

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!

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Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour

Part A

Approximate Walking Time
60 Minutes



Prepared by the
Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce

WELCOME TO HISTORIC RIPON!

This self-guided walking tour will show you many of Ripon's historic sites. Unfortunately we were unable to include everything so feel free to deviate from the path we describe. If you want to wander some of the side streets to look at something of interest, by all means do so! Take your time and enjoy the history of this beautiful city.

To enjoy Ripon's architecture to its fullest, don't forget to look up! Some of the most beautiful and well-preserved details on many homes and businesses are along the roofs or tops of porches. Note the care and cost that went into producing buildings. Have an enjoyable tour and thank you for visiting historic Ripon.

Map for tour A

Follow arrows

