

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM  
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Ritzville Carnegie Library

*Carnegie Library of Ritzville*

and/or Common Same

2. LOCATION

Street & Number  
302 West Main Street

Ritzville NW  
1:24 000

UTM References:  
Zone 11 Easting 395200  
Northing 5219840  
- not for publication

City, Town  
Ritzville - vicinity of

State  
Washington

County  
Adams

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both  
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress  
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government  
industrial military museum park private residence  
religious scientific transportation other: Library

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name  
City of Ritzville

Street & Number

City, Town  
Ritzville - vicinity of

State  
Washington

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title  
J.H. Vandermeer, Historian

Organization  
Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Date  
August 1981

Street & Number  
111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11

Telephone  
(206) 753-9685

City or Town  
Olympia,

State  
Washington 98504

## 7. DESCRIPTION

Condition:      excellent    good    fair    deteriorated    ruins    unexposed  
Circle one:      unaltered                    altered  
Circle one:      original site            moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance  
attach photo

The Ritzville Carnegie library is a rectangular building measuring 38' x 49' constructed of buff-colored bricks. The outstanding feature is the band of fine corbelling all around the building just below the roofline. The main entry is located in the center of the shorter side, which is unusual for Carnegie libraries. Like the others, however, the facade is symmetrical, with the entry flanked by two Doric columns and two large windows. Above the entry is a false gable end that extends above the flat roof and the rest of the parapet. The top half of the windows have been covered with plywood, which conceals the fact that the ceiling has been lowered, a change made in the hopes of conserving energy in winter.

Verbal boundary description: Lot 6, Block 2  
Original Plat of Ritzville

Acreage: Less than one

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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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Specific dates	1907	Builder/Architect	Preusse & Zittel
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### a. History

The history of the Ritzville library began in 1902 with the donation to the city of 364 volumes by Daniel Buchanan. The library was incorporated under the auspices of the city in 1903 and a ballot proposition seeking voter approval for the expenditure of funds appeared in the 1904 general election. These activities were undertaken in anticipation of the city's application for a Carnegie grant. The grant was approved in 1906, first for \$10,000, and, after the city promised \$50 more per year in operating appropriations, later for \$10,500. A downtown site was obtained for \$2,500 and the new library was constructed in 1907. It has served ever since as the city's library. The building has stood up well, although the brickwork has been repointed. In 1980 the flat roof withstood the strain of tons of Mt. St. Helens volcanic ash. Although space is limited, the library is able to offer its patrons a variety of services by co-operation with the Spokane system.

### b. Evaluation of Significance

This building, like other Carnegie libraries, has been the central focus of Ritzville's intellectual and cultural life for most of this century.