

LIGHT HORSE SQUADRON ARMORY COMPLEX
(Equipment Storage Building #4)
4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-378-D

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
(EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING #4)

- Location: 4108 N. Richards Street
City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Equipment Storage Building #4 was one of two structures (the other was HABS No. WI-378-E) constructed in 1941 by the Works Projects Administration as a vehicle storage facility.
- History: The 105th Cavalry Regiment from 1939 to 1940 was slowly converted from a horse-mounted unit into a mechanized organization. Equipment Storage Building #4 was one of two vehicle storage facilities constructed in 1941 by the Works Projects Administration to facilitate this transition at the Light Horse Squadron Armory.¹
- Description:
- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: Equipment Storage Building #4 is an astylistic utilitarian garage 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.
 2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior is very good. The only notable alterations are the replacement of the original, overhead vehicle doors with ones of modern metal. The once open interior space has been subdivided by wire caging and concrete block.
- B. Exterior Description:
1. General Description: Running on an east-west axis and located at the southeast corner of the Light Horse Squadron Armory complex, Equipment Storage Building #4 is a one-story, flat-roof building constructed of poured concrete. The north facade has eight large openings outfitted with modern,

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.

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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 52' x 176'-10".
3. Foundations: The foundation is of poured concrete.
4. Walls: The walls are poured concrete and measure 7" thick. Faux pilasters detailed by four 1" deep grooves mark the space between every two sets of vehicle doors on the north side. The east side contains a pedestrian door marked by a 69" wide faux surround formed by grooves in the concrete.
5. Openings:

A. Windows: The south facade is pierced by regularly placed, replacement windows located high on the wall. The east side employs two windows, while the west contains three. Each is 43" x 39".

B. Doorways: The north side is comprised of eight vehicle doors, each of which is 19'-5" wide. The terrain slopes downward from west to east and each set of two doors is at a different height. The openings are fitted with modern, metal overhead garage doors. A standard-sized entry with a modern metal security door pierces the east facade.

C. Interior Description:

1. General Description: The interior originally was an open space. It is now interrupted with concrete block and wire caging partitions. The floors, wall and ceiling are of poured concrete. The ceiling is supported by regularly placed concrete piers that measure 14" x 14".

D. Setting: Equipment Storage Building #4 is situated at the southeast corner 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 & Forge Building (HABS WI-000-C), 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

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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.

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