Madam C.J. Walker School:
AN EDUCATION FOR ALL



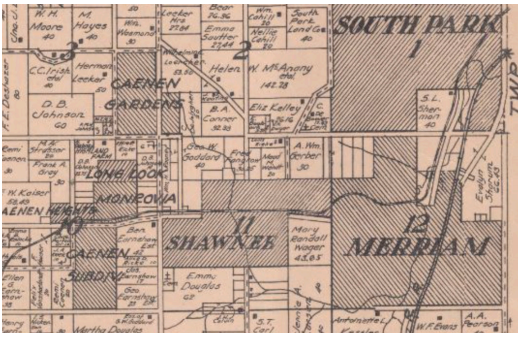


A COMMUNITY. A SCHOOL.
A LANDMARK CHANGE FOR AMERICA.

Help preserve this landmark.
Support the restoration and share its story.

ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

A SCHOOL BEFORE THE COURTS



First established in Kansas in the late nineteenth century, public schools in South Park were intended to serve all children. Early records show that Black and White students initially attended school together. Over time, segregation took hold. By 1912, White students were moved to newer facilities, while Black children remained in the older building, later renamed the Madam C.J. Walker School. Though increasingly underfunded and neglected, the school remained a vital center of learning and community life, sustained by families who believed education was a right for all Kansans.





THE WALKER WALKOUT

In 1947, the opening of a new elementary school intended exclusively for White children brought long-standing inequalities into sharp focus. Rather than accept continued segregation, Black families organized a boycott known as the Walker Walkout. Students were taught in homes and churches, and parents worked together to fund teachers and supplies. The walkout affirmed that education mattered too much to accept injustice.

THE COURT CASE

The boycott led to the Kansas Supreme Court case Webb v. School District No. 90 in 1949. The court ruled that segregated schools with unequal facilities were unlawful in small Kansas towns. This decision helped dismantle school segregation across Kansas and laid important legal groundwork for the national *Brown v. Board of Education* decision five years later.

CORINTHIAN NUTTER

Corinthian Nutter was a teacher at the Walker School who refused to abandon her students during the boycott. She and other educators continued teaching children in her home, in churches, and in neighborhood spaces. She later explained her motivation simply: schools should be for children, not for color.





THE WEBB FAMILY

The Webb family played a central role in challenging segregation through the courts. By lending their name and their children to the lawsuit, they helped push the case forward despite resistance. Their actions demonstrated how families, working together, could demand change and reshape the future of education.

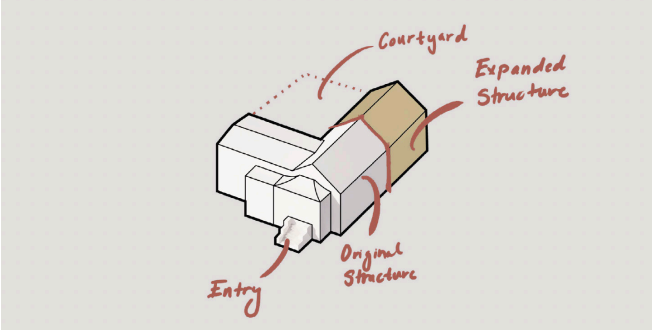
ESTHER BROWN

Esther Brown, a Jewish activist and civil rights organizer, helped galvanize the fight for equal education in South Park. Shocked by the conditions at the Walker School, she helped organize a local NAACP chapter and raise funds for the legal case. Despite harassment and threats, she remained committed to integration and educational justice.



EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

Today, the former Madam C.J. Walker School continues to serve the community as the home of Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church, remaining a place of worship, gathering, and service. Help preserve this history by contributing to the rebuilding and restoration of the site, which will return the historic school to its early twentieth-century appearance while creating new spaces for the church and community. Plans include restoring the original school structure, developing a small interpretive museum to share the site's history, and adding new facilities that support worship, education, and public events. Together, these efforts ensure the building remains.





SUPPORT RESTORATION TODAY!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY!



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