



www.nps.gov/ncpptt

Project Lead.....Jason Church (NCPTT)

Written by.....Gabriele Williams (Northwestern
State University)

Designed bySydney Andrea Landers

Models and Interviews were made by the students of
the 2024 3D Digital Summer Field School.

In Collaboration withNational Center for
Preservation Technology and Training
.....NSU's ARGO Lab
.....Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc.

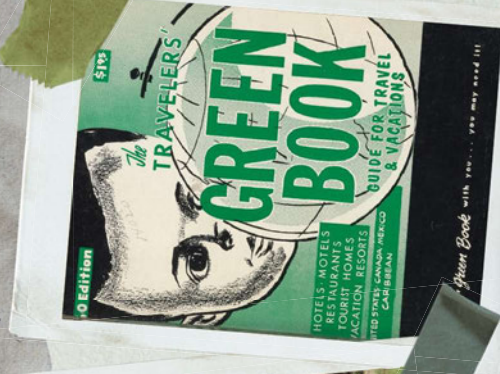


www.canerivernha.org/zines

Social Media:   [ncpptt](https://www.facebook.com/ncpptt)  [@ncpptt.nps](https://www.instagram.com/ncpptt)

You Oughta Know
Louisiana Series: Volume 05

THE MORGAN HOTEL



"Keep in mind that during those days that was the only hotel so to speak that black people could come, because we wasn't allowed to, we weren't permitted to - whichever way you want to say it. We couldn't go to any other hotel, but anyway I remember all kinds of people coming there."

-Paul Morgan

Cover Images: (Left)– Jason Church, NCPTT
(Right)– New York Public Library Digital Collections, 1960.

SOURCES AND CITATIONS

Paul Morgan, interview by Jason Church,
At Morgan Hotel, June 12, 2024, audio
interview.

Paul and Vernita Morgan, interview by Jason
Church, At Morgan Hotel, June 18, 2024,
audio interview.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black
Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare
Books Division, The New York Public
Library. "The Travelers' Green Book:
1960" The New York Public Library Digital
Collections. 1960.

"The Morgan Hotel with Paul Morgan". YouTube,
uploaded by NCPTT on July 15, 2024,
<https://youtu.be/a6hGmfIc2Hc>

THIS EDITION BROUGHT TO YOU BY



TRAVELERS' GREEN BOOK

The Morgan Hotel along with other Black-friendly establishments such as those named in the Travelers' Green Book finally gave

Black Americans the ability and autonomy to explore the world with a sense of safety that had never been granted to them before.

Because of individuals like the Morgans, Black Americans could travel with comfort knowing that where they were going someone dedicated a space for them to exist without fear, discrimination, or prejudice.

Safe spaces such as the Morgan Hotel still exist to this day and are eagerly sought out by Black Americans and other people of color while traveling or searching for a specific type of service.

In a hostile world that still places value on the color of one's skin, places like the Morgan Hotel need to be documented and their stories and the stories of those who stayed there need to be heard.

New York Public Library
Digital Collections, 1960.

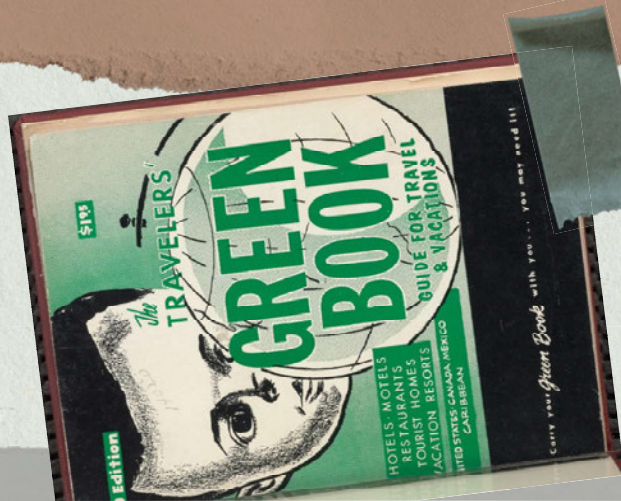
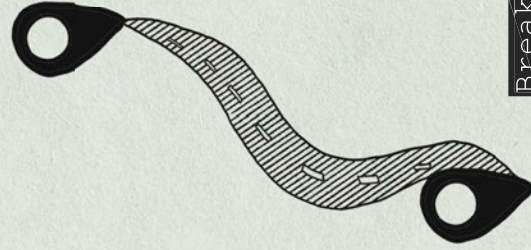


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Traveling during Jim Crow	3
Community Refuge	5
Heart and Soul of the Morgan Family	7
Traveler's Green Book	9
Sources and Citations	10

TRAVEL DURING JIM CROW

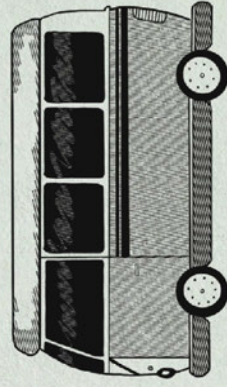
One of the greatest pleasures in life is to be able to travel outside of one's community and experience how life is somewhere else. The United States has 2.26 billion acres of land filled with vast wonders, yet there was a time in the young country's history when certain minorities were prohibited from exploring certain areas.



During the Jim Crow Era, Black Americans had very few places to visit due to racial discrimination and a lack of lodging options. Traveling Black Americans could not risk being uninformed about where they should or should not visit.

Breaking the understood rules of where one belongs while traveling could lead to a range of consequences—from slurs to physical assault.

Because of these understandable fears, Black Americans had to be hypervigilant when venturing beyond familiar territory.



(PAUL MORGAN)



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)

THEN & NOW



(PAUL MORGAN)



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)



(PAUL MORGAN)



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)

HEART AND SOUL OF THE MORGAN FAMILY

Regardless of the origin of the nicknames, the Morgan Hotel was owned and maintained by the Morgan family. According to the owner's son, Paul Morgan, the hotel originally had twelve rooms, a lounge, a kitchen area, and one bathroom for all the residents. The Morgans also lived in the hotel with the guests.



MORGAN HOTEL
WITH
PAUL MORGAN



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)

A stay at the Morgan could cost an individual up to seventy-five cents per night, but the owner, Mr. Morgan, would allow people to stay even if they couldn't afford the bill. Paul Morgan's daughter, Vernita, mentions in an interview that her grandmother was not only the cook for the hotel but the cleaner. After the death of Paul's father and Vernita's grandfather in the 1980s, the Morgan hotel shut down.

Travel guides such as the Travelers' Green Book were helpful and necessary for Black Americans to stay updated and informed on places that were safe to stay.

One of those places that was a haven for travelers was a small hotel in Natchitoches, Louisiana called the Morgan Hotel.



TRAVELING ACROSS
AMERICA WITH
ELVIN SHIELDS



(PAUL MORGAN)



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)

COMMUNITY REFUGE

The Morgan Hotel was truly one of a kind. Located on Lafayette and Sixth street, the now dilapidated hotel provided comfort and safety for Black travelers passing through the small town.

The building was built between the years 1873 or 1895. Even though the hotel was successful during the time it was running, not much is known about the building.

Nicknames for the hotel such as the "Stonewall Hotel" and "Brown Bomber" are not entirely known; however, the name "Brown Bomber" has two possibilities.



MORGAN
HOTEL
FLYTHROUGH
VIDEO



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)

It might have come from the color of Black WWII soldiers' uniforms while they stayed at the location during training for the Louisiana Maneuvers. The name could have also come from Joe Lewis—the heavyweight boxing champion—visiting the hotel since his nickname was the Brown Bomber as well.



(PAUL MORGAN)



(JASON CHURCH, NCPTT)