

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 postulat-  
ed away from old parties  
and advocated a new  
party under the name  
Republican

BIRTHPLACE OF  
REPUBLICAN PARTY

In 1852 Alvan Earle Bovey of Ripon met with Horace Greeley in New York and advocated abandonment of the Whig Party and formation of a new party to fuse together anti-slavery elements. At this 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, Bovey promptly called a meeting of 53 voters in the little white schoolhouse to organize a new party. Years later Bovey 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 1954

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	COUNTY:
55	Fond du Lac

CODE
039

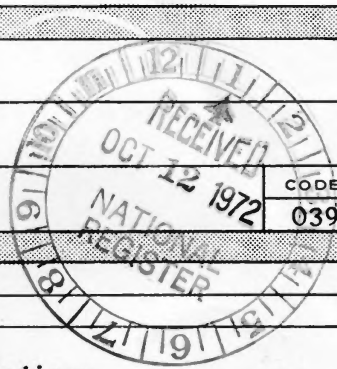
3. PHOTO REFERENCE

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.







BIRTHPLACE  
OF THE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY.  
RIPON WIS

BIRTHPLACE  
OF THE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY  
IN THIS SCHOOL HOUSE  
ON MARCH 20, 1854  
WAS HELD THE FIRST  
MASS MEETING  
IN THIS COUNTY  
THAT DEFINITELY  
AND POSITIVELY  
CUT LODGE FROM  
OLD PARTIES  
AND ANVICATED  
A NEW PARTY  
UNDER THE NAME  
REPUBLICAN

BIRTHPLACE OF  
REPUBLICAN PARTY

In 1812 John Berry of Ripon and John  
Hansen County in New York and advocated  
abolition of the Whig Party and formation  
of a new party to take together anti-slavery  
elements. At the same time he supported the  
name "Republican" because he felt "it was a good  
name... with cheer and gravity."

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  
opponents in all the existing political parties.  
When the bill passed the Senate on March 3,  
1854, Berry promptly called a meeting of 25  
persons in the Little White Schoolhouse to or-  
ganize a new party. There later Berry resigned.  
He was later the 37th meeting. Whigs, Free  
Soilers and Democrats, in local and foreign  
and on were the first Republican in the County.  
On February 22, 1854 a convention was held at  
Potosi to establish a national organization  
and the name "Republican" was adopted for the  
new party. Ripon was represented by John  
Berry and Abraham Lincoln. Ripon, Wis.  
Inscribed 1894

Little White Schoolhouse, Ripon, Wisconsin

NPS Photo 1973