

TOURING THE SITES

Medgar Evers Home Museum

The Evers family home, located at 2332 Margaret Walker Alexander Drive in Jackson, Mississippi, is the site of Medgar Evers's assassination in 1963. It is now a museum administered by Tougaloo College. The house contains exhibit panels about the life and death of Medgar Evers, period furnishings and family photographs. An illustrated Freedom Trail historic marker in the front yard gives additional information about the Evers family, house, and neighborhood. The home was used in the film "Ghosts of Mississippi," which tells the story of the 1994 retrial and conviction of Evers's killer, Byron de la Beckwith. Tours are by appointment only. To schedule a tour, call 601-977-7839 or 601-977-7710 or email mwatson@tougaloo.edu. To see a virtual tour of the home produced by Mississippi Public Broadcasting, please visit: http://www.everstribute.org/house_tour.php

The Eudora Welty House and Garden

The Eudora Welty House and Garden is a museum interpreting the life of the internationally acclaimed author. Located at 1119 Pinehurst Street in Jackson, Mississippi, her home contains her collection of 5,000 books, artwork, the original furniture, souvenirs from her travels, and her desk and typewriter where she wrote in her upstairs bedroom. Tours of the house are by reservation at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The Education and Visitors Center, located next door to the museum and featuring permanent and special exhibits about Welty, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 601-353-7762 or email info@eudoraweltyhouse.com for more information. For a virtual tour of the house, please visit <http://eudoraweltyhouse.com/>.

After your field trip, consider the following questions:

1. Compare and contrast the Evers and the Welty houses.
2. Interpretation: based on your answers to question one, what do the differences in the houses tell you about segregation in Jackson in 1963? What precautions against violence were necessary for the Evers? Why? Were such precautions necessary at the Welty's house? Why or why not?
3. The Welty House is clearly the home of a writer. Do you think fiction can make a social or political statement? Does "Where is the Voice Coming From?" do that? How does a short story differ from a speech calling for social change? Are both important?
4. Welty's story "Where is the Voice Coming From?" was written out of her anger about the murder of Medgar Evers. Does seeing the actual site of the assassination contribute to your understanding of the story? Why or why not?
5. Research: what were these two neighborhoods like in the 1960's? What businesses, churches, and colleges existed in or near them then?
6. How important is the downtown of Jackson, Mississippi, as it existed in the segregated 1960s, in understanding the Civil Rights Movement and the story? Explain how Capitol Street and Farish Street were vital to their different communities.
7. Evaluation: did you find your visit to these two sites helpful to your understanding of the Civil Rights era and Welty's work? Why or why not? Do you feel that the preservation of these two homes is important? Please explain.