



News & Views

In This Issue

Ripon's LWSH — 'Birthplace of the Republican Party' — Loses National Status	1
Glossary	2
The Devil is in the Details (and He's Been Busy)	2
Contribute Now	3
GOP in Office	4
A Timeline of FDLGOP Involvement 2022-2023	4

Chair

Timothy Bachleitner

Vice-Chair

Mike Koepke

Secretary

Kim McCollum

Treasurer

Tonya Alling

Executive Committee

Pam Behnke

Election Integrity

Jaedon Buchholz

Social Media

Mike Dudzinski

Western Coordinator (42nd)

Andy Huebschmann

Eastern Coordinator (59th)

Sanna Huebschmann

Rules/Constitution

Joy Koepke

Chaplain

David Seif

Office Manager

Dr. Peter Timmermans

Central Coordinator (53rd)



Photo courtesy of Kristin Bachleitner.

The move of Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse on Monday, April 17, 2023 resulted in the automatic loss of its National Register of Historic Places designation.

Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse — 'Birthplace of the Republican Party' — Loses National Status

By Tonya Alling, Republican Party of Fond du Lac County

Note: Refer to page 2 for a glossary of terms.

The Little White Schoolhouse, "Birthplace of the Republican Party," located in Ripon, Wisconsin, was moved from 305 Blackburn St. to 1074 W. Fond du Lac St. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

The LWSH was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and attained National Landmark status in 1974. Although it is possible to move a National Landmark, to retain the historic designations, the LWSH Board was required to present a relocation package and gain approval at the local, state and national level.

On September 7, 2022, the Ripon Historic Preservation Committee granted its approval (based on misinformation) and on January 27, 2023 the WHS Historical Preservation Review Board approved the move and forwarded the relocation request to the National Park Service.

On March 10, 2023, the National Park Service notified the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) that "We have determined that the proposed location at 1074 West Fond du Lac Street is not appropriate; we do not approve the move; and the property will be automatically deleted from the National Register if/when moved."

On March 20, 2023, the WHS notified the LWSH Board of the decision.

In the 28 days following receipt of the letter, the LWSH Board of Directors proceeded to dig a foundation and pour a basement at the proposed location, and prepared the LWSH for transport on Monday, April 17, despite the fact that doing so would result in automatic removal from the National Register of Historic Places.

Continue reading this issue of *News & Views* for a deep dive on the journey of the LWSH.

76 S. Macy Street
PO Box 665
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
www.fdlgop.com

"We can ignore reality, but we cannot ignore the consequences of ignoring reality." — Ayn Rand

BGCA

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

FDLGOP

Republican Party of
Fond du Lac County

GOP

Grand Old Party (name often
applied to Republican Party)

LWSH

Little White Schoolhouse

LWSH Board

The Little White Schoolhouse
Board of Directors reports
to the Ripon Chamber of
Commerce, which owns the
Little White Schoolhouse.

NPS

National Park Service (under
the direction of the U.S.
Department of the Interior)

National Register of Historic Places

The official list of recognized
properties maintained by the
NPS on behalf of the Secretary
of the Interior.

National Historic Landmark

The NPS has developed crite-
ria for recognition of nation-
ally significant properties
which are designated National
Historic Landmarks.

Both these sets of criteria
were developed to be con-
sistent with the Secretary of
the Interior's *Standards and
Guidelines for Archeology and
Historic Preservation*, which are
uniform, national standards for
preservation activities.

HPRB

Historic Preservation
Review Board

RCOC

Ripon Chamber of Commerce

RNC

Republican National
Committee

WHS

Wisconsin Historical Society

The Devil is in the Details (and He's Been Busy)

By Tonya Alling, Republican Party of Fond du Lac County

There are assertions circulating regarding loss of the LWSH's National designations that we feel are inaccurate or misleading.

Moving the LWSH doesn't matter because it has been moved multiple times before.

Although it is true that the LWSH moved five times previously – the last of which occurred in 1951 – all moves occurred prior to receiving designation on the National Register of Historic Places (1973) and the National Landmarks registry (1974). Once those designations were in place, the owners of the LWSH were required to abide by Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) criteria to retain the National listings.

The March 10 National Park Service (NPS) letter “determined that the proposed location at 1074 West Fond du Lac Street is not appropriate.” The letter goes on to explain that “The fact that this property has been relocated in the past does not remove this requirement, but rather makes it even more critical that its current location be maintained.”

National Landmark status has not been lost.

Although technically true, this is a disingenuous statement. When the Secretary of Interior's National Landmarks Committee meets, Landmark status will be rescinded. National Register sites and Landmarks must possess the same seven historic integrity aspects – the difference being that Landmarks must possess those aspects to a high degree. Only 2.7% of Register sites are Landmarks. Thus, if a site does not meet basic Registry status, it cannot meet the “high degree” Landmark threshold.

The Republican Party of Fond du Lac County – or Daniel Zimmerman – are responsible for influencing the NPS ruling.

The Republican Party of Fond du Lac County had less than 24 hours notice of the November 18, 2022 WHS Historic Preservation Review Board meeting because WHS did not publish a revised agenda, adding the LWSH, until 24 hours beforehand. After a FDLGOP member discovered the revised agenda, FDLGOP spoke against the move during the public comment session. When the Historic Preservation Review Board tabled a decision until the next scheduled quarterly meeting – February 24, 2023 – plans were made to again speak against the move and write letters to submit to the NPS with the relocation packet.

However, unbeknownst to FDLGOP members, WHS held a single-item special meeting only

for the LWSH on January 27, 2023 and no one from the FDLGOP, including Daniel Zimmerman, spoke or wrote letters against the move at or after that meeting. Furthermore, no letters from the FDLGOP or Daniel Zimmerman were submitted with the relocation packet to the NPS. The NPS dismantled the LWSH Board's request, based solely on criteria outlined in the CFR, without input from FDLGOP or Zimmerman.

Exerting pressure on the NPS to reverse its decision will solve the problem.

The NPS, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, follows the guidelines established in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which were enacted by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The 60-page bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” outlines the criteria pursuant to moving a property which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Landmark registry.

“A moved property . . . must retain enough historic features to convey its architectural values and retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association,” (p29). Integrity is defined as “the ability of a property to convey its significance,” (p44). There are seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Three aspects are relevant to this discussion: location, setting, and feeling.

- “Location is the place where the property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.” The document explains that “Except in rare cases, the relationship between a property and its historic associations is destroyed if the property is moved.” (p44).

- “Setting is the physical environment of a historical property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space.” (p45)

- “Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.” (p45).

The March 10 NPS letter “determined that the proposed location at 1074 West Fond du Lac



Photo courtesy of Tonya Alling.

Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse at its new location, next to the former Marine Credit Union building which will be converted to a visitor's center. The site, on five-lane State Road 23/49, is located next to an auto dealership.

The Devil is in the Details (and He's Been Busy)...continued from page 2

Street is not appropriate." The letter goes on to explain that "The proposed new location lacks the qualities needed to offset the loss of historic integrity caused by a move."

"The location of the schoolhouse during the historic 1854 gathering for which it is celebrated was in the very heart of Ripon, among a mixture of commercial, industrial and residential buildings, as well as institutional ones like churches and schools. The current setting and location at 305 Blackburn Street two blocks from that historic location – remains a mixture of commercial institutional, and residential buildings today." Further, "Remaining in its current location [305 Blackburn Street] will not threaten the integrity of the building in a manner that justifies its relocation and the resultant loss of historic integrity."

Considering the guidance offered by the March 10 NPS letter, the location at 1074 West Fond du Lac Street will never meet the CFR criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places or the National Landmark registry and a new location which would meet the CFR criteria must be identified.

Exerting pressure on the National Park Service to reverse its decision is asking them to ignore the CFR criteria which would violate Federal code. Nothing short of a change in Federal Statutes which would take an Act of Congress would lawfully allow a reversal of the decision.

The only solution which would allow the National Park Service to reinstate the LWSH to the National Register of Historic Places and the National Landmark registry would be to move the LWSH to an appropriate location, near the downtown historic district and amidst "a

mix of commercial, institutional and residential buildings." A new relocation packet would need to be submitted to the WHS and then, if accepted, to the NPS for acceptance before a move is made.

National Landmark status is unimportant.

The Republican Party of Fond du Lac County is proud of the National designations assigned to Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse. Although Jackson, Michigan and Exeter, New Hampshire have also claimed to be the Birthplace of the Republican Party, Ripon alone had the National designations to validate the claim. The Republican Party of Fond du Lac County places great value on the National Landmark status and feels that losing the National designations would be a great loss to the Republican Party, to Ripon, to our County, State and Nation.

However, we understand that not everyone feels the same way and that the value of National Landmark status is therefore subjective. We are concerned that the LWSH Board may have already concluded that a visitor center with bathrooms, a basement under the building, and room for bus parking are acceptable trade-offs for loss of National Register of Historic Places and National Landmark designations.

If our fears are unfounded, we urge the LWSH Board to seek a new location which would allow reinstatement, even if that would require purchasing property and razing existing building(s) to make room for the LWSH near the downtown historic district and amidst "a mix of commercial, institutional and residential buildings."

Documents referenced in this article are posted at www.fdlgop.com > LWSH.

The Republican Party of Fond du Lac County is committed to working to restore the National Register of Historic Sites designation and National Landmark status for the Little White Schoolhouse.

Help Spread the Word

Contribute to the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County Save Our Schoolhouse Fund

Contributions will be used for postage, printing and other marketing expenses. Political organizations are not tax deductible.

Visit www.fdlgop.com > LWSH for a contribution link.

Wisconsin Foundation

Contribute to the Wisconsin Foundation (a 501c3 Exempt Private Foundation)

The Wisconsin Foundation seeks to secure control of, relocate, preserve, and permanently maintain the Birthplace of the Republican Party through your donations. The Little White Schoolhouse was built in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1853. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1974 to recognize its momentous significance in the 1854 founding of the Republican Party. Help support the Wisconsin Foundation in its mission to permanently preserve and relocate the Republican Party's founding headquarters.

The Wisconsin Foundation is a 501c3 exempt private foundation (EIN number 26-2540887). Consult with a professional regarding tax deductibility.

Visit www.fdlgop.com > LWSH for contribution links.

The Wisconsin Foundation is not affiliated with the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County. Links to Give Send Go and Go Fund Me are provided for your convenience.



PO Box 665 • Fond du Lac WI 54936

Please Join Us!

May 25 . . . Ripon American Legion
113 E. Fond du Lac St., Ripon
Doors open 6:00; Meeting at 6:30

July 27 . . . FDL American Legion
500 Fond du Lac Ave., FDL
Doors open 6:30; Meeting at 7:00

Arrive early to help serve a free
veterans meal from 4:00 to 7:00.
Or, join us for dinner. Meal cost
for non-veterans is \$10.

GOP in Office

U.S. Senator

Ron Johnson920.276.7282

U.S. Representative

Glenn Grothman920.907.0624

County Officials

Sheriff

Ryan Waldschmidt . .920.929.3372

County Clerk

Lisa Freiberg920.929.3000

Clerk of Courts

Ramona Geib920.929.3040

County Treasurer

Brenda Schneider . . .920.929.3010

District Attorney

Eric Toney920.929.3048

Register of Deeds

James M. Krebs920.929.3239

State Senators

14th District

Joan Ballweg608.266.0751

18th District

Dan Feyen608.266.5300

20th District

Duey Stroebel608.266.7513

State Representatives

42nd District

Jon Plumer608.266.3404

52nd District

Jerry O'Connor920.948.4207

53rd District

Michael Schraa608.267.7990

59th District

Ty Bodden920.948.5076

www.fdlgop.com • www.facebook.com/fdlgop

A Timeline of FDLGOP Involvement 2022-2023

Sept. 10, 2022 – FDLGOP, working with the LWSH Board, arranged a meeting with RNC National Committeeman Tyler Bowyer who proposed moving the LWSH to a location on Ripon's east side on which a \$40 million visitor center funded by an RNC-related Foundation would be erected if the Board would accept an all-expenses paid move of the LWSH to that parcel of land. The Board requested a written proposal within three weeks.

Sept. 15, 2022 – RCOC reveals plans to move the LWSH to the Marine Credit Union site. Upon reading of this decision in the Ripon Commonwealth, just five days after the Sept. 10 meeting, Bowyer did not submit a proposal.

Oct. 7, 2022 – After learning that Ripon Historic Preservation Committee members stated that NPS designations would not be jeopardized because the LWSH had been moved previously, FDLGOP contacted a member of the LWSH Board with the CFR criteria surrounding a proposed move. That member indicated that they were unaware of the criteria or that NPS designations might be jeopardized.

Nov. 18, 2022 – FDLGOP spoke against the move at the Wisconsin Historical Society Historic Preservation Review Board meeting on the basis that the proposed location was not a place of honor for the LWSH and the move should not be approved. Members of the Review Board seemed to lack understanding of the term "improve" in relation to NPS criteria when discussing the merits of the new location.

Dec. 15, 2022 – At the FDLGOP monthly meeting, speaker Daniel Zimmerman provided background information and dispelled rumors about the LWSH. Although a private meeting, a BGCA Board member crashed the meeting and was allowed to stay for the sake of transparency.

December 29, 2022 – RCOC transfers LWSH land out from underneath the LWSH to an LLC linked to a BGCA donor.

Jan. 27, 2023 – The Wisconsin Historical Society HPRB met and approved the proposed move. Originally slated for Feb. 24, 2023, the meeting was moved up four weeks and the FDLGOP was not notified of the schedule change.

April 15, 2023 – FDLGOP became aware of the NPS decision and began contacting attorneys, legislators, Republican leaders, and contractors, in an attempt to halt the move until a suitable location had been approved by the NPS.

Editor's note: After reading the March 10, 2023 NPS determination letter, FDLGOP has concluded that the proposed east-side locations, either in Riggs County Park or near the hospital, would also be deemed inappropriate per NPS criteria.

April 17, 2023 – FDLGOP Chairman Bachleitner documented the move using Facebook Live.

April 18-20, 2023 – Bachleitner spoke live with talk show hosts outlining FDLGOP's opposition to loss of historic designations and desire to identify a location that would meet NPS criteria.