

CAMP WILLIAMS  
(128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building No.  
217)  
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)  
217 Holden Street  
Camp Douglas  
Juneau County  
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-B-13  
*HABS WI-381-B-13*

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

(128<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX--BUILDING 217)

- Location: 217 Holden Street  
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center  
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Building 217 was constructed in 1940-1941 as a company mess hall for the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles designed building 217, which was erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration. It served as a company mess hall for the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area and replaced a wood-frame facility. The building was converted in 1958 into a barracks and used by the Wisconsin Military Academy. It then became part of the Wisconsin National Guard Badger Challenge Academy from 1995 to 2001, after which it was used by the Headquarters Company of the 32d Infantry Brigade as office space. The structure has been thereafter an administrative processing facility for deploying soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard.<sup>1</sup> A detailed history of the subcomplex is provided in the document for HABS No. WI-381-B.

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 217 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, open eaves with exposed rafter tails, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the building. The roof is sheathed with red asphalt shingles and features at the peak four metal cupola vents.
  2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior fabric is very good. Alterations are limited to the wholesale replacement of windows and doors. The kitchen was

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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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converted in 1958 into a latrine and the dining hall into an open barracks bay. The building is now used as office space. Its interior is completely renovated.

B. Exterior Description:

1. General Description: Oriented on a north-south axis, the gabled north (main) facade has a central double doorway infilled with a single metal door and red brick. The doorway is flanked by 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 northwest corner, the west facade has six regularly placed, double-hung windows. Thereafter the wall continues with no breaks prior to two additional window openings near the southwest corner – the southernmost of which is infilled with matching tan, glazed tile.

The south gabled endwall is defined by a central wall chimney flanked by a glass block window to the west (left) and a double-hung sash to the east (right).

From the southeast corner, the east facade has a doorway that once led into the kitchen, two smaller double-hung sashes, a second doorway that formerly accessed the dining hall and six regularly placed, window.

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 over 6" wide boards. It is pierced at the peak by four metal cupola vents. The eaves are open with exposed 2 x 6 rafter tails set on 24" centers. Exposed timber purlins on the north (five) and south (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

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has a concrete sill and a 5½" thick timber lintel. The windows are generally fitted with replacement, vinyl-clad, double-hung sashes with six-light, snap-in muntins.

The two windows on the north (main) facade are 37" x 59". Two smaller, double-hung sashes on the east facade that coincide with the former kitchen are 37" wide x 35½" tall, while the openings on the south facade that flank the wall chimney are 49" x 59½". All remaining openings are 37" x 51".

B. Doorways: All doors are metal replacements. They are in openings that are topped with 5½" thick wood lintels and feature red brick surrounds. The double doorway on the north (main) facade is 67" x 80½" and fitted with a 40½" x 82" metal door surrounded by red brick infill. The two door openings on the east facade are 39½" x 80½".

7. Chimney: A wall chimney constructed of glazed tile with red brick accents at the corners is centered on the south gabled endwall. It is 50" wide and projects 11". Two ash cleanouts at the bottom are infilled with small concrete blocks. The top has a concrete cap pierced by two round tile flues.

C. Interior Description:

1. General Description: The south end of the building originally contained a kitchen with the rest of the structure occupied by an open dining hall. The kitchen was converted in 1958 into a latrine and the dining hall into an open barracks bay. The entire building has since been renovated into office space.

D. Setting:

Building 217 is a component of the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, which also includes Building 204 (HABS WI-381-B-1), Building 205 (HABS WI-381-B-2), Building 206 (HABS WI-381-B-3), Building 207 (HABS WI-381-B-4), Building 208 (HABS WI-381-B-5), Building 209 (HABS WI-381-B-6), Building 210 (HABS WI-381-B-7), Building 212 (HABS WI-381-B-8), Building 213 (HABS WI-381-B-9), Building 214 (HABS WI-381-B-10), Building 215 (HABS WI-381-B-11), Building 216 (HABS WI-381-B-12) and Buildings 218-219 (HABS WI-381-B-14). Additional components of the general Camp Williams complex include the 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area (HABS WI-381-A) and the former Officer's Club and present day museum (HABS WI-381-C).

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Sources: Citations for all sources in common with the 128<sup>th</sup> Subcomplex are provided in the “Sources” section of Subcomplex’s overview document (HABS No. WI-381-B). 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.