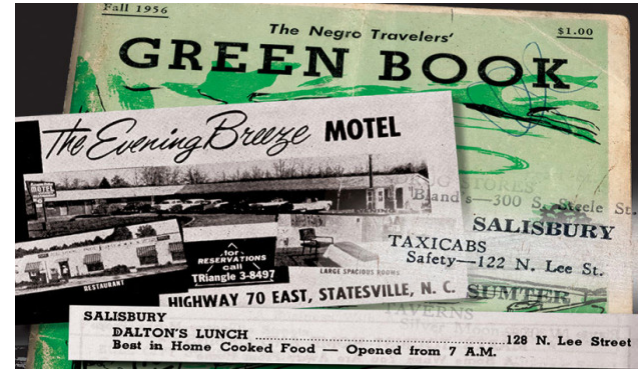


Did you know that there were 327 businesses in North Carolina that were listed in the Green Book? Can you find the business listing in your city using the virtual Green Book?



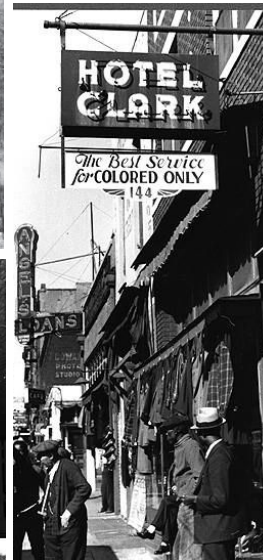
• Why was it called the Green Book?

• When was the Green Book published?

• Who was Victor Green?

• What is the “Chitlin Circuit”? What celebrities entertained in NC on the “Chitlin Circuit”?

• Using the virtual 1937 Green Book in the exhibit, map out a trip for a family traveling from Spencer to Wrightsville Beach (near Wilmington). Remember, they need to go through cities that have Oasis Spaces for gas, food, and hotels. What cities must they go through? Compare that route with the most direct route if they did not have to find Oasis Spaces.



The above images are examples of business signs for African American travelers during the Jim Crow era. Can you find a similar example in the exhibit panels?

The Green Book was published for a 30-year time period. Look at the cars in the exhibit.



1930s car
(the Green Book was first published in 1936)



1960s car
(The last Green Book was published in 1966)

• What differences do you see in design?

• What differences do you think there are in technology?

Can you find other automobiles that were made in the 1930s and 1960s in the exhibit?

- What was “Jim Crow?”

By the 1959 edition, not only were women listing their businesses, but a woman was in charge of the Green Book operation. Alma Duke Green (wife of founder Victor Green) was listed as the editor and publisher of the guide. Nearly all her staff members were female. Victor Green acted as an adviser for this edition, but given that he would die in 1960, it’s possible he was too ill to work. In any case, Alma had been alongside him since he started the guide in 1936—and she was the perfect person to pick up the baton.

Excerpt from the book *Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America* by Candacy Taylor (Abrams Press). Copyright © 2020 Candacy Taylor. Used by permission of Abrams Press, an imprint of Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York. All rights reserved. reserved. reserved.

- Find examples in the exhibit of how African Americans were affected by the Jim Crow era.



Help us bring more culturally significant exhibits to the N.C. Transportation Museum.

Your gift is greatly appreciated.

Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina

“The Negro Motorist Green Book,” published between 1936 and 1966, was both a travel guide and a tool of resistance designed to confront the realities of racial discrimination in the United States and beyond. When the Negro Motorist Green Book was first published in 1936, it listed movie theaters, hotels, barbershops, and other businesses that offered a safe place for African American travelers. Three hundred and twenty-seven sites in North Carolina were listed in the Green Book.

The exhibit highlights a complex statewide network of business owners and Green Book sites that allowed African American communities to thrive, and that created “oasis spaces” for a variety of African American travelers.

To date, 63 physical structures are still standing across the state. Of the 63 identified by the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, five Green Book businesses are still in operation: Speight’s Auto Service in Durham, Friendly Barbershop in Durham, Magnolia House in Greensboro, Dove’s Auto Service in Kinston, and Safety Taxi in Salisbury.

To learn more about this project, visit the interactive portal at:
<https://aahc.nc.gov/green-book-project>.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



An Interactive Guide to Viewing the Exhibit

September 25 - March 14
 Bumper-to-Bumper Exhibit Building



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