

The Osawatomie Driving Tour

Our "Signs of the Past" brochure gives visitors a 10 stop tour of interesting historical sites in the community.

1. **The Mills House** - Built in 1902 this magnificent home was built by William M. Mills. He was an oil man with many successful oil & gas men. The house is a private residence and is being restored. Listed on National Register.
2. **Asylum Bridge** - This bridge was built in 1905. It connects the community to the State Mental Hospital. The unusual bridge is a pin connected reverse Parker truss. Listed on National Register.
3. **The term "Jayhawker"** - The legend of the Jayhawk states that "early one autumn morning in 1856, Pat Devilin, a free state Irishman, rode into Osawatomie with his saddle bags laden considerable goods. As he tied his horse in front of one of the stores, one of his men said "it looks like you have been foraging" Pat said "yes I have been over to Missouri "jayhawking". When ask what he meant he explained that in the old country they a bird who worried its pray before devouring it.
4. **Republican Party in Kansas** - It was here, on May 18, 1859, that the Republican Party was organized in Kansas by Horace Greeley.
5. **Osawatomie History and Railroad Museum** - Located at 628 Main the museum houses many artifacts from the city's early history. A replica U.P. Depot was built for the vast collection of Railroad history.
6. **The Old Stone Church** - begun in the mid 1850's and completed in 1861, by Rev. Samuel Adair. Rev. Adair was the brother-in-law to John Brown, the famous abolitionist. The church is located at 311 6th Street.
7. **First Land Office** - This building dates back to 1854 - operates as an tourist information site in the summer. It is located at Lincoln & 6th Street.
8. **Creamery Bridge** - This bridge was built by James B. Marsh in 1930 it crosses the Marais de Cygnes River at 8th Street north of town. There is another just like it that crosses the Pottawatomie Creek on 6th street south. Osawatomie is "The Town Between Two Rivers". Both bridges are triple span arches and are on the National Register.
9. **The Soldiers Monument** - Located at 9th & Main Street the Monument is a tribute to five free state men who were killed in the "Battle of Osawatomie". The battle took place on August 30, 1856.
10. **John Brown State Historic Site** - Located in beautiful John Brown Memorial Park at 10th & Main Street. The conflict that took place here in 1856 was over the issue of slavery, a battle was fought. John Brown tried to defend the town against the Border Ruffians but could not. The town was burned down in 1856. Just up the hill is the State Historic Site. Inside the stone building is the Adair Cabin. Visitors learn about the "Bleeding Kansas" Time Period.
11. **Old Main** - Also, in the Driving Tour brochure, on the back, is a picture of Old Main located on the grounds of the State Hospital. This building was razed in 2003.