



CITY OF SELMA, ALABAMA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS,
TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE



Selma-Dallas County Centre for Commerce
P. O. Box 467 • 912 Selma Avenue
Selma, Alabama 36702-0467
1-800-45-SELMA
www.SelmaAlabama.com
E-Mail: Info@SelmaAlabama.com

SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STREET

POSTAGE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STREET HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT



The Selma Movement

The Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965 is considered one of the most significant protest demonstrations of the modern civil rights movement.

This movement, which would change the nation, originated in the Southern town of Selma, Alabama. Selma, the county seat of Dallas County, was considered more progressive than other areas of the Deep South in that two percent of the African Americans had managed to register to vote by the 1960s. For several years the Dallas County Voters League (DCVL) assisted by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee continued to educate and register African American voters. However, only a small number of African Americans were allowed to register. Voter registration efforts proceeded with mass meetings, demonstrations, and finally, plans to march to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama to formally protest voter discrimination.

On Sunday, March 7, 1965 the first march set out from Brown Chapel AME Church toward Montgomery, but was turned back just past the Edmund Pettus Bridge when marchers were brutally attacked by law enforcement officers. Two days later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a second march from Brown Chapel toward Mont-

gomery, but peacefully turned around at the "point of confrontation" over the Pettus Bridge. On March 21, 1965 a third march under the protection of the National Guard, left Brown Chapel for Montgomery and five days later reached the State Capitol.

The media coverage brought national attention to the struggle, adversity, violence, and determination of the Selma protestors.



As a result, Congress rushed to enact the legislation that would guarantee voting rights for all Americans. The Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

Historic Walking Tour

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Historic Tour is a self-guided tour spanning a city block that takes the visitor through the story of the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama.

The tour begins on the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Street and Jeff Davis Avenue, passes the George Washington Carver Homes, historic landmark Brown Chapel AME Church, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument. Through written word and vivid historic photographs, each of the twenty memorials along the route tell the story of the individuals, known and unknown, rich and poor, black and white, who came together for a common cause. These memorials portray the feeling of the local movement and the impact the people in Selma, Alabama had on the conscience of a nation.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Historic Tour will serve as a lasting tribute to the local African American people that so courageously gave of themselves to insure voting rights for all citizens regardless of race, creed, or color. For future generations, this Historic Walking Tour will remain as a visual testimony to a pivotal point in the struggle for voting rights in American history.



“At times, history and fate meet at a single time, in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson
March 15, 1965



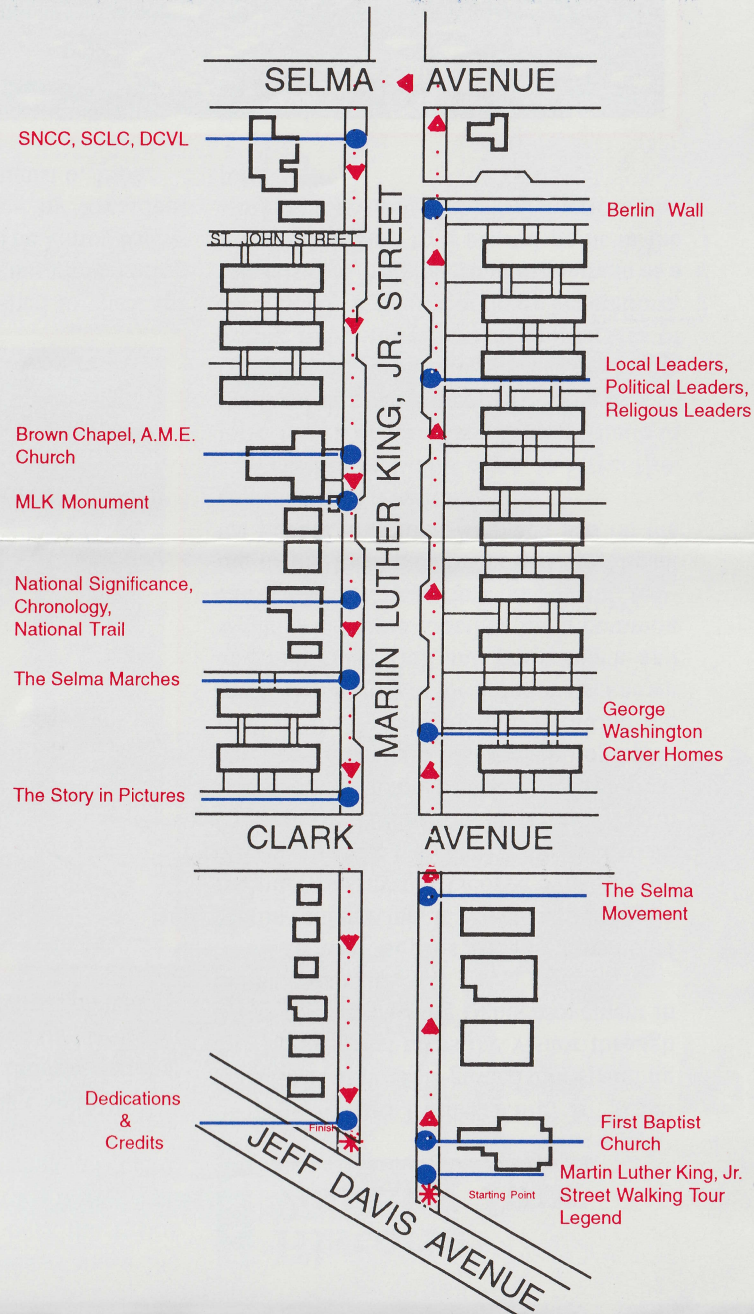
Martin Luther King, Jr. Street

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



“Confrontation of good and evil compressed in the tiny community of Selma generated the massive power to turn the whole nation to a new course..”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
March 25, 1965



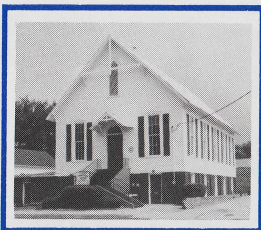


Other Points of Interest

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

625 Jeff Davis Avenue

Mass meeting site, originating point of Concerned White Citizens march on March 5, 1965.



TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

1431 Broad Street

Site of the first mass meeting on voting rights in Dallas County in 1963.



CECIL C. JACKSON, JR. PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG. (OLD CITY HALL)

1300 Alabama Avenue

Served as a city and county jail in which Dr. King and other protestors were imprisoned in 1965.



DALLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Alabama Avenue and Lauderdale Street

Destination of most protest marches in an effort to register to vote.



NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MUSEUM

1012 Water Avenue

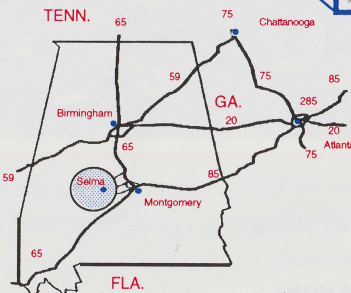
Memorabilia honoring attainment of Voting Rights.



EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE

Broad Street and Water Avenue

Famous landmark representing Voting Rights attainment. On this landmark, March 7, 1965, "Bloody Sunday" took place.



OLD DEPOT MUSEUM

4 Martin Luther King, Jr. Street

Exhibits historical artifacts from the Civil War through the Civil Rights Movement.

