

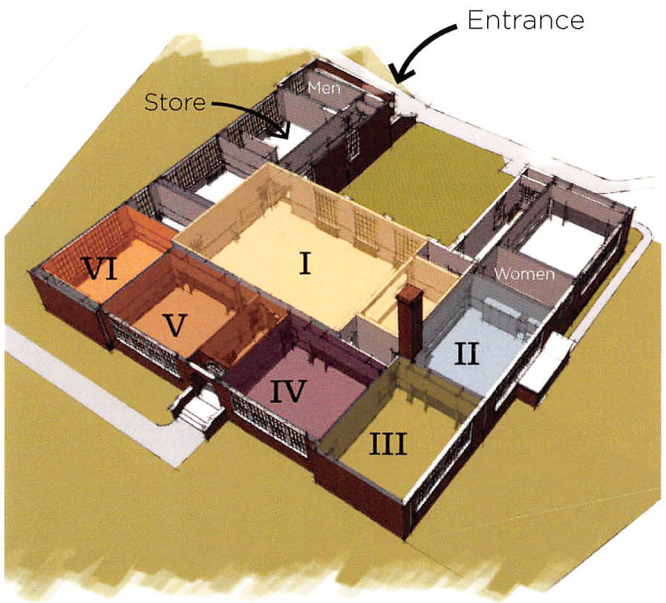


ROBERT RUSSA

MOTON MUSEUM

A National Historic Landmark

MUSEUM MAP



900 Griffin Blvd (at South Main St.)
P.O. Box 908, Farmville, Virginia 23901
(434) 315-8775 www.motonmuseum.org

Open noon-4, Mon-Sat, and by appointment
FREE ADMISSION

THE

MOTON

SCHOOL STORY

CHILDREN OF COURAGE

I: A Call To Action

Step back into 1951 and take a seat in the Moton High School auditorium alongside history makers. Rallied by the persuasive argument of the 16-year-old Barbara Johns, join the students as they walk out in protest of inferior school facilities and into a series of events that forever change the face of American education.

II: Living Separate But Unequal

Though founded upon the fundamental truth that “all men are created equal,” America, throughout its history, has struggled to live up to this ideal. In this gallery, the reality of segregated education is revealed inside a cold “tar paper shack” classroom, complete with an original pot-belly stove.

III: The Court Speaks

Here the Moton students hand their complaints to the NAACP attorneys. Their lawsuit, *Davis v. Prince Edward*, becomes the largest and only student-initiated case decided as part of *Brown v. Board of Education*. See the evidence presented to the courts on the road to *Brown* and the triumphant May 17, 1954 decision declaring “separate but equal” public schools unconstitutional.

IV: Virginia Responds

The Supreme Court’s 1955 *Brown II* ruling—that public schools be integrated “with all deliberate speed”—failed to provide national leadership regarding the process of school desegregation. State and local leaders opposed to integration filled the void. Experience the uncertainty of the period and the competing national, state, and local interests.

V: Prince Edward County Says No

In 1959, facing court-ordered school desegregation, Prince Edward County officials took the extreme step of closing all public schools rather than integrating. Learn about the decisions local families were forced to make to educate their children during the five years that public schools were closed.

VI: Rebirth

Free education available to all children returned in September 1963 with the opening of the Kennedy Administration’s Prince Edward Free Schools. Over 1500 students enrolled. Discover the challenges and successes of the Free School year, which ends with the Supreme Court’s 1964 *Griffin v. Prince Edward* decision securing education for all.