

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 7 1984

date entered DEC 6 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic 127th Regiment Infantry Company G Oconomowoc National Guard Armory

and/or common Company A 2D BN 128 Infantry Wisconsin Armory National Guard

2. Location

street & number 103 East Jefferson Street at Main Streets. not for publication

city, town Oconomowoc vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Wisconsin National Guard

street & number P. O. Box 8111

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53708

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waukesha Courthouse

street & number 515 West Moreland Boulevard

city, town Waukesha state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of
Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town 816 State Street, Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 103 East Jefferson Street, the Armory of Company G 127th Regiment Infantry of the Wisconsin Army National Guard is a Spanish Mission style building constructed of twelve-inch hollow tile in shades of brown set on a poured concrete foundation. The Armory is comprised of two distinct sections, consisting of the two-story stucco-finished clubhouse section, measuring forty-five feet (along the north facade) by Fifty-two feet and opening into the one-story drill hall to the rear (south), which measures seventy-five feet (along the south facade) by ninety-two feet. The symmetrical exterior features a central main entrance with a fan light and wrought iron window grille recessed in a round-arched portal, flanked on either side by a twelve-inch bronze medallion with Wisconsin National Guard military insignia and surmounted by a wrought iron balcony. A chimney suggesting the form of a campanile with a gabled red tile roof rises on the west facade and the lean-to west facade entrance has a red tile shed roof. Giving access to the drill hall from the north facade, on either side of the clubhouse section, is a round-arched entrance portal with a curvilinear gable, shaded on the east facade with a shed roof of red tile. The hipped roof of the clubhouse section has projecting eaves, and asphalt shingles have replaced the original tiles. The drill hall section has a flat roof. A set of three grouped double-hung sash windows flank the main entrance at the first floor level; the remainder of the windows are single double-hung sash, evenly spaced.

The plan of the clubhouse section consists of a series of rooms opening onto a central corridor; the drill hall encloses a large open space. The interior architectural features are utilitarian; scroll brackets supporting the ceiling beams in the second floor club room represent the sole ornamentation. The Armory has dropped acoustical tile ceilings; the maple floors of the clubhouse section have been covered with asphalt tile and the one in the drill hall has been replaced as the original was destroyed by fire in 1980. The building is well maintained and has suffered little alteration over the years.

The reorganization of the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1923 mustered out Company G 127th Regiment Infantry after a brief two years in residence. Since that time the Armory has served Company A 2d BN 128th Infantry. Set in a residential neighborhood, the south and west facades of the building border on Roosevelt Park.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Center
Specific dates	1921 ⁵	Builder/Architect	Major Henry Hengels ³	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The National Guard Armory of Company G 127th Regiment Infantry is of military significance as it was the first building constructed in the state of Wisconsin exclusively as an armory following the passage of the Armory Aid Act. The building also derives significance for having served the people of Oconomowoc as that city's leading community center since its completion.

The legislature of the state of Wisconsin, believing improved armory accommodations essential to the training and maintenance of the Wisconsin National Guard in order to facilitate preparedness in the event of a national emergency, passed the Armory Aid Act in 1919.¹ This act enabled the transfer of federal military funds into a general fund for National Guard equipment, the purchase of land, and in aid of armory construction, as well as authorizing the expenditure of state monies to defray the cost of construction, provided that the locality for which the armory was proposed contribute an appropriate site and at least one-half the necessary funds.² The City of Oconomowoc donated one-half acre of Roosevelt Park and construction commenced in July of 1921, according to designs by Major Henry C. Hengels (1877-1944).³ Hengels, of the Quartermaster Corps, Wisconsin Army National Guard, was State Military Architect and Engineer and was responsible for the construction of National Guard facilities in Stevens Point, Janesville, and at Camp Douglas while serving in that capacity. In addition, Hengels conducted a private practice in Milwaukee, designing the Juneau Theater in that city in 1910 as well as the B.P.O.E. (Elks) Temple in Battle Creek, Michigan in the same year.⁴ The Armory of Company G 127th Regiment Infantry was dedicated 15 December 1921, the first of three such armories built in the state constructed with the joint cooperation of federal, state, and local agencies.⁵

The armory also served as the leading center for athletic, civic and social activities in the city of Oconomowoc for many years. Archery tournaments, boxing and wrestling classes, baseball, basketball and football games, weekly dances, car shows, and horse shows were among the many community-oriented events which took place there.

¹ Laws of Wisconsin, Chapter 324, 1919.

² Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin, report of 30 June 1920, p. 25 (1922).

³ "Break Ground for New Armory," Oconomowoc Enterprise, 5 July 1921, p. 1.

⁴ Henry Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970), p. 279.

⁵ "Formal Dedication of Armory on December 15th," Oconomowoc Enterprise, 9 December 1921, p. 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin, report of 30 June 1920 (1921).
Laws of Wisconsin, chapter 324, 1919.
Oconomowoc Enterprise, 20 May-15 December 1921.
Olson, Ralph J. "History of the Wisconsin National Guard," Wisconsin Magazine of History 39 (Summer 1956): 231-233.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.51
Quadrangle name Oconomowoc West Quadrangle Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UTM References Key #590 331 State of Wisconsin Armory

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

E 100 feet of North 220 feet of lot 62 Edwards Plat Summit Addition
Pt NW 1/4 Section 4T7N R17E

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jean Lindsay Johnson, historian, edited by Elizabeth L. Miller, survey assistant
organization Oconomowoc Historical Society date July 15, 1984
street & number 4025 North Sawyer Road telephone 414-567-6612
city or town Oconomowoc state Wisconsin 53066

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 
title Director of Historic Preservation date October 23, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/6/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration