

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RIPON

Ripon was built on the northern edge of one of the largest stretches of open prairie in Wisconsin.

The first white settlement within the present city limits was a small utopian community known as Ceresco, founded in 1844.

One-half mile east of Ceresco, other settlers formed Ripon, naming it after the English cathedral city located in Yorkshire. It drew most of its settlers from New England, New York and Pennsylvania. Ceresco disbanded in 1851 and in the two villages combined two years later and incorporated as the City of Ripon in 1858.

Like many cities in Wisconsin, Ripon grew quickly attracting a large German and Polish population in the second half of the 19th century.

OTHER THINGS TO DO while in Ripon

Visit the Little White Schoolhouse,
Birthplace of the Republican Party

Shop our many distinctive establishments on the east & west sides and in Ripon's Historic Downtown district. Don't miss the bargains at the Rippin' Good Cookies Outlet

Tour the Ripon College campus

Hike or Bike one of Ripon's many trails

Enjoy Downtown Ripon at Friday Night Concerts June through August & the Farmers Market on Tuesday evenings & Saturday mornings June through October, both on the Village Green

Have fun at Cedar Ridge Stable & Lodge, Larson's Famous Clydesdales Show, Prellwitz Produce, and the historic Campus Cinema

Please contact the Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce for more information about these and other attractions in Ripon!

(920) 748-6764

www.ripon-wi.com
chamber@ripon-wi.com



Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour

Ceresco
Approximate Walking Time
60 Minutes



Prepared by the
Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce

WELCOME TO HISTORIC RIPON!

Ceresco was an experiment in the Wisconsin wilderness. Nearly 150 years ago the settlers formed a utopian community free from outside pressures in what is now Ripon. While their efforts to build a perfect society failed, their experiment had a dramatic impact on the city, the state and the nation.

The commune attracted a group of bold, intelligent, idealistic settlers. They were not only influential in founding the city of Ripon and many of its institutions; they helped found Ripon College and the Republican Party.

As you take this tour imagine the pristine valley where the settlers built their "Long house," the outward symbol of communal life.

Take your time with the walk and notice the historic buildings and architecture. While many of the original buildings have not survived the years, there are still many sights to see along your walk.

Have an enjoyable tour and thank you for visiting historic Ripon!

