

Early History:

- The Haas Brewery Stable was constructed some time prior to 1884, in close proximity to the nearby Haas Brewery. It appears on the City of Ripon “1884 Sanborn Fire Map” (the first known edition done for the City), but is not illustrated on a “Birdseye View of Ripon”, dated 1867.
- John Haas, a German immigrant, began as a brewer partner in the “Ripon City Beer Brewery” circa 1860. He became sole proprietor from 1865 until his death in 1907.
- Haas built a new stone and brick structure near the site of his original brewery, opening it in 1884. (Only the limestone sign from the top of the building remains in local possession. It reads simply, “1884 J. Hass”. The building itself was razed during the last decade.)
- In 1907, Haas’s son, Conrad John Haas, became brewery proprietor, changing its name to “Haas Brewing Company”. He operated the business until his death from influenza in 1918, a few months prior to the start of National Prohibition in July, 1919.
- The Haas Brewery Stable was used to house horses and probably wagons for the near-by brewery.
- Waste from the horses is said to have been deposited into Silver Creek through a large opening in the floor during part of the year. (This explanation seems plausible, because, why else would the original builders have taken the time, trouble and expense to erect a barn bridging a creek?)
- The creek would also have been a convenient source of water for the horses.
- Photos indicate that horses were used for delivery by the brewery until the early 1900’s—possibly to some extent until its closure due to Prohibition, and the stable would have housed them for as long as they were used.

Haas Brewery Story Depicted by the Sanborn fire Maps

- The Ripon Historical society has in its possession “Sanborn Fire Maps” (SFM), detailing commercial building locations and layouts in the City of Ripon for the years 1884, 1892, 1898, 1904, 1913, 1924 and 1944—all which depict the Haas Brewery property and the Haas Brewery Stable.
- The 1884 SFM shows the stable as a nearly square building, located just a few feet south of Silver Creek
- On the 1892 SFM, the south bank of the creek remains in the same location, but the square stable is located about 32 feet to the north and spans the creek.
- The 1898 SFM shows an expanded rectangular building, calculated to be 40’ x 60’, and still spanning the creek, much as it does today. The creek by now is depicted at about 24 feet to the south of its location on the two older maps—a location that remains constant from then on. The creek flows under the south part of the building.
- The SFM from 1904 through 1944 continue to show the stable and creek in the same places. During the same period, there were additions to the Haas Brewery. The 1944 map labels the building “Cold Storage Locker Plant”, describing its then current use.
- The above, when combined with findings that follow, provides evidence that:
 - 1. The original stable had dimensions of about 40’ x 44’.
 - 2. The stable did not span the creek when first built, before 1884.
 - 3. It was moved 32’ northward before 1892, and then spanned the creek.
 - 4. 16’ were added to the south end between 1892 and 1898

Attachment A (Continued)

Recent History, from about 1920

- In 1920 the brewery was leased by C. D. Stork who brewed “near beer” for two or three years during Prohibition. But from about 1923 until Congress repealed Prohibition in 1933, the brewery (and likely its stable) stood idle.
- An aerial view of Ripon taken in about 1925 from the north-east, shows the building with some features slightly different from the present (as described below)
 1. No lean-to is present.
 2. One window and a service door show on the north side.
 3. A rectangular chimney like structure is seen on the center roof peak. This may have been an air vent.
 4. The roof is shingled.
 5. The visible part of the building is supported by what appear to be timber pilings
- In 1933, the brewery reopened as Ripon Brewing Company, under the ownership of Louis Strong and Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Wittstock.
- John Powers, W. A. Gettleman and John Kornburger assumed ownership in 1936 and operated the brewery until its closure in 1937, averaging about 6000 barrels per year.
- In 1939, the old brewery, along with its stable were sold to R-Line Foods, a frozen foods and storage Corporation led by T. S. Jorgensen that would emerge as a meat processing facility, and still later a manufacturer of bottled preserves and more.
- The stable was used as a warehouse soon after and until R-Line (by then owned by J.M. Smucker Company) vacated their properties in about 2002.
- It became the property of the City of Ripon at about the same time, along with the former stone brewery that was soon razed.
- R-Line made the following modifications to the building while it owned it:
 1. Added a 10’-9” wide by 7’-8” high metal “garage” door on the front, over the original barn door whose opening measured 13’ wide by 9’-6” high.
 2. Shored up the under structure, replacing pilings with concrete ones plus a foundation under the north end circa 1960.
 3. Placed ¼” steel sheeting over the wooden flooring in the main traffic area.
 4. Closed the reported hole on the ground floor.
 5. Covered or removed the service door and window on the north end, replacing these with three metal doors.
 6. Removed all the windows on the main floor and covered the openings with plywood from the inside. (The frames remain evident.)
 7. Constructed a four foot lean-to covered bridge along the east side for pedestrian use between the main plant and a newer warehouse to the north, during the 1970’s.
 8. Replaced the original large vertical sliding hay door on the upper front with one made of metal and plywood. This door was opened by sliding downward, probably with the aid of the hay fork pulley and rope. Original, vertical wooden slots remain on the outside of the door, as do a pulley, weight and cable to assist in lowering and raising it on the inside.
 9. Added a metal, standing seam roof over the original wooden planks. A few small holes show in the roof when viewed from inside.
 10. Replaced the structure on the middle of the roof peak with a circular metal vent, about 3’ in diameter.

Attachment B

HAAS BREWERY STABLE

Sources of Information:

- Sanborn Fire Maps of 1884, 1892, 1898, 1904, 1913, 1924 and 1944 (Ripon Historical Society)
- Photo—"Aerial view of Ripon" circa 1925 (Ripon Main Street, Inc.)
- Drawing—"Birdseye view of Ripon" dated 1867 (Ripon Historical society)
- Badger Breweries, Past and Present, 1976, Wayne L. Kroll
- Wisconsin Breweries and Their Bottles 1840-1920, 1972 Wayne L. Kroll
- Pedrick Genealogy (Ripon Public Library)
- "RIPON STATE BANK NOTES", Volume IV, Numbers 7 & 8, April-May 1933
- Oral History—Interviews with Mrs. T. S. Jorgensen and her sons, Herb and Don Jorgensen