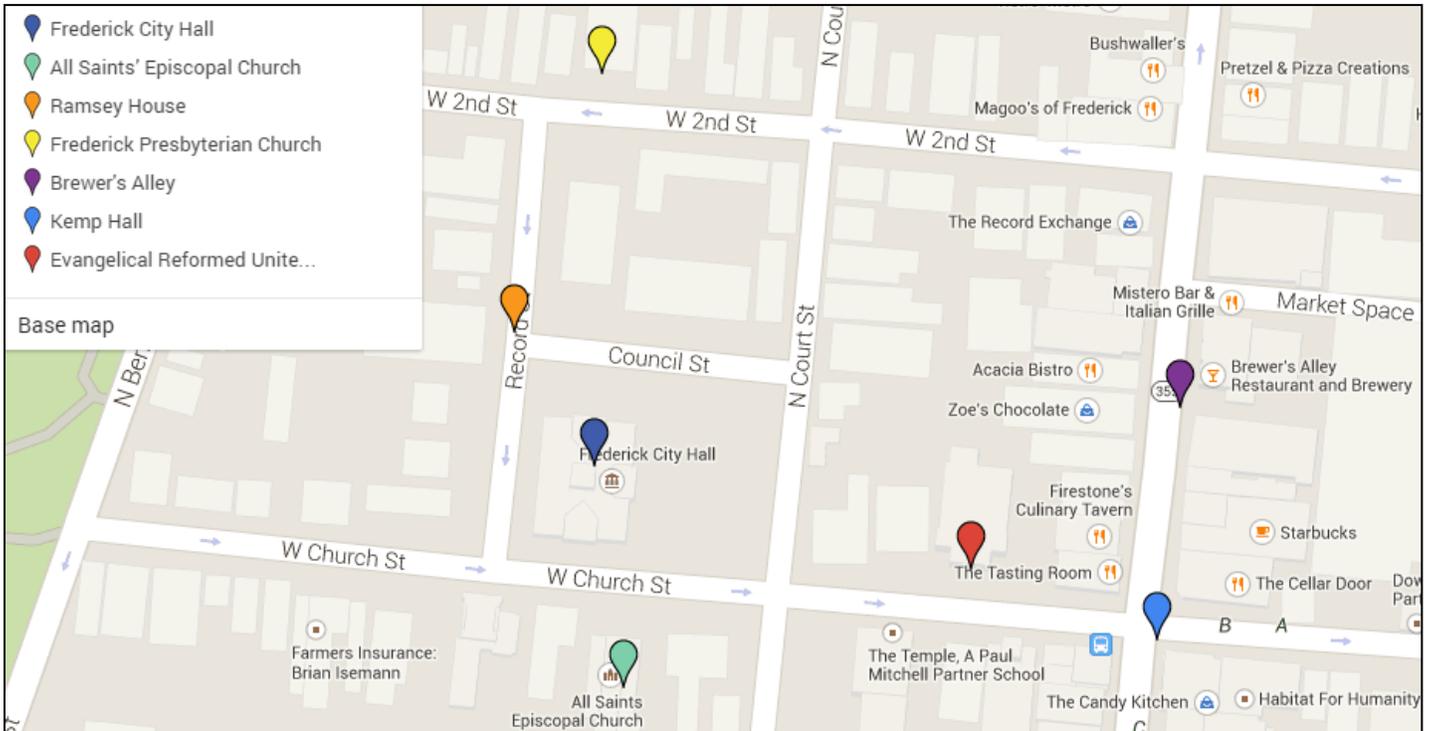


WALKING TOUR: Downtown Frederick in the Civil War



Frederick City Hall – 101 North Court Street

During the Civil War, this building served as the Frederick County Courthouse. When the Maryland General Assembly held a special session in Frederick in April 1861, they intended to convene here but moved to Kemp Hall when they found the space too small. Less than two weeks later, the courthouse was destroyed by fire. Tensions over the brewing war led many to conclude that the fire had been set by a pro-Confederate conspiracy, but no proof was ever found. The present building was constructed in 1862.

Walk south from the City Hall doors. All Saints' is just across Church Street.



All Saints' Episcopal Church – 106 West Church Street

The current building dates to 1855, erected by Richard Upjohn, although the congregation has existed since 1742. During the Civil War this was known as the New Protestant Episcopal Church. The older church building around the corner on Court Street was known as the Old Protestant Episcopal Church, serving the congregation from 1814 until 1855 when it was converted into a parish hall—a function it still serves today. From September 1862 to January 1863, both buildings served as hospital sites. While it is unclear precisely how many patients were treated at individual sites, General Hospital No. 3 cared for approximately 462 patients. From 1847 to 1853, Rev. William N. Pendleton served as rector. During the Civil War, Rev. Pendleton became a Confederate General and served as Chief of Artillery in the Army of Northern Virginia. Rev. Charles Seymour was the rector here from the start of the war until he resigned in July 1862. Seymour was strongly pro-Union, a view which was out of step with the mostly pro-Southern congregation.

Head towards the back side of City Hall and walk one block north on Record Street. The house is at the intersection of Record and Council Streets.

Ramsey House – 119 Record Street

This house was constructed around 1820. During the Civil War, this house was occupied by Mrs. Ellen Ramsey. After the September 1862 Battle of Antietam, Mrs. Ramsey hosted and cared for the severely wounded Union Major General George L. Hartsuff. On October 4, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to the Ramsey House in order to call on Gen. Hartsuff upon his return from the Antietam battlefield. After his brief visit, Lincoln briefly addressed the crowd that had gathered before being driven to the nearby railroad station on All Saints Street. The President gave another impromptu address there before returning to Washington. Private Charles F. Johnson of the 9th New York, Hawkins Zouaves, was a patient in the nearby Presbyterian Church and had the opportunity to see Lincoln. Johnson noted, "He looked more worn than when I saw him last,

and the heavy load he is obliged to carry amply accounts for that. My present condition is not overly pleasant, but by far better than is his.”

Walk north on Record Street and take a right onto 2nd Street. The church will be on the left.

Frederick Presbyterian Church – 115 West 2nd Street

The congregation of this church dates to 1782 and the present building dates to 1825, with an extensive remodeling of the exterior in 1858. From the beginning of the war until October 1862, the pastor here was Rev. John B. Ross. While his congregation was predominantly pro-Union in sentiment, Ross was a Southern supporter, causing inevitably friction and his eventual resignation. During the Confederate occupation of Frederick in September 1862, devout Presbyterian General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson stopped by the church to visit with Rev. Ross, who was a personal friend. From September 1862 to January 1863, the Presbyterian Church served as another hospital site for the Union Army’s General Hospital No. 3.

Walk east on 2nd Street for two blocks. Take a right on Market Street and head south.

Brewer’s Alley – 124 North Market Street

This site was home to Frederick’s first town hall and market house beginning in 1769. During the Civil War it continued to serve as the seat of the city’s government. In July 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early’s troops occupied Frederick while marching toward Washington, DC in hopes of capturing the Union capitol. On July 9, Early threatened that his troops would burn the town if he did not receive \$200,000 ransom as payment. Despite protests from Mayor William G. Cole that Frederick could not pay such an exorbitant sum, the Confederates remained firm in their demand. The city’s leading banks begrudgingly pooled the necessary funds and carried them in baskets here, where they were collected by Confederate Quartermaster Major Braithwaite. The city’s debt for the ransom payments would not be fully paid off until 1951 and despite several attempts, the federal government has never agreed to repay the city for its large wartime expenditure. In 1873, the old town hall was replaced by new offices for the city. It was later used as a theater and opera house, where D.W. Griffith’s infamous Civil War film *Birth of a Nation* had its Frederick debut in 1915.

Continue walking south on Market Street. Kemp Hall is at the corner of Market and Church Streets, with Candy Kitchen located on the first floor.

Kemp Hall – 4 East Church Street

Kemp Hall was built in 1860 as a meeting house for the congregation of the German (Evangelical) Reformed Church. In April 1861, Maryland was on the border between the North and the South—geographically, culturally, and politically. Federal troops occupied the capitol of Annapolis in April 1861, hoping to secure it for the Union and facilitate the flow of Northern troops into Washington. Governor Thomas Hicks convened a special session of the General Assembly in Frederick to address the crisis. The General Assembly began meeting at Kemp Hall on April 27, debating whether Maryland should secede from the Union. Though a bill and a resolution were introduced calling for secession, neither passed. Nevertheless, the legislature refused to reopen rail links to the north and sent a resolution to President Lincoln protesting the federal government’s military occupation of the state. The General Assembly adjourned on August 7, intending to reconvene on September 17. However, on that day, Federal troops and Baltimore police officers arrived in Frederick to arrest pro-Confederate legislators, ending the special session in Frederick and the city’s summer as the state capitol of Maryland. Kemp Hall was used by the Union Army for throughout the war, serving as a military recruiting office, hospital, a medical storehouse, and a supply storehouse.

Head west on Church Street, towards City Hall. The church will be on the right.

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ – 15 West Church Street

This congregation dates back to 1745, with the founding of Frederick Town. The current building was built in the Greek Revival style by Baltimore architect John Wall in 1848. During the Civil War, Rev. Daniel Zacharias led this German Reformed Church. He was strongly pro-Union, but tried not to alienate the Southern supporters in his congregation. During the Confederate occupation of Frederick in 1862, General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and other Confederate officers attended services here. Rev. Zacharias unabashedly prayed for the President of the United States, though Jackson apparently slept through the sermon, as was his custom. The basement served as a hospital from September 1862 to January 1863—during which time the sanctuary above continued to hold services. Trinity Chapel (across the street) belongs to the same congregation, as it did during the Civil War. That building was also used as a hospital site during the war. In August 1861, that space hosted the first meeting of the Frederick Ladies Union Relief Association.

