

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Building 9  
(Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Residence)  
908 South 4th Street  
Hamilton  
Ravalli County  
Montana

HABS  
MONT  
41-HAM,  
2I-

**PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Rocky Mountain System Support Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LABORATORIES,  
Building 9, (Residence)

HABS No. MT-101-I

HABS  
MONT  
41-HAM,  
2I -

**Location:** 908 South 4th Street  
Hamilton, Ravalli County, Montana  
USGS Hamilton South Montana Quadrant,  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates for complex:  
A. 11.719000.5124400 B. 11.719000.5124120  
C. 11.718810.5124100 D. 11.718820.5124360

**Date of Construction:** Constructed in 1938.

**Architects:** Public Buildings Branch of the United States Treasury Department  
under the direction of Louis A. Simon.

**Present Owner:** National Institutes of Health

**Present Occupant:** National Institutes of Health

**Present Use:** **Residence**

**Significance:**

The Rocky Mountain Laboratories possess national significance due to the pioneering research conducted at these laboratories from 1921-1945 toward the development of vaccines for insect-borne diseases. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever occurred frequently among the residents of the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. The facility was the primary site for research into the cause of the fever and many prominent members of the scientific community have worked at the laboratories. The period of historic significance for the site extends to the end of World War II as the Rocky Mountain Laboratories played a critical role in supplying vaccines to troops for the duration of the War.

The buildings are of a high quality for a small community such as Hamilton, Montana. The majority of the buildings were constructed by the Office of the Supervising Architect, Department of the Treasury under the direction of Louis A. Simon, a long time architect for the Treasury Department. The Laboratory, which sits at the edge of this small town, offered employment to local individuals seeking work in the 1930's during the Depression. For all of the above reasons, the Rocky Mountain Laboratories Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Building Nine is a contributor to the Historic District.

Building Nine was constructed as part of a major building campaign started at the Laboratories in 1938. \$132,000 was allocated from the Public Buildings Fund and \$407,000 was allocated from the Public Works Administration for expansion of the complex. In addition at this time 26.5 acres of vacant land was purchased to the west and north to serve as a buffer zone between the residential areas of Hamilton and the Laboratories.

Building Nine is a late Colonial Revival style residence. Many military facilities of the same period had housing in Colonial Revival or Dutch Colonial Revival similar to these houses. Two houses were constructed during this building campaign and had common interior features such as hardwood floors, plan layout, the bathroom features such as the floor tile, hardware and lighting, and the linoleum in the kitchen.

This building is similar to Building Eight. Differences include bay windows facing west and the absence of an entry porch. An unsupported pediment marks the front entry. Grouped dormer windows are used on the second story (three on both the east and west facades). Shutters flank the second story windows. A patio located to the east is covered with corrugated fiberglass panels (a later addition).

The plan of Building Nine is similar to Building Eight with several differences. The first floor living room is larger, and there is no bedroom on this level. The stair hall is central, but there is an actual hall where as in Building Eight, the living room is accessed immediately upon entry into the house. The kitchen and first floor bathroom are smaller than in Building Eight, there is no back porch, and there is less storage and pantry space.

The second floor of Building Nine has a large bedroom on the south side of the stair hall and two small bedrooms on the north side of the hall. A central bathroom is located between the bedrooms above the entry hall.

The basement of the building is divided into several rooms which are primarily used for storage.