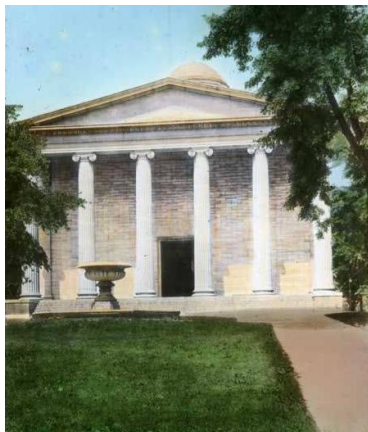


Kentucky's Civil War: Confederate Governor at the Old State Capitol



Historical Marker #522 commemorates the installation of Richard Hawes as Kentucky's second Confederate governor.

In 1862, several Confederate armies invaded Kentucky. They installed Hawes as governor to show Kentuckians that their occupation of the state was militarily and politically viable.

Born in Virginia in 1797, Hawes attended Transylvania University and was a lawyer, legislator and congressman. Hawes became the Confederate governor after his predecessor was killed at the Battle of Shiloh.

After a parade through downtown Frankfort, the ceremony was held in the House of Representatives' chamber. Several generals spoke, and Hawes said that he would protect slavery and destroy Federal tyranny in Kentucky. He added that "the state would be held by the Confederate army, cost what it might."

Soon after, however, Union troops advanced on Frankfort, and the planned inaugural ball was cancelled as the Confederates fled. Hawes's tenure in the capital was brief, and, after the Battle of Perryville, the Confederates left Kentucky.

Union Col. William Carlin called it "the farce of inaugurating a rebel governor . . . at the point of the bayonet." Hawes's provisional government remained in exile for the remainder of the Civil War.

Photo: Old State Capitol, from the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society