

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
(Regimental Commander's House)
4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-378-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
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Location: 4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Significance: The Regimental Commander's House was constructed in 1930-1931 as an original component of the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex. It was designed to house the commander of the 105th Cavalry Regiment, who at the time of construction was General James Quill. The home was later used to house the armory's civilian caretaker/custodian.

History: The Regimental Commander's house was designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengels, an architect born in 1876 in McHenry, Illinois. Hengels studied architecture at Chicago's Armour Institute, as well as abroad. He eventually settled in Milwaukee, where he became known as a specialist in reinforced concrete construction. Hengels enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1917. He was appointed to the position of State Military Architect and Engineer by Governor Emmanuel Philipp. Hengels held that position until his death in 1943. Utilizing a variety of styles during his tenure, he designed virtually all armories and other National Guard buildings constructed in Wisconsin between World War I and World War II. Three of his armory designs are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the Mission-style Oconomowoc Armory (1922), Twentieth-Century Revivalist Janesville Armory (1925) and Late Gothic Revival-style Whitefish Bay Armory (1928), which is no longer extant.¹

The house was constructed by contractor Raymond Sheridan in 1930 and 1931. It was designed as an original component of the armory complex and served as the residence for the commander of the 105th Cavalry Regiment, which was headquartered in the Light Horse Squadron Armory. Its initial occupant was General James Quill. The house was later used by the civilian custodian/caretaker of the armory complex. It was vacant in 2009 and had been for some years before.

¹"Hengels Rites to the Military," *Milwaukee Journal*, 25 November 1943; "Colonel Hengels Dead at 67," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 25 November 1943; "127th Regiment Infantry Company G, Oconomowoc National Guard Armory," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Prepared by Jean Lindsay Johnson and Elizabeth L. Miller (1984), Copy on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI; National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Material online at www.wisconsinhistory.org. None of the Hengels-designed armories listed in the National Register remain in use by the Wisconsin National Guard. The Whitefish Bay Armory was listed on the National Register in 2002 (after it was sold by the WIARNG) and razed in 2004.

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Description:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Regimental Commander's house was completed in 1931 as part of the overall Light Horse Squadron Armory complex. It is a side-gabled, two-story, Tudor Revival-style house clad in brick. An enclosed breezeway joins the house to a one-story, one-car garage topped with a hipped roof. The main facade faces west with the breezeway and garage extending to the north. Fenestration is regularly placed and primarily consists of replacement one-over-one, double-hung sashes. The asphalt shingled roof has a gabled wall dormer and two smaller window dormers crowned with clipped-gables. A large brick, wall chimney is centered on the south sidewall. Ornamentation is subdued and consists of eave timbers with lime-stone accents at the doors and windows, as well as patterned brick. The house is located on a residential parcel that is part of the overall armory complex. It is surrounded by a chain link fence and heavy foliage.²
2. Condition of Fabric: The condition of the exterior and interior fabric is very good. The house in the 1990s had most of its original, multi-pane, double-hung sashes and diamond-paned casements replaced with modern, one-over-one, metal-framed double-hung sashes or single-paned casement windows. The interior retains excellent integrity. Alterations are limited to minor modifications to the kitchen and bathrooms.³

B. Exterior Description:

1. General Description: Rising from a brick foundation, this two-story, side-gabled, Tudor Revival-style house is clad with brick. The west facade is defined by a projecting central entry block. Situated to the north of the entry is a large gabled wall dormer fitted with a large, round-arch window. To the south of the entry block on the first floor is a tripartite grouping of one-over-one, double-hung sashes situated in a projecting bay. A small clipped-gable

²All measurements used in the Description section are a combination of on-site measurements, visual examination and the 1928 project plans. On-site measurements largely were limited to what was reachable without use of ladders and other devices.

³Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, "Residence for General James J. Quill, 105th Cavalry Wis. N.G.," Architectural plans prepared by Henry C. Hengels (1929) on file at the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Facilities Management Office, Madison, WI. Henceforth cited as Quill Residence Plans.

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wall dormer is situated above the tripartite window grouping.

The south facade is dominated by a large, brick wall chimney. Single, one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes flank the chimney on both the first and second floors. An additional pair of double-hung sashes is on the first floor near the southeast corner.

The east facade on the first floor carries a pair of slightly projecting, square window bays filled with a pair of casement windows and topped with a metal hood. The second floor features a clipped gable dormer on the south and a large, gabled wall dormer on the north. Both claim a pair of replacement casement windows.

The first floor of the north facade is fitted with a slightly projecting, square bay that has a pair of replacement casement windows and is topped with a metal hood. A second pair of casement windows is to the west. The second floor is gabled and pierced by a solitary one-over-one-light, double-hung sash and a single casement window. An original, round-arch, multi-pane, fixed window is set in the gable peak.

The breezeway that connects the house's north facade to the garage is defined on its east and west sides by a doorway and a line of four double-hung sashes. The garage is topped with a hipped roof and pierced by a single, wood-panel, overhead door on the west facade.

2. Overall Dimensions: The house is 33'-6" x 30'-6". A 16' long x 6'-6" wide breezeway joins the house to a one-car garage that measures 20' x 11'-8".
3. Foundations: The brick foundation is 13" thick. The basement walls rest upon 20" wide x 12" tall concrete footings. The foundation has a full basement with a 7'-6" ceiling. A concrete watertable encircles the house.⁴
4. Walls: The walls are wood frame studs placed on 16" centers and faced with brick laid in a Flemish pattern of alternating headers and stretchers on each course. The west wall rises higher than that on the east, which creates a broader, roof slope on the east side of the house.⁵

⁴Quill Residence Plans.

⁵Architectural plans for the house called for the studs to be 2 x 5s. Although it could not be visually verified,

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5. Roof: The house is topped with a 45° pitch, side-gabled roof sheathed with red asphalt shingles. Rafters consist of 2 x 8s placed on 16" centers. The roof is decked with 1 x 8 boards. The different heights of the east and west walls create, when viewed from either the north or south, an offset roof peak, which is 17'-8" west of the east wall and 15'-4" east of the west wall. The west slope contains a gabled wall dormer on the north side and a clipped-gable window dormer to the south. The east slope has a larger 17' wide gabled wall dormer on the north and clipped-gabled window dormer on the south. The roofline is embellished by heavy, square timber eaves on the gables and limestone wall accents that mimic eave returns. The garage is topped with a low hipped roof and the breezeway is capped with a low gabled roof.

6. Openings:

A. Windows: These generally consist of one-over-one-light, double-hung, metal-framed sashes arranged singly, in pairs and tripartite groupings. Most windows openings are underscored with a 5" thick concrete sill. The west facade of the house carries four windows. An original six-over-six-light, double-hung sash with leaded muntins is on the first floor and pierces the wall near the northwest corner. The segmentally arched window opening is 40" x 28" and enhanced by three limestone accents on each side. Above this window and within the gabled wall dormer, is a large, round-arch opening that measures 84" x 48". The opening is filled with an original, leaded-glass, double-hung sash whose upper unit contains a round, 20" diameter, pendant filled with a stained-glass shield and helmet symbol. The remainder of the window is filled with 10" x 12" panes set in leaded-glass muntins. The facade's two other windows are to the south of the main entrance and consist of a 92" x 58½" opening on the first floor and a 48" wide x 52" tall opening in a small, clipped-gable wall dormer. The lower window originally contained three diamond-paned, leaded-glass casement windows. They were replaced with a trio of double-hung sashes. The upstairs opening originally contained two, nine-light casement windows. It is now occupied by a pair of casement windows.

The south endwall is pierced by three windows on the first floor and two on the second. A 40" wide x 59" opening exists to either side of the wall chimney on both the first and second floors. These openings once held six-

these framing studs most likely were commonly sized dimensional lumber such as 2x4s or 2x6s.

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over-six light windows and are now fitted with replacement double-hung sashes. A 62" wide x 59" tall opening is located near the southeast corner. Its original pair of six-over-six light windows have been replaced with a pair of replacement double-hung sashes. Four 24" high x 34" wide, three-light, hopper windows exist at the basement level on top of the watertable.

The windows are placed symmetrically on the east facade. The first floor is defined by a pair of window bays that project 4". These are topped with a flared copper hood and fitted with a 62" wide x 58" window opening with a pair of replacement double-hung sashes. They originally were occupied by nine-light casement windows. On the second floor, the window dormer to the south contains a 48" wide x 52" tall opening, while the gabled wall dormer to the north is pierced by a segmentally arched opening measuring 60" tall x 48" wide. Replacement, double-hung sashes occupy openings once fitted with nine-light casement windows. The opening is enhanced by numerous limestone accents on the sides, as well as the arch.

The north facade on the first floor carries a bay window identical to those on the east facade. Also on the first floor is a 62" tall x 50" wide opening occupied by a pair of one-light casement windows. The original windows were six-light casement examples. A 37" tall x 26" wide window is situated near the juncture with the breezeway. It is an original, four-over-four-light, double-hung sash with leaded glass muntins anchoring 4" x 5" panes of glass. The second floor contains a 35½" wide x 37" tall replacement casement window on the east and a 23" wide x 30" tall replacement, double-hung sash to the west. The attic level is pierced by a 48" high x 30" wide, round-arch casement window. It is original and consists of twelve panes of glass set in leaded muntins. The sides are accented with limestone.

The breezeway on both its east and west sides contains a continuous series of four, three-light, fixed windows. Each window measures 32½" x 60½". The garage contains no windows.

B. Doors: The house's main entrance is centered on the west facade. It is set within an entry block that is 9'-1" wide and projects 60". Its south roof slope coincides with the east slope of the gabled wall dormer. The doorway is 42½" wide x 87" tall. The original door is constructed of wood and features heavy strap iron hinges. It is protected by a modern metal storm door. The door opens onto an 18" high concrete stoop that measures 9'-1" x 60". Three 7" high concrete steps with 12" treads provide access to the porch. The

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ironwork railing is 31" high on the steps and 26" high on the stoop.

Doorways serve the breezeway on both its east and west sides and are situated at the juncture with the house. Each door opening is 43" x 6'-8" and is topped with a 16" x 38½" transom. A dog door that measures 21" x 17" is located on the west side. The original wooden doors are protected by modern, metal storm doors.

The garage door is a paneled, overhead example consisting of a three by six arrangement of wooden panels and an additional single row of six glass panels on top. It measures 8'-4" wide x 9'-2" tall.

7. Chimney: The south facade is defined by a stepped brick wall chimney that projects 17" from the wall and is 7' wide at the base. The west side of the chimney employs two steps topped with sloped concrete caps. The chimney is adorned near the top and at its base with a geometrical pattern of limestone and header brick. The chimney serves the basement furnace and a first-floor fireplace.

C. Interior Description:

1. General Description: The first floor at the west entrance consists of an entryway (55" x 87"), foyer (6' x 8') and partially open staircase. A small lavatory (4' x 4'-6") is located underneath the stairs. From the foyer a small door provides access to the kitchen (14' x 8'-8") while a large opening connects to the living room (22' x 15'-2"), which features a fireplace and built-in bookcase. The remainder of the floor contains a dining room (15' x 12'-6") that is fitted with 31" tall wood wainscoting, as well as a study (13' x 8'-6").

The second floor features a full bathroom (5'-4" x 7'-2"), three bedrooms and several closets. Two bedrooms were joined by a small doorway to form the master bedroom suite. The north bedroom measures 12'-7" x 13'-2" and the south measures 11'-6" x 13'-2". The third bedroom measures 14'-9" x 12'-4". The upstairs also contains a 4'-5" wide x 15' long hallway.

The basement contains a laundry room, utility room and two storage rooms.

2. Stairways: An open staircase to the second floor is positioned to the north of the foyer and coincides with the west facade's large, round-arch window.

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Eight steps rise to a landing, turn ninety degrees and rise two more steps. After another ninety degree turn, three more steps rise to meet the second floor hallway. Each step consists of stained hardwood and measures 39" wide, 7½" tall and has a tread of 11". The first landing is 38" x 41". The second is 38" x 40". An ironwork railing at the top of the stairs is 30" tall. Its thin balusters are placed on 6½" centers.

A second stairway is located at the entry of the doorway that separates the breezeway from the house. Ten concrete steps that are 38" wide, 7½" tall and with a 9" tread lead to the basement. Two tile steps of the same dimensions rise from the entryway into the kitchen.

3. Flooring: The main entry and foyer consists of 2¾" square brown brick. The kitchen is covered with linoleum and all other rooms on the first level are hardwood. On the second floor, the bathroom is covered with linoleum and the hallway and three bedrooms are covered with hardwood. The floors of the basement, breezeway and garage are concrete.
4. Openings: All doorways on the first floor are 6' 8" tall. A 3'-4" wide, wood-paneled swing door with a three-pane by five-pane light resides between the main entry and the foyer. Access from the foyer to the living room is open and measures 5' wide. The open doorway to the study is 4' wide. A pair of 36" wide, eight-panel swinging doors provide access to the dining room from the sunroom and living room. The kitchen is accessed from the dining room, breezeway doorway entry and the main foyer. All doors are eight-panel swinging examples with the landing door measuring 3'-4" wide and the other two measuring a width of 2'-8".

All doorways between rooms on the second floor are 30" wide x 6'-8" tall and contain standard wood paneled examples.

5. Fireplace: An open, stone block fireplace is on the living room's east wall. It is 56" wide x 45" tall to the mantle, which consists of a 1¾" x 5½" carved wood plank. The brick hearth is 19" deep x 63" wide.
6. Cabinetry: The east wall of the living room contains a built-in, wood bookcase that is 12" deep, 7'-2" wide and 6'-11" tall. Its lower, cabinet section is defined by four 21" x 18" high wood paneled doors. The upper, bookshelf section is outfitted with four 55" x 18" wide glass paneled doors.

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The west wall of the dining room contains a wood, built-in china cabinet positioned to either side of the doorway to the kitchen. The eastern cabinet is 44" wide x 6'-8" tall. Its base portion consists of two, 42" long, four, 17" long and two, 6" long drawers that reside underneath a pass-through buffet opening that is 16" high. The cabinet to the west is 40" wide and fitted with leaded-glass doors.

The kitchen and dining room each contain a 24" x 36" dumbwaiter door. The dumbwaiter is inoperable because it was converted into a utility conduit. Kitchen cabinets are of simple painted-wood.

C. Setting:

The residential portion of the Light Horse Squadron Armory Complex contains a number of mature trees and is surrounded by a chain-link security fence closely planted with shrubbery. This foliage provides a country-like setting among the area's ca.-1920s to 1950s industrial structures and ca. 1990s commercial buildings, as well as the large armory building to the south.

The house is a component of the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex which includes the Armory & Riding Hall (HABS WI-378-A), Blacksmith Shop & Forge 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).

Sources: Citations for all sources are provided in the "Sources" section of the Complex's overview document (HABS No. WI-378). Two additional sources were used and are cited below:

Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs. "Residence for General James J. Quill, 105th Cavalry Wis. N.G." Architectural plans prepared by Henry C. Hengels (1929) on file at the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Facilities Management Office, Madison, WI.

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