

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Building 11
(Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Garage)
Between Buildings 8 and 9
Hamilton
Ravalli County
Montana

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
2J-

**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 11, (Garage)

HABS No. MT-101-J

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
2J-

Location: 900 Block of South 4th Street, Between Buildings 8 and 9
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: **Garage**

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 Eleven is a contributor to the Historic District.

Building Eleven 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 Eleven is the shared garage that accompanies the late Colonial Revival style residences residences (Building Eight and Nine) that flank either side of the building. Many military facilities of the same period had housing in Colonial Revival or Dutch Colonial Revival similar to the houses and this garage.

This garage was built to accommodate one vehicle from each of the residences. The building is of wood frame construction with a hip roof. The roof has a gablet, (an ornamental gable) at the ridge. It is symmetrical in design with five banded six light windows set between two doors on the west side. The garage doors open to the alley on the east side of the building. The north and south elevations have three banded six light windows. The interior consists of single room with space to house two automobiles and some storage items.