

The Home

Dr. Burroughs built his home in 1889 and then extensively remodeled it in 1902 when electricity came to Ritzville. The house is designed in an unusual hybrid style. The remodel in 1902 enlarged the basic structure and added walk-in closets, an enlarged kitchen, and the Italian beam in the main parlor.

Throughout the home you will note thirteen of the wooden rockers which were owned by the family and remain today. The bedroom closets contain a large collection of vintage clothing and hats. They have all been donated by community members and represent Ritzville fashion over the years.



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 Burroughs' home became the property of the City of Ritzville in 1962 when it was donated by Earl Copp, Mrs. Burroughs' nephew. It was extensively refurbished in 1987-1988 by the Ritzville Museum Volunteers.

The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and is part of Ritzville's National Historic District.



Dr. Frank R.
BURROUGHS HOME

HISTORIC MUSEUM

Frank R. Burroughs History

Frank Robert Burroughs, born in Columbus, Pennsylvania on October 24, 1859, was a graduate of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. He married Julia Clark and practiced five years at Columbus before making a trip to Washington in early 1888.



Early Years

Burroughs only meant to stop in Ritzville for a single day, but he received so many requests for care, he decided to stay and practice medicine here.

In addition to his busy medical practice, Dr. Burroughs also established one of the first drug stores in Ritzville.

He was very civic minded serving as mayor, postmaster, library board chairman and county health officer. He was a charter member and active in many of Ritzville's fraternal lodges.

Burroughs Family Loss

Dr. and Mrs. Burroughs suffered a tragic loss in 1923 when their only daughter, Ellen, died following an appendectomy. Within two years Dr. Burroughs himself died. He was stricken with "apoplexy" which is now known as a stroke, and died on February 26, 1925. After her husband's death, Mrs. Burroughs moved to Spokane where she died in 1934. The family is buried in Spokane at the Riverside Cemetery.