

Historic Franklin Masonic Hall

The Historic Franklin Masonic Hall dates to c1823. The Hall served the community for several reasons; a public gathering place on the first floor and Masonic meetings. The powerful connection of people, place and story were witnessed here at the Hall. Masonic members of Hiram Lodge No. 7 forged relationships that tightly connected them with local, state, and national politics. For Franklin's citizens, the first floor was a gathering place; St. Paul's Episcopal Church began here in August 1827! By August 1830, representatives from the Chickasaw Nation signed the Treaty of Franklin (1830), confronting President Andrew Jackson, delegates from the US Government, and Indian Removal. During the Civil War, Federal forces used the Hall as a barracks, quarter-master's office, and hospital. After the war, the Masons and citizens of Franklin responded to the new social and political order established with Reconstruction. By the twentieth century, the Hall was used as an armory for the local national guard during World War I, a meeting place for the Suffragettes, and acted as the anchor for Franklin's centennial commemoration of the Civil War and the Battle of Franklin in 1964. Today, visitors to the Hall may still see the fingerprints of the enslaved bricklayers in the exterior walls. The Masons of Hiram Lodge No. 7, established in 1809, continue to meet at the Hall today, making them the oldest continuously occupying lodge in Tennessee.

