

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Building 10
(Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Glasswash Building)
903 South 4th Street, South of Buildings 3 and 5
Hamilton
Ravalli County
Montana

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
2K-

**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 10, (Glasswash)

HABS No. MT-101-K

HABS
MONT
41-HAM,
2K-

Location: 903 South 4th Street, South of Building 3 and 5
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 1949.

Architects: Unknown

Present Owner: National Institutes of Health

Present Occupant: National Institutes of Health

Present Use: Glasswash

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 Ten is not a contributor to the Historic District.

Building Ten was constructed in 1949 and has been primarily used as a glasswash. The building is a small, consisting of just over 2,000 square feet, one and a half story structure. Rectangular in plan the building has a gable roof with the ridge running perpendicular to South 4th Street. At some time the building was connected to Buildings Three and Five with a small passageway. Asbestos shingles cover the exterior of the building. The fenestration of the building is not consistent in type or regularity. A wooden stair marks the western facade of the building that leads to storage space above the main floor of the building.

The interior of the building houses equipment and facilities need for the glasswash. One large main room houses these facilities with several smaller supporting rooms. The corridor has linoleum flooring similar to Buildings Three and Five.