

CAMP WILLIAMS  
(127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.  
131)  
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)  
131 Peoria Street  
Camp Douglas  
Juneau County  
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-A-15  
*HABS WI-381-A-15*

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 131)

- Location: 131 Peoria Street  
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center  
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 131 was constructed in 1940-1941 as a company mess hall for the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles designed Building 131, which was erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration as a company mess hall for the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area. It replaced a wood-frame mess hall and 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 131 is a one-story, astylistic utilitarian, front-gabled structure constructed of tan, glazed tiles with red brick accents at the gables, corners and original doorways. A wall chimney, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the building. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof.
  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 north (main) facade has a central double doorway infilled with paneled wood and flanked

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<sup>1</sup>“New Mess Halls at Camp Williams,” *WNGR* 17:3 (May 1940): 5; Photographs of the WMA at Camp Williams, circa 1958, Located in Camp Williams Files, Facilities Management Office, Department of Military Affairs, Madison, WI.

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

Beginning at the southwest corner, the south side is pierced by six regularly placed, double-hung windows – the fifth of which has been converted into a doorway. An open expanse separates these windows from two additional windows near the southwest corner.

The east gabled endwall is defined by a central wall chimney flanked by large, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Six heavy timber purlins underline the open eaves.

Beginning at the northeast corner, the north side is pierced by a door that once led to the kitchen, as well as two smaller, double-hung sashes and a second doorway that provided access to the dining hall. This latter doorway has since been converted into a window. The remainder of the facade carries six regularly placed, windows that mirror those to the south. The second opening has been converted into a doorway.

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 laid on 6" wide boards. The eaves are open with exposed 2 x 6 rafter tails set on 24" centers. 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:
  7. A. Windows: Windows are regularly placed throughout the building. Each has a concrete sill and a 5½" thick timber lintel. The window openings are generally fitted with replacement, metal, one-over-one, double-hung sashes.

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

B. Doorways: All doors are metal replacements. Doors 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 paneled wood. The original door opening at the northeast corner is 39½" x 80½". The two doorways converted from window openings are 37" x 81".

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, while the rest of the building was occupied by an open dining hall. The mess hall has been converted into a private-room barracks. No original fabric remains.

D. Setting:

Building 131 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 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) 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

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“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.