

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Building No. 19
903 South 4th St., approximately 105' North of Bldg. No. 15
Hamilton
Ravalli County
Montana

HABS No. MT-101-0

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
20-

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 19

HABS No. MT-101-O

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
20-

Location: 903 South 4th Street, approximately 105' north of Building 15
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 1939.

Architects: Unknown

Present Owner: National Institutes of Health

Present Occupant: National Institutes of Health

Present Use: Medical Research Laboratory

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 19 is not a contributor to the Historic District.

Building Nineteen was constructed in 1939 and has for several years been used as a general warehouse. This small, rectangular, wood frame structure has a gable roof. A shed roof is present on the north side of the building. The exterior is sheathed in horizontal wood siding. Various types of door and fenestration are present. The building appears to be in poor condition. The overall character of the building is somewhat barn-like. It is likely the building was always used for storage of some sort.