



THE WISCONSIN PHALANX BUILT THE FIRST ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE IN 1845, AND IN 1849 LEASED IT TO THE FIRST RIPON SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MEET NEEDS OF THE GROWING COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, THE DISTRICT QUICKLY OUTGREW THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL AND NEW SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS FOLLOWED.

THE FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT FIVE



LITTLE STONE SCHOOL

- The “Little Stone School” was built in 1845 on the corner of Church and Liberty Streets.
- At first this school was only for children in the Wisconsin Phalanx, but in 1849 it became a common school for the district.
- Edward Daniels was the teacher. He had a contract for a term of five months at \$26.00 per month.
- The school was used until about 1856.



OCTAGON SCHOOL

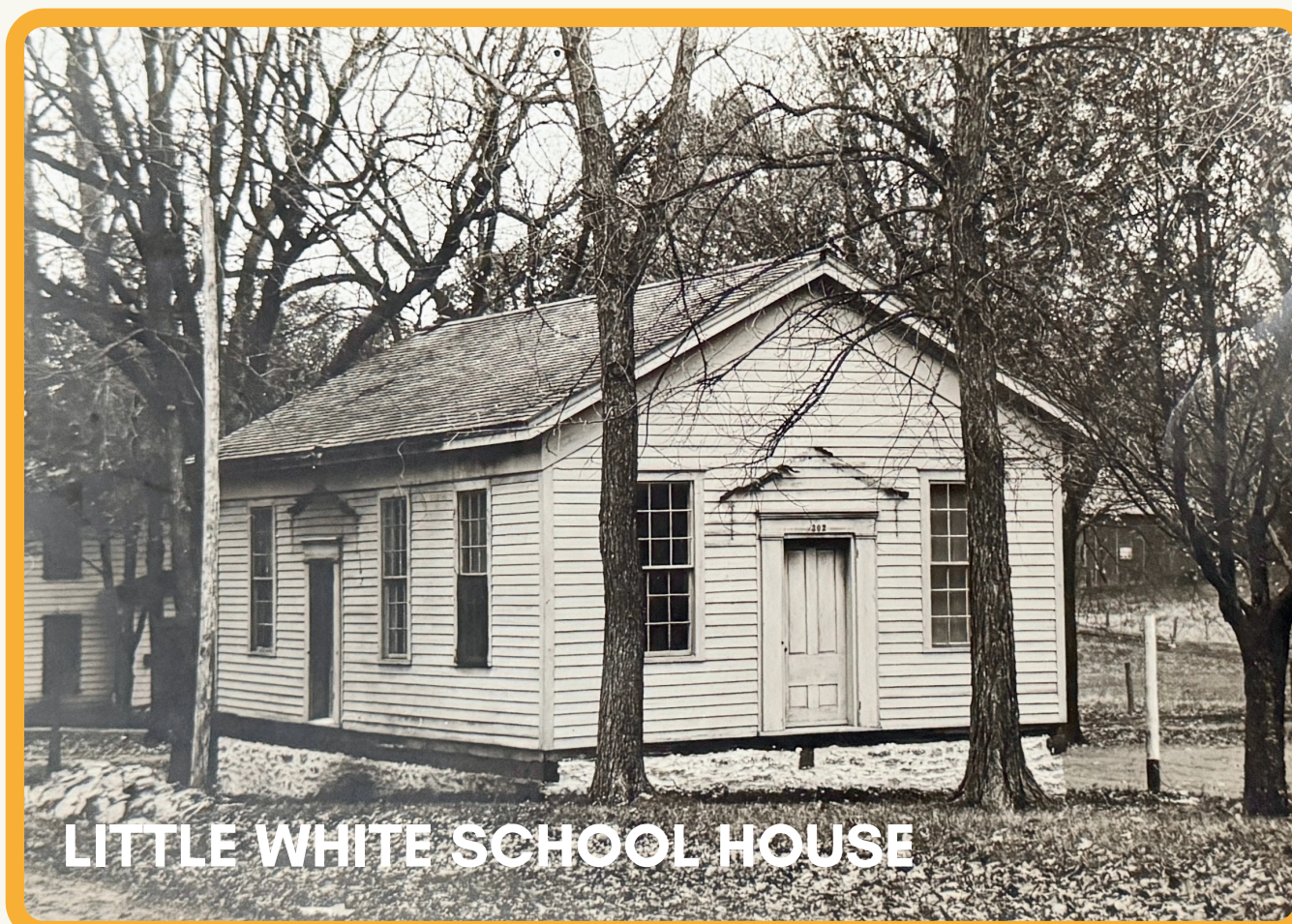
- c1857 a 2-story octagon school building was built at 634 Park St.
- The walls were made of gravel and mortar.
- Teachers were paid \$1.75 per week.
- A bell from the Phalanx school was installed in cupola atop the octagon’s roof.

- There were two classrooms, one on each floor.
- The octagon school was not used as school after 1891.



- c1883, the Ceresco high school (above) was built on Liberty and Cedar Streets, and the octagon was abandoned.
- Ceresco high school burned down in 1912.
- In 1913 Ceresco elementary school was built at the same location. It was razed in 1993.

FIRST SCHOOLS IN RIPON



LITTLE WHITE SCHOOL HOUSE

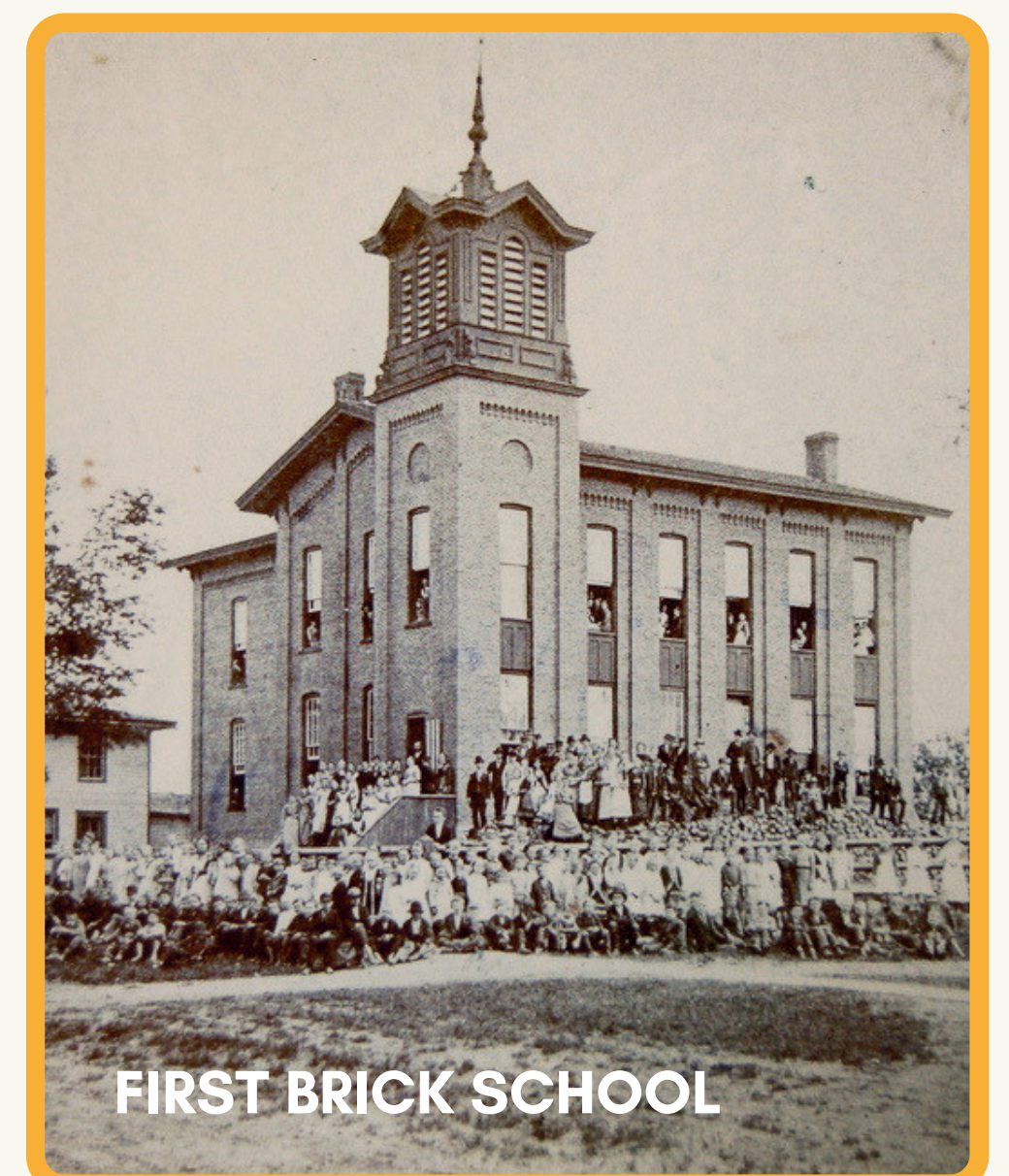
- In 1850, district #2 was established in Ripon, as was the first school in the village of Ripon.
- The first school was a one-room slab shanty built as a settler’s shack near the Pedrick’s and Silver Creek.
- In 1854, a new school opened on the triangle between Blackburn, Thorne, and E. Fond du Lac Streets that became known as the Little White School House.

- The Little White School House was the location where Bovay proposed the new Republican Party.
- In 1861, the school house was moved to Houston & Fond du Lac Streets as a private residence.

UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

- In 1860 the first brick school was built at Thorne & Newbury Streets.
- In 1881 fire destroyed the brick school due to a overheated stove.
- Ripon High School was built in 1881 of yellow brick at E. Fond du Lac, Metomen, and Newbury Streets. It was torn down in 1913.
- School districts #2 and #5 consolidated to become the Union School District.
- In 1913, a new high school was built on the site of the brick school at 517 Newbury.
- In 1939, the new Central School replaced the high school.

- In 1860, the “Little Brown School,” also called Whittier School, was built on Howard St. at the end of Ransom St. That same year, North Primary at the NE corner of Shepard and Doty Streets was built around 1860, later replaced as Longfellow school, and renamed Alice Callan School.



FIRST BRICK SCHOOL

RURAL SCHOOLS

- One-room schoolhouses started throughout the countryside around Ripon because at first there was no public school system.
- At one time, approximately 6,200 one-room school houses were in operation in Wisconsin. By 1900, in Fond du Lac County, there were 158 rural schoolhouses in 21 townships.
- One-room schoolhouses had only one teacher for 1st through 8th grade levels.
- Teachers were responsible for more than just teaching. They had to keep the school clean, light fires in coal or wood-burning stoves to keep the school warm, and pump water from a well for drinking.
- Most one-room schools closed in the late 1950s and early 1960s due to consolidation and development of public school systems.



Adams School, 1851
Located, Hwy 23E