

Meetinghouse Park

Once the town boundaries of Farmington were set, residents picked a central location for their first meetinghouse, which is the present site of the Franklin County Courthouse. Their plan included the cemetery behind the courthouse, and a town commons known as Meetinghouse Park.



Courtesy of Farmington Public Library



Courtesy of Farmington Historical Society

Though the original meetinghouse was built for religious purposes, it was soon given over to secular functions. At early town meetings, citizens voted on school budgets and road maintenance. In 1838 Franklin County was established, and with Farmington being its shiretown, county affairs were decided at this location and still are today. The current courthouse was built in 1886.

The "commons" has had a diverse history over the years. It served as a grazing area, a dump, and even a baseball field. In the early 20th century, citizens reclaimed it as a park and erected a memorial commemorating the three hundred and five Farmington citizens who had fought in the Civil War. Fifty-seven gave their lives for the Union cause in such places as Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Fredericksburg, Virginia; and New Orleans, Louisiana.



Courtesy of Farmington Historical Society

