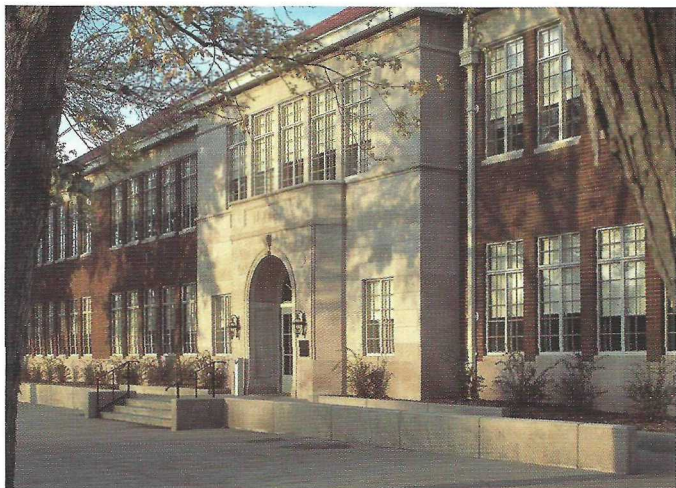




Brown v. Board of Education

“We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”

—From the opinion written by Chief Justice Earl Warren in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*

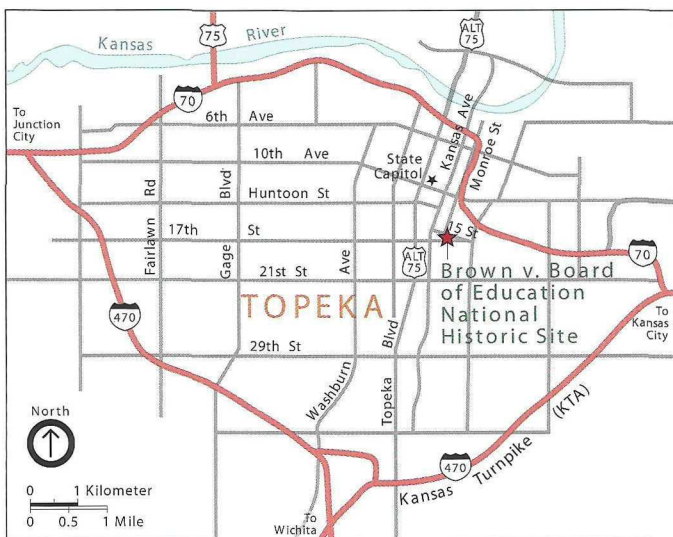


The National Park Service preserves the former Monroe Elementary School, which was originally built for African American students in 1926.

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The court’s nine justices agreed unanimously that separate schools based on race were unconstitutional. In overturning *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the “separate but equal” doctrine, *Brown v. Board of Education* helped launch the modern civil rights movement. Today, the National Park Service interprets the decision’s importance as a turning point in American history.

Location

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site is located at 1515 SE Monroe Street in downtown Topeka, Kansas.



Directions

From the east:

From I-70 westbound take the 10th Street exit #362C, turn left (west) onto 10th Street, turn left (south) onto Monroe Street, drive past the site at 1515 SE Monroe Street, turn left (east) onto 17th Street and then left into the visitor parking lot.

From the west:

From I-70 eastbound take the 8th Street exit, #362B; this exit merges with Monroe Street. Follow Monroe Street south past the site at 1515 SE Monroe Street, turn left (east) onto 17th Street and then left into the visitor parking lot.

From the south:

From I-335 northbound take the Topeka Boulevard exit, #177, turn left (north) onto Topeka Boulevard, turn right (east) onto 17th Street, drive 200 feet past the site at 1515 SE Monroe Street, turn left into the visitor parking lot.

From the north:

From US-75 southbound, merge onto I-70 E toward Kansas City, take the 8th Street exit, #362B; this exit merges with Monroe Street. Follow Monroe Street south past the site at 1515 SE Monroe Street, turn left (east) onto 17th Street and then into the visitor parking lot.

Hours of operation:

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.

There is no entrance fee.

For more information:

Brown v. Board of Education NHS
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www.nps.gov/brvb