

BIRTHPLACE
OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY.
RIPON WIS.

BIRTHPLACE
OF THE
REPUBLICAN PARTY
In this School House
March 20 was held
the first Mass Meeting
in this country that
definitely and positively
cut loose from old parties
and advocated a new
party under the name
Republican

BIRTHPLACE OF
REPUBLICAN PARTY

In 1852 Alvan Earle Boyce of Ripon met with Horace Greeley in New York and advocated dissolution of the Whig Party and formation of a new party to fuse together anti-slavery elements. At the same time he suggested the name "Republican" because he felt "it was a good name . . . with charm and prestige."

The opportunity to act came in January 1854 when Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, which permitted the extension of slavery beyond the limits of the earlier Missouri Compromise. Three months debate on the bill created upheavals in all the existing political parties.

When the bill passed the Senate on March 3, 1854, Boyce promptly called a meeting of 53 voters in the little white schoolhouse to organize a new party. Years later Boyce recalled: "We went into the little meeting, Whigs, Free Soilers, and Democrats. We came out Republicans, and we were the first Republicans in the Union."

On February 22, 1856 a convention was held at Pittsburgh to establish a national organization and the name "Republican" was adopted for the new party. Among those present were Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln.

REVISED 1964

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Fond du Lac	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 14	1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **Little White Schoolhouse**
AND/OR HISTORIC: **Birthplace of the Republican Party**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SE Cor. Blackburn & Blossom Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Ripon

STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Fond du Lac	CODE 039
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

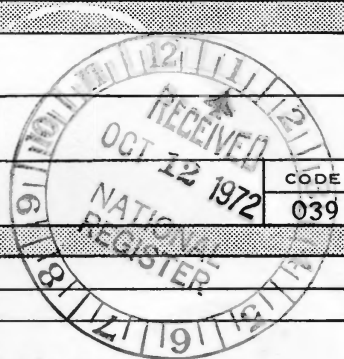
PHOTO CREDIT: **Donald N. Anderson**

DATE OF PHOTO: **June 1972**

NEGATIVE FILED AT: **Historic Sites Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison**

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Little White Schoolhouse, view from west northwest.







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RIPON WIS

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ON MARCH 20, 1854
WAS HELD THE FIRST
MASS MEETING
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A NEW PARTY
UNDER THE NAME
REPUBLICAN

BIRTHPLACE OF
REPUBLICAN PARTY

In 1854 John Smith Boney of Ripon met with Horace Crosby in New York and advocated the formation of a new party to take together anti-slavery elements. At the same time he suggested the name "Republican" because in that "it was a good name...with ideas and prestige."

The opportunity to act came in January 1854 when Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois introduced the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, which permitted the extension of slavery beyond the limits of the earlier Missouri Compromise. Three annual debates on the bill created openings in all the existing political parties. When the bill passed the Senate on March 1, 1854, Boney promptly called a meeting of 53 voters in the Little White Schoolhouse to organize a new party. There John Boney recalled "We went into the 87th meeting... Henry Free Soles and Democrats, he took out Liberty men and so were the first Republicans in the United States."

On February 22, 1854 a convention was held at Ripon to establish a national organization and the name "Republican" was adopted for the new party. Among those present were Francis Pickens and Abraham Lincoln.

Revised 1954

Little White Schoolhouse, Ripon, Wisconsin

NPS Photo 1973