

CAMP WILLIAMS ,

HABS WI-381-A-11

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(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.
127)

(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)

127 Peoria Street

Camp Douglas

Juneau County

Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

CAMP WILLIAMS

(127TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX–BUILDING 127)

- Location: 127 Peoria Street
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 127 was constructed in 1940-1941 as a company mess hall for the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles, Building 127 was erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration. It was a company mess hall for the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area and replaced a wood-frame mess hall. The building currently functions as a private-room barracks.¹ A detailed history of the subcomplex is provided in the document for HABS No. WI-381-A.

Description:

- A. General Statement: This building is constructed on a slight west northwest-east southeast axis. Directions have been simplified to north-south-east-west within this section.
1. Architectural character: Building 127 is a one-story, astylistic utilitarian, front-gabled structure constructed of tan, glazed tiles with red brick accents at the gables, corners and doorways. A wall chimney, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the building. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof.
 2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior fabric is good. Alterations are limited to the wholesale replacement of windows and doors. The top portion of the wall chimney has been replaced with red brick. The building has been converted into private-room barracks. Thus the interior is completely renovated.
- B. Exterior Description:
1. General Description: Oriented on an east-west axis, the gabled west (main) facade is pierced by a central double doorway infilled with paneled wood.

¹“New Mess Halls at Camp Williams,” *WNGR* 17:3 (May 1940): 5; Photographs of the WMA at Camp Williams, circa 1958, Located in Camp Williams Files, Facilities Management Office, Department of Military Affairs, Madison, WI.

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The doorway is flanked by replacement double-hung sashes. A louvered vent underlined with a thin concrete sill is set in the gable peak. The open eaves are supported by five heavy timber purlins.

Beginning at the southwest corner, the south facade claims six regularly placed, double-hung sash windows – the fifth of which has been converted into a doorway. An open expanse separates these windows from two additional windows near the southeast corner.

The east gabled endwall is defined by a central wall chimney flanked by large, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Six heavy timber purlins support the open eaves.

Beginning at the northeast corner, the north facade is pierced by a door that once led into the kitchen, as well as two smaller, double-hung sashes. A second door that once provided access to the dining hall had been converted into a window. The remainder of the wall claims six regularly placed, window openings that mirror those on the south facade. The second window opening has been converted into a doorway.

2. Overall Dimensions: The building is 75' x 25'.
3. Foundations: The foundation is of poured concrete.
4. Walls: The walls are constructed with 12" x 5" tan glazed tile and are 8" thick. The tile is accented by red brick at the corners, around original doorways, within the wall chimney and on the gables at the eaves.
5. Roof: The gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles placed on 6" wide boards. The eaves are open with exposed 2 x 6 rafter tails placed on 24" centers. Exposed timber purlins on the west (five) and east (six) gabled endwalls are 6" x 6" and project 15½". The gables are underscored by red brick accents.
6. Openings:
 - A. Windows: Windows are regularly placed throughout the building. Each has a concrete sill and a 5½" thick timber lintel. The windows are generally fitted with replacement, metal, one-over-one, double-hung sashes.

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The two windows on the west (main) facade are 37" x 60". Two smaller double-hung sashes on the north facade that coincide with the former kitchen are 37" wide x 35" tall. The openings on the east facade that flank the wall chimney are 49" x 59½". All remaining window openings are 37" x 51".

B. Doorways: All doors are metal replacements. Those in original openings are topped with 5½" thick wood lintels and feature red brick surrounds. The double doorway on the north (main) facade is 67" x 80½" and fitted with wood infill. The original door opening at the northeast corner is 39½" x 80½", while the two that were converted from windows are 37" x 81".

7. Chimney: A wall chimney constructed of tan, glazed tile with red brick accents at the corners is centered on the east gabled endwall. It is 50" wide and projects 11". Two metal ash cleanout doors (10½" square) are at the bottom. The chimney's top portion has been replaced with red brick and is crowned with a concrete cap pierced by two square tile flues.

C. Interior Description:

- A. General Description: The east end of the building originally contained a kitchen. The rest of the building was occupied by an open dining hall. The mess hall has been converted into private-room barracks. No original fabric remains.

D. Setting:

Building 127 is a component of the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, which also includes Building 117 (HABS WI-381-A-1), Building 118 (HABS WI-381-A-2), Building 119 (HABS WI-381-A-3), Building 120 (HABS WI-381-A-4), Building 121 (HABS WI-381-A-5), Building 122 (HABS WI-381-A-6), Building 123 (HABS WI-381-A-7), Building 124 (HABS WI-381-A-8), Building 125 (HABS WI-381-A-9), Building 126 (HABS WI-381-A-10), Building 128 (HABS WI-381-A-12), Building 129 (HABS WI-381-A-13), Building 130 (HABS WI-381-A-14), Building 131 (HABS WI-381-A-15) and Building 132 (HABS WI-381-A-16). Additional components of the general Camp Williams complex include the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area (HABS WI-381-B) and the former Officer's Club and present day museum (HABS WI-381-C).

Sources: Citations for all sources in common with the 127th Subcomplex are provided in the "Sources" section of Subcomplex's overview document (HABS No. WI-381-A).

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Two additional sources were used and are cited below.

“New Mess Halls at Camp Williams,” *Wisconsin National Guard Review* 17:3 (May 1940).

Photographs of the WMA at Camp Williams, circa 1958, Located in Camp Williams Files, Facilities Management Office, Department of Military Affairs, Madison, WI.

Historians: Brian J. Faltinson, M.A., Principal Investigator, and John N. Vogel, Ph.D., Project Director, Heritage Research, Ltd., 2009.