; the vent is 1'-0" x 5½" and has a metal cap. There is an opening in the foundation wall on the southeast wall of the ell. The opening is 4'-4" from the south corner of the kitchen ell, measures 1'-9" x 1'-5½", and has 2" x 4" wood framing. A similar opening is located in the foundation wall on the southeast side of the rear porch, 2'-8" from the south corner of the porch; the opening is 1'-11" x 1'-7½" and has 2" x 4" wood framing.

- b. Doorways and Doors: There are three entrances to the house. The main entrance is centered on the front facade, 17'-8½" from either end of the building. The door is not original, and the opening has been modified to fit the door. The opening is 3'-0" x 6'-7¾", including a threshold; originally, the opening was 7'-1" tall. The door measures 3'-0" x 6'-6" and has a six-light window above four wood panels. Glass panes are 7½" x 1'-0"; the top wood panels are 10" x 8¾", and bottom vertical panels are 7½" x 1'-0".

The rear entrance to the hall is located off the rear porch, 20'-¾" from the south corner of the house. The door is similar to the front door, with a six-light window above four wood panels. Glass panes and wood panels are the same size as those on the front door.

An entrance to the kitchen from the rear porch is located on the southwest wall of the ell. This door is identical in size and configuration to the rear door.

- c. Windows: Windows throughout the house are six-over-six, double-hung windows (Photo NC-407-AL-8). Some sashes have been replaced, but most are original. Sashes for windows in the original structure measure 2'-7½" x 2'-8", and are framed in 2'-8" x 5'-2¼" openings; two windows in the kitchen are the same size and configuration as the original windows. Two other windows in the kitchen are smaller, six-over-six, double-hung windows, measuring 2'-8¾" x 3'-2". Windows on the first level are located 2'-9¾" above the brick foundation and second floor windows are located 14'-¾" above the foundation. All windows, except the rear kitchen window, have shutters. The shutters are 1'-2¾" wide and 5'-3" tall, and have 1" x 2" stiles, a 1" x 2" top rail, and a 1" x 4" bottom rail; louvers are 1" wide.

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On the front facade, two windows are located on the first level to either side of the central front door; three windows on the second level are located directly above the windows and door on the first level on each bay of the house. Windows are located 6'-9" from each end and the middle window is centered on the facade.

The southwest facade has four windows, two on each level. Windows on the first level are located 6'-9" from each end. Windows on the second level are located 5'-9" from the south corner and 6'-9" from the west corner.

There are five windows on the northeast facade of the original structure; three on the first level, and two on the second level. The rear room has a coupled window, located 4'-0" from the east corner of the house; the front window is located 6'-9" from the north corner. The second floor windows are located 5'-10" from the east corner and 6'-9" from the north corner. There are two windows located on the rear ell facade; one is located 5'-6½" from the east corner of the ell and a smaller window is located 16'-9¾" from the same corner.

One window is located on the southeast end of the ell, 5'-9" from the east corner, and 4'-6" above the foundation. The rear facade has two windows on the second level, located 6'-9" and 18'-0" from the south corner of the building. A third window on the second level was covered when the ell was added. One window remains on the first level of the rear facade, 15'-9¾" from the south corner.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The roof of the main structure is a hip roof. The rear kitchen addition has a gable roof with a short return, and the rear porch has a shed roof. The front porch roof is a partial hip roof. All roofs are covered in grey asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: The eaves on all sides of the roof are closed. The cornice is composed of a 1½" molding above a 1"x 3" trim piece and another 1½" molding below. The cornice sits directly above the siding. The cornice of the porch is similar, with a 1"x 4" trim piece above a 1½" molding above a 1"x 5" trim with a 1½" molding below. The cornice sits directly above the 9" porch beam.
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: There is a large gable dormer on the front facade above the porch roof. The dormer has no windows and is filled with weatherboard siding. The dormer has the same wood fascia and soffit as the rest of the house.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The first floor plan of the original structure is a double pile plan, typical of Georgian houses. The main entrance leads into the central hall, from which most other rooms can be accessed. The hall is 9'-10" wide and 31'-3" long, and contains the stairway to the second floor along the southwest wall. The plan of the original structure is symmetrical, and all rooms are 13'-2" wide and 13'-10" deep. The rear southwest room has been divided into a bathroom and laundry room. The bathroom, accessed through an original closet in the front southwest room, is 11'-1" deep, and 6'-4½" wide, and has an alcove measuring 2'-10½"x 4'-11½"; a closet at the rear of the bathroom is 1'-10" deep and 5'-6" wide. The wall between the rooms on each side contains a central fireplace and closets to either side. A rear ell addition contains a kitchen and rear porch. Access to the kitchen can be gained via the rear porch, or through the rear northeast room. The doorway between this room and the kitchen was originally a window. The kitchen measures 13'-2"x 21'-7".

The second floor plan is also a double pile plan and rooms are the same sizes as the rooms below. The rear southwest room of the second floor has been divided into a bathroom and dressing room.

2. Stairways and Ladders: A stairway to the second floor is located in the hallway along the southwest wall (Photo NC-407-AL-11). Treads for the stairway are 3'-2½" wide and 10¾" deep; risers are 6½". Each tread has a 1" cove molding under its edge. The newel post is 5¾"x 5½", spindle balusters are 1¾" square and 2'-7" tall and the banister is 3¾" wide. The railing around the stairway opening is similar to the railing on the stairs (Photo NC-407-AL-12). The space below the stairway has been enclosed and serves as closet. The closet is 2'-6½" wide and 3'-7¾" deep.
3. Flooring: Original floors are 2¼" strip wood floors. All rooms on the second floor and some on the first floor have been carpeted.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Most walls have been covered with 4'x 8' sheets of modern wood paneling. Original wall finish is still extant in some rooms. The original wall finish is composed of horizontal beadboard with ¼" beads, 1¾" flat portions, and 1/16" channels. Wainscoting is 3'-6" tall, and composed of vertical beadboard with ¼" beads, 2½" flat portions, and 1/16" channels. A 2" chair rail separates the wainscoting from the upper wall finish.

All rooms have a blown ceiling finish. The original beadboard ceilings, however, are under several layers of ceiling repairs. The beadboard is under lath that is covered by gypsum board and finished with the blown texture.

5. Openings:

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- a. Openings: Closets in the first floor rooms of the original structure have cased openings. The openings are 2'-8"x 6'-9". An opening to the attic above the kitchen is located in the second floor rear northeast bedroom. The opening is on the southeast wall of the room and measures 1'-0"x 2'-5".
- b. Doorways and Doors: The original doors that provided access to each room from the hall are no longer extant. The original doors are six-panel, colonial style, heart pine doors with paired top and bottom vertical panels and a middle horizontal panel. Top and bottom panels are 9"x 2'-11¹/₄" and 9"x 1'-4³/₄"; the middle panel is 1'-10¹/₂"x 7". The doors are typically 2'-7³/₄" wide, 6'-6³/₄" tall and 1³/₄" thick. Original doorways are 2'-8"x 6'-8". The closet under the stairway has an original six-panel door. The first floor bathroom door, located between the bathroom and the front southwest room, is also a six-panel, colonial style door, but is not original. The door is 2'-7³/₄" wide and 6'-8" tall, and is framed in a 2'-8"x 6'-9" opening. The bathroom closet doors are 4'-1"x 6'-9³/₄" louvered doors, which are also not original.

On the second floor, original doors are identical to the original doors throughout the first floor, and original access to each room is from the hall. There are two closets at the southeast end of the hall (Photo NC-407-AL-13). The north closet has an original door, identical to all other original doors in the house. The west closet door is a five-panel door with 1'-9"x 9¹/₂" horizontal panels. Closet doors in the second floor bedroom are swinging louvered doors. The door to the dressing room is a 2'-8"x 6'-9¹/₂" louvered door.

- c. Windows: There are none. A window opening on the rear facade of the original structure was converted to a doorway when the kitchen addition was built. Another window on the same facade was covered to allow for the bathroom and laundry room addition.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: There are four fireplaces in the house; the two in the southwest rooms have been covered with paneling. The fireplace in the front northeast room is centered on the rear wall, measures 4'-7" wide and 4'-5" tall, and has a 1'-4¹/₂" deep and 4¹/₂" thick brick hearth. Bricks for the firebox are 7¹/₂"x 2¹/₂" with 3/8" mortar joints. The fireplace in the rear northeast room shares a chimney with the opposite fireplace. This brick fireplace, centered on the front wall, is 5'-2" wide and 4'-5" tall. The brick hearth is 1'-5" deep and 5" thick. Bricks are 7¹/₂"x 2 with 3/8" mortar joints.

Where original wall finish is still extant, baseboards and trim are original. The baseboard is 3" tall, including a base molding applied along the top. A chair rail located at the top of the wainscoting, 3'-6" above the floor, is 2" wide. Original window and door casing is 3/4"x 4¹/₄".

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7. Hardware: Original door hardware, no longer extant, is a 1¾" rose and separate keyhole on a 3"x 4" plate. Original hardware appears to be extant for all windows in the house. No manufacturer could be found.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
- b. Lighting: The original lighting is no longer extant.
- c. Plumbing: The plumbing network was inaccessible and its type is unknown.
- d. Fixtures: There are no original fixtures. The bathroom fixtures are all modern and therefore later additions.

9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The Nursery Manager's House is part of a group of buildings on the south part of the Nursery complex. The house is southwest of the Garage/Stable (No.84) and north of the Pump House (No.78).
2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is evidence of an overall planting scheme for the Nursery Manager's House. Two planting beds flank the front steps in front of the porch. The planting beds are filled with mature holly bushes. The northwest elevation faces a grassy yard with two evergreen trees and a dogwood. The northeast elevation faces a grassy yard with an atlas cedar to the north and a dogwood to the south; a southern magnolia is near the house along the center of the elevation. There is a mature holly on the south corner of the southwest side of the kitchen porch; ivy climbs the lattice on the southwest end of the porch. The southeast and southwest elevations face grassy areas.

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:

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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 October 2003.

