



THE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF BLACK TOURISM IN MICHIGAN

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
JUNE 18, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Project Goals and Timeline



Public Meeting



Historic Context Statement



Architectural Survey



Multiple Property Documentation Form



National Register Nomination



SHPO and NPS Review





Historic Context Statement

Historic Context Statement Basics

documents thematic histories connected to a specific place

provides historic context for thematically related properties

history = facts context = why it matters

used for future evaluation of the significance of related properties

Historic Context Research Process

libraries, archives, & historical societies statewide

primary sources: maps, advertisements, brochures, oral histories

secondary sources: published materials, local histories

oral histories and private collections as available

Report: Themes Related to Black Tourism

The African American Experience in Michigan:
Formation of Black Communities, Jim Crow Era Segregation

20th Century Black Recreational Tourism:
Automobile Travel, Vacation Resorts, Outdoor Recreation, Marketing

Impacts of Desegregation and
The Civil Rights Movement on Black Tourism



Architectural Survey

Architectural Survey Basics

reconnaissance level or intensive level

documents extant buildings, structures, objects, sites

above-ground resources

identification of historic and architectural patterns

Architectural Survey Process

travel to each site to document with photographs

meet with local stakeholders

visit local research repositories

compile information from each site visit

Report: Findings of Field Survey

map of project area including all extant Green Book properties

identification of property types:
lodging, restaurants, resorts, entertainment venues, services

preservation concerns and planning needs

survey inventory forms, current photos, historic photos



Multiple Property Documentation Form

Multiple Property Documentation Form Basics

documents groups of thematically related properties

defines and describes one or more historic contexts

describes property types associated with the historic contexts

establishes significance and integrity requirements for nominating properties to the National Register

Multiple Property Documentation Form Process

focus historic contexts on Green Book sites only

identify property types among Green Book sites

identify patterns in history, architecture, and integrity

determine appropriate eligibility requirements for listing related properties in the National Register


Multiple Property Documentation Form

Statement of Historic Contexts

Associated Property Types

Geographical Data

Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods



National Register of Historic Places

National Register of Historic Places Basics

Created by National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as the nation's official list of properties worthy of long-term preservation

Administered by Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS)

Any member of the public may submit a National Register nomination for consideration by SHPO/NPS

National Register Eligibility

fifty years old or older

integrity – location, setting, design, materials, workmanship,
feeling, association

convey significance

individual, thematic, or historic district

National Register Criteria

Criterion A: event that demonstrates broad patterns of history

Criterion B: association with a historically significant person

Criterion C: architectural design or construction

Criterion D: archaeological potential

National Register Nomination Process

property to be determined during architectural survey

will be an individual property or small complex

must retain integrity to convey its significance as a Green Book site

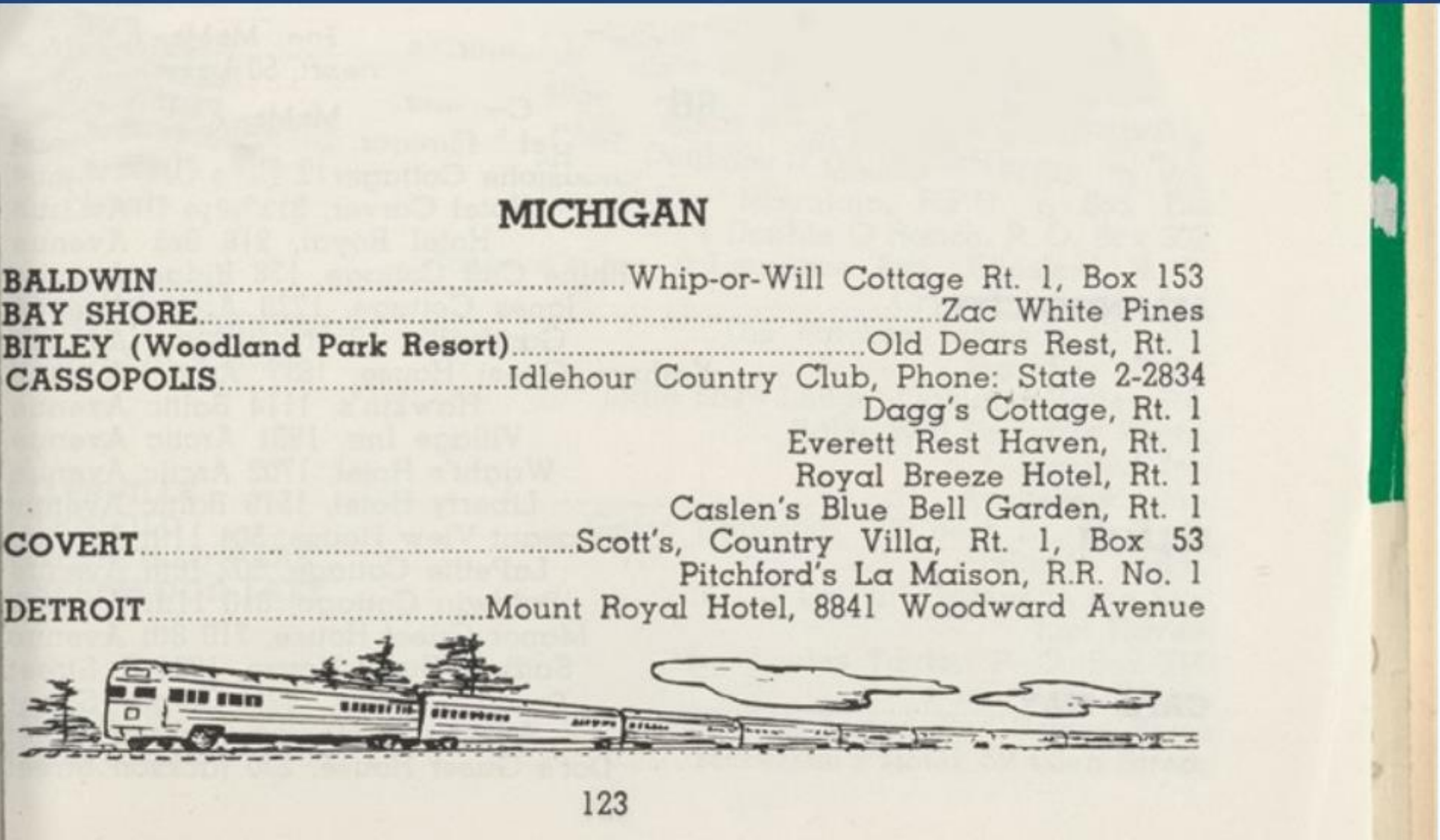
will be nominated under the MPDF



Project Updates and Contacts

UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MICHIGAN

African American Recreational Tourism and Negro Motorist
Green Book Sites in Michigan



Travel for African American families during the early and mid twentieth century was challenging even in northern states like Michigan. In 1936, Victor H. Green, a New Jersey postal worker and civic leader, published his first *Negro Motorist Green Book* to assist travelers in finding safe places to visit and get fuel, food, and other services. While initially limited to New York City, the books soon expanded to other states including Michigan. During the thirty years the *Green Book* was published, approximately 230 Michigan businesses were listed.

Consultant Team

For project-specific questions, please contact:

Primary Investigator

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State Historic Preservation Office Staff

For architectural survey and context statement questions:

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For website, social media, and public meeting questions:

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For grant funding and requirements questions:

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