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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ripon's National Historic Landmark celebrates 165th anniversary

(Ripon, Wis.) - Ripon's Birthplace of the Republican Party National Historic site, known to some as the Little White Schoolhouse, will celebrate its 165th Anniversary on March 20th, 2019. The meeting that took place in the schoolhouse in 1854 is quite significant, not only were the roots of a political party planted, but the birth of a civil rights movement began. In 1854, Alvan Bovay called a meeting of 53 voters in the Little White Schoolhouse to organize a new party. Bovay later said, "We went into the little meeting, Whigs, Free Soilers, and Democrats. We came out Republicans, and we were the first Republicans in the Union." The historic meeting was held due to the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which permitted the extension of slavery beyond the limits of the Missouri Compromise. Bovay met with Horace Greely earlier to talk about the dissolution of the Whig Party and a formation of a new party to fuse together anti-slavery elements. Bovay suggested the name "Republican" because he felt it was "a good name with charm and prestige." The building is now a National Historic Site that offers tours May-October that teaches guests about the importance of the events that occurred in Ripon not only locally, but throughout America. The Birthplace of the Republican Party National Historic site will open for the 2019 season on Saturday, May 4th. The historic site is located at 305 Blackburn Street in Ripon. More information is available at www.ripon1854.com