

Small Historic Towns across America.

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

Brief History of Franklin, Tennessee

The City of Franklin was founded October 26, 1799 by state senator, Abram Maury. The town was named after Benjamin Franklin, a close friend of Dr. Hugh Williamson, a member of the Continental Congress after whom Williamson County was named. Before the Civil War, Williamson County was one of the wealthiest counties in Tennessee and Franklin was the heart of the plantation economy. Union soldiers occupied the town for three years and on November 30, 1864, The Battle of Franklin

transpired being one of the war's bloodiest battles with over 8,000 casualties and forty-four buildings turned into field hospitals. This left the town in a state of recovery for over a century and didn't reach pre-war economy levels for 120 years. Historic homes are still standing, and are a testament to the rich history of the Civil War center that Franklin was.



H I S T O R I C
F R A N K L I N
T E N N E S S E E

Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

Franklin is located half an hour out side of Nashville. From the Nashville International Airport merge onto I-40 W. Then take the I-24 E exit, EXIT 213A, on the left toward Memphis/I-440 W/Chattanooga. Merge onto I-440 W via EXIT 53 toward Memphis, then onto I-65 S via EXIT 5 toward Huntsville. After about twelve miles take the Cool Springs Blvd exit which will take you into Franklin.

Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.



In 1799 when Franklin was founded, John Adams was the President of the United States and Thomas Jefferson was the Vice President. At the time, we were in the middle of an undeclared war fought between U.S., Batavian Republic, and Great Britain against the French Republic and Spain from 1798 to 1800. Also, in March of 1799 New York passed a

law aimed at gradually abolishing slavery in the state.

Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

Early's Honey Stand has been in continuous operation since 1925, when Erskine Early founded the roadside stand that blossomed into a nationally known tourist destination and mail-order business.

Their website is:
www.earlysgifts.com

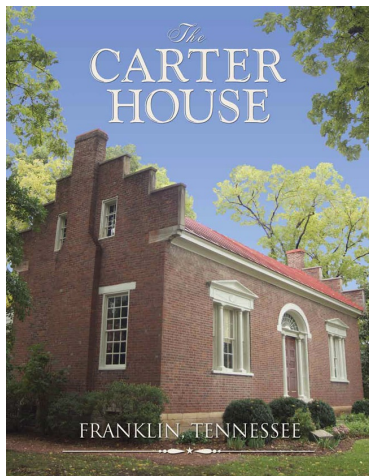
Currently, the Cool Springs Galleria is the largest business in Franklin.



City Government.

The City of Franklin is governed by a Board of Mayor and Aldermen. There are eight Aldermen on the Board. Four Aldermen are elected from the four political divisions of the City called wards; four are elected at-large. This governing board is responsible for deciding on the city's policies and procedures by passing Resolutions, Municipal Ordinances and the Municipal Code, all of which are implemented by the various City Departments.

Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.



The most famous historical attractions of Franklin are the Carter, Lotz, and McLemore houses and the Carton Plantation. Each dating back to the Civil War era.

Also, take a drive through history by the Natchez Trace Parkway. The Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile drive through exceptional scenery and 10,000 years of North American history. Used by American Indians, "Kaintucks," settlers, and future presidents, the Old Trace played an important role in American history. Today, visitors can enjoy not only a scenic drive but also hiking, biking, horseback

riding, and camping.

The most popular festivals in Franklin are the Main Street Festival, Pumpkifest, and Franklin Jazz Festival. For a complete list of festivals and events in Franklin visit their website: www.franklin-gov.com

Where can we stay if we visit Franklin?

Enjoy the privacy of being surrounded by 40 acres of woods and meadows at an enchanting bed and breakfast, Butterfly Meadows Inn and Farm. Visit their website: butterflymeadowsinn.com. Or choose from the selection of chain hotels around the Franklin and Cool Springs area.



Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

Franklin is a unique blend of history and progress. You'll find the best of both worlds here: small-town charm and big-city sophistication. There are fascinating Civil War sites and museums, magnificent Antebellum and Victorian homes - plus our thriving downtown shopping area and the Cool Springs Galleria, unique dining and entertainment, and wonderful festivals. Franklin has grown from a very small, agricultural community into a strong blend of residential, commercial, and corporate citizens.

Links you may wish to visit:

www.franklin-gov.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3dbeXE7St8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM-Mf19ixvk>