

Raleigh

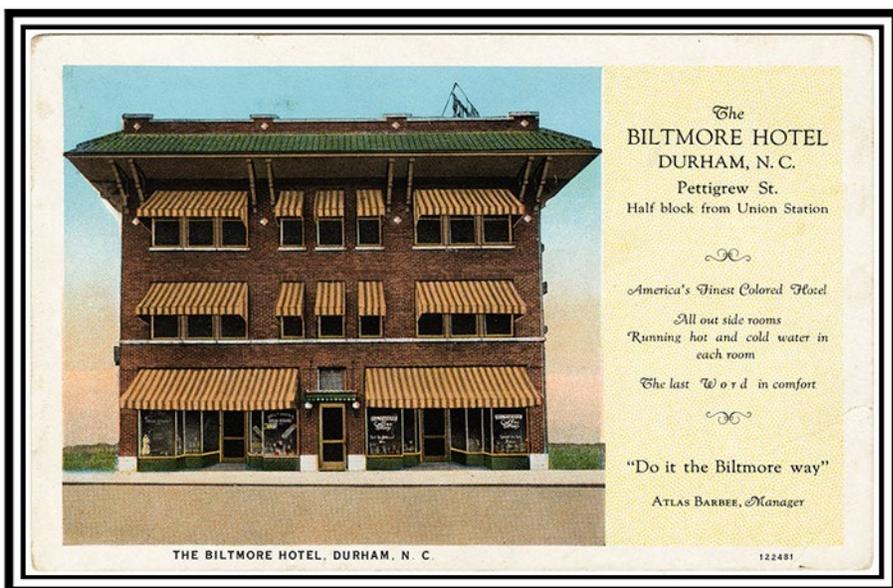
The Lightner Arcade and Hotel on East Hargett Street – in the middle of the black business and cultural district – often entertained famous musicians, including Duke Ellington and Count Basie. The building was destroyed by fire in 1970, and the site was taken over by the municipal bus depot.



The Lightner Hotel and Arcade in Raleigh

Durham

The Biltmore Hotel, built in 1929, stood in Durham's vibrant Hayti neighborhood. It boasted of being "America's Finest Colored Hotel," and included a drug store, grill and coffee shop. Like the Lightner in Raleigh, the Biltmore hosted famous musicians. The building was demolished in 1977 when NC Highway 147, the Durham Freeway, was bulldozed through the neighborhood. Today, the property is a parking lot just southeast of Roxboro Street.



An advertisement for the Biltmore Hotel in Durham

Greensboro

The Magnolia Hotel at 442 Gorrell Street was established around 1949 in what had originally been a 6-bedroom private residence dating from 1889. The hotel was well-known to black travelers between Atlanta and Richmond, and it counted as its guests notables such as Ray Charles; Tina Turner; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Jackie Robinson; Sachel Paige; Lena Horne; and James Baldwin. The Magnolia stopped operating as a hotel some time in the 1960s or 1970s, but the structure has been renovated to function as a venue for dining and events. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.



The former Magnolia Hotel in Greensboro

New Bern

In New Bern, sisters Amy, Charlotte, Henrietta and Carrie Rhone opened the Rhone Hotel, convenient to the railroad station, in 1923. The original address was 42 Queen Street, but today the structure – now an apartment building – is listed as 512 Queen Street.



The former Rhone Hotel in New Bern

There will be a day...

With passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, many of the racially discriminatory practices that had plagued black travelers became illegal. They did not disappear, social norms being easier to legislate against than to stop in practice. But the days when a black motorist would not think of traveling without the *Negro Motorist Green Book* were over, and the pamphlet soon ceased publication. Victor Hugo Green had not lived to see the new era, having died in 1960. But he believed a change was going to come, and he was eager to embrace that change even though he knew it would mean an end for the work to which he had dedicated his life.

There will be a day sometime in the near future when this guide will not have to be published. That is when we as a race will have equal opportunities and privileges in the United States. It will be a great day for us to suspend this publication for then we can go wherever we please, and without embarrassment. But until that time comes we shall continue to publish this information for your convenience each year.



Road trip!

The photo in the header and the photo of the “colored waiting room” are courtesy of the Library of Congress.

For a look at the black motorist’s world before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, I recommend Gretchen Sorin’s book *Driving While Black* (Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2020)