Historical Sites Near the Oak Grove Schoolhouse

1. Trotter's Ford: *2.1 miles northeast of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Historical Site **Not Publicly Accessible** *Private Property on both river banks*

A crossing used by the Osage Indians to cross the Neosho River that formed at a bend in the river where deposits formed a gravel bar. It could support foot, horse, oxen, and wagon team crossing under most river conditions/levels. Unfortunately, the ford no longer has public land access.

2. South Mound, Kansas: *4.1 miles northwest of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Historical Site FOR AGES: 10+ COST: None
HOURS: Public Access PHONE: Visit on Facebook

This 1872 town of South Mound was essentially a rail hub for the the Katy, which also set up an express, and telegraph, office. It's now an extinct town, with less than 30 current residents.

DIRECTIONS: *From Parsons* – Turn north on Queens Road (blacktop) from U400, continue 4 ¾ miles to 47th Road and head east into town. *From U59, north of Parsons* – Turn east on 40th Road and continue the blacktop road for two miles to Queens Road (blacktop), go north on Queens for about ¼ mile to 47th Road and head east into town.

3. Historic Oakwood Cemetery: *5.7 miles southwest of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Historical Site FOR AGES: 16+ COST: None
HOURS: Daily, dawn to dusk PHONE: Visit on Facebook

Oakwood Cemetery opened on June 1, 1872, as a city cemetery. Three hundred seventy-five Civil War veterans who came to Parsons as settlers are buried in a special GAR Circle section decorated with a gazebo and Civil War statues.

DIRECTIONS: *From Braum's in Parsons* – Turn south from Main Street onto Leawood Dr. and continue for about ¼ mile to the main entrance gate.

4. Parsons Historical Museum Complex: *6.6 miles southwest of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Museum FOR AGES: All COST: Donations Accepted
HOURS: 1pm-4pm, F-S-S, May-Oct PHONE: (620) 423-4346 Visit on Facebook

Originally the Iron Horse Museum in Parsons, the PHMC has been continuously expanding since the 1980s, with its newest addition being a new Farm Heritage building. In addition to indoor exhibits, it also features a former Katy engine and railcars, as well as a replica train depot.

DIRECTIONS: *From Walgreen's in Parsons* – Head south from Main Street onto 16th Street and go two blocks to Corning. Turn west and continue two blocks to 18th Street. The museum is located at the southwest corner of 18th and Corning.

5. Neosho State Wildlife Area: *7.2 miles north of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Wildlife Preserve FOR AGES: All COST: None
HOURS: Daily, dawn to dusk PHONE: (620) 449-2539 https://www.travelks.com/listing/neosho-wildlife-area/36407/

Located on the broad, flat flood plain below the junction of Flat Rock Creek and the Neosho River, the wildlife area is a man-made marsh administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism. The area covers 3,246 acres.

DIRECTIONS: *From Saint Paul, KS* – Go about ¾ mile east of St. Paul to Neosho State Wildlife Area access road on south.

6. Osage Mission Historical Museum: *8.0 miles north of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Museum | FOR AGES: All | COST: Donations Accepted
HOURS: 9pm-1pm, TU-SA | PHONE: (620) 449-2320 | https://osagemission.org/

Jesuit Missionaries set out to spread Christianity to members of the Osage Nation before Kansas was even a State. The Osage Mission was established in 1847 to help civilize the Osage Nation without stripping them of their native culture.

DIRECTIONS: *The museum complex is located at the east side of town, on the K47.*

7. The Ladore Cemetery: *8.0 miles west of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Historical Site | FOR AGES: 16+ | COST: None
HOURS: Public Access | PHONE: | Search on Facebook

This is the small cemetery for the nearby ghost town of Ladore, KS (originally named Fort Roach in 1871). Ladore is primarily remembered for forming a posse of local townspeople that hunted down and lynch five men, of a seven-member gang, that molested two young local teenage girls.

DIRECTIONS: Turn west off of U59 (north of Parsons) onto 20th Road (gravel), continue 3 miles on gravel to Lyon Road. Go north on Lyon ½ mile to 25th Road, turn east and continue about ½ miles to the cemetery on the south.

8. Galesburg Historical Society & Museum: *11.4 miles northwest of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Museum | FOR AGES: All | COST: Donations Accepted
HOURS: 1pm-3pm, 1st & 3rd Sundays | PHONE: (620) 423-7502 | *Visit on Facebook*

A terrific variety of exhibits, (especially for gearheads), that will interest the entire family. Open the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month, 1–3 p.m. Tours are also available by appointment. Call Nancy at 620-432-3053 or Kim at 620-423-7502 to schedule a visit.

DIRECTIONS: *From U59* – Head west on 70th Road (blacktop) about 4 ¾ miles to Galesburg. Turn north on 2nd Street and continue just over a block (just past Main Street). The museum is on the northwest corner of 2nd and Main Streets.

9. Mem-Erie Museum: *12.5 miles northwest of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Museum | FOR AGES: All | COST: Donations Accepted
HOURS: *See in Description* | PHONE: (620) 244-5119 | www.eriekansastourism.com/

Step back in time at the Mem-Erie Historical Society and Museum. Located prominently on the corner of 4th Street and Main Street, the museum preserves and showcases the rich history and heritage of Erie, Kansas. Summer Hours (May 1 - Sep 30): Monday thru Saturday, 1pm to 3pm, Winter Hours (Oct 1 - Apr 30): Friday and Saturday, 10am to 3pm, or by appointment.

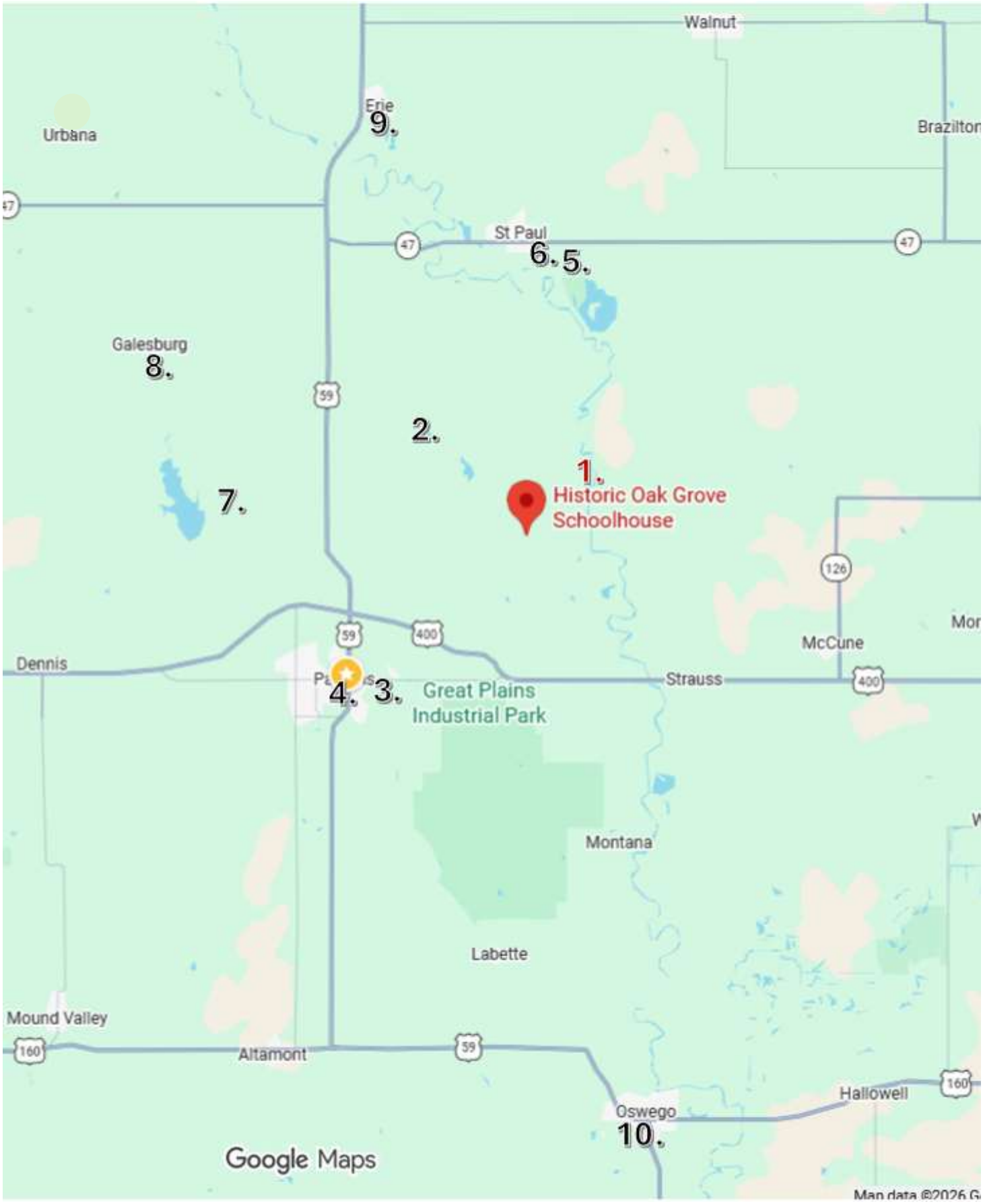
ADDRESS: 403 South Main Street, Erie, KS 66733
In the heart of Downtown Erie, Kansas.

10. Oswego Historical Society Museum: *16.8 miles south of the Oak Grove School*

CATEGORY: Museum | FOR AGES: All | COST: Donations Accepted
HOURS: *See in Description* | PHONE: (620) 795-4500 | https://oswegohistory.org/

This museum and genealogy center is an essential destination for anyone fascinated by Kansas history and the rich heritage of Oswego. It's open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from1pm to 5pm during the peak season of June through October, or by appointment.

DIRECTIONS: *From 6th and Commercial (the main 4-way stop on U59)* – Go south just over ¼ mile to Barker Road, turn west and follow Barker about a block west and a block south to the museum.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