

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
4108 North Richards Street
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS WI-378
HABS WI-378

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX

Location: 4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

USGS Quadrangle: Milwaukee, 7.5 minute, Wisconsin

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
Zone 16 Easting 0426230 Northing 4771175

Present Owner: Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs

Present Use: National Guard Armory

Significance: The Light Horse Squadron Armory is one of the most important National Guard armories in Wisconsin, as well as the state's largest armory complex. It was built with private funds supplied by the Light Horse Squadron Association during the state's most prolific period of private armory construction. From 1931 to 1940 it was home to the headquarters, as well as several troops, of the 105th Cavalry, which was among the last horse cavalry regiments in the entire National Guard of the United States. The complex was the headquarters after World War II of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's (WIARNG) 32nd Infantry Division, which commanded most of the state's National Guard units until its deactivation in 1968. Architecturally, the armory is an immense structure executed in the Art Deco style. The original 1930-31 complex was also considered at the time of its construction to be one of the most modern and innovative urban armories in the nation.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: 1930-1931 (Dedicated 28 February 1931)
2. Original and subsequent owners:

1930-1931 Light Horse Squadron Association
1931-Present Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs
3. Designer: Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengels
4. Builder or contractor: Raymond Sheridan

5. Alterations and additions: The original components of the armory complex are intact and include the armory, its attached riding hall, the blacksmith shop/forage building and regimental commander's house. Two WPA-constructed vehicle storage buildings were added to the complex in 1941, while a pair of concrete-block garages was later constructed, one in 1950 and the other in 1956. A metal-sided pole barn was erected in 1995. Each building retains its original character, massing and materials. Most have received wholesale window and door replacements.

B. Historical Context:

Wisconsin Army National Guard

A state militia was active in Wisconsin in the early 1830s. It was, however, the Illinois Militia during the Black Hawk War. This activity notwithstanding, evidence of a Wisconsin Militia did not become apparent until the 1850s. Local militias may have been formed, but an 1858 state law officially permitted groups of forty or more to form a uniform company in the areas of artillery, light infantry or cavalry. Officers were selected by each unit and included one captain, one first lieutenant, one second or third lieutenant, four sergeants and four corporals, after which commissions, uniforms and arms were issued.¹

The Wisconsin Militia terminated during the Civil War, although many of the state's militiamen took part in the conflict. The initial call upon Wisconsin by the federal government was for 780 soldiers for the war, which were supplied by twenty-six of the state's fifty-one militia units. These men served, for instance, in the 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Wisconsin soldiers were active in virtually all of the war's major campaigns, with a number of units belonging to the famed Iron Brigade.²

The state's militia reformed after the war. The Milwaukee Volunteer Corps, Lancaster Light Artillery and Richland Light Artillery were all established in 1867. The following year, the Milwaukee Light Guard, Milwaukee Zouaves, Alma Rifles, Manitowoc Volunteers and Monroe Light Battery were created. The Platteville Light Artillery, Beaver Dam Light Guards, Trojan Volunteer Battery, Merchant Zouaves

¹John K. Mahon, *History of the National Guard* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1983), 86-87; "History of the Wisconsin National Guard," *Wisconsin National Guard Review (WNGR)* 14:3 (May 1937):3; "Brief Sketch of [the] Wisconsin National Guard," *WNGR* 24:5 (September 1947):12.

²Mahon, *History of the National Guard*, 99-100, 104; "History of the Wisconsin National Guard," *WNGR* 14:3 (May 1937): 3.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 3

of Milwaukee, Sheridan Guard of Milwaukee and the Delavan Volunteers joined the state militia in 1869. The arms provided for these militiamen included Springfield muskets, Springfield breech-loading rifles, Enfield rifles and cavalry carbines. It was thought that these organizations were more social clubs and parade groups than fighting units. Adjutant General Parkinson reported in 1874 that some of the companies formed were likely affected by the “parade and glitter of uniforms,” after which they disbanded.³

Perhaps noting the tentative nature that motivated units to join the state’s militia after the Civil War, Adjutant General James K. Proutfit recommended that the “...only proper and fair manner of supporting any number of efficient militia troops would be by providing by general taxation for funds in supporting first class, independent companies...” Proutfit suggested that \$10 per year be paid to each of the 2,000 men authorized for Wisconsin’s twenty companies. This did not happen, but, in 1873, the state did start providing the militia with \$100 per unit per year to help pay for armory rent and repairs. A year later, the award per unit increased to \$300 annually.⁴

The militia was poised for change as the year 1880 approached. A significant alteration came in 1879 when the term “national guard” was used for the first time – instead of the word “militia.” Additionally, the battalion method of organizing the WIARNG was first implemented in 1880.⁵ The 1st Battalion included the Beloit City Guard and the Janesville Guard, all under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W.B. Britton of Janesville. Also established in 1880 was Milwaukee’s Light Horse Squadron, a predecessor of the 105th Cavalry Regiment. Three more battalions were created in 1881. The 2nd Battalion consisted of the Bay City Guard of Green Bay, Oshkosh Rifles, Evergreen Guard of Oshkosh and the Fond du Lac Guard. Meanwhile, the 3rd Battalion included the Mauston Light Guard, Governor’s Guard of La Crosse, Neillsville’s Sherman Guard, La Crosse Light Guard and the Unity Guard. And finally, the 4th Battalion claimed the Governor’s Guard of Madison, Guppy Guard of Portage, Lake City Guard of Madison, Watertown Rifles and the Burchard Guard of Beaver Dam. Regiments were also established in the state in 1882. Battalions typically had three to seven companies, while a regiment had eight

³“History of the Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:3 (May 1937):3 and 14:4 (July 1939): 3; “Brief Sketch of [the] Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:5 (September 1947):12.

⁴“History of the Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:3 (May 1937): 3; Mahon, *History of the National Guard*, 114.

⁵Currently, a battalion typically is comprised of between three and five company-sized elements. A company consists of around 100 soldiers and is the unit typically supported by an individual community.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 4

to twelve companies.⁶

The WIARNG experienced some major changes in the early 1880s. Legislation was passed that provided for all guard members to have common uniforms. A five dollar allowance was also offered to each company for each guard member that attended an annual inspection. It was intended to help manage the costs of uniforms and equipment.⁷ The guard also saw labor-related duty in the state during the 1880s and 1890s. It responded in 1881, for example, to the Sawdust Riot in Eau Claire. Members who answered the call were paid one dollar per day, although they brought their own bedding, clothing and arms. Calls to respond to labor disputes also came from the governor in 1886, 1889, 1894 and 1898. Most of these actions were not overtly confrontational. But in 1886, when called to protect industrial facilities, the governor ordered the Guard to open fire if there were threats to the property. The guard ultimately killed seven strikers who the governor thought “...were foreigners infected with anarchistic propaganda....”⁸

Three regiments of the WIARNG, each with twelve companies, were called up for service during the Spanish-American War. The units mobilized and trained at the Wisconsin State Fair grounds near Milwaukee. But questions were raised about the President’s ability to call up guard units for service outside the country. This conundrum led all guard members to volunteer for federal service.⁹

The WIARNG reorganized in 1899, after the Spanish-American War. State strength was authorized at forty companies of infantry (consolidated into regiments and battalions), as well as a cavalry troop and a battery of light artillery. The state-provided appropriation for the WIARNG in 1903 was \$125,000.¹⁰

⁶“Brief Sketch of [the] History of [the] Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:4 (September 1947):12; “History of the Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:5 (September 1937): 3. A regiment, prior to World War II, typically consisted of between ten and fifteen companies. Once the common method of organizing combat-oriented units, the term now is used only for specialized elements.

⁷*Ibid.* Previously there had been variations in uniforms across the state, generally manifested in differing styles, colors, buttons, etc.

⁸“Brief Sketch of [the] History of [the] Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 24:5 (September 1947): 12; Mahon, *History of the National Guard*, 116-17.

⁹“Brief Sketch of [the] History of [the] Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 24:5 (September 1947): 12.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, “History of the Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 14:5 (September 1937): 3. Infantry units are the army’s primary fighting element.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 5

The WIARNG subsequently was called to active duty in 1916, when the United States was concerned about patrolling its common border with Mexico. It was also called upon in 1917 as the country entered World War I. This latter event was significant because it was the catalyst for the formation of the 32nd “Red Arrow” Division. The division served with such distinction that a French general called them “Les Terribles,”—meaning “The Terrible Ones”—which the division took for its nickname. The 32nd was known during World War I for always accomplishing its mission and its divisional insignia was that of an arrow piercing the enemy line. The 32nd Division’s strength was 23,000 men, 15,000 of which came from the WIARNG. The rest were from Michigan. During this period, the designation of Wisconsin units changed as the U.S. Army adopted a uniform unit naming system for the entire National Guard. The 1st Artillery Regiment became the 121st Field Artillery Regiment and the 2nd and 3rd Infantry regiments became the 127th and 128th Infantry regiments, respectively. Elements of the 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry regiments were absorbed into the 127th and the 128th. And finally, the 1st Cavalry (originally the Light Horse Squadron of Milwaukee) was redesignated the 120th Field Artillery due to the fact that the U.S. Army did not deploy National Guard horse cavalry during the war.¹¹

The WIARNG was again reorganized after World War I. The guard’s state appropriation had grown by 1923 to \$300,000 per year. An additional \$300,000 was also made available for the construction of armories and any needed repairs—if authorized by the governor. A loss of funding occurred thereafter, which led to the elimination of twenty units around the state. One of the funding problems encountered was the Great Depression, which caused the number of paid unit assemblies to drop for a time. But as relief programs were developed and implemented, the WIARNG benefitted. A substantial number of Depression-era relief program dollars, for example, were used to build new armories in Platteville, Whitewater and Sheboygan, in addition to providing for significant improvements to the WIARNG’s annual encampment site at Camp Williams in Juneau County. By 1940, with World War II spreading across the globe, the WIARNG’s strength was again increased.¹²

World War II was a dramatic struggle fought on the Atlantic Ocean and in Europe, as well as on the Pacific and those islands between Hawaii, Australia, the Philippines and Japan. The 32nd Infantry Division was a significant unit in the Pacific that saw

¹¹“Brief Sketch of [the] History of [the] Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 24:5 (September 1947): 12; “History of the Wisconsin National Guard,” *WNGR* 15:4 (July 1938): 4.

¹²*Ibid.*

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 6

action primarily in New Guinea and the Philippines, although several of its formations were detached and saw action in Europe. Also, Janesville's 32nd Tank Company was detached from the division and deployed to the Philippines in November 1941—where it lost 65 of its 100 members through combat, the Bataan Death March and subsequent imprisonment. The 32nd Infantry Division served 654 days of combat during the war, which was the most of any army division. Numerous divisional sub-units received Presidential Unit Citations and eleven soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.¹³

The 1950s was a period of relative calm for the WIARNG. A new armory building program was undertaken in 1953 and continued for fifteen years—a span in which over forty-one new armories were built around the state. In October 1961, the entire 32nd Infantry Division was activated and sent to Fort Lewis, Washington, as part of the nation's response to the Berlin Crisis. The unit never deployed overseas and was released from active duty in August 1962. Activities around the state that required the use of the WIARNG continued. For instance, 3,000 soldiers were called up to maintain order in Milwaukee in August 1966 when white protestors started to challenge a group of black picketers at a judge's house. A number of other activations occurred in response to Vietnam anti-war events in Madison and Milwaukee. In 1978, the WIARNG was again placed on state active duty to fill in at state prisons where employees had gone on strike.¹⁴

New international threats and events that required National Guard involvement also evolved in the 1990s and beyond. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 inspired the United States to lead a coalition that liberated that Persian Gulf nation in 1991. The WIARNG provided 1,100 soldiers for the action, most of which were stationed in Saudi Arabia. The state subsequently furnished soldiers for military operations in the Balkans, as well as provided humanitarian and nation-building assistance in Central America. With the 11 September 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, in New York City and Washington, DC, respectively, Wisconsin's Guard members were assigned until May 2002 to security duty at the state's airports. Thereafter, National Guard troops backed up units assigned to, or were themselves ordered to, Afghanistan. The Iraq War and corresponding post-war efforts to build an independent government in that nation are the most recent deployments experience by the WIARNG. As of 2010, over 12,000 Wisconsin soldiers have been

¹³Ibid.; "Tank Men off to Meet Gen. Wainwright," *WNGR* 23:5 (September 1946): 5; "Medal of Honor Recipients," Material online at www.32nd-division.org.

¹⁴Mahon, *History of the National Guard*, 239, 258; "Organization of the 32nd 'Red Arrow' Infantry Division During the Berlin Crisis," Material available at www.32nd-division.org; State Active Duty Database, Located at the Wisconsin Army National Guard Historian's Office, Joint Force Headquarters, Madison, WI.

called to active duty since 11 September 2001. The most recent domestic missions for Wisconsin guardsmen have included support for rescue efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, as well as assisting U.S. Border Patrol with operations along the Mexican Border—a mission began in July 2006 and ended in July 2008. Within the state, the WIARNG in June 2008 responded to massive statewide flooding by activating 750 soldiers and airmen in support to local authorities.

Evolution of Armory Architecture

Prior to the Civil War, only a small number of structures were constructed strictly for military purposes. The majority of individual militia units met in buildings designed for both military and non-military uses. Most often, volunteer companies rented rooms or entire upper levels of extant commercial buildings. The handful of armories that did exist were not built with the aspect of fortification in mind. Instead, the architecture of most of the pre-Civil War examples reflected that of contemporary popular styles. In 1863, Congress enacted the Armory Law, directing individual states to outfit their militia units with appropriate facilities in which to store weaponry and equipment. Very few states initially followed through with the decree and, among those that did, wartime initiatives often were not the primary motivation. Instead, armory construction frequently was prompted by fears of class warfare brought on by social upheaval. Anti-draft rioting during the Civil War and labor conflicts during the last quarter of the nineteenth century provided many states with the strongest impetus to build fortified armories.¹⁵

This is also the period in which the first formal design of armories was developed. Militia units historically met in one building and drilled in another. But the first post-Civil War armory buildings were designed to include spaces for all activities. Likewise, their exterior appearance was intended to express each facility's military function. This was accomplished through the use of the castellated style, which was derived from medieval fortresses and included such features as towers or bartizans with battlements, crenellated parapets, machiolated galleries and round-arched sally ports. Beginning in New York in the 1870s, this design concept swept across the country and such structures were the most common type of armory built until the 1910s. Moreover, the overall armory configuration established during the period remained fairly consistent for decades to follow. Structures typically consisted of two primary elements—an administrative “headhouse” and a large drill hall. The former component included spaces for various offices and classrooms, a kitchen/dining area, club and/or recreation rooms, a weapons vault and locker rooms.

¹⁵Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries* (Washington, DC: Historical Services Division, National Guard Bureau Office of Public Affairs, 1994), 13.

Although the drill hall was already traditionally a substantial space, technological advances of the 1870s allowed for even larger areas, due to the development of steel, hinged-arched trusses.¹⁶

After the turn of the twentieth century, concerns about class warfare receded, particularly as labor unions and businesses adopted less bellicose attitudes toward one another. Americans instead began to fear international warfare. The United States had become a world power by this time, but the Spanish-American War had amply demonstrated that the country was poorly prepared to defend itself. Mounting tensions in Europe, which eventually erupted into World War I, also proved that the United States could no longer hold itself aloof from international matters. The confluence of these two trends led to a shift in the National Guard's mission, from defense against domestic disturbances to defense against foreign incursions. No longer the security force for industrialists, the Guard developed a more overt military role which was legislated by the Dick Act of 1903. Additionally, the reduction in the use of guardsmen as strikebreakers increased public trust and improved relations between local communities and guard units. Armories, as a result, came to be perceived less as bastions of defense against mobs, but more as potential community centers. Although the basic headhouse and drill hall configuration remained, their exteriors again began to reflect popular architectural styles such as Neoclassical and Beaux Arts Classicism.¹⁷

20th Century Armory Architecture in Wisconsin

Wisconsin passed in 1919 the Armory Aid Act to assist in the construction of armories throughout the state. The act called for the local municipality to furnish the site and at least one-half of the construction cost, while the state would cover the remaining half not to exceed \$20,000. The armory and land were to be in the state's name and the state was also to receive the income from rentals. The local municipality, however, was to be able to use the drill hall for free for public-oriented functions, except for the cost of heat and light. Due to the high cost of material and labor, no construction occurred until 1921. By the end of 1922, the State Armory Board had assisted in the construction of three armories in Oconomowoc, Clintonville and Abbotsford, as well as reconstructing old armories in five other locations. The Armory Aid Act was abolished in 1923. Records indicate that the state owned eight of the armories used by the WIARNG.¹⁸

¹⁶Ibid., 13, 21-22.

¹⁷Robert M. Fogelson, *America's Armories* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989), 206-10.

¹⁸*AG Reports*, [1922], 25, 31; [1924], 32; "Armories of the Wisconsin National Guard," *WNGR* 1:1 (January

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 9

The years 1928 through 1930 brought about the largest armory building program in the history of the WIARNG to that point. Thirteen individual armories were constructed during that three-year span, six of which were built in 1930 alone.¹⁹ Efforts to build these armories utilized no state funding, except for the annual rent paid to unit associations and municipalities, and encompassed a wide variety of funding and ownership arrangements. For example, the Whitefish Bay and Jefferson armories were owned by their respective unit organizations, while soldiers in Fort Atkinson and Watertown shared a municipal building and a Turner Hall, respectively. With regard to methods of funding, the Jefferson Armory included a \$10,000 gift from the city, Milwaukee's Light Horse Squadron Armory came from the sale of its previous Shorewood location and the members of the Arcadia unit contributed half of their drill pay for two years to an armory fund. Other interesting initiatives included obtaining used paving brick for free by Kenosha's Troop E, 105th Cavalry, while the Rhinelander unit obtained subscriptions, received \$10,000 from the local American Legion post, as well as took out a loan. Of the thirteen armories constructed during this period, only the Light Horse Squadron Armory and the Chippewa Falls Armory (which is heavily altered) remain in use by the WIARNG.²⁰

Two years after the dedication of Milwaukee's privately funded Light Horse Squadron Armory, the National Defense Act of 1933 clarified the status of the National Guard and increased its size to 190,000 soldiers nationwide. One way to procure facilities to house this increased number of troops was to utilize Depression-era programs such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) to build armories. The initial legislation that created the WPA did not allow for armory construction. Such efforts were directed towards schools, hospitals and other community structures. In response, the National Guard Association, American Legion and other veterans' organizations lobbied intensely and the WPA developed a program to facilitate armory construction. Through the combined efforts of the WPA and PWA programs, hundreds of new armories were constructed, or existing ones renovated, across the country. Many of these armories were small and designed to house only one company-sized unit. The PWA initially undertook construction of most new armories, which were often large, multi-unit facilities. But by the mid-1930s, the WPA had assumed responsibility for the more

1924): 33.

¹⁹Armories constructed during the period include Kenosha and Arcadia (1928); Jefferson, Whitefish Bay, Watertown, Oconto and Fort Atkinson (1929); and Madison, Milwaukee, Rhinelander, Janesville, Waupaca, and Chippewa Falls (1930).

²⁰"Armory Building Record is Made," *WNGR* 17:6 (November 1930): 23 "Four New Armories are Opened," *WNGR* 6:2 (March 1929): 12; "New Armory Wave is Sweeping State," *WNGR* 5:1 (January 1928): 6-8.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 10

numerous one-unit armories, while the PWA funded the construction of fifty-two armories nationwide at a cost of \$13 million. Meanwhile, the WPA (a larger program than the PWA) built more than 700 armories between 1935 and 1941.²¹

In Wisconsin, communities were charged with locating and procuring a site for an armory while the state and the WPA provided labor. Part of the justification for building military armories with WPA/PWA funding was that they would be utilized as community centers for sporting events and a variety of other social functions. Wisconsin constructed or augmented nine armories by the end of the program in 1942. Cities that received new armories as a result of the WPA were Platteville, Whitewater, Stoughton and Marshfield, while the PWA assisted with the construction of the Sheboygan Armory and Milwaukee's 126th Observation Squadron Armory (no longer extant). Cities with existing armories that were improved with WPA funds include Kenosha, Whitefish Bay, and Milwaukee, which received two vehicle storage buildings. Construction of unit cantonment areas at the WIARNG's Camp Williams was also undertaken by the WPA. Of the major facilities constructed by the WPA/PWA, only the structures at Camp Williams, Platteville and Milwaukee's Richards Street Armory remain in use by the WIARNG.²²

After World War II, the WIARNG sought to end its long-standing practice of renting armory space in cities lacking a state-owned facility and embarked with the federal government on a joint armory construction program. With the federal government picking up 75 percent of the cost, armories of two standard configurations were constructed in thirty-nine Wisconsin cities between 1953 and 1968. Virtually all of these facilities remain in use today.²³

Art Deco Style

An international, twentieth-century, design movement, Art Deco emerged at the 1925

²¹Roy D. Keehn and the Illinois Armory Board, *The Illinois Armory Board Building Program: A Report Submitted to the Governor of Illinois and the 63rd General Assembly* (N.p.: 1934), 3-6; Works Progress Administration, *Report of the Progress of the WPA Program* (Washington, D.C.: WPA, various years/pages as follows): [1938] 70-71; [1939] 3-6, [1940] 80; Public Works Administration, *America Builds: The Record of the PWA* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939), 203.

²²*Report of the Progress of the WPA Program*, [1938] 70-71, [1939] 3-6, [1940] 80; *America Builds*, 203; Fogelson, *America's Armories*, 196, 198; Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories*, 33-34; "Will Build 10 New Armories," *WNGR* (November 1935): 1; "Armory Construction Over Until After Duration," *WNGR* 19:4 (July 1942): 7.

²³"Historical and Architectural Survey of Selected Armories of the Wisconsin Army National Guard," Prepared by Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI (September 2005), 30-31.

L'Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs and Industriels Modernes in Paris. Self-consciously ahistorical, Art Deco departed from other popular styles such as Neoclassical and Beaux Arts Classicism, which incorporated Roman, Greek and Renaissance ideals in design. Art Deco instead drew inspiration from geometric and natural motifs. Ornamentation typically consisted of zigzags, chevrons, sunbursts, stepped arches and stylized floral and natural forms.²⁴

Technological innovations exercised a profound influence on Art Deco design. New building materials such as Bakelite, Formica, glass block, carrera glass, glazed terra cotta tiles, cast stone and aluminum panels, became readily available through the mass production manufacturing process. These materials easily exhibited the sleek, clean lines that characterized Art Deco. The appearance and application of these materials diverged significantly from traditional architectural designs and provides Art Deco with its distinctive visual impact.²⁵

Ornamentation figured prominently in the early period of Art Deco design (mid- to late-1920s), but, by the mid-1930s, its use had become much more austere. Art Moderne superseded Art Deco within a few years. Although very similar to Art Deco in its use of streamlining and modern materials, the Art Moderne style had a more horizontal emphasis. Grooves in the wall, or coping at the roofline, emphasized smooth wall surfaces, rounded corners and the overall horizontal massing of the building, while some vertical elements, such as piers, buttresses and window openings, offered variety. One architect to utilize the Art Deco style for armory construction was Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengels of the WIARNG.²⁶

Light Horse Squadron Armory

The Light Horse Squadron organized on 06 April 1880 to provide a mounted escort for Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan during their attendance at a Wisconsin Civil War soldier's reunion. Many of Milwaukee's most prominent citizens were among the sixty-five who initially joined the group. After the parade, many of the older members (who were simply there for the parade) left the organization. It reorganized thereafter as an actual military unit in the WIARNG. The Light Horse Squadron was part of a state organization, but it had its own bylaws which dictated

²⁴Michael F. Crowe, *Deco by the Bay: Art Deco in the San Francisco Bay Area* (New York: Viking Studio Books, 1995), 1, 3, 7.

²⁵*Ibid.*, 8, 10; Jonathon M. Woodham, *Twentieth Century Ornament* (New York: Viking Studio Books, 1995), 1, 3, 7.

²⁶Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories*, 30-31; Crowe, *Deco by the Bay*, 8.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 12

that members had to be over twenty-one and pay a twenty-five dollar membership fee, followed by three dollars in quarterly dues. Ten-year veterans of the outfit no longer had to pay the quarterly dues, and all members were subject to fines if they missed a drill or failed a uniform inspection.²⁷

The Light Horse Squadron borrowed \$30,000 from the state and constructed an imposing armory on Milwaukee's Broadway Street in 1885 (no longer extant). Three years later, the unit formed the Light Horse Squadron Armory Association to hold the building's title. The association leased a plot of land on Eighth and Chambers in 1894 and constructed stables and other buildings. It was called Camp Grant (no longer extant) and the squadron used it for riding exercises until 1902. The Light Horse Squadron eventually was renamed Troop A, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry Regiment, but the Light Horse Armory Association remained as the unit's property holding organization. The association sold in 1906 the Broadway Street Armory for \$85,000 to the City of Milwaukee and purchased thirty acres for \$37,000 in what would become the Village of Shorewood. A new armory (no longer extant) was constructed in 1909 for \$42,000 on the Shorewood site.²⁸

Troop A trained at the Shorewood Armory until it was mobilized in 1916 for service along the Mexican Border. It was at this time that Troop B was formed from a small cadre of Troop A soldiers. Shortly after they returned from border service, war was declared with Germany. It was decided to fully form the state's cavalry regiment, the bulk of which came from Milwaukee. After mobilization, the unit deployed to Waco, Texas, where the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry was converted to an artillery unit and renamed the 120th Field Artillery Regiment. This was done because the U.S. Army did not deploy National Guard horse-cavalry units to Europe. The reorganization of the WIARNG after World War I resulted in the creation of the 105th Cavalry Regiment throughout the state with the Headquarters Troop, Medical Detachment and Troops A and B located in the Shorewood Armory.²⁹

The Shorewood Armory was home to four units and only designed for one. It had outgrown its usefulness. Moreover, the Shorewood area was developing quickly and land prices were at a premium. The Light Horse Squadron Armory Association sold

²⁷“Climb of the Light Horse Squadron,” *WNGR* 8:4 (July 1931): 17; “The Old Light Horse,” *WNGR* 1:7 (December 1923): 10; *By-Laws and Rules of the Light Horse Squadron* (Milwaukee: J.M. Everly, Book & Job Printer, 1886), Located in Wisconsin National Guard Files, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI, unpaginated.

²⁸“Climb of the Light Horse Squadron,” 17; “Armories,” *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Company, 1910), 26. Henceforth cited as *Biennial Report*.

²⁹“Record of Wisconsin's Cavalry,” *Badger Trooper* 1:4 (April 1922): 5; *Biennial Report* (1922), 20-21.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 13

in 1929 the armory and its thirty-acre parcel for \$385,000, and purchased immediately thereafter for \$70,000 the subject ten-acre tract on North Richards Street. The remainder of the money was used to pay off debts and to build an armory, riding hall, blacksmith shop/forage building and residence for the regimental commander. The association turned the facility over to the state when construction was complete. It was built entirely with private funds and was Wisconsin's largest armory.³⁰

State Military Architect Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengels, who was to design the facility, carefully studied the project and gathered ideas by visiting armories in Boston, New York and Chicago. Given the prominence of the 105th Cavalry in the WIARNG, and the size of the construction budget, Hengels gave the project significant consideration. His plan included an imposing entry that honored the history of the 105th and its antecedents, as well as provided space for five units, a large gymnasium/drill floor and a 100 by 250-foot indoor riding hall with stables for one-hundred horses. Construction began on 10 April 1930. On 14 June 1930 a ceremony was held that laid in the new building's foundation the cornerstones from the Broadway and Shorewood armories. The project's general contractor was a firm owned by Raymond Sheridan of the 121st Field Artillery Regiment. The Sheridan firm also built in 1928 the Whitefish Bay Armory (no longer extant). The Richards Street facility was formally dedicated on 28 February 1931 with a formal banquet for unit members and veterans. A write up in the *Wisconsin National Guard Review* proclaimed the facility as "Wisconsin's finest armory and the middlewest's best riding hall."³¹

The Light Horse Squadron Armory complex was the home to Headquarters Troop of the 105th Cavalry, as well as Troops A, B and F. The 105th was among the last horse cavalry units in the nation and was consistently rated as one of the WIARNG's best units. All National Guard units were mobilized in 1940 for training, at which time the 105th Cavalry turned in its horses and became the 126th Field Artillery Regiment. With that change, the unit also joined the rest of the state as members of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division. The days of the horse cavalry were in the past, thus were two poured concrete equipment/vehicle storage buildings constructed in June 1941 on the armory grounds by the Works Progress Administration. Activity at the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex continued while its units were away at war. The facility served as the induction site for all Milwaukee men drafted into the military. As well,

³⁰"Climb of the Light Horse Squadron," 17.

³¹"New Armory with Riding Hall," *WNGR* 6:5 (September 1929): 6-7; "Two New Armories Nearly Completed," *WNGR* 7:5 (September 1930): 11; "Milwaukee Cavalry in New Armory," *WNGR* 8:1 (May 1930): 5.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 14

Companies A, B and D of the Wisconsin State Guard's 1st Infantry Regiment were headquartered at the armory during World War II. These units participated in numerous parades and contributed honor guards to a host of events. They also deployed to Ashland and Superior, Wisconsin, for a short time in 1942 to provide dock security.³²

The WIARNG was reconstituted after World War II and the headquarters of the 32nd Division, along with the headquarters of its 1st Brigade, was stationed in the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex, which was by then coming to be called the Richards Street Armory. The 32nd Division commanded almost all WIARNG units. It was joined at the facility by the Headquarters and L companies of the 426th Infantry Regiment. Since horses were no longer used, the earthen riding floor was paved in 1949 with concrete and the stable area was converted to offices. It was noted in 1963 that Company A of the 132nd Signal Battalion had replaced the two infantry units of the 426th. The next significant reorganization occurred in 1967 when the 32nd Infantry Division was downsized and became the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade.³³ The headquarters for this new outfit was at the Richards Street Armory. It was joined by companies A and B of the 132nd Support Battalion, the 132nd Signal Company, the 135th Medical Company, the 32nd Military Police Company, as well as the headquarters of the WIARNG's Emergency Operations Center. After the closure of the Whitefish Bay Armory in 1996, units that called the Richards Street Armory complex home included the 57th Field Artillery Brigade headquarters, Battery A of the 1-121 Field Artillery Battalion, Company C of the 132nd Support Battalion and the 32nd Military Police Company. The 32nd MP Company deployed in 1991 for the Persian Gulf War and in 2003 and 2009 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery A, 1-121 Field Artillery deployed in 2006 to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 57th Field Artillery Brigade was reorganized in 2007 as the 157th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.³⁴

³²“New Armory with Riding Hall,” 7; “[105th] Cavalry Becomes 126th Field Artillery,” *WNGR* 17:7 (November 1940): 4-5; “WPA Project—Equipment Storage Building—June 1941”; “His Office Chair Replaces the Saddle,” *WNGR* 19:1 (January 1942): 18; “Fifth Anniversary, 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry, Wisconsin State Guard” (1946), Pamphlet in Wisconsin National Guard Files, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI.

³³A Separate Infantry Brigade is comprised of three infantry battalions and enough supporting units for the brigade to function independent of divisional command and support.

³⁴“HQ Co, 426th Infantry is Developing Rapidly,” *WNGR* 24:5 (September 1947): 8; “426th Infantry Regimental Notes,” *WNGR* 26:4 (July 1949): 6; “Station Map,” *Badger Guardsman* 7:4 (February 1963): 2; “New Station Plan,” *Badger Guardsman* 11:5 (November-December 1967): 2; MAJ Antonio Pascal, Richards Street Armory Facility Manager, Interview with Brian J. Faltinson, 18 May 2006, Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI. It should be noted that during the reconstitution of the WIARNG after World War II, numerous units were moved around the state until a community was found that could support one or a specific balance of unit types (i.e., infantry,

PART II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Light Horse Squadron Armory Complex was constructed between 1930 and 1931. Its original components are the Art Deco-style Armory and Riding Hall, astylistic utilitarian Blacksmith Shop/ Forage Building and the Tudor Revival style Regimental Commander's Residence. All are constructed of brick. Two astylistic utilitarian concrete vehicle storage buildings were constructed by the WPA in 1941 and two more astylistic utilitarian concrete block vehicle storage buildings were built in 1950 and 1956.
2. Condition of Fabric: The Light Horse Squadron Armory complex has been utilized by WIARNG units continuously since 1931. The facility is well maintained and has been remodeled to meet the evolving needs of the WIARNG. The historic fabric is generally very good with the primary alterations consisting of wholesale window and door replacement.

B. Setting:

The ten-acre complex is located in the Riverworks neighborhood of the City of Milwaukee, which primarily is an industrial and commercial tract adjacent to the west side of the Milwaukee River. It is bounded by N. Richards Street on the west, Hope Street on the north, N. Holton Street on the east and a modern commercial parcel to the south. The surrounding built environment generally contains circa-1920s to circa-1950s industrial buildings and circa-1990s commercial structures. A handful of circa-1920s single-family homes line N. Richards Street.

The entire complex is surrounded by either a chain link or decorative ironwork (modern) fence, and includes the armory (HABS WI-378-A), Regimental Commander's House (HABS WI-378-B), Blacksmith Shop & Forage Building (HABS WI-378-C), Equipment Storage Building #4 (HABS WI-378-D), Equipment Storage Building #5 (HABS WI-378-E), Organizational Maintenance Shop #3 (HABS WI-378-F) and Equipment Storage Building #6 (HABS WI-378-G).

artillery, support) – a primary unit affected by these factors, for instance, was the 426th Infantry, a unit with no tradition within Wisconsin prior to World War II. The result is that the exact lineage of company-level units at a specific armory during the late 1940s is difficult to determine.

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LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
HABS No. WI-378
Page 17

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PART IV: PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was sponsored by the Wisconsin Army National Guard and undertaken by Heritage Research, Ltd., a historical/environmental consulting firm located in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. The project was directed by Dr. John N. Vogel, while significant editorial contributions were made by both Dr. Vogel and Ms. Traci E. Schnell, M.A. Dr. Vogel also accomplished the field photography and was assisted in that endeavor by Mr. Wayne Chandler of Mayfair Photography, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. All photographs were archivally processed and printed by Mr. Chandler.