

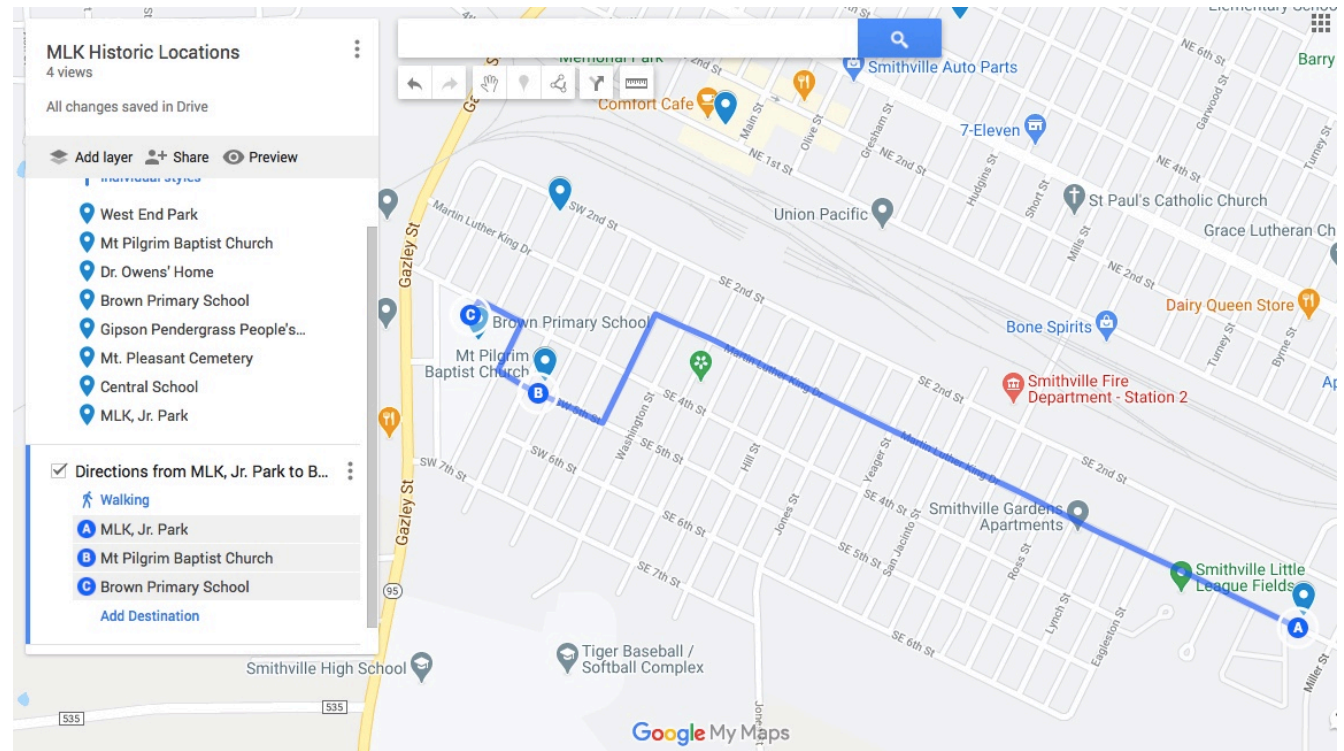


Bastrop County MLK, Jr. Holiday Commission Historic Black Landmarks Walking Tour Smithville, TX

[https://tinyurl.com/
WalkMLK-Smithville](https://tinyurl.com/WalkMLK-Smithville)

Point A: MLK, Jr. Park

- Amenities: Playground, Fitness Equipment, Shade (funded in part through grants from the St. David's Foundation, LCRA, and Smithville Noon Lions Club). Basketball/ tennis court, Little League Fields, & Picnic Areas.
- A Bas Relief of Martin Luther King, Jr., created by local artist Bill McGlaun, was dedicated in 2019.



For more information and additional locations, check out the Google Map at tinyurl.com/WalkMLK-Smithville

Point B: Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church

- This landmark church was founded on June 23, 1900.
- A bell tower, which was recently put back into use, dominates the classic white, wood-framed church.
- Church records tell the story of a new church under construction in 1904 under the Rev. P. R. McGriff and Secretary Nellie Noland.
- A new building was erected on the site in 1914.
- Today, when visitors enter through the foyer under the bell tower, they view the sanctuary at an angle that draws them down toward the center, focusing attention on the pulpit.
- By Aug. 2, 1920, all notes and interest had been paid in full, "and with satisfaction, with no lien or judgment..."
- "The members felt they must have been led by the guiding hand of God and realized that God does all things well."
- A church annex, including a pastor's study, two restrooms, kitchen and dining area, were added on June 2, 1957.
- Source: <http://mtpilgrimsmtx.org/site/cs/aboutus.asp>

Point C: Mary A. Brown Primary School

- The Primary School (at one time, the "Colored High School") is named after Mary A. Brown, an elementary teacher in Smithville. The Class of 1954 presented a large picture of Mary A. Brown to the school, which still hangs in the building.
- Mr. E.E. Simpson was principal from Sept. 1950 to May 1953. William A. Gordon served next as principal from 1953-1956. Sherrell E. Moore, Sr. took over from 1956 until his death from a pipeline explosion in May 1966. Afterwards Doyle Fogers was appointed principal from 1966 until 1968.
- In Sept. 1954 football goal posts were first installed and one bus was approved to transport colored school athletes with the regular school bus driver. In the fall of 1963 the Mary A. Brown High School Leopard team won the state championship.
- After 1968, the buildings were used by the Head Start and Combined Community Action programs. Around 1974 the Smithville kindergarten was also housed at Mary A. Brown. In the summer of 1980, more than \$200,000 was spent to repair and renovate the school and gym. In the fall of 1980 Head Start and the CCA programs moved to Central School and grades 1, 2, and 3 moved to Mary A. Brown. Kindergarten and the Special Education classes are also located at Mary A. Brown.
- A broad spectrum of black graduates from Mary A. Brown have become teachers, professors, registered nurses, doctors, real estate brokers, government workers, legal secretaries, actors, musicians, professional ball players, and business owners.
- Source: <http://smithvilletexashistorv.com/blackhist.html>