

CAMP WILLIAMS
(128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area Subcomplex, Building
Nos. 218-219)
(Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center)
218-219 Holden Street
Camp Douglas
Juneau County
Wisconsin

HABS WI-381-B-14
HABS WI-381-B-14

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
(128TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CANTONMENT AREA SUBCOMPLEX–
BUILDINGS 218-219)

- Location: 218-219 Holden Street
Camp Williams-Volk Field National Guard Training Center
Camp Douglas, Juneau County, Wisconsin
- Significance: Buildings 218 and 219 were constructed in 1940-1941 as company mess halls for the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area.
- History: Buildings 218 and 219 were designed by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Hengles and erected between 1940 and 1941 by the Works Progress Administration as two separate mess halls for the 128th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area. They replaced two wood-frame mess halls, but were later converted in 1958 into barracks and used by the Wisconsin Military Academy. Some time thereafter they were joined by a concrete-block hyphen. Buildings 218 and 219 were used from 1995 to 2001 by the Wisconsin National Guard Badger Challenge Academy, and for office space from 2001 to 2005 by the Headquarters Company of the 32d Infantry Brigade. The facility has been used since 2005 as an administrative processing facility for deploying soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard.¹ 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: Buildings 218-219 are one-story, astylistic utilitarian, front-gabled structures constructed of tan, glazed tiles with red brick accents at the gables, corners and doorways. Wall chimneys, open eaves with exposed rafter tails, heavy timber purlins and lintels adorn the buildings. The roofs are covered with red asphalt shingles and feature at the peak of each original building four metal cupola vents. The two historically separate buildings are joined by a narrow concrete-block hyphen that contains a

¹“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.

central entrance accented with red brick.

2. Condition of Fabric: The exterior fabric is good. Alterations include the connection of the two buildings by a narrow hyphen, as well as the wholesale replacement of windows and doors. The kitchens were converted in 1958 into latrines and the dining halls into open barracks bays. The joined buildings have since been renovated into office space.

B. Exterior Description:

1. General Description:

A. Building 218: Oriented on a north-south axis, the gabled north (main) facade has a central double doorway that is infilled with a single, metal door and red brick. It is flanked 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 northwest corner, the west facade has six regularly placed double-hung sash windows, at which point a 10' wide hyphen breaks the wall. Two smaller, double-hung windows that coincide with the former kitchen area, and a doorway that provides access the one-time kitchen, are found on the south side of the hyphen near the south end of the facade.

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

Starting at the southeast corner, the east facade has a window opening infilled with matching block, a double-hung window and a doorway that provides access to the former dining hall. The remainder of the facade has six regularly spaced, double-hung windows that mirror those on the west facade.

B. Building 219: Oriented on a north-south axis, the gabled north (main) endwall has a central double doorway infilled with a standard metal door and red brick. The doorway is flanked 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.

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Beginning at the northwest corner, the west facade has six regularly placed, double-hung windows. An open expanse separates them from two additional window openings near the southwest corner – the southernmost of which is infilled with matching, glazed tile. Between these latter two windows has been installed a 25" x 11" awning window.

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).

Starting at the southeast corner, the east facade has a doorway that once led to the kitchen, as well as two smaller, double-hung windows. The hyphen is located where a second doorway once provided access to the dining hall. The remainder of the facade claims six regularly placed, windows that mirror those on the west facade.

2. Overall Dimensions: Both Building 218 and Building 219 are 75' x 25'. The hyphen is 10' x 34'.
3. Foundations: The foundation is of poured concrete.
4. Walls: The walls of both Building 218 and 219 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. The walls of the hyphen are constructed of concrete block.
5. Roof: The gabled roofs of Buildings 218 and 219 are covered with red asphalt shingles set on 6" wide boards. Each 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. The roof of the hyphen is sheathed with red asphalt shingles. A small gable defines the entry on the north facade.
6. Openings:
 - A. Windows: Windows are regularly placed throughout Buildings 218 and 219. Each has a concrete sill and a 5½" thick timber lintel. The window openings are generally fitted with replacement, vinyl-clad, double-hung

sashes with six-light, snap-in muntins.

North (main) facade window openings are 37" x 59". Two smaller double-hung sashes on the west facade of Building 218 and the east facade of Building 219, all of which coincide with the former kitchens, are 37" wide x 35½" tall. Openings on the south facade of both buildings that flank the wall chimney are 49" x 59½". All remaining window openings on the original structures are 37" x 51". Windows on the hyphen are 38" x 49". Two are set in its north side, while four are regularly spaced on the south.

B. Doorways: All doors for the original two buildings are metal replacements. Each is topped with a 5½" thick wood lintel and features red brick surrounds. The double doorways on the two north (main facade) endwalls are 67" x 80½" and fitted with 40½" x 82" metal doors and red brick infill. The door openings on the west and east facades are 39½" x 80½". The hyphen has a metal door on the north facade.

7. Chimney: Each original building has centered on the south gabled endwall a chimney constructed of tile and highlighted by red brick accents at the corners. The chimneys are 50" wide and project 11". Two ash cleanouts at the bottom are infilled with small concrete blocks. The top carries a concrete cap pierced by two round tile flues.

C. Interior Description:

1. General Description: The south ends of both buildings 218 and 219 originally contained a kitchen, while the rest of the structures were occupied by open dining halls. The kitchens were converted in 1958 into latrines. The dining halls then became open barracks bays. The subject structures have since been joined and renovated into a office space.

D. Setting:

Buildings 218 and 219 are a component of the 128th 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

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WI-381-B-11), Building 216 (HABS WI-381-B-12) and Building 217 (HABS WI-381-B-13). Additional components of the general Camp Williams complex include the 127th Infantry Regiment Cantonment Area (HABS WI-381-A) and the former Officer's Club and present day museum (HABS WI-381-C).

Sources: Citations for all sources in common with the 128th 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.