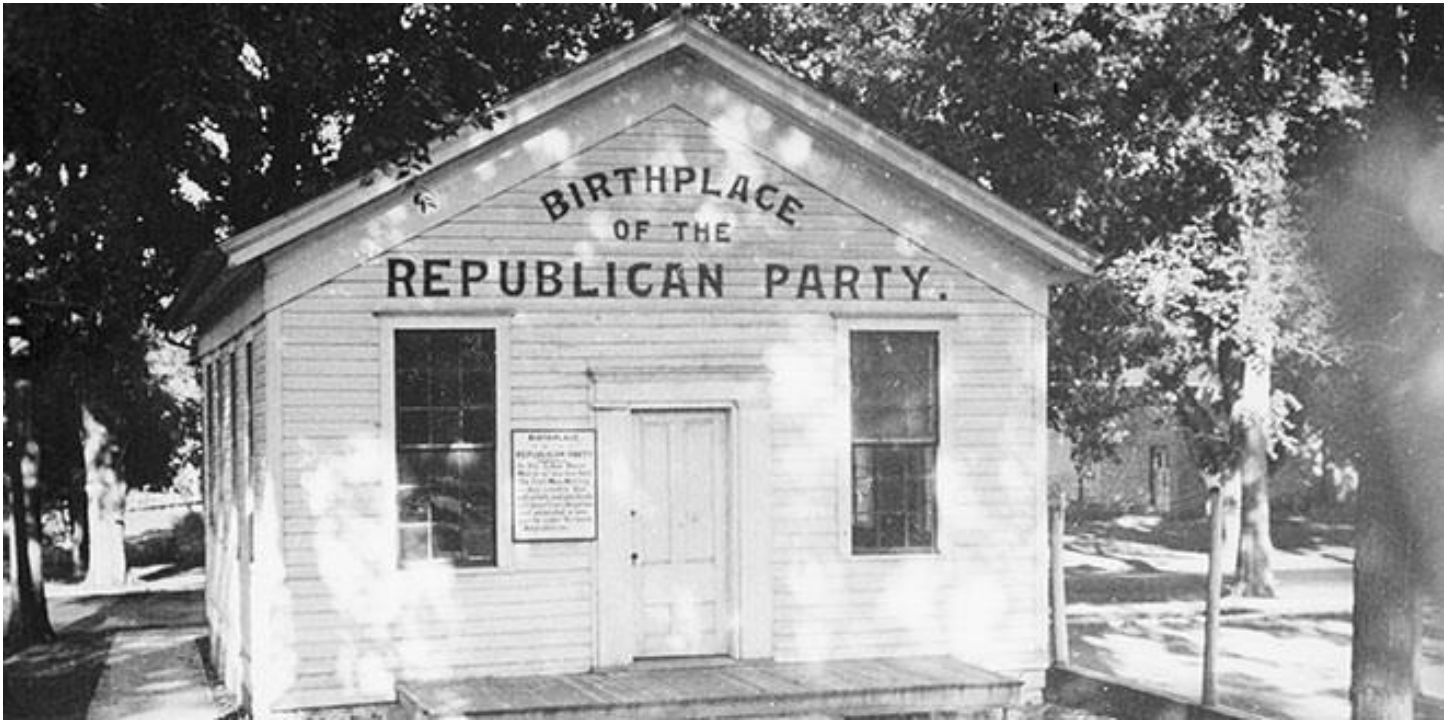


GOP: On the Right Side of History



Birthplace of the Republican Party

A simple frame schoolhouse, built in 1853, holds a powerful history. It was here a decision was made by a small group of Ripon citizens changed the course of our nation's history. The birth of the Republican Party brought a dedicated following of individuals together who pledged to organize and fight against the spread of slavery.

A young lawyer named Alvan E. Bovay had recently moved to Ripon Wisconsin. Bovay had been a member of the Whig Party in New York and insisted that the party's vitality was gone and its platform no longer commanded the attention of the people. Slavery was the issue that absorbed the minds of the people.

Slavery had become a political and a moral issue and many urged the formation of a new party that would bring together all the anti-slavery forces in the country. Soon there were meetings of Republicans throughout the country.

At a Pittsburgh meeting the first Republican National Committee was formed. Shortly after the party's first national delegate convention met in Philadelphia on June 17, 1856.

The U.S. Dept. of Interior has declared landmark status on three sites because of their significance in the forming of the Republican Party. Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse where the first local organization was established; a location in Jackson, Michigan where the first state convention met "under the oaks;" and a meeting hall in Pennsylvania where the first national convention was held.

GOP: On the Right Side of History is an educational series paid for and authorized by the 10th Congressional District Republican of Virginia Committee