



Located in the Town of Vienna, the Freeman Store was built as a large two-story store residence in 1859 on six acres of land adjacent to the newly arrived Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad by merchant Abraham H. Lydecker. He built his store/residence that year to coincide with the railroad's arrival in Vienna. The store quickly became a community hub. In January of 1860, area residents petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to have an election precinct located at the "house of A. Lydecker." On May 23, 1861, Fairfax voters gathered at polling locations throughout the county (including Lydecker's Store) for a referendum on an ordinance passed the previous month by a special convention. The ordinance "to repeal the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America, by the State of Virginia, and to resume all the rights and powers granted under said Constitution," better known as the Virginia Ordinance of Secession, was adopted by the voters of Fairfax County, but three Fairfax districts voted against secession, including Lydeckers. At Lydecker's Store, Abram was joined by 76 other individuals who voted against ratification of the ordinance. Built only two years prior to the event, Lydecker's Store was already the center of the community, serving as a polling location for one of the most important votes in Virginia history. The Freeman Store and Museum is owned by Historic Vienna, Inc., which operates the facility through a lease with the Town of Vienna.



Freeman Store

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places May 15, 2012

