

1. Landmark Books, 114 E Main St
 2. Lillie Mills, 121 1st Ave S
 3. Lillie Alley, 124 1st Ave S
 4. Reconstruction-Era Houses, 131 1st Ave S
 5. Pugh House, 200 1st Ave S
 6. Tobacco Warehouse and Sugar & Syrup Mill, 201 1st Ave S
 7. Mill Housing, 218-238 1st Ave S
 8. Rainey House, 10 S Margin St
 9. Railroad
 10. Fort Granger, 113 Fort Granger Dr
- total walking distance: about 1 mile

1st Ave S
-
Fort Granger

10



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

1st Avenue South - Fort Granger

Architectural Walking Tour

1st Ave S
-
Fort
Granger

Welcome to the Heritage Foundation's architectural walking tour! From Federal to Gothic Revival and Second Empire, to Greek Revival, the Arts and Crafts style and the Bungalow, Franklin contains a uniquely broad range of historic styles worth exploring. During this time of "social distancing," we want to free your mind to explore and give you an opportunity to get to know Franklin a little better. This is our first in a series of tours. You can virtually or physically walk the streets of Franklin, as long as regulations allow and staying, of course, at least six feet from other people.

1st Avenue South was originally known as East Margin Street and was the center of historic Franklin's industrial and manufacturing district.

Located near the Harpeth River and the Nashville-Decatur Railroad, 1st Avenue South was an ideal spot to have a 19th century business.

In 1863, the Federal Army took advantage of Franklin's industrial area and constructed Fort Granger on a bluff overlooking 1st Avenue South. Because of the fort, railroad, and river, 1st Avenue South saw a lot of activity during the Civil War.

It played an important role in Franklin's post-war recovery, as industries employed many African Americans who created a vibrant community in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The 1st Avenue South-Fort Granger tour will give you a glimpse into Franklin's pre- and post-Civil War industrial and architectural past.

Start: Landmark Books
114 East Main St

Finish: Fort Granger
113 Fort Granger Dr

approximate distance: 1 mile



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Landmark Booksellers

114 E Main St

TOUR
STOP

1

Built c. 1821

Thought to be constructed in 1821, this is believed to be the oldest commerical structure standing in Franklin today.

Its brickwork demonstrates all three of the predominant bond patterns used in 19th century American masonry: common bond on the pilasters, Flemish bond beneath the windows, and American bond on the building's sides. The Classical Revival columns are thought to be a 20th century addition.

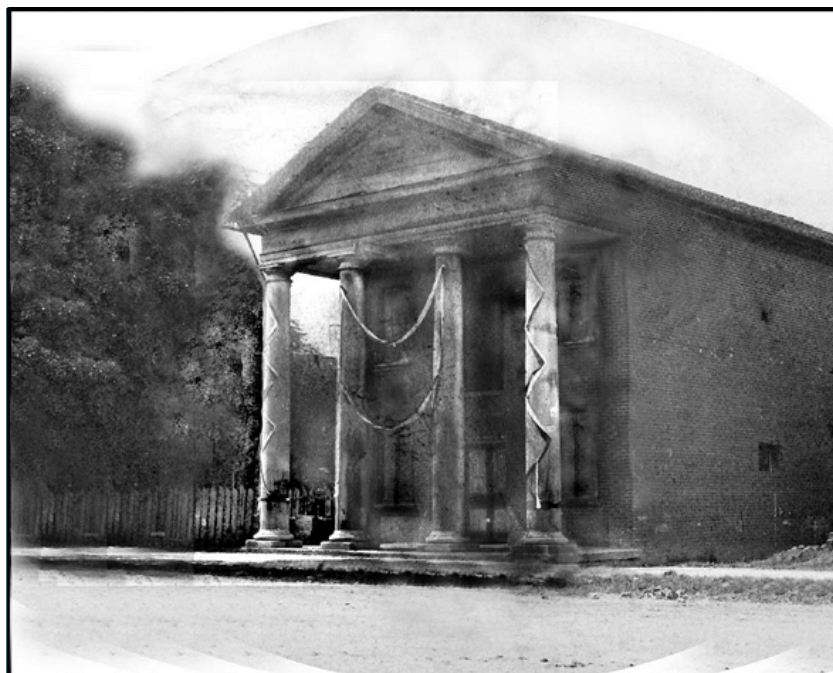
As early as 1825, goods from the earliest steam-powered loom in Tennessee--owned by Dyer Pearl, Thomas Parkes, and Joseph Campbell--as well as the local grist mill were sold out of this building. Other prominent business owners who operated out of this building were Anderson and Baldwin (1833), Plunkett and Parkes (1843), M.G.L. Claiborne (1855), and Spencer and McCoy (1858).

By the 1850s, the factory employed thirty men and seventeen women, along with enslaved African Americans, at a capital investment of over \$35,000. The adjacent iron foundry cast ploughs, stoves, andirons, gins, and mill machinery.



Today, Landmark Booksellers operates out of this historic building.

Photo from Google Maps



1908 photograph of the building

Photo from Rick Warwick's North and East of Franklin's Public Square.

The Civil War

On December 12, 1862, U.S. General David Stanley, Chief of the Cavalry, along with the 4th Michigan and 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry came upon Confederate forces at Franklin. Following a significant engagement between both armies, Stanley reported,

"I intended to burn the mill, which has been turning out 100 barrels of flour daily for the rebel army, but I found that to do so would destroy part of the town; I had the machinery and burrs of the mill entirely destroyed."



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Lillie Mills

121 1st Ave S

TOUR STOP 2



Today the location of First Farmers and Merchants Bank, this used to be the site of Lillie Mills.

Image Sources:
Google Maps (top),
1878 Beers
Map of Williamson
County, TSLA Map
Collection
(bottom)



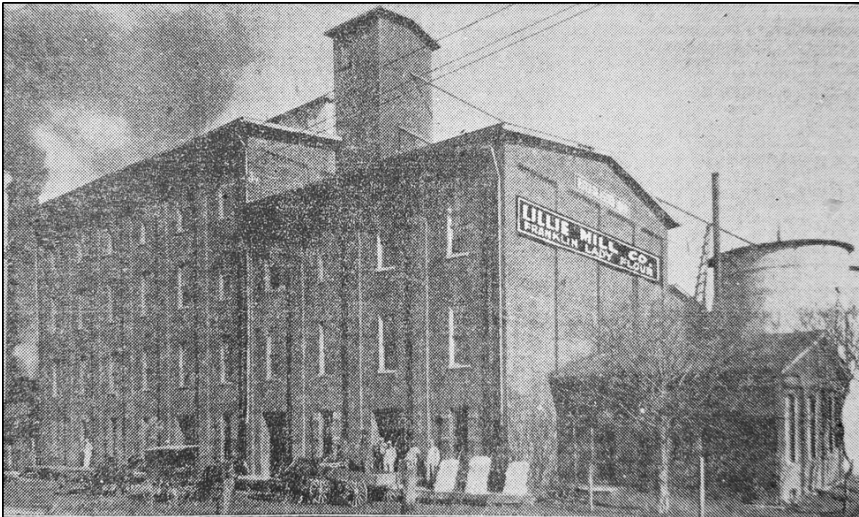
established 1869

Joshua B. Lillie, originally from New York, came to Tennessee in 1855.

A house carpenter and joiner by trade, he left the profession in 1861 and by 1864 established a sawmill partnership with planter and businessman John McGavock.

By 1869, Lillie purchased the Franklin Flour Mill, creating a manufacturing center along 1st Avenue South. He improved the factory by perfecting the "roller process" by 1884, pushing production levels to 200 barrels of flour and 500 bushels of meal every 24 hours. By the 1890s, Lillie was a leading flour manufacturer in the postwar South.

In 1909, C.H. Corn and W.F. Eakin purchased the milling operations. In Franklin Lady Flour's heyday in the early 20th century, an average of 300 rail cars annually shipped flour to markets across the South.



In 1926, Earnest and Wilbur Corn expanded production by adding ten reinforced concrete block grain elevators, making the mill the second largest facility of its kind in Tennessee. Dudley Cayce purchased the mill in 1945, but on January 8, 1958, the five story brick mill burned to the ground.



Image Sources: Google Maps (above),
Rick Warwick, North and East of Franklin's Public Square
(left)

Today, the silos are all that remain of this part of Franklin's industrial past.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Lillie Mills Housing for African Americans

124 1st Ave S

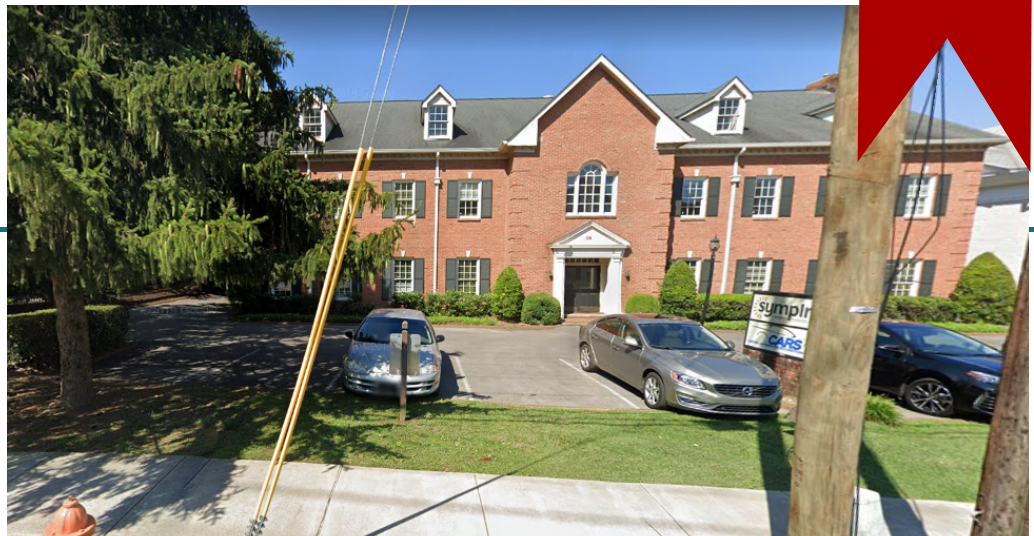
TOUR
STOP

3

Lillie Alley, mill housing for African American Lillie Mills employees, used to be here.

Six one-story brick houses with porches lined Lillie Alley, three on the north side and three on the south side. The alley backed up to the Masonic Hall.

Today, what was Lillie Alley is partially a physician's office, St. Phillip's Catholic Church, and the Brownstones.



Left: Bird's-eye view of Lillie Alley.

Below: Snapshots of life in Lillie Alley in the early-mid-20th century.

Images from Rick Warwick's North and East of Franklin's Public Square. Bottom two images belong to Thelma Battle.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Reconstruction-Era Houses

131 1st Ave S

TOUR
STOP

4

Today an empty field bordered by grain elevators, this was a working class community after the Civil War.

The 1878 Beers Map shows Jasper Clayton, Solomon Swinney, William Marshall, and E. Bentley's homes below Lillie Mills. The Claytons, Swinneys, and Marshalls were African Americans; the Bentleys were white.

With birthplaces including Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, it is likely that many of the African Americans who lived in Franklin during Reconstruction came there during Federal occupation or after the Civil War to start new lives as free people.



The Swinneys, Conns. and Dicksons

The Swinney property neighbored the Claytons to the east. Solomon Swinney owned the lot, on which lived three families.

Solomon Swinney, 25 in 1870, was a Mississippi-born railroad worker. Ten years later, he worked at Lillie Mills. He and his wife Amey had eight children. By 1900, the Swinneys had left Franklin for Nashville, where Solomon worked on the L&N railroad.

On the Swinney lot in 1870 also lived the Conn family: Pompy, Rachael, Alice, and Dick, and the Dicksons: Henry, Edney, and 10 year-old Henry. The 1870 census lists Pompy Conn's occupation as wagoner and Henry Dickson's as laborer. It is likely that both of these men, like Solomon Swinney, worked on the railroad.

Solomon Swinney sold his house and lot to Joshua B. Lillie in 1889.

The Marshalls

William Marshall, 65 in 1870, owned his house on 1st Avenue South and worked as a gardener. He lived with 38 year-old Emeline. By 1880, William had died, but Emeline remained at the house with her mother, Lucy, brother Jim, and niece Palina. Paline, just 14 in 1880, worked as a domestic servant.

The Bentleys

The James E. Bentley family lived where Church Street ends at 1st Avenue South. In 1870, the household consisted of James, his wife Martha, their 4 year-old William, and a woman named Rebecca McCort.

James Bentley was a veteran of the Civil War. From Williamson County, he enlisted as a private in Baxter's Company of the TN Light Artillery late in 1862. At the time, Bentley was 28, 6 feet tall, and fair, with blue eyes and red hair.

Martha Bentley purchased the 1st Avenue South lot just after the Civil War. By 1874, however, she had died and her husband had remarried Mary Ferguson.

In 1883, James Bentley sold his lot to Josha B. Lillie and the family moved to Nashville.

Rebecca McCort, listed in the Bentley household in 1870, is likely Rebecca McCord, who married Joseph Irwin in 1865. Irwin was the Bentley's neighbor across the street. Though the details remain a mystery, it seems that McCord and Irwin separated and she moved in with the Bentleys.

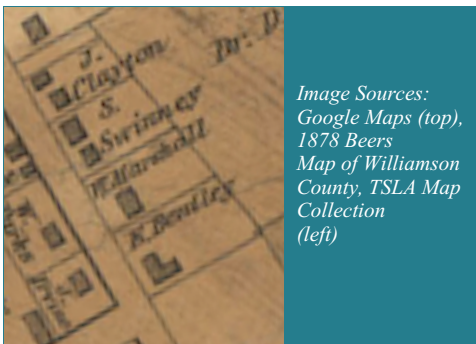


Image Sources:
Google Maps (top),
1878 Beers
Map of Williamson
County, TSLA Map
Collection
(left)

The Claytons

In 1870, The Clayton family home sat just north of where the grain elevators now are.

Jasper Clayton, a carpenter, owned his house on 1st Avenue South, which was valued at \$500, as well as a little personal property. Both Jasper, 35, and his wife Julia, 30, were born in Virginia. Their son Jasper Jr. was born in Alabama in 1862. It is likely Julia and Jasper Clayton were brought to Alabama as enslaved workers and came to Franklin after slavery ended.

Julia Clayton sold the house and lot to Joshua B. Lillie in 1889.

The Pugh House

200 1st Ave S

TOUR
STOP

5



c. 1840

The Pugh House has stood on the Corner of Church Street and 1st Avenue South for over 165 years.

It retains the name of its second owners, John and Hannah Pugh. The Pughs immigrated from Great Britain first to New York, then to Tennessee.

John Pugh was an ironmonger, or a metal-worker. He made the iron columns for the 1858 Williamson County Courthouse, pictured below. At that time, he was living in this house.



The Pugh House today (above) and on the 1878 Beers Map (left). The outbuilding shown behind the house on the map was probably a kitchen building. It does not exist today.

Image Sources: Google Maps (top), 1878 Beers Map of Williamson County, TSLA Map Collection (bottom)

The Civil War

John Pugh died around the time the Civil War started, leaving his household without a male member. His wife and daughters Annie and Mary, however, continued to live in the house through the war and for many years afterwards. Around the time of John's death, Lizzie Mills, an older Pugh daughter who had become widowed, moved back in with the family.

In the early days of the Civil War, the Pugh women did their part to publicly support the Confederacy. Hannah and Lizzie took their sewing machines and met other prominent Franklin women at the Masonic Hall to sew uniforms for Williamson County Confederate soldiers. Present were Carrie McGavock of Carnton Plantation, her enslaved woman Mariah, Mayor John B. McEwen's wife and daughters, Sallie Carter, and Mrs. Joseph Parkes, whose English husband became the head of the hospital for Federal soldiers in Franklin during occupation.

By 1870, Annie Pugh had left the household. The youngest Pugh daughter, Mary, 18 years old, left the following year to marry. Also living in the house were Polly Perkins, a 23 year-old African American domestic servant, and Polly's 3 year-old daughter Jane.



Williamson County Courthouse, built 1858.

Photo from visitfranklin.com

Hannah Pugh died in 1898, almost 90 years old.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Williamson County Loose Leaf Tobacco Warehouse and Franklin Sugar and Syrup Mill

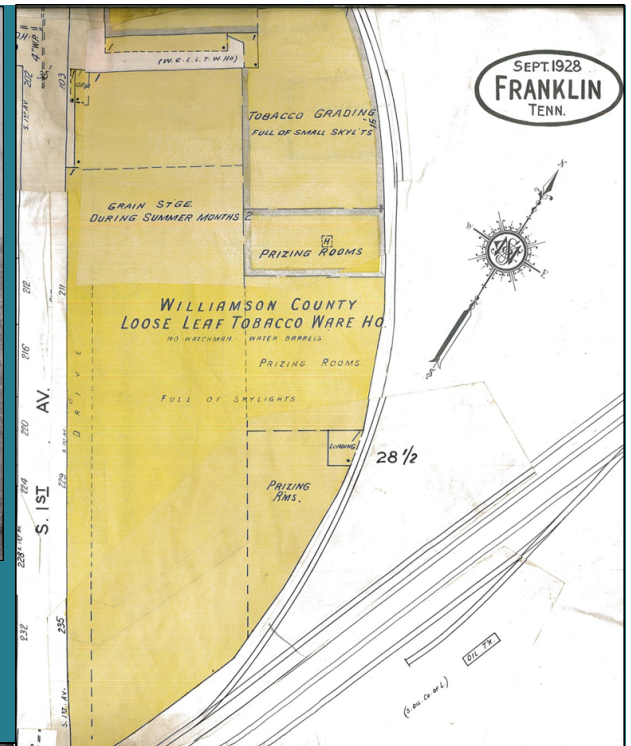
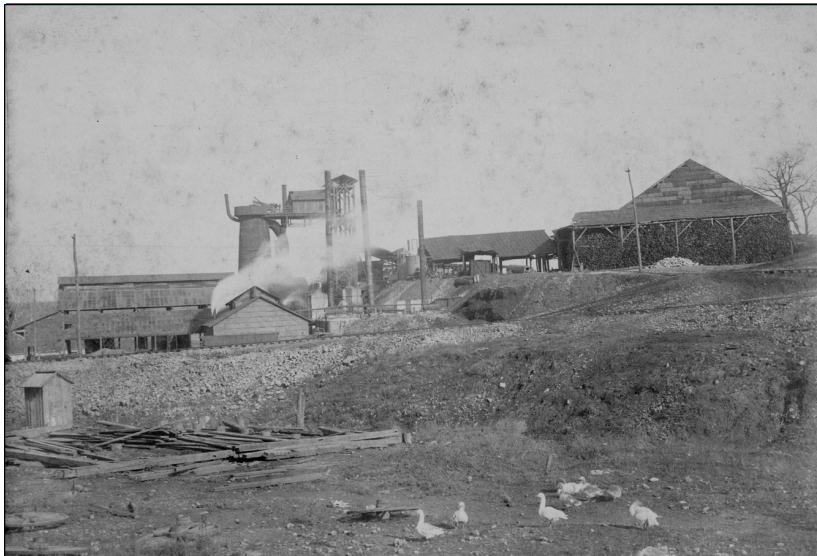
201 1st Ave S to Railroad Tracks

**TOUR
STOP
6**

At different points in time, two industries occupied the north side of 1st Avenue South, from Church Street to the railroad tracks

Franklin Sugar and Syrup Mill

The first was the Franklin Sugar and Syrup Mill, which was located close to the railroad tracks facing 1st Avenue. The mill, active during the mid-1880s, was heavily invested in but ultimately a short-lived failure.



Above: Franklin Sugar and Syrup Mill in action.
Right: Sanborn Map showing the 1st Avenue South tobacco warehouse.

Below: Interior of the tobacco warehouse.

Image Sources: Rick Warwick, North and East of Franklin's Public Square



Tobacco Warehouse

The 1st Avenue South tobacco warehouse was active from 1931-1968. Although tobacco was never cultivated large-scale in Williamson County, many families grew a small plot to supplement their income. This warehouse, owned by D.E. Casey, was one of three tobacco warehouses in Franklin at that time. It burned in 1868.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Lillie Mills Housing for White Employees

218-238 1st Ave S

TOUR
STOP

7

Built
c. 1878-1893

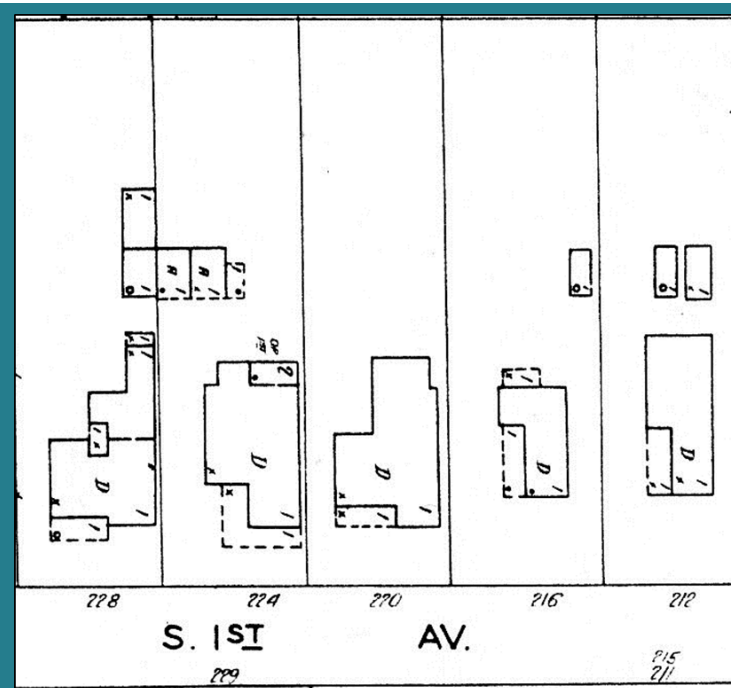
Victorian

It is believed these little cottages that line the bottom block of 1st Avenue South were built between 1878-1893 as housing for white Lillie Mills employees.

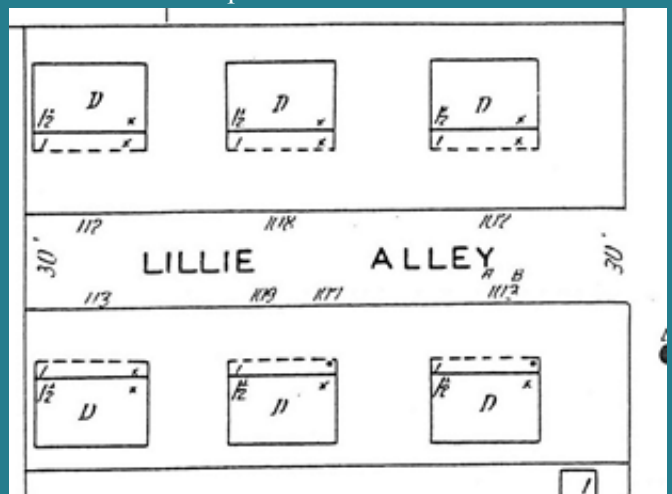


Though not identical, the cottages share stylistic and construction similarities, with their one-story frame construction, porches (with three of the five boasting a side porch), and simple Victorian details.

This set of houses is also comparable to the Lillie Mills housing for African American employees shown at Stop 3. Important differences are that these houses are frame rather than brick, they are significantly larger than the Lillie Alley houses, and they have more ornamentation. The biggest difference, however, is that these houses still exist. While Lillie Alley is just a memory, these houses make up an intact little district that is a reminder of 1st Avenue South's manufacturing past as well as the realities of Jim Crow segregation.



Images: Top of page from Google Maps, left and bottom from Rick Warwick's North and East of Franklin's Public Square. Footprints of the five Lillie Mills cottages at the bottom of 1st Avenue South (left) and the Lillie Alley cottages (below) as shown on a 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

The Rainey House

10 S Margin St

TOUR
STOP
8



*Built in 1839
Greek Revival style*

The Rainey house is named for its original owners, Robert and Martha Rainey.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1805, Robert Rainey met and married Martha there. The couple joined America's westward migration and had established themselves in Tennessee by 1830. Robert dabbled in a variety of ventures, working as a machinist, running a shoe factory, operating a boarding house, and running a grocery.

In Tennessee, Rainey joined the Freemasons, the most important organization in his life. He asserted that Freemasonry was his religion. First a member of Abraham Lodge No. 8 in Louisville, he eventually joined Franklin's Hiram Lodge No. 7.

In March 1862, Federal troops marched into Franklin, securing it for its proximity to the railroad. With their house positioned directly across from the tracks, Robert and Martha would have come into contact with Federal troops on a daily basis.

Federal occupation created economic opportunities for those willing to take the oath of allegiance. By the summer of 1863, government-regulated trade stores opened in Franklin. Robert Rainey promptly went into partnership with fraternal brother Joseph L. Parkes to open a grocery and dry goods store. This remained his occupation for the rest of his life.



Hiram Lodge No. 7 elected Robert Rainey Worshipful Master at the end of 1864. The Masonic Hall was restored to the fraternity that summer. As Worshipful Master, Rainey would have been among the first to re-enter the building. They found their temple ruined. Rainey played a crucial role in the first attempt to secure payment for the damages done to the building.



Above: Robert Rainey in Knights Templar garb, and Martha

Left: Joseph L. Parkes

Bottom left: Parkes and Rainey's authority to open a trade store

Images: Google Maps, Rick Warwick, National Archives

AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A TRADE STORE.

Parkes and Rainey, of the
County of *Williamson*, and State of *Tennessee*, having
applied to me for Authority to establish a TRADE STORE at *Franklin*,



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Nashville-Decatur Railroad

Established 1855

In 1852 John Claybrook raised \$20,000 in railroad start-up money from some 30 people living in and around Franklin.



The town matched the money, which went to the expense of grading the road bed, laying it with stone and ties, and purchasing English iron rails. The Nashville-Franklin leg was the first completed. Additional legs to Thompson Station, Columbia, Pulaski, and finally Decatur, Alabama were soon completed, making the Tennessee & Alabama Railroad only the second in Tennessee. Franklin became a stop on the Nashville-Decatur Railroad in 1855.

The coming of the railroad to Franklin was a decisive turning point in the town's history, placing it within easy reach of Nashville and unwittingly guaranteeing that it would experience enormous upheaval in the coming Civil War.

The Civil War

Some of the first Federal troops to occupy Franklin were the 74th Ohio, under Col. Granville Moody. They were positioned in Franklin to guard the railway. Throughout the war, Franklin's status as a railway town continually placed it in the crosshairs of the two armies. The depot at that time, no longer extant, was often the site of loading and unloading of soldiers and supplies. On November 30, 1864, the day of the Battle of Franklin, the Federal wounded from the previous night's battle were loaded onto empty railcars and taken to Nashville hours before the fighting in Franklin commenced.

In early 1863, U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger selected Franklin as the site for a new fort. Fort Granger was constructed on the north side of the Harpeth River, on a high point known as Figurs Bluff. Fort Granger overlooked the town of Franklin and the open farmlands to the south. Any movement from this direction was visible to the sentries at the new fort.



This 1873 freight depot still stands by the tracks.

Images: Top from Google Maps, bottom from Rick Warwick, North and East of Franklin's Public Square.

Alongside it ran the railroad.



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Fort Granger

TOUR
STOP
10



Built 1863

The American Civil War proved fortifications could entrench infantry for significant periods of time. Fort Granger is no exception.

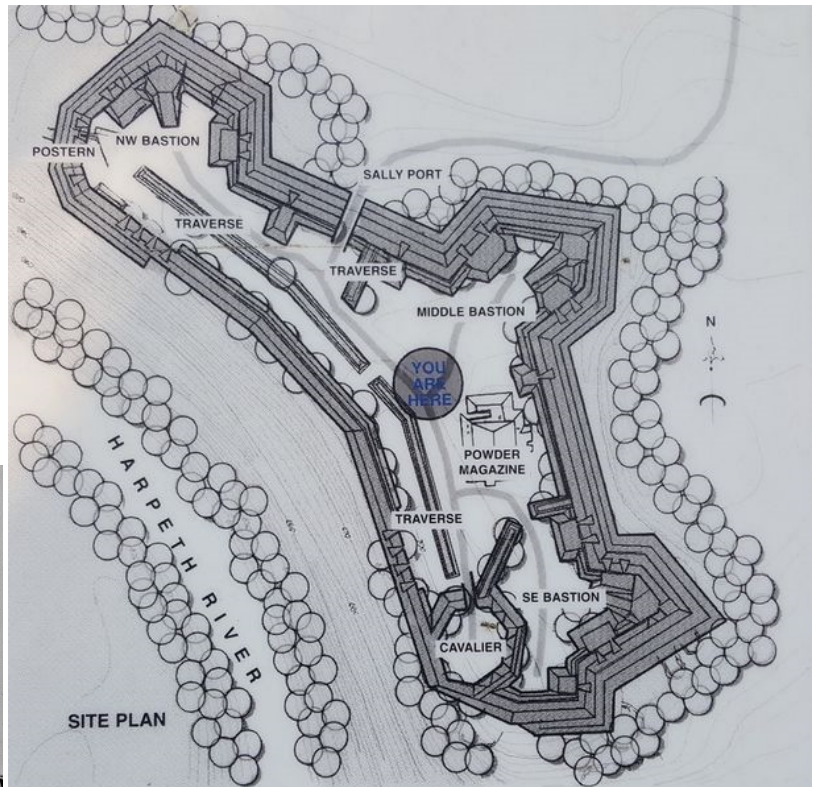
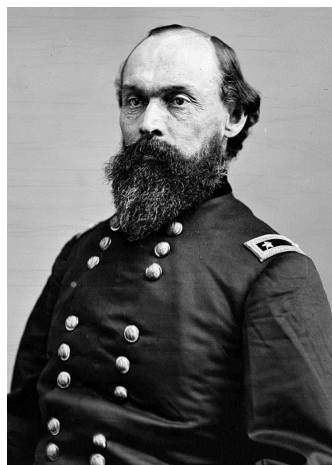
Located along Figuers Bluff overlooking the Harpeth River, this Federal fort was well situated to control transportation in and out of Franklin. Named for U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger, Fort Granger's construction was supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Capt. William E. Merrill between March and May of 1863.

The original entrance, known as the *sally port*, was a narrow passageway that provided access to move men, supplies, and equipment in and out of the fort. *Abatis*, or felled trees, surrounded the fort's trench lines and earthworks, creating an impenetrable barrier.

The sally port was the main entrance to the railroad and other Federal camps, but there was no secure way into the town until Federal troops built a pontoon bridge a few hundred yards to the north of the fort. Private Charles Faulkner of the 92nd Illinois noted in letters dated March 19 and April 13, 1863: "They are building a rousing fort here and yesterday two big siege guns came in on cars and they now have them mounted...Our camp is on this side of the Big Harpeth and the town of Franklin is on the other side of the river from us. We have a pontoon bridge to cross over the town."

With white Federal soldiers, impressed African Americans carved out the fort's deep moat that provided the solid soil to build up the earthen walls. A report from March 11, 1863 noted: "Silas N. Jones, Sergeant Co. C 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry has been placed in charge of the contrabands at this point. He has now on his roll, able for duty, with pick, axe, and shovel, over 250 names." By late spring of 1863, Fort Granger housed 7,900 Federal troops and 2,700 cavalry. Multiple campsites, drill fields, sentry posts, and storage facilities dotted once open fields northeast and west of the fort, including barracks in the town. A camp for African American refugees sat northwest of the fort.

During the Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, U.S. Maj. Gen. John Schofield observed the fighting from Fort Granger, simultaneously monitoring the building of pontoon bridges across the Harpeth River that allowed for troops to move swiftly to Nashville once the battle concluded.



Site plan of Fort Granger (above), General Gordon Granger (left)

Images: Google Maps, Wikipedia



**HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN