

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

LORENZO HILL HATCH HOUSE, FRANKLIN COOPERATIVE STORE,
FRANKLIN CITY HALL, AND FRANKLIN PIONEER RELIC HALL

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Located in a compact historic district, these prominent features of Idaho's oldest town (founded in 1860) are an unusual tourist attraction. Founder of a large family dynasty prominent in Idaho, Utah, and Arizona, Bishop L. H. Hatch built a handsome Greek Revival house in 1874. A rare surviving Idaho example of a popular earlier architectural style, it is an elegant tribute to his successful development of a frontier community.

Mormon cooperative mercantile institutions became important in 1868 when ZCMI was founded in Salt Lake. A series of United Order of Enoch ventures followed in 1874. An Idaho example--Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Institution--still is preserved in its store building that later housed a pioneer relic hall. A combination of Italianate and Greek Revival architectural styles, both prominent in different nineteenth century periods, it also provides evidence of pioneer building construction in its region.

English stone masons who settled in early-day Franklin participated in building it. In 1923, it became an Idaho Pioneer Association relic hall, serving as a repository for all kinds of early farm, household, and other museum objects.

An adjacent Franklin Pioneer Relic Hall was added as a depression-era public works project. A large log structure, it houses a still greater variety of pioneer equipment. Completed in 1937, it became Franklin's primary historical center.

With a shift from its nineteenth century local theocracy (managed by a church bishop) to a novel twentieth century form of civil municipal government, Franklin finally needed a city hall.

Completed by local contractors for \$995 in 1904, it combined Colonial Revival and Italianate architectural styles in a fashion typical of its era. At that point, Franklin's municipal council and administrators could move from their church tithing office to a separate building. That came just at a time when a revival of a state political anti-Mormon campaign made such a distinction useful. A new city hall replaced it in 1985, but it was preserved as an important part of Franklin's heritage.

(This information has not been edited.)

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