

CAMP WILLIAMS  
(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.  
117)  
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)  
117 Peoria Street  
Camp Douglas  
Juneau County  
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-A-1  
*HABS WI-381-A-1*

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

(127<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX--BUILDING 117)

- Location: 117 Peoria Street  
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center  
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Erected in 1940-1941, Building 117 was constructed as the regimental headquarters building of the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles, Building 117 was built between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration. It was the regimental headquarters structure of the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area and became part of the Volk Field portion of the base in 1957. It currently is utilized as general office space.<sup>1</sup> 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 north northeast-south southwest axis. Directions have been simplified to north-south-east-west within this section.
1. Architectural character: Building 117 is a one-story, astylistic, utilitarian, side-gabled structure. It was constructed of tan, glazed tiles with red brick accents at the gables, corners and doorways. The eaves are open in the gables and display heavy timber purlins. The sidewall eaves are encased with aluminum. Heavy timber lintels create openings for replacement windows and doors. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.
  2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior fabric is good. Alterations are limited to the wholesale replacement of windows and doors. The former regimental headquarters building has been converted into modern office space. No original interior fabric remains.
- B. Exterior Description:
1. General Description: Oriented on a north-south axis, the west (main) facade has a centered entrance served by a 6' x 6' concrete stoop. Four regularly

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<sup>1</sup>“New Mess Halls at Camp Williams,” *WNGR* 17:3 (May 1940): 5.

CAMP WILLIAMS

127<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX-BUILDING 117

HABS No. WI-381-A-1

Page 2

spaced windows exist to the north (left) of the entrance while three occupy the area to the south (right). Seven small basement windows appear within the poured-concrete foundation.

The south gabled endwall is defined by a long concrete ramp that leads to a basement doorway. The ramp is 80" wide with 9" thick poured concrete walls, each of which has a 36" high metal railing consisting of 1¼" pipe. The rest of the facade claims two large windows, as well as two basement windows. The eaves are open and underscored by five timber purlins that measure 6" x 6".

Beginning at the southeast corner, the east facade is pierced by three regularly placed, double-hung sash windows, a doorway and four additional windows. Seven, horizontally placed basement windows are also apparent.

The north gabled endwall carries a brick wall chimney flanked by a window to either side. The eaves are open and are underlined by six, 6" x 6" timber purlins.

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 first-floor 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 sidewall eaves are enclosed with aluminum, but originally were open and comprised of exposed 2 x 6 rafter tails placed on 24" centers. Exposed timber purlins on the north and south endwalls are 6" x 6" and project 15½". Both gables are underscored by red brick accents.
6. Openings:
  - A. Windows: Windows on the first floor are regularly placed throughout the building. Each has a 2½" concrete sill and a 5½" thick timber lintel. Generally, the windows are fitted with replacement, metal, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. The windows on the north facade measure 59½" x 49" while all others on the first floor are 51" x 37". The basement windows are

CAMP WILLIAMS

127<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX-BUILDING 117

HABS No. WI-381-A-1

Page 3

metal sliding examples fitted within 33" x 13" openings.

B. Doorways: The two doorways on the first floor are 40" x 81" while the basement doorway opening is 66½" wide x 79" tall. All have replacement metal doors.

C. Interior Description:

A. General Description: The composition of the original interior is unknown. The building was constructed as a regimental headquarters with a full basement, which has now been renovated and includes multiple office spaces.

D. Setting:

Building 117 is a component of the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, which also includes 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 127 (HABS WI-381-A-11), 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 128<sup>th</sup> 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 127<sup>th</sup> Subcomplex are provided in the "Sources" section of Subcomplex's overview document (HABS No. WI-381-A). 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.