

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
(Equipment Storage Building #5)
4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-378-E

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
(EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING #5)

- Location: 4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Equipment Storage Building #5 was one of two structures (the other was HABS No. WI-378-D) constructed in 1941 by the Works Projects Administration as a vehicle storage facility.
- History: The 105th Cavalry Regiment was slowly converted between 1939 and 1940 from a horse-mounted unit into a mechanized organization. Equipment Storage Building #5 was one of two vehicle garages constructed in 1941 by the Works Progress Administration to facilitate this transition. It serves today as general storage space, offices and as a maintenance shop.¹

Description:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Equipment Storage Building #5 is an astylistic utilitarian garage building constructed entirely of poured concrete. It displays the restrained elements of the Art Deco style, and was erected by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Originally built as a vehicle garage, the structure is currently used for unit storage and as office space for an adjoining Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS).
2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior is good. Notable alterations include converting four of the ten vehicle bays into office space by infilling the vehicle doors with brown tile block. The remaining six vehicle doors have been replaced with ones of modern metal. Interior space not utilized by the OMS has been subdivided with wire caging and concrete block.

B. Exterior Description:

1. General Description: Running on a north-south axis and located along the east side of the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex, Equipment Storage

¹Various Articles, *Wisconsin National Guard Review* (1939-1941); WPA Project–Equipment Storage Building Photo.” Located in Photo Collection–Richards Street File, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI. The *WNGR* contained news briefs of all units in the state regarding unit activities and changes in equipment.

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING #5
HABS No. WI-378-E
Page 2

Building #5 is a one-story, flat-roof building constructed of poured concrete. The west facade has ten, large vehicle openings. The four to the north are infilled with a combination of brown tile block, plate-glass windows, a standard-sized door and a downsized overhead garage door. The other six openings have modern, overhead, steel garage doors. Ornamentation is limited to 1" deep grooves in the concrete structure that form simple geometric patterns around doorways and windows.

2. Overall Dimensions: The building is 61' x 201'.
 3. Foundations: The foundation is of poured concrete.
 4. Walls: The walls are poured concrete and measure 7" thick. Three faux pilasters detailed by four, 1" deep grooves exist between several of the vehicle bays on the west facade. The south side contains a standard-size door marked by a 69" wide faux surround formed by grooves in the concrete.
 5. Openings:
 - A. Windows: The east side is pierced by regularly placed, replacement windows located high on the wall. Each window is 43" x 39".
 - B. Doorways: The west side is comprised of ten vehicle openings doors that measure 18'-7" wide x 9'-6" tall. From north to south, openings one through four are infilled with a combination of brown tile block, plate-glass windows, a standard-sized doorway and a downsized garage door. Openings five through ten are outfitted with modern, metal, overhead garage doors. Standard-sized entrances fitted with modern metal security doors pierce the north and south endwalls.
- C. Interior Description:
1. General Description: The interior originally was an open space. The four northern vehicle bays are now office space, storage and work areas for an organizational maintenance shop. The remaining six vehicle bays are used for unit and general storage, and have been interrupted with concrete block and wire caging partitions. The floors, walls and ceiling are of poured concrete. The ceiling is supported by regularly placed concrete piers that measure 14" x 14".

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING #5

HABS No. WI-378-E

Page 3

- D. Setting: Equipment Storage Building #5 is situated along the east side of the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex, of which it is a component along with the Armory & Riding Hall (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), 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). One additional source was used and is cited below:

"WPA Project—Equipment Storage Building Photo." Located in Photo Collection—Richards Street File, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Milwaukee, WI.

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