



Frank R. Burroughs Home

A SELF GUIDED TOUR



RITZVILLE WASHINGTON

Frank R. Burroughs Biography

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. Stopping in Ritzville for what was supposed to be only one day, he received so many requests that 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.

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.

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.

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 a group of dedicated volunteers who now maintain the home.

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



Entry - The front entry shows off the beautiful wallpaper hung in 1902. Pictures of the family line the staircase as well as the Burroughs' original wedding certificate. Can you see out of the prism window imported from Italy?

Main Parlor (to the right of the entry) - The parlor has one of several wood stoves. The furniture is not original to the home but is reflective of the period.

Small Parlor (through the pocket doors) - Used as a living area by the family, the small parlor has Ellen's piano. Note also the unique sewing machine, phonograph, organ, and one of the first recliners.

Dining Room - The wall covering is a reproduction of the original burlap found in the home. Note the original light fixtures. The bell near the buffet was used to call the maid. Did you notice the pass through to the pantry?

Maid's Room (behind the pantry) - The maid's room was simple containing only a single bed and hooks for her clothes. It is used as an office today.

Kitchen - The kitchen is typical of a turn of the century kitchen complete with stove, wood box, buck saw and ax. The kitchen also has a collection of antique flat irons. Do you recognize any of the small crank appliances?

Study - The study was used by Dr. Burroughs as an office for late night calls. It contains his leather sofa, medical instruments and records, as well as his camera collection and other personal possessions. This room also has the original wallpaper. Do you remember when an office call cost \$1.50?

Upstairs Guest Room - The first door to your left at the top of the stairs in the guest room. The furniture is original to the home. The trunk was used by the Burroughs family on their trip west. Did you see the curling iron holder?

Nursery - This room was originally Mrs. Burroughs' sewing room. It was converted to a nursery to accommodate the many donations to the museum. The child's trunk belonged to Ellen.

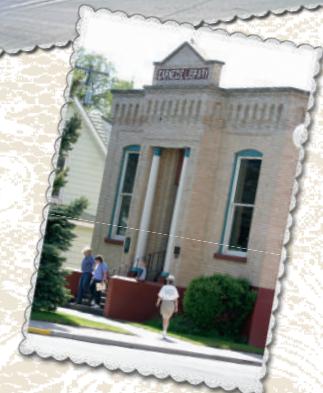
Bathroom - The claw foot tub, wooden tank with copper lines are true to the period. Many turn of the century bottles and shaving accessories are on display.

Ellen's Room - The brass bed and mahogany dressers are not original to the home but are circa 1800. Note the chamber pot, trunk and vintage quilt.

Master Bedroom - Note the alcove with the imported privacy screen. Some of the family's original trunks and furniture are on display. Did you see the steam bath?



While You're In Town Don't Miss...



The Ritzville Railroad Depot Museum

Visit our Railroad Depot Museum to view a collection of turn of the century memorabilia.

The Carnegie Library

Visit our Heritage Research Center to discover your Adams County family history.

MUSEUM HOURS

Open from 11:00am - 3:00pm · Tuesday through Saturday,
Memorial Day through Labor Day, or by appointment.

RITZVILLE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

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