

OVERHILLS, FREIGHT DEPOT
407-M
(Building No. 21)
Overhills Historic District
West of Nursery Road & North of Thurman Road
Fort Bragg
Harnett County
North Carolina

HABS NC-
NC-407-M

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, FREIGHT DEPOT

(Building No. 21)

HABS No. NC-407-M

Location: West of Nursery Road & north of Thurman Road, Fort Bragg, Harnett County, North Carolina

USGS Overhills, North Carolina, United States Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 17.3899153.679125

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

Original Use: Freight Depot

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Freight Depot in the Entrance Compound 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 Freight Depot was constructed ca. 1920 by the Atlantic Coast Line serving the Overhills area, but was utilized originally by the Lindley Nursery. The Entrance Compound area is at the center 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. 1920.
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: Built by the Atlantic Coast Line serving the Overhills area, the Freight Depot was used originally by the Lindley Nursery in the 1920s to transport planting stock. The Freight Depot, a single-room building that sits along the rail line, has board and batten siding and simple decorative features. A broad gable roof with deep eaves, heavy carved brackets, and simple fretwork, typical of early twentieth century rail stations, are characteristic of the Overhills Freight Depot. Wood for the building is stamped "CW Garver Gallatin, TN".
2. Condition of the Fabric: The Freight Depot is in remarkably good condition. The foundation and structure are quite sound.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The Freight Depot is a one-story, square building with a gable roof. The building measures 24'-4"x 24'-3½" and the ridge height is 20'-4" above grade. The building sits on brick piers and wood posts and has a wood plank floor. A platform is located on the southwest side of the building.

The northeast elevation (Photo NC-407-M-1, Photo NC-407-M-5) has a large opening with red trim and a large red sliding door. Gray board and batten siding with red trim covers the facade.

The southeast elevation (Photo NC-407-M-2, Photo NC-407-M-4) is a gable wall with a six-panel door in an opening with red trim located to the southwest end of the facade. Gray board and batten siding with red trim covers the facade, and the words "A.C.L.R.R. Freight Station" are painted on the siding in the gable in black letters.

The southwest elevation (Photo NC-407-M-2, Photo NC-407-M-3) has a large opening with red trim and a large red sliding door. Gray board and batten siding with red trim covers the facade. A platform is included on this facade.

The northwest elevation (Photo NC-407-M-1, Photo NC-407-M-3, Photo NC-407-M-6) is a gable wall with no openings. Gray board and batten siding with red trim covers this facade as well, and "A.C.L.R.R. Freight Station" is painted on the siding in the gable in black letters.

2. Foundations: The foundation is composed of nine brick piers (Photo NC-416-8) and thirteen wood posts with a wood frame floor. The piers raise the building 3'-½" off the ground. The corner piers are L-shaped in plan, while the center piers on the northwest and southeast sides are T-shaped. All other piers are simply two wythes of brick. Wood posts are located around the perimeter between the brick

piers and two rows of posts are located under the floor frame. On the center row of piers that runs southeast to northwest, there is no wood post between the center and northwest pier.

3. Wall Construction: The wall is constructed of 4"x 4" posts placed 4'-0" on center. Horizontal braces are placed 3'-4" on center starting from the floor joist. 4"x 4" diagonal braces are located at the corner posts and at the center post on each wall. A 4"x 4" top plate spans the entire length of each wall. The sill plate is 8"x 6". An 8"x 2" sill board covers the sill plate on the outside and is chamfered to meet the trim that sits directly above it.

Board and batten siding makes up the exterior wall sheathing. The 9³/₄" boards have a 1/2" gap that is covered by 2³/₄" wide and 1" thick chamfered battens. The chamfer creates a 1/4" flat surface at the center of the batten. The corner of each wall has a red 1"x 7³/₄" end cap. Red trim located along the bottom of each wall is 1"x 7" and abuts the end caps and door trim. A 1"x 5" strip of red trim is located 1'-8¹/₂" above the bottom trim and another strip is located at the top of each wall under the eaves. The upper trim is 1"x 7¹/₂", painted red, and has a 3¹/₂" piece of trim nailed above it.

4. Structural System, Framing: The structure of the Freight Depot is a braced frame system composed of 4"x 4" vertical and horizontal framing elements; diagonal braces are located at the corner posts and center post of each wall.

The roof structure is composed of 2"x 8" rafters framing into a 1"x 8" ridge beam. 2"x 8" roof ties are located 8'-1" above the finished floor level. 1"x10" decking is nailed to the rafters.

5. Porches, Balconies: There is a 14'-2"x 5'-9" platform on the southwest side of the building, located 5'-1/2" from the northwest facade of the building. Five stairs lead from the ground to the platform and are located at the northwest end of the platform. The platform is supported by three 6¹/₂"x 7¹/₂" wooden posts located along the southwest perimeter. The posts are 2'-10" tall, supported by concrete piers of the same dimensions. A 1"x14" sill board covers the framing elements along the perimeter of the platform.

6. Chimney: None.

7. Openings:

- a. Openings: None.

- b. Doorways and Doors: There are three entrances to the building. The southwest facade entrance has an 8'-³/₄"x 8'-8" opening with 4³/₄"x1" trim on the top and sides; the top trim has a 1" drip cap. The doorway is located 8'-1¹/₄" from the northwest facade and has a sliding door composed of two

layers. On the inside layer, 3¼"x1" boards run vertically with tongue and groove joints; the outside layer is composed of ¾" thick beadboard that runs diagonally down from left to right.

The northeast facade entry has the same door and opening measurements and style as the entry on the southeast facade. The northeast door is the only entry with stairs leading to it.

The southeast facade entrance has a 3'x 7'-1½" door opening with 4½" trim on the top and sides, and a 1" drip cap on the door head. The door for this opening is a six-panel door with each panel measuring 2'-3¼"x 8". This opening is located 3'-10" from the southwest facade.

c. Windows: None.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: The roof is a gable roof. The ridge runs northwest to southeast. Black three-tab asphalt shingles cover the 1"x10" decking nailed to 2"x 6" rafters.

b. Cornice, Eaves: The roof of the Freight Depot has wide eaves with decorative brackets on the northeast and southwest facades and a decorative fretwork in the gables of the southeast and northwest facades.

The northeast and southwest facades have four heavy decorative brackets supporting the overhang (Photo NC-407-M-7). The overhang is 4'-10", and brackets are 2½" thick with carved beadwork on the center of the brace. The eaves are open, and the rafter tails chamfered to hold a 1"x 4" fascia board.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: The floor plan is a 24'-4"x 24'-3½" square with large sliding doors on the northeast and southwest facades and a smaller door on the southeast facade.

2. Stairways and Ladders: None.

3. Flooring: The floors are 2"x10" wood decking nailed directly to the 5"x10" joists.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: There is no interior wall finish; (Photo NC-407-M-9) the main elements of the structure and siding are exposed to the interior.

There is no ceiling finish; the main elements of the structure and the roofing material are exposed to the interior (Photo NC-407-M-9).

5. Openings:
 - a. Openings: None.
 - b. Doorways and Doors: None.
 - c. Windows: None.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: None.
7. Hardware: Original hardware appears to be extant for all doors in the Freight Depot. No manufacturer for the hardware could be found.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation: None.
 - b. Lighting: None.
 - c. Plumbing: None.
 - d. Fixtures: None.
9. Original Furnishings: There are no original furnishings.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The building is situated east of the Worker House No. 1 (No.36) and the Servant's House (No.38) and southwest of the Entrance road to the complex. On the south side of the building, there is a railroad bed approximately 26'-0" from the building.
2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is no overall planting scheme for the Freight Depot and there are no plantings around the building. Grass and pine straw surround the entire building.

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 October 2003.