

DANIEL MCMAHON HOUSE

The historic Daniel McMahon House is a great example of a vernacular, two-story central passage frame residence (c1850s) with its earliest construction, a single pen log structure with an exterior brick chimney, (c1800-1801) adjoined from the rear. The home's main (front façade) one-story porch with Doric motifs was added c1900 and its southeastern facing portico, added by c1910. In addition to the historic home, a smokehouse from c1900 still stands.

Born in Philadelphia in 1751, McMahon moved to North Carolina, joining the militia by 1779. For his service during the American Revolutionary War, McMahon received a land grant in what was then known as the western edge of North Carolina, today, Middle Tennessee. McMahon settled along Spencer Creek, not far from the Harpeth River and Franklin Road. It was here that veteran Daniel McMahon constructed his single log pen, married, and had a large family while establishing an extensive farm with enslaved people who tended the fields and livestock. When McMahon passed away, he was formally buried in the family cemetery, within proximity to his house and surrounding outbuildings. The home's extensive history, including the Dr. A.B. Ewing family who enlarged the home prior to the Civil War, and the Bowman family who lived there in the early to mid-20th century, tells a multilayered, multigenerational story of not only Franklin's past, but also our nation.

Today, the Daniel McMahon House is owned by and located on the Franklin First United Methodist Church property near Franklin Road and Mack Hatcher. While the desire is to see this National Register of Historic Places property fully rehabilitated, its ongoing preservation concerns including significant environmental realities are of tremendous concern. While the church and the City of Franklin formally attempted to negotiate a land swap

for the property not too long ago, the church, who owns the 33-acre tract the historic home sites upon, determined to retain the property and remain committed to protect it while they evaluate its long-term use.