

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, Building No. 15  
903 South 4th St., approximately 120' West of Bldg. No. 4  
Hamilton  
Ravalli County  
Montana

HABS No. MT-101-L

HABS  
MONT  
41-HAM,  
2L-

**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 15

HABS  
MONT  
41-HAM,  
2L-

HABS No. MT-101-L

**Location:** 903 South 4th Street, approximately 120' west of Building 4  
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 1951.

**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 Fifteen is not a contributor to the Historic District.

Building Fifteen was constructed in 1951 and has for numerous years been used as hazardous storage. The buildings masonry wall sit on a concrete foundation. There is a loading area with a rolling metal garage door present on the north side of the building. The structure has a shed roof. The south side of the building has a concrete ramp that leads to a second loading area. This side of the structure is framed not masonry. Building Fifteen has an overall industrial character.