

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA TOURISM
AUTHORITY AND DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC
RESOURCES**

**Historic Study of *The Green Book*
Properties in the Commonwealth
of Virginia
(2023 Appropriation Act, Item
126.O.2.)**

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 5

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2024**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic
Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan
Director
Tel: (804) 487-6446
1391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

July 11, 2024

Members of the Virginia General Assembly,

During the 2023 Special Session I of the legislative session, the Appropriation Act – Item 126 O.2. required the Virginia Tourism Authority and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to report on the findings of the historic study describing *The Green Book* in Virginia.

The item stipulates:

“Out of this appropriation, \$97,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for the authority and the Department of Historic Resources (the department) to conduct a historic study describing the Green Book in Virginia by documenting surviving buildings. In conducting this review, the authority and the department shall develop an architectural survey to improve information for at least 60 existing Green Book properties. The authority and department shall complete this study and report the findings to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2024.”

Pursuant to this clause, enclosed please find the *Historic Study of the Green Book Properties in the Commonwealth of Virginia* report submitted by the Department of Historic Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie V. Langan".

Julie V. Langan
Director

Document Title: Historic Study of *The Green Book* Properties in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Author: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Enabling Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 22, Article 8, Code of Virginia.
§10.1-2210.1

2. Out of this appropriation, \$97,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for the authority and the Department of Historic Resources (the department) to conduct a historic study describing the Green Book in Virginia by documenting surviving buildings. In conducting this review, the authority and the department shall develop an architectural survey to improve information for at least 60 existing Green Book properties. The authority and department shall complete this study and report the findings to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2024. The authority is authorized to transfer all or part of these amounts to the Department of Historic Resources to complete this study.

Executive Summary

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (the Department) is the state historic preservation office, created by §§ 10.1-2201 through 2215 of the Code of Virginia and governed by the General Assembly of Virginia. Our mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia’s significant historic architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Our programs and services are designed to empower others to further the significance of historic places and their role in shaping Virginia today.

In 2023, the Virginia General Assembly directed the Virginia Tourism Commission and the Department of Historic Resources to report on the findings of the historic study describing *The Green Book* in Virginia by documenting surviving buildings, including an architectural survey to improve information for at least 60 existing Green Book properties.

The Department contracted cultural resource management firm Commonwealth Preservation Group to identify extant historic resources listed in *The Green Book*, perform an architectural survey of those resources, and produce a context report about the development and use of *The Green Book*. The context report used forms issued from National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document, by the National Park Service and by the Department as the foundation for evaluating the National Register eligibility of related properties. The purpose of the survey and Multiple Property Document is to accelerate and simplify the listing of these properties on the Virginia Landmarks Register, making them eligible for potential sources of funding, highway markers, and increase public education about *The Green Book* and Black History in Virginia.

The Negro Traveler’s Green Book

In response to the need for promulgating methods for safe travel, Victor Hugo Green and Alma Green published *The Negro Traveler’s Green Book* from 1936-1966. Among the guide’s slogans were “Assured Protection for the Negro Traveler” and “Vacation Without Aggravation.”¹ Through meticulous research, the Greens compiled lists of businesses that would serve Black travelers, tourist homes, guest houses, hotels, motels, restaurants, night clubs, tailors, vacation resorts, stores, and beauty parlors and barber shops, broken down by state.

¹ Richard Weyeneth, “The Architecture of Racial Segregation: The Challenges of Preserving the Problematical Past,” *The Public Historian* Vol. 27 No. 4 (Fall 2005), p. 36-37.

From a relatively slim volume primarily focused on their native New York City in 1936, the Greens grew *The Green Book* to a nationwide publication that, together with road maps, provided Black Americans with the ability to navigate unfamiliar landscapes to reach the places where they would be welcomed, provided food and rest, and given the opportunity to refuel their car to resume their travels. “That Victor Green chose to include businesses such as golf courses, country clubs, state and national parks, and other recreational pursuits also celebrated activities beyond just basic survival. [He] tried to elevate the traveling experience from survival to enjoyment, and eventually to social action.”² Over the thirty years of its publication, *The Green Book* included over 10,000 listings for privately owned business, as well as colleges, parks and other recreational facilities, and social improvement clubs.³

Victor and Alma Green began to address civil rights topics in the pages of *The Green Book*. For example, the 1947 edition included an article about the need for Black veterans to have accessible educational opportunities and for the colleges they attended to receive the financial support of the GI Bill educational benefits. Following the article, the Greens provided a list of 106 Black schools and colleges to which Black veterans could apply for admission.⁴ In Virginia, historically Black colleges included Hampton Institute, Virginia Union University, Virginia State College (now Virginia State University) and its satellite campus in Norfolk (today’s Norfolk State University), St. Paul’s Polytechnic Institute (later St. Paul’s College), and Virginia Theological College and Seminary (now Virginia University of Lynchburg).

Green Book Properties in Virginia

Approximately 304 Virginia places were listed in *The Green Book* between 1936-1966. Of these, 58 were identified as still extant in the 2024 architectural survey in addition to the former locations of several Green Book sites. The types of businesses that occupied these extant resources are described below. Please see Table #1: Identified Sites Associated with The Green Book in Virginia for a list of the physical addresses for these sites.

- **Filling stations/Service stations** - Many of the auto service stations that catered to Black customers were owned by African Americans. Some national oil companies, such as Esso, permitted African Americans to purchase franchises for their brand.
 - The following service stations were documented during this project: Adams Street Service Station, Richmond; Al Smith’s Service Station, Newport News; Alston’s Esso, Norfolk; E&L Lassiter Pure Oil Service Station, Suffolk; Groves Esso Service Center, Williamsburg; H. Vaughan Service Station, Richmond; Harris Service Station, Richmond; Marshall’s Cities Service Station, Portsmouth; Oliver’s Restaurant and Texaco Station, Jamaica; and Preston Street Service Station, Richmond.

² National Park Service, African American Civil Rights Network, “Green Book Historic Context and AACRN Listing Guidance,” no date, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/green-book-historic-context-and-aacrn-listing-guidance-african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>.

³ *Driving While Black: Race, Space, and Mobility in America*, a 2020 film directed by Ric Burns and Gretchen Sorin; National Park Service, African American Civil Rights Network, “Green Book Historic Context and AACRN Listing Guidance,” no date, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/green-book-historic-context-and-aacrn-listing-guidance-african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>.

⁴National Park Service, African American Civil Rights Network, “Green Book Historic Context and AACRN Listing Guidance,” no date, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/green-book-historic-context-and-aacrn-listing-guidance-african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>.

- **Hotels/Motels** - While hotels were located more within a commercial district within a city or town, motels frequently were built along a primary street into and out of a locality or alongside a major transportation route such as US Route 1.
 - The following hotels and motels were documented during this project: Booker T. Motor Court, Williamsburg; Brown's Hotel, South Hill; Corner Inn, Lawrenceville; Fifth Street Pharmacy/ Hotel Douglas/ Humbles Building, Lynchburg; Forest View Hotel, Disputanta; Hotel Dumas, Roanoke; Otto's Inn, Richmond; and Watkins Motel, Gloucester.

- **Tourist Homes** - Tourist homes, also known as lodging houses, were private dwellings that were used to rent overnight lodging to African American travelers stopping in or passing through cities and towns across Virginia. Unlike hotels and motels, which tended to be in larger towns and cities, even very small towns had tourist and homes, some were not located to a town at all. In addition to providing safe accommodations for travelers, lodging homes, which often were owned by women, provided opportunities for financial autonomy and independence for both single and married women.
 - The following tourist homes were documented during this project: Alexander's Tourist Home, Charlottesville; Evans Hotel, Winchester; J. M Woods Tourist Home, Lexington; J. T. Holmes Tourist Home, Alexandria; McGuire's Inn, Tappahannock; Mrs. C. Stephens Tourist Home, Newport News; Mrs. Kate Wiley Tourist Home, Farmville; Mrs. Lawrence Jones Tourist Home, Petersburg; Mrs. M. K. Page Tourist Home, Danville; Mrs. N. P. Washington Tourist Home, Lynchburg; Mrs. Yancey Tourist Home, Danville; and The Franklin (tourist house), Lexington. The aforementioned Ida Mae Francis Tourist House in Harrisonburg was not resurveyed for the MPD but is another extant example of a tourist home. The J. T. Holmes Tourist Home was located within what is now an apartment building.

- **Commercial Resources** - Commercial resources listed in *The Green Book* provided goods and services that traveling customers might require. Such resources often were located in commercial buildings, but in some instances occupied one or more rooms in a private dwelling, or a space that had been added to the dwelling to be occupied by the commercial use. These resources represent the commercial success of African American businessmen and -women, as well as places that were identified as providing safe access to various business types in segregation-era Virginia.
 - **Beauty Parlors and Barber Shops**
 - The following beauty parlors and barber shops were identified during this project: Apex Beauty Parlor, Charlottesville; Chalmer's Beauty Parlor, Richmond; Joker's Barber Shop, Charlottesville; Rattie's Beauty Parlor, Newport News; and Walker's Barber Shop (Odd Fellow's Building), Warrenton. Another enterprise type was drug stores or pharmacies, of which three extant examples were identified during the course of this project: Fifth Street Pharmacy/ Hotel Douglas/ Humbles Building, Lynchburg; Suffolk Professional Pharmacy Inc./ H. M. Diggs Building, Suffolk; and Williams Professional Pharmacy/ Williams Professional Druggist, Williamsburg. A sole business type in the Virginia listings of *The Green Book* was McLain Tailors in Warrenton.

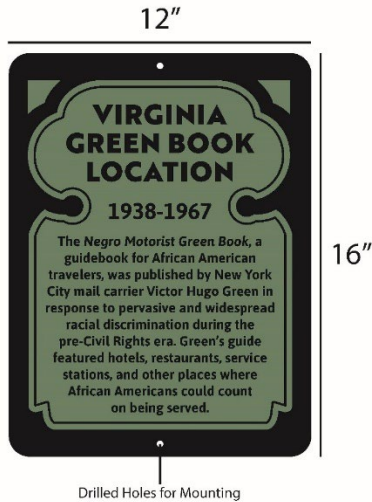
- **Restaurants**
 - The following restaurants were identified during this project: Atlantic Café, Petersburg; Blue Room Restaurant, Danville; Grant’s Restaurant, Newport News; Harris’ Grill, Tappahannock; Johnson’s Restaurant, Staunton; Oliver’s Restaurant and Texaco Station, Jamaica; Plaza Drive Inn, Newport News; Reid’s Restaurant/ Reid’s Cafe, Farmville; Silver Star Restaurant, Covington; Taylor’s Restaurant, Fredericksburg; The Mecca Restaurant, Lynchburg; W. J. Stokes Restaurant/Complex, Gloucester; Washington Cafe, Lexington; and Ye Shingle Inn (restaurant), Phoebus (Hampton area).
- **Entertainment**
 - The Entertainment and Social Resources that were listed in *The Green Book* provided African American travelers with access to various types of experiences, including movie theaters, theaters with live performances, dance halls, clubs, fraternal organizations, YWCAs, and other social organization buildings. The following entertainment and social resources identified during this project were located in large cities, as follows: Booker T. Theatre/ Attuck’s Theater, Norfolk; Jefferson Theatre, Charlottesville; Morocco Night Club, Roanoke; Odd Fellows Dance Hall, Charlottesville; Paramount Theatre, Charlottesville; and the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Lynchburg

The resource types identified during the architectural survey and associated with *The Green Book*’s 1936-1966 period of publication are described in detail in the context document. National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria applicable to each property type are identified, along with the registration requirements according to which a property may be nominated under this Multiple Property Document for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Each property type is directly linked to *The Green Book* by way of listing in one or more editions of the guide. This Multiple Property Document may be updated at a later time to include additional historical topics and/or resource types associated with the context herein.

The Green Book Plaques

On March 23, 2023, Governor Glenn Youngkin signed Delegate Mike Mullin’s [HB1968](#) into law which directed the Department of Historic Resources in partnership with the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) and the Department of Transportation (VDOT), to approve historic site signs identifying *Green Book* locations and businesses in the Commonwealth.

DHR, in partnership with VTC and VDOT, will permanently affix historic site signs – supplementary plaques – to the posts of existing state highway markers that pertain to sites listed in *The Green Book*. In addition to educating the public, the new supplementary plaques aim to make obvious those markers who have a *Green Book* connection. The VTC maintains a [website](#) explaining the historical significance of *The Green Book* in making travel safer for Black Americans and will list all of the identified *Green Book* locations in the Commonwealth.



The *Green Book*-related highway markers are part of the Department of Historic Resources' Historical marker program and follow the same procedures as all other markers. As of June 30, 2024, there have been 11 Green Book-themed Highway Markers and *Green Book* Plaques approved by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. Eight plaques have been installed on existing highway markers and three are in the process of being manufactured.

Table #1: Highway Markers and *The Green Book* Plaques approved by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources

Marker	Location	Plaque Status
Bay Shore Hotel	Hampton (37.036823, -76.291918)	Installed
Yancey House and Grasty Library	Danville (36.584942, -79.402358)	Installed
Holbrook-Ross Historic District	Danville (36.581857194, -79.401961575)	Installed
Fayette Street	Martinsville (36.6930973, -79.8768853)	Installed
Miller's and Eggleston Hotels	Richmond (37.547308, -77.437473)	Installed
Jackson Ward	Richmond (37.546793, -77.43789)	Installed
Navy Hill	Richmond (37.54718, -77.43444)	Installed
Lexington and <i>The Green Book</i>	Lexington (37.784211, -79.440633)	Installed
Colbrook Motel	Chesterfield County	Not yet manufactured
Washington Park	City of Richmond	Not yet manufactured
Carver Inn	City of Charlottesville	Not yet manufactured

Full Publication of the Report

The survey materials and Multiple Property Document is publicly available on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' webpage and archives at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/01-Green-Book-MPD-Draft-4.15.2024.pdf>

Table #2: Identified Sites Associated with *The Green Book* in Virginia

DHR ID #	Resource Name	Address	City/Town	Status
100-5630	J.T. Holmes Tourist Home	803 Gibbon Street	Alexandria	Extant
104-0213-0196	Alexander's Tourist Home	413 Dice Street	Charlottesville	Extant
104-0072-0153	Apex Beauty Parlor	211 W Main Street	Charlottesville	Extant
104-0072-0089	Jefferson Theatre	110 E Main Street	Charlottesville	Extant
104-0072-0159	Odd Fellows Dance Hall	204-206 E Market Street	Charlottesville	Extant
104-0072-0103	Paramount Theatre	215 East Main	Charlottesville	Extant
104-5152	Joker's Barber Shop	406-406 Commerce Street	Charlottesville	Extant
107-5303	Silver Star Restaurant	208 S Maple Avenue	Covington	Extant
108-0180-0034	Mrs. M. K. Page Tourist Home	434 Holbrook Street	Danville	Extant
108-0180-0046	Mrs. Yancey Tourist Home	320 Holbrook Street	Danville	Extant
108-0180-0108	Blue Room Restaurant	358 Holbrook Street	Danville	Extant
074-5050	Forest View Hotel	5115 County Drive	Disputanta	Extant
144-0051	Mrs. Kate Wiley Tourist Home	626 South Main Street	Farmville	Extant
144-0027-0214	Reid's Restaurant / Reid's Cafe	236 North Main Street	Farmville	Extant
111-5497	Taylor's Restaurant	220 Frazier Street	Fredericksburg	Extant
036-5173	W.J. Stoke Restaurant/Complex	5456 Hwy 17	Gloucester	Extant
036-5174	Watkins Motel	7402 John Lemon Lane	Gloucester	Demolished
059-5425	Oliver's Restaurant and Texaco Station	4235 Tidewater Trail	Jamaica	Extant
251-5001-0129	Corner Inn	409-413 N Main Street	Lawrenceville	Extant
117-0027-0337	The Franklin Tourist Home	Tucker Street	Lexington	Extant

117-0027-0017	Washington Cafe	N Main St	Lexington	Extant
117-5066	J. M. Wood Tourist Home	206 Massie Street	Lexington	Extant
118-5735	The Mecca Restaurant	1816 Bedford Avenue	Lynchburg	Extant
118-0226-0268	Mrs. N.P. Washington Tourist Home	611 Polk Street	Lynchburg	Extant
118-5318-0039	Fifth Street Pharmacy/Hotel Douglas/ Humbles Building	901 Fifth Street	Lynchburg	Extant
118-5318-0061	Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A. (YWCA)	613 Monroe Street	Lynchburg	Extant
121-5666	Rattrie's Beauty Parlor	3000 Chestnut Avenue	Newport News	Extant
121-5667	Al Smith's Service Station	2701 Marshall Avenue	Newport News	Extant
121-5668	Mrs. C. Stephen's Tourist Home	1909 Marshall Avenue	Newport News	Extant
121-5669	Grant's Restaurant	2108 Jefferson Avenue	Newport News	Extant
121-5670	Plaza Drive Inn	13537 Warwick Boulevard	Newport News	Extant
122-0074	Booker T. Theatre/ Attuck's Theater	1010 Church Street	Norfolk	Extant
122-5795-0033	Alston's Esso Service Station	1855 Church Street	Norfolk	Extant
123-5581	Mrs. Lawrence Jones Tourist Home	1009 Melville Street	Petersburg	Extant
123-5494-0012	Atlantic Café	101-107 Halifax Street	Petersburg	Extant
114-5927	Ye Shingle Inn	17 E County Street	Phoebus	Extant
124- 5285	Marshall's Cities Service Station	1808 Portsmouth Blvd	Portsmouth	Extant
127-0237-0777	Adams St. Service Station	523 N. Adams Street	Richmond	Extant
127-0237-0049	Harris Service Station	404-406 N Henry St	Richmond	Extant
127-0237-0678	Williams Professional Pharmacy / Williams Prof. Druggist	414 N 3rd St	Richmond	Extant

127-0237-0877	Chalmer's Beauty Parlor	416 N. 1st Street	Richmond	Extant
127-8166	H. Vaughan Service Station	1701 Chamberlayne Ave.	Richmond	Extant
127-6665	Preston St. Service Station	915 & 923 N 2nd St	Richmond	Extant
127-0375-9004	Otto's Inn	314 N. 2nd Street	Richmond	Extant
128-5764-0001	Hotel Dumas	108 Henry Street NW	Roanoke	Extant
128-5764-0004	Morocco Night Club	120 Henry Street NW	Roanoke	Extant
301-5064	Brown's Hotel	104 East Virginia St	South Hill	Extant
132-0024-0054	Johnson's Restaurant	21 E Frederick Street	Staunton	Extant
133-5681	E & L Lassiter Pure Oil Service Station	802 East Washington Street	Suffolk	Extant
133-0072-0341	Suffolk Professional Pharmacy, Inc. / H.M. Diggs Building	362 East Washington Street	Suffolk	Extant
310-5015	Harris' Grill	412 Queen Street	Tappahannock	Extant
310-5016	McGuire's Inn	445 Marsh Street	Tappahannock	Extant
156-0019-0280	Walker's Barber Shop (Odd Fellow's Building)	23 S 3rd Street	Warrenton	Extant
156-0019-0038	McLain Tailors	51-53 Culpeper Street	Warrenton	Extant
047-5053	Groves Esso Service Center	8751 Pocahontas Trail	Williamsburg	Extant
099-5608	Booker T Motor Court	1018 Penniman Road	Williamsburg	Extant
138-0042-0964	Evans Hotel	224 Sharp Street	Winchester	Extant

