

From Brown to Brown: Topeka's Civil Rights Story

Explore Topeka's struggle for freedom and equality from John Brown to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.



Locations Contact Information:

1. Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site (010)
2. Mamie Williams House (020)
3. The Historic Ritchie House (030)
4. Buchanan Elementary School (040)
5. Charles Curtis House Museum (160)
6. Kansas State Capitol (050)
7. First Washburn University School of Law (060)
8. Constitution Hall (070)
9. Old Federal Building/U.S. Post Office (080)
10. Topeka Cemetery (090)
11. Sumner Elementary School (100)
12. St. Mark's AME Church (110)
13. Great Overland Station (120)
14. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (130)
15. The Great Mural Wall of Topeka (140)
16. Kansas Museum of History (150)



Listen To Our Driving Tour!

Simply dial (785) 338-4041 with your phone. Follow the prompts and enter the tour number listed for each location. To stream the tour, enter www.bit.ly/BrowntoBrown (case sensitive) into your mobile web browser or scan the QR code.

Locations Contact Information:

1. Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site (010)
1515 SE Monroe Street (785) 354-4273
www.nps.gov/brvb and www.facebook.com/brownvboardnps
The only national park named after a U.S. Supreme Court case, and located in the former all black Monroe School.
2. Mamie Williams House (020)
1503 SE Quincy Street
Built in the 1920s by her father, this home served as the lifelong residence of Topeka teacher Mamie Williams.
3. The Historic Ritchie House (030)
1116 SE Madison Street (785) 234-6097
www.shawneecountyhistory.org
The John and Hale Ritchie homes tell the story of Topeka from its founding to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision through the eyes of those who lived it.
4. Buchanan Elementary School (040)
1195 SW Buchanan Street
An all black elementary school built in 1885, Buchanan served the children of Topeka's historic Tennessee Town neighborhood.
5. Charles Curtis House Museum (160)
1101 SW Topeka Boulevard (785) 357-1371
www.charlescurtismuseum.com
Charles Curtis served as a U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator, and in 1929 became the first Native American to hold the office of Vice President of the United States.
6. Kansas State Capitol (050)
300 SW 10th Avenue (785) 296-3966
www.kshs.org/capitol
Constructed between 1866 and 1903, the State Capitol is the home of the famous John Steuart Curry painting, *Tragic Prelude*, featuring John Brown.
7. First Washburn University School of Law (060)
118 SW 8th Avenue
Today housing a popular Topeka eatery, the third floor of the building was the home of the Washburn Law School from 1903 to 1911.
8. Constitution Hall (070)
429 S Kansas Avenue
www.KansasConstitutionHall.org
In 1855, Free-State delegates assembled in Constitution Hall and drafted the Topeka Constitution declaring, "There shall be no slavery in this State."
9. Old Federal Building/U.S. Post Office (080)
424 S Kansas Avenue, #1 (800) 275-8771
Dedicated in 1934, the *Brown v. Board of Education* case was argued in the third floor courtroom.
10. Topeka Cemetery (090)
1601 SE 10th Avenue, #1 (785) 233-4132
www.topeka.org
Established in 1859, the cemetery is the resting place for Kansas governors and others, including black Civil War veterans.
11. Sumner Elementary School (100)
330 SW Western Avenue
www.skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/preservation/html
One of 18 elementary schools established for Topeka's white children during the time of the *Brown* decision.
12. St. Mark's AME Church (110)
801 NW Harrison Street
Oliver Brown, lead plaintiff in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, pastored St. Mark's from 1953 to 1959 and was in the church when he received word they had won the case.
13. Great Overland Station (120)
701 N Kansas Avenue (785) 232-5533
www.greatoverlandstation.com
The station, which opened in 1927 as part of the Union Pacific line, has been restored and today houses exhibits.
14. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (130)
201 NE Chandler Street (785) 232-5088
www.olg-parish.org
Built in the heart of Topeka's Hispanic community, the Church's Marlo Cuevas-Balandran Activity Center displays a mural painted by noted local artist Andy Valdivia depicting the Parish's history.
15. The Great Mural Wall of Topeka (140)
2001 SW Western Avenue
Topeka students, working with artists, turned a building formerly housing a water reservoir into a canvas celebrating Topeka's history.
16. Kansas Museum of History (150)
6425 SW 6th Avenue (785) 272-8681
www.kshs.org
The museum features exhibits, artworks, and artifacts telling the story of the state from prehistoric times to the present.

For More Information:

Visit Topeka Inc.
618 S Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603
(785) 234-1030
www.visittopeka.us
www.topeka365.com

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
120 SE 6th Avenue, Suite 110
Topeka, KS 66603-3515
(785) 234-2644
www.topekachamber.org

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area
P.O.Box 526
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 856-5300
www.freedomsfrontier.org