

CAMP WILLIAMS  
(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex , Building  
No. 120)  
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)  
120 Peoria Street  
Camp Douglas  
Juneau County  
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-A-4  
*HABS WI-381-A-4*

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 120)

- Location: 120 Peoria Street  
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center  
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 120 was constructed in 1940-1941 as a company mess hall for the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles, Building 120 was built between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration. It was a company mess hall for 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area and replaced a wood-frame structure. The building currently functions as a 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 west northwest-east southeast axis. Directions have been simplified to north-south-east-west within this section.
1. Architectural character: Building 120 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 red 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 with aluminum of once-open eaves. The top portion of the brick wall chimney has been replaced with red brick. The building has been converted into private-room barracks. Thus the interior 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 door flanked by replacement double-hung sashes. A louvered vent underlined with a thin concrete sill is set in the

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

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gable peak. The open eaves are supported by five heavy timber purlins.

Beginning at the southwest corner, the south facade claims 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, metal, one-over-one, double-hung sashes.

Starting at the northeast corner, the north facade is occupied by a doorway that once provided access to the kitchen, two smaller windows, a second doorway that has been infilled with matching tile and six regularly placed windows that mirror those on the south facade – the third of which is 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 original doorways, within the wall chimney and on the gables at the eaves.
5. Roof: The gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles set on 6" wide boards. The sidewall eaves are encased with aluminum and those on the gabled endwalls are open. Five exposed timber purlins reside on the west gabled endwall, as do six on the east. They measure 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 fitted with replacement, metal, one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes.

The two windows on the west (main) facade are 37" x 60". The two smaller double-hung sashes on the north facade that coincide with the former kitchen are 37" wide x 35" tall, while those on the east facade that flank the wall chimney are 49" x 59½". All remaining windows are 37" x 51".

B. Doorways: All doors are replacements of metal-and-glass. Those in

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original openings are topped with 5½" thick wood lintels and feature red brick surrounds. The double doorway on the west (main) facade is 67" x 80½" and infilled with a single door. The original door openings on the north facade are 39½" x 80½". The doorway on the south facade that replaces a window 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 was occupied by an open dining hall. The structure has been converted into private-room barracks. No original fabric remains.

D. Setting:

Building 120 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 118 (HABS WI-381-A-2), Building 119 (HABS WI-381-A-3), 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.

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

Historians: Brian J. Faltinson, M.A., Principal Investigator, and John N. Vogel, Ph.D., Project Director, Heritage Research, Ltd., 2009.