



*Welcome to the
seat of government
for the state of
Kansas! We hope
you enjoy this
self-guided tour*

*of Capitol Square and that you discover
your personal connection to Kansas
history. The Capitol belongs to the people
of Kansas, and we invite you to enjoy it
with care and respect.*

The 20 acres on which the Capitol sits was donated in 1861 by Cyrus K. Holliday, founder of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. A stone fence was originally built around the Capitol to keep out farm animals. Citizens soon called for the removal of the “unsightly stone fence” and it was replaced with a more modern “five-board pig-tight fence.”

Instead of uniform rows of trees, the informal landscape design of Capitol Square is the result of an Arbor Day celebration on April 22, 1875. Topeka Mayor Thomas J. Anderson invited the citizens to plant a tree on the Capitol grounds. More than 500 trees were planted that day. Some trees were too close together and had to be thinned out and many others died that summer during a drought. Subsequent plantings have maintained the informal charm of the trees.

Capitol Square is home to many markers and memorials, including:

1

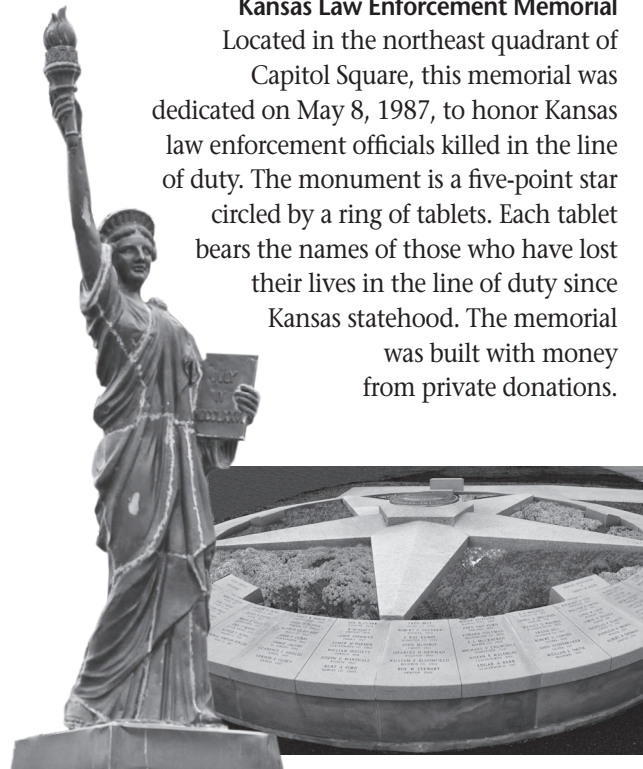
Statue of Liberty replica

Located in the northwest quadrant of Capitol Square, this small version of Lady Liberty was one of 200 donated by the Boy Scouts of America. The statues were created to celebrate the 40th anniversary of scouting in America. Boy Scouts across Kansas saved their pennies to finance the statue, reported by the *Topeka State Journal* to cost between \$600-\$800 dollars. Governor Frank Carlson accepted the statue on April 29, 1950, at a celebration including speeches by visiting dignitaries, parades, a fighter jet fly-over, and a band concert on the statehouse lawn.

2

Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial

Located in the northeast quadrant of Capitol Square, this memorial was dedicated on May 8, 1987, to honor Kansas law enforcement officials killed in the line of duty. The monument is a five-point star circled by a ring of tablets. Each tablet bears the names of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty since Kansas statehood. The memorial was built with money from private donations.



3

Abraham Lincoln statue

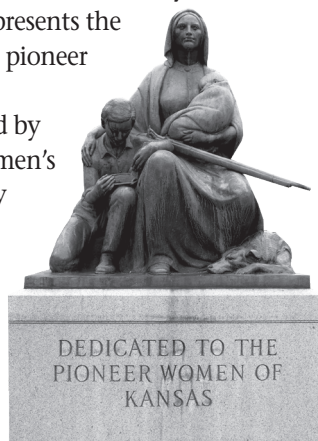
Located in the southeast quadrant of Capitol Square, this statue of Abraham Lincoln was created by Robert Merrell Gage, who also created the nearby Pioneer Women memorial. Gage was born in Topeka in 1892 and attended Washburn College. He pursued an art career in New York and France and returned to Topeka in 1916 to begin the Lincoln statue, his first public commission. After serving in World War I, Gage returned to teach sculpture at Washburn College and the Kansas City Art Institute. He later became head of the sculpture department at the University of Southern California. Gage earned an Academy Award for his 1956 film, *The Face of Lincoln*, which showed a wet clay bust of Lincoln, reflecting the changes to his face during the years of his presidency.



4

Pioneer Woman Memorial

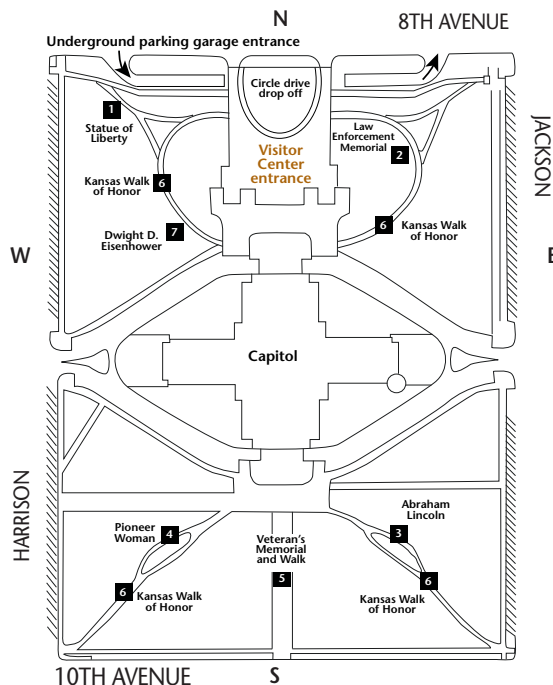
Located in the southwest quadrant of Capitol Square, this statue was dedicated on May 11, 1937. The memorial represents the confident and watchful pioneer mother protecting her children. It was donated by the Kansas Pioneer Women's Association, founded by women who came to Kansas as pioneers or were daughters of early settlers. During the organization's 1927 membership drive, anyone who contributed \$1 or more was granted membership. Robert Merrell Gage created this work (see Abraham Lincoln memorial).



5

Kansas Veterans Memorial and Walk

Located on the pavement south of the Capitol, this memorial was dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11, 1997. The memorial is modeled after the obelisk erected in the Medal of Honor Grove at the Freedom's Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The site was chosen because of the close proximity of the four Freedom Trees dedicated in 1973 to honor Kansas POW-MIAs. Funding for this memorial came from businesses and private donors, including members of the Kansas American Legion and Auxiliary.



6

Kansas Walk of Honor

The Walk of Honor was begun in 2011 by Governor Sam Brownback. The walk features people who have contributed on a state or national level and have significant connections to Kansas. The plaque for Senator Bob Dole, the first honoree, is in the southeast.

7

Dwight D. Eisenhower statue

Located on the northwest quadrant of Capitol Square, the statue was dedicated on October 22, 2018. Recast from the sculpture in the National Statuary Hall by Jim Brothers of Lawrence, the statue was donated by several Kansans to honor the 34th President of the United States who called Kansas home.

Kansas State Capitol • SW 8th and SW Van Buren
Topeka KS 66612 • 785-296-3966 • kshs.org/capitol

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Kansas State Capitol



Capitol Square Walking Tour

YOUR
STORIES
OUR
HISTORY

**KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

KANSAS STATE CAPITOL