

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little Rock Central High School
National Historic Site



Little Rock Central High School



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In September 1957, Little Rock's Central High School became a crucial battleground in the struggle for civil rights. The nation sat transfixed as nine black students attempted to enter the previously all-white school. While a hostile crowd watched, Arkansas National Guard troops blocked their entrance.



Elizabeth Eckford talks to members of the Arkansas National Guard.



The Little Rock Nine arrive for school in an Army station wagon.

Three weeks later, after negotiations between Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus and President Dwight D. Eisenhower failed to resolve the stalemate, Eisenhower called the Army's 101st Airborne Division to escort and protect the nine students entering the school. The conflict was only beginning. The legal case would reach the U.S. Supreme Court. The controversy would close Little Rock's public high schools the following year.

With the help of television news, then in its infancy, the events commanded world attention. Dramatic images of the conflict, along with the façade of Central High, seared themselves into the public's memory. But history was made. Little Rock came to symbolize the federal government's commitment to eliminating separate systems of education for blacks and whites.



Senior Ernest Green graduates from Central High School.



Press conference with Governor Orval E. Faubus



The 101st Airborne Division troops roll in to the Central High neighborhood, September 25, 1957.



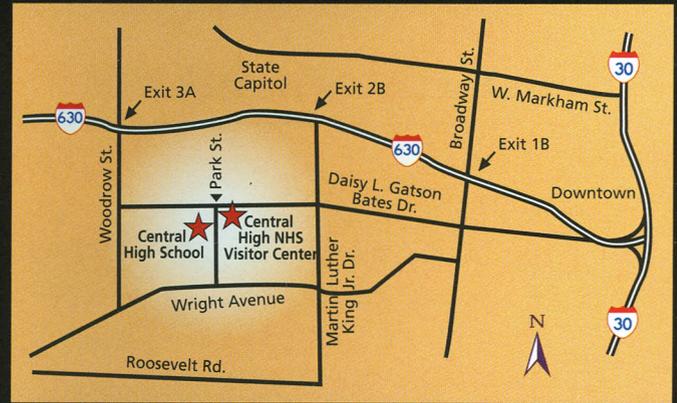
Little Rock Central High School NHS Visitor Center

The Visitor Center occupies a former Mobil service station across from Central, still one of the country's premier high schools. The station has been restored to its 1957 appearance, with added parking for cars and buses.

The Visitor Center features the exhibit, "All the World Is Watching Us: Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis," as well as a bookstore with a wide selection of educational materials.

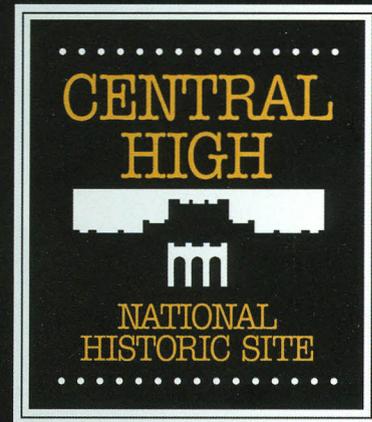


Visitor Center exhibit



Visitor Center Hours of Operation
 Monday-Saturday, 9am-4:30pm
 Sunday, 1-4:30pm

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas,
 and New Year's Day



See Little Rock Make History Again.

2125 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

For more information or special tours
 call (501)374-1957
www.nps.gov/chsc