

CAMP WILLIAMS
(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.
121)
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)
121 Peoria Street
Camp Douglas
Juneau County
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-A-5
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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

(127TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX–BUILDING 121)

- Location: 121 Peoria Street
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 121 was constructed in 1940-41 as a company mess hall for the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles designed Building 121, which was erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration as a company mess hall for 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area. It replaced a wood-frame structure. The building currently functions as a private-room barracks.¹ 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 121 is a one-story, astylistic utilitarian, front-gabled structure constructed of tan, glazed tiles 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. The top portion of the 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 doorway fitted with a standard metal door and wood infill. It is flanked by replacement, double-hung sashes. A louvered vent underlined with a thin concrete sill is set in the gable peak.

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

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The open eaves are supported by five heavy timber purlins.

Beginning at the southwest corner, the south facade has six regularly placed windows—the fourth of which is infilled with matching tile. The remainder of the wall is occupied by an open expanse and two smaller windows. A doorway that once led to the kitchen is at the southwest corner.

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

Starting at the northeast corner, the north facade claims two window openings (the second of which has been converted into a doorway), an original doorway infilled with matching tile and six, regularly placed windows that mirror those on the south facade.

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 red asphalt shingles placed on 6" wide boards. The sidewall eaves are encased with aluminum. Five exposed timber purlins underline the eave on the west endwall and six support the east. Each measures 6" x 6" and projects 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, 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 south 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 replacement metal-and-glass examples. Those

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in original openings are topped with 5½" thick wood lintels and feature red brick surrounds. The double doorway on the north (main) facade measures 67" x 80½" and is infilled with a 40½" x 82" metal door and wood. The original door opening on the south facade is 40" x 81". The doorway on the north facade that replaced 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 121 is a component of the 127th 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 120 (HABS WI-381-A-4), 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 128th 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 127th 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. Faltnison, M.A., Principal Investigator, and John N. Vogel, Ph.D., Project Director, Heritage Research, Ltd., 2009.