

CAMP WILLIAMS  
(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.  
118)  
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)  
118 Peoria Street  
Camp Douglas  
Juneau County  
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-A-2  
*HABS WI-381-A-2*

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 118)

- Location: 118 Peoria Street  
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center  
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 118 was constructed in 1940-1941 and used as a company mess hall for the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles designed Building 118, which was erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration and used as a company mess hall for 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area. It replaced one of wood. The structure has since been converted into private-room barracks.<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 118 is a one-story, astylistic utilitarian, front-gabled structure constructed of tan, glazed tile with red brick accents at the gables, corners and doorways. A wall chimney, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the building. 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, as well as the covering of once-exposed eaves with aluminum and replacing the top portion of the chimney with red brick. The interior has been converted into private-room barracks and 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 outfitted with a replacement metal-and-glass door and wood infill. The doorway is flanked by double-

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

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

Beginning at the southwest corner, the south facade carries six regularly placed double-hung sash windows, an open expanse, and two additional window openings – the first of which has been converted into a doorway.

The east gabled endwall is defined by a central wall chimney flanked by large, replacement, double-hung sashes.

Starting at the northeast corner, the north facade is outfitted with a doorway that once led to the kitchen, two smaller double-hung sashes, a doorway that once led to the dining hall (now infilled with matching tile) and six regularly placed, double-hung sashes that mirror those on the south facade. The third opening has been infilled with matching tile.

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 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. The eaves on the north and south facades were once open but are now encased with aluminum. The eaves on the east and west gabled endwalls remain open. 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. Generally, the windows are fitted with replacement, one-over-one, metal, double-hung sashes.

The two windows on the west (main) facade are 37" x 60". The smaller windows on the west facade that coincide with the former kitchen are 37" wide x 35½" tall, while those on the east facade that flank the wall chimney

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are 49" wide x 59½" tall. All remaining windows 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 opening on the west (main) facade is 67" x 80½ " and modified with wood infill and a metal door. The doors on the north facade are 40" x 81", while that which replaced a window on the south facade is 40" x 78".

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 by 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 structure was occupied by an open dining hall. The entire building has been converted into private-room barracks and a latrine. No original interior fabric remains.

D. Setting:

Building 118 is a component of the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, which also includes Building 117 (HABS WI-381-A-1), 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). One additional source was used and is cited below.

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

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