

Depot History

Outside the depot, you will find a wide vision cupola caboose built for Burlington Northern circa 1970. It has been restored to a color scheme utilized by Northern Pacific prior to the merger. Northern Pacific only painted 25 cabooses in the yellow and green colors; therefore, the caboose has been given NP #10425 and will be, to the best of our knowledge, the only caboose painted in this unique color scheme.



RITZVILLE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The Ritzville Museum Board is an all-volunteer group that was founded in the 1980s by residents who were dedicated to preserving the heritage and legacy of years gone by.

CONTACT US

Museum open from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend

Tours also available by appointment

ritzvillemuseums@gmail.com



The depot has changed very little. It is constructed of red brick in a classic mission style with overhanging eaves. Today, it is maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers.

In 1988, Burlington Northern deeded the depot to the City of Ritzville. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 and is part of Ritzville's National Historic District.



Ritzville
RAILROAD DEPOT

HISTORIC MUSEUM

Ritzville Train Depot History

Built in 1910 by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, this depot was the second for Ritzville. The original wooden depot, built in 1881, was located directly across the tracks.



Early Years

During the early 20th century, Ritzville was the largest and heaviest grain shipping railroad station in the world, which is why the Northern Pacific built such a large depot in such a small town.

At one time, 10 passenger trains arrived each day in Ritzville. Rail travel continued to be popular for many years after the turn of the century.

Ritzville residents could ride the train to Spokane early in the morning and return that same evening. Passenger service to Ritzville was discontinued in 1971 but the depot was still used by the railway until 1985.

Museum Collections Local History

The men and ladies waiting rooms have ceramic tile walls and terrazzo floors and are home to a large collection of Ritzville commercial memorabilia.

The restored telegraph office has working telegraph equipment. The freight office holds a collection of Ritzville and Adams County school memorabilia. The baggage room has the original scale and a vintage horse drawn hearse.