

CAMP WILLIAMS
(128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.
215)
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)
215 Holden Street
Camp Douglas
Juneau County
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-B-11
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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

(128TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX–BUILDING 215)

- Location: 215 Holden Street
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 215 was constructed in 1940-1941 as a company mess hall for the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Building 215 was designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles and constructed between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration. It was a company mess hall for the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area and replaced a wood-frame mess hall. The building was converted in 1958 into a barracks for use by the Wisconsin Military Academy. It subsequently became from 1995 to 2001 part of the Wisconsin National Guard Badger Challenge Academy. The structure has been used since 2001 as a medical examination facility for deploying soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard.¹ A detailed history of the subcomplex is provided in the document for HABS No. WI-381-B.

Description:

- A. General Statement: This building is constructed on a slight north northeast-south southwest axis. Directions have been simplified to north-south-east-west within this section.
1. Architectural character: Building 215 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, open eaves with exposed rafter tails, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the building. The roof is sheathed with red asphalt shingles and features at the peak four metal cupola vents.
 2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior fabric is very good. Alterations are limited to the wholesale replacement of windows and doors. The kitchen was converted in 1958 into a latrine and the dining hall into an open barracks bay.

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 building is now used as a medical examination facility. The interior is completely renovated.

B. Exterior Description:

1. General Description: Oriented on a north-south axis, the gabled north (main) facade has a centered, double doorway with a single metal door surrounded by red brick. It 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 northwest corner, the west facade claims six regularly placed, double-hung windows. An open expanse separates these windows from two additional window openings near the southwest corner – the southernmost of which is infilled with tan, glazed tile.

The south gabled endwall claims a central wall chimney flanked by a glass block window to the west (left) and a double-hung sash to the east (right).

From the southeast corner, the east facade has a doorway that once led into the kitchen, two smaller, double-hung windows, a second door that formerly offered access to the dining hall and six regularly placed, windows.

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 red asphalt shingles placed on 6" wide boards. It is pierced at the peak by four metal cupola vents. The eaves are open with exposed 2 x 6 rafter tails placed on 24" centers. Exposed timber purlins on the north (five) and south (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

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fitted with replacement, vinyl-clad, double-hung sashes with six-light, snap-in muntins.

The two windows on the north (main) facade are 37" x 59". Two smaller double-hung sashes on the east facade that coincide with the former kitchen are 37" wide x 35½" tall, while the openings on the south 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. They are in openings with 5½" thick wood lintels that feature red brick surrounds. The double doorway on the north (main) facade is 67" x 80½" and fitted with a 40½" x 82" metal door and red brick infill. The two doors on the east facade are 39½" x 80½".

7. Chimney: A wall chimney of glazed tile with red brick accents at the corners is centered on the south gabled endwall. It is 50" wide and projects 11". Two ash cleanouts at the bottom are infilled with small concrete blocks. The top carries a concrete cap pierced by two round tile flues.

C. Interior Description:

1. General Description: The south end of the building originally contained a kitchen, while the rest of the structure was occupied by an open dining hall. The kitchen was converted in 1958 into a latrine, as was the dining hall into an open barracks bay. The entire building has since been renovated into a medical examination facility.

D. Setting:

Building 215 is a component of the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, which also includes Building 204 (HABS WI-381-B-1), Building 205 (HABS WI-381-B-2), Building 206 (HABS WI-381-B-3), Building 207 (HABS WI-381-B-4), Building 208 (HABS WI-381-B-5), Building 209 (HABS WI-381-B-6), Building 210 (HABS WI-381-B-7), Building 212 (HABS WI-381-B-8), Building 213 (HABS WI-381-B-9), Building 214 (HABS WI-381-B-10), Building 216 (HABS WI-381-B-12), Building 217 (HABS WI-381-B-13) and Buildings 218-219 (HABS WI-381-B-14). Additional components of the general Camp Williams complex include the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area (HABS WI-381-A) and the former Officer's Club and present day museum (HABS WI-381-C).

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Sources: Citations for all sources in common with the 128th Subcomplex are provided in the “Sources” section of Subcomplex’s overview document (HABS No. WI-381-B). 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.