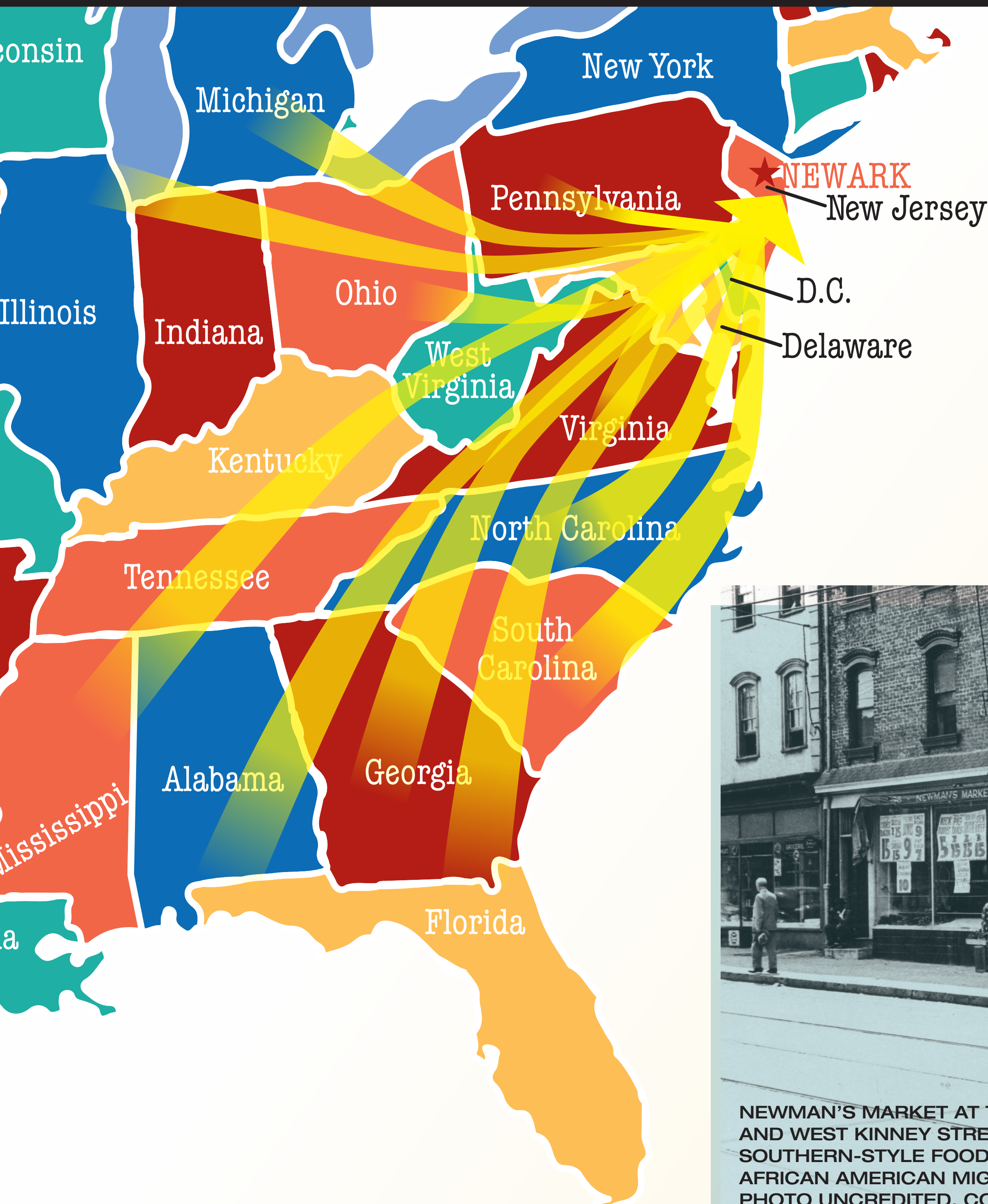


THE GREAT MIGRATION

From the South to Newark



From 1910–1970 over 6 million African Americans migrated from the southern United States to cities in the North. These brave men, women and children moved away from the segregated South for better jobs and educational opportunities.

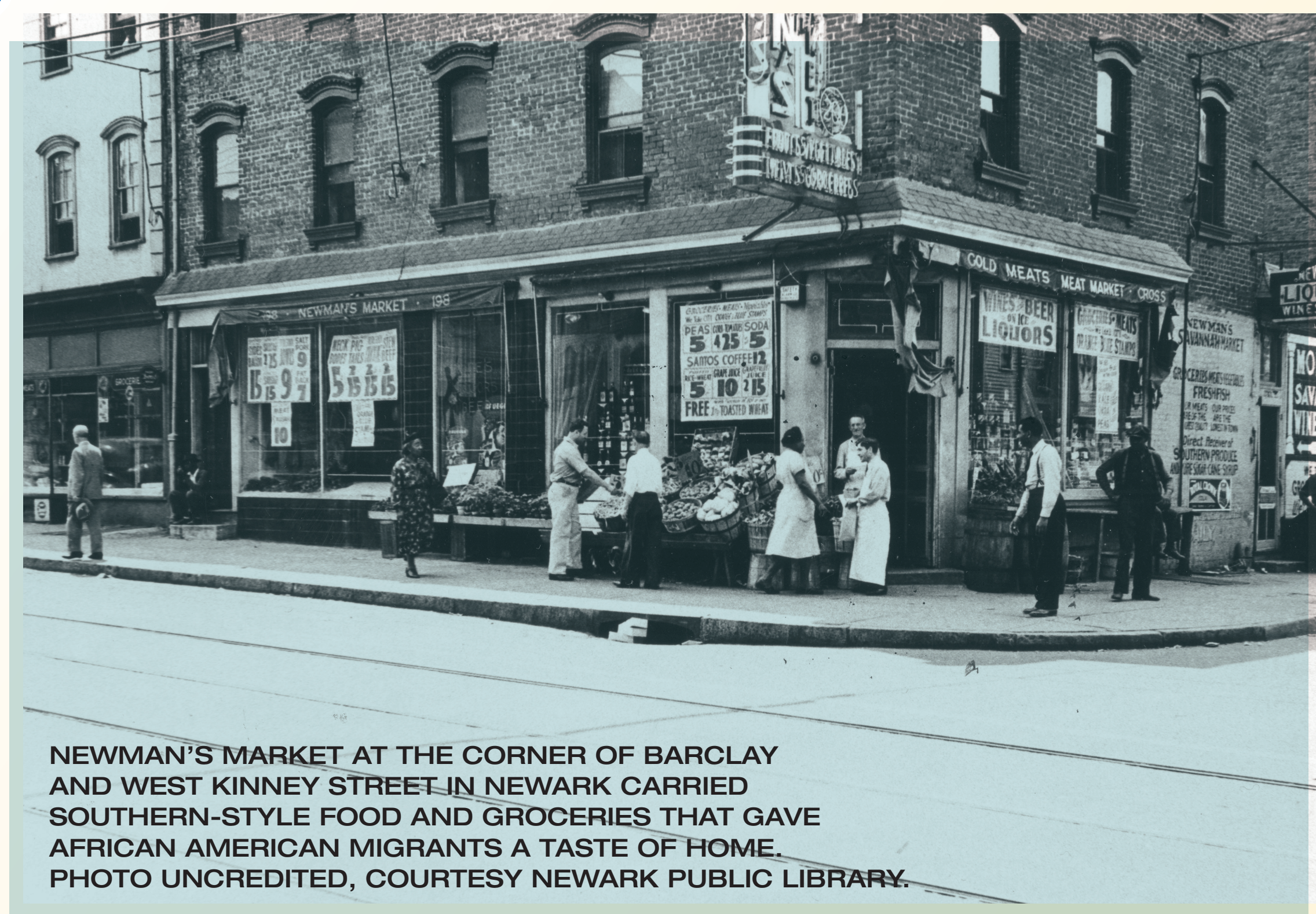
They came by bus, train and car. Their journeys were long and challenging. Many places along the way would not serve them food or let them stay overnight.

Newark, New Jersey had the largest increase in African American population. Migrants who came to Newark from the South went on to become doctors, educators, politicians, artists, activists and more.

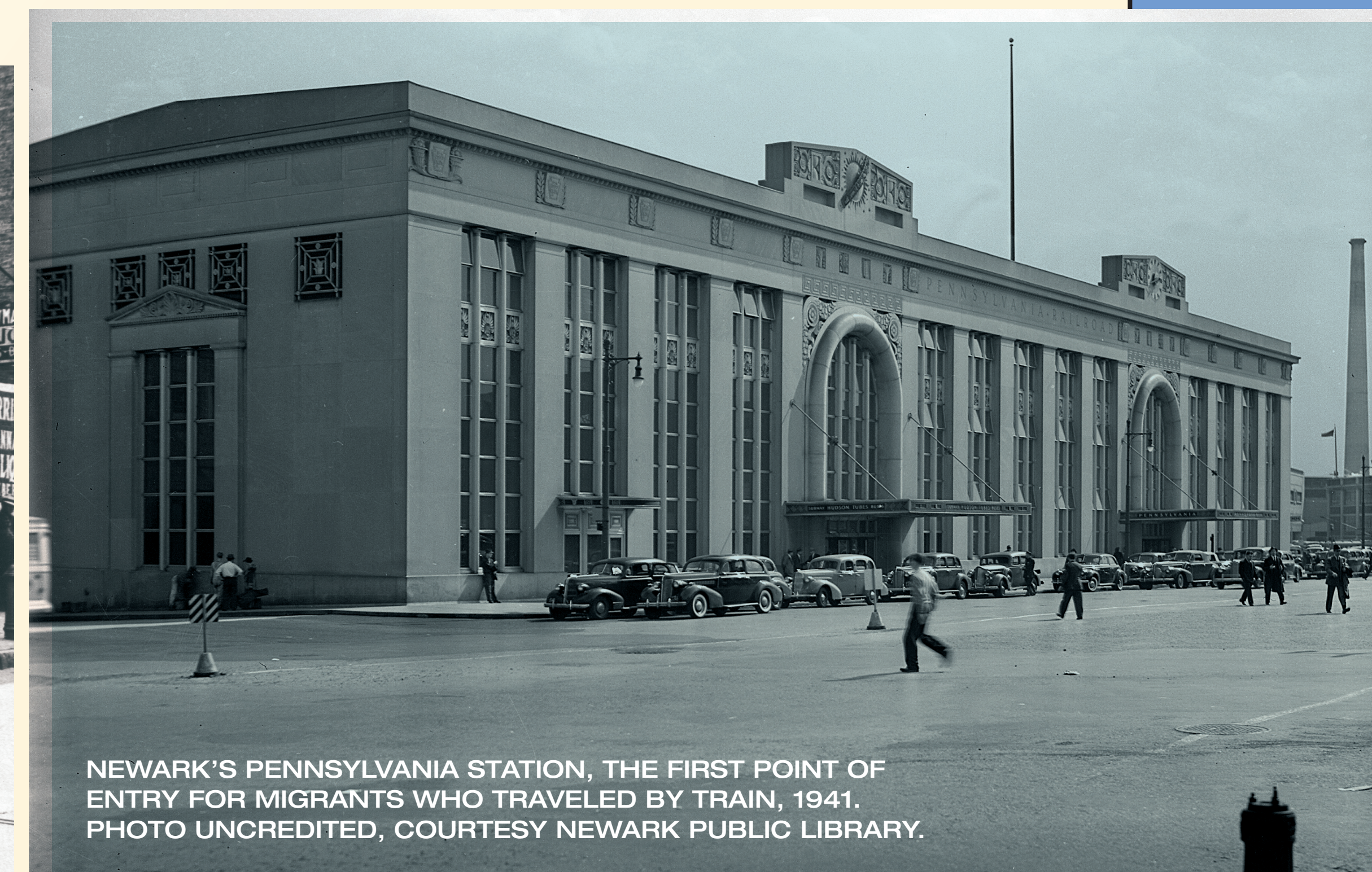
The Newark Public Library has a collection of oral histories from people who lived through the Great Migration and shared their stories.



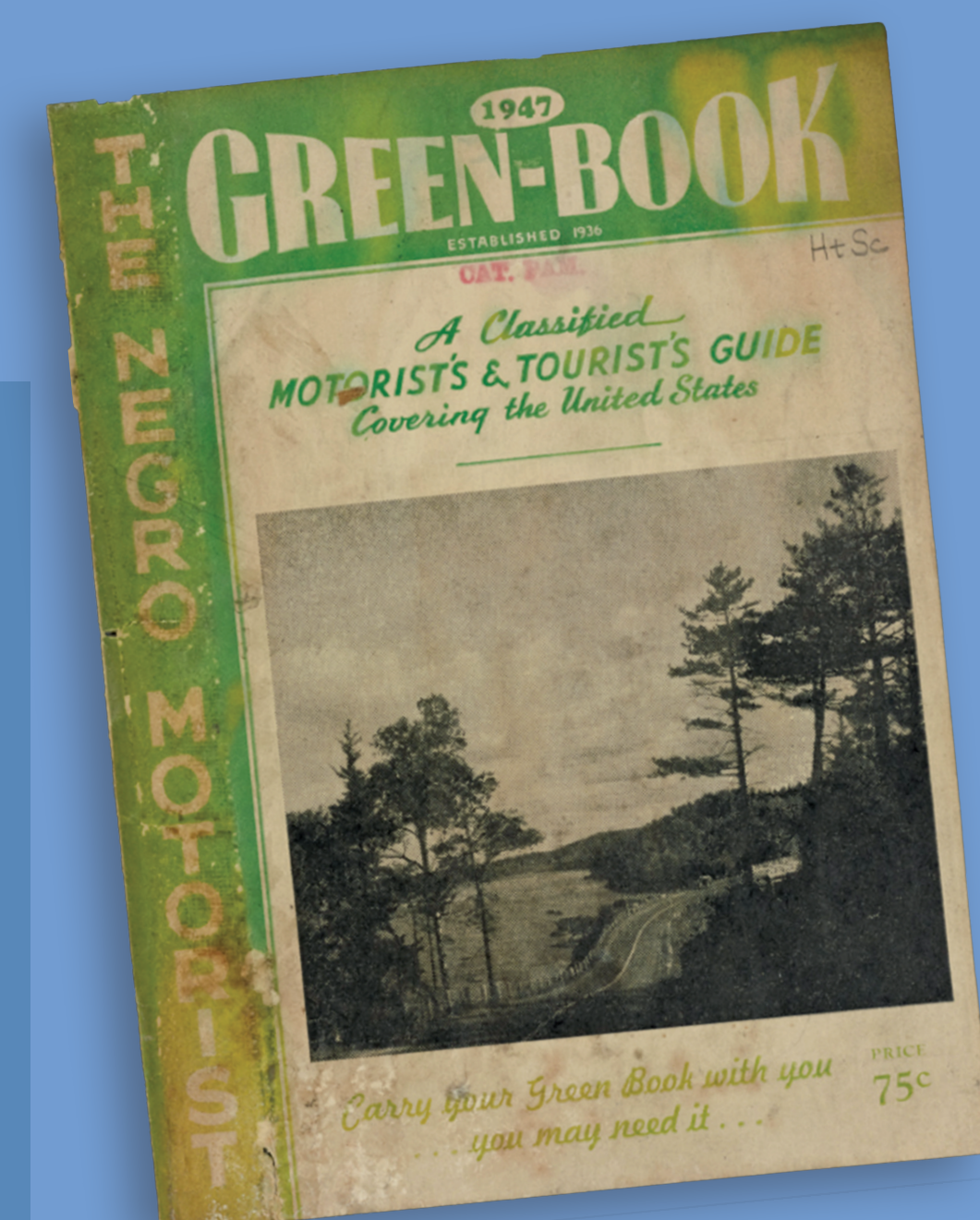
GROUP OF FLORIDA MIGRANTS ON THEIR WAY TO NEW JERSEY TO PICK POTATOES, 1940. PHOTO BY JACK DELANO, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.



NEWMAN'S MARKET AT THE CORNER OF BARCLAY AND WEST KINNEY STREET IN NEWARK CARRIED SOUTHERN-STYLE FOOD AND GROCERIES THAT GAVE AFRICAN AMERICAN MIGRANTS A TASTE OF HOME. PHOTO UNCREDITED, COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

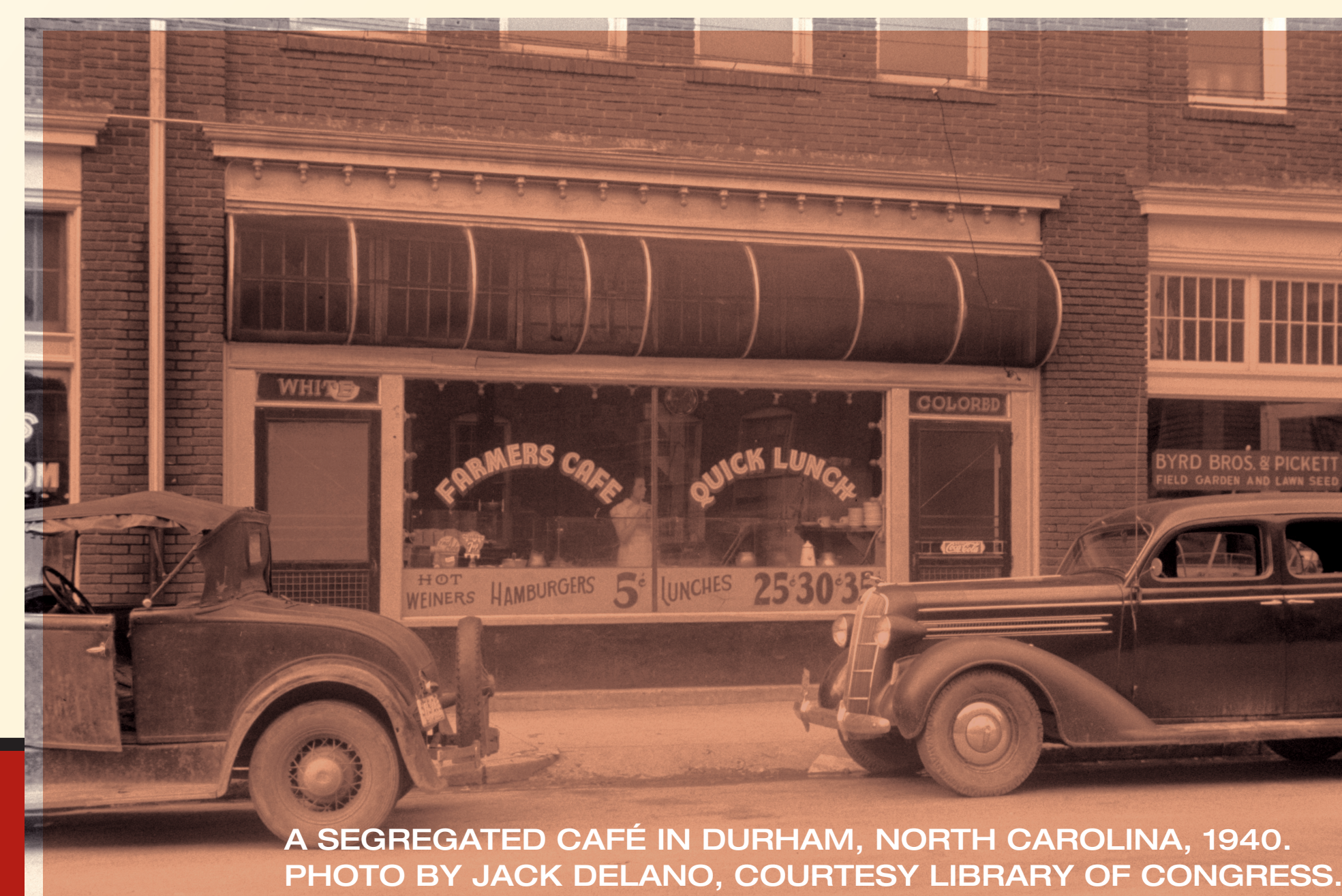
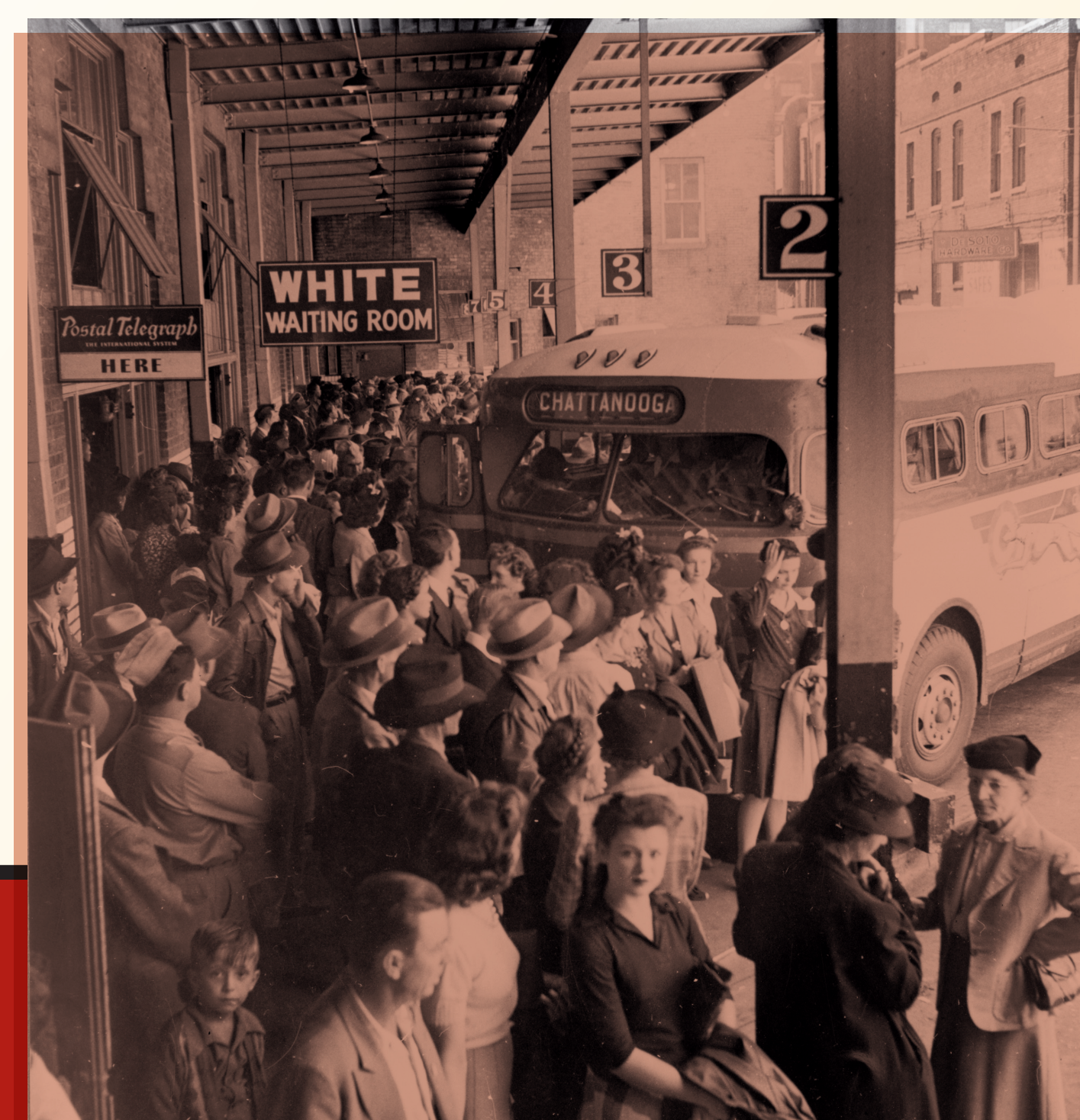


NEWARK'S PENNSYLVANIA STATION, THE FIRST POINT OF ENTRY FOR MIGRANTS WHO TRAVELED BY TRAIN, 1941. PHOTO UNCREDITED, COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.



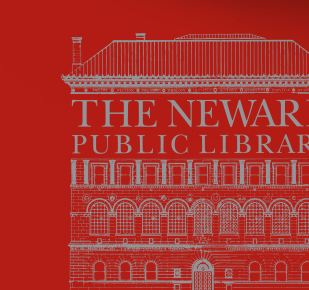
THE GREEN BOOK WAS A GUIDE USED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO TRAVELED BY CAR TO LET THEM KNOW WHICH TOWNS AND ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD WELCOME THEM ON THEIR JOURNEYS, 1947. COURTESY THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A BUS STATION SHOWING SIGNS FOR SEGREGATED WAITING ROOMS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, 1943. PHOTO BY ESTHER BUBLEY, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.



A SEGREGATED CAFÉ IN DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA, 1940. PHOTO BY JACK DELANO, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

MANY AFRICAN AMERICAN MIGRANTS TO THE NORTH WOULD PACK "SHOEBOX LUNCHES" OF FOOD TO TAKE ON THEIR JOURNEY AS PLACES ALONG THE WAY WOULD NOT SERVE THEM.



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THE GREAT MIGRATION

ZAUNDRIA MAPSON, AGE 6.
PHOTO BY AL HENDERSON, 1953,
COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Zaundria Mapson



Zaundria Mapson came to Newark with her family from West Palm Beach, Florida in 1947 when she was only ten months old. Her father, a pastor, was called to lead the congregation at Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

She attended school in Newark from kindergarten at the South 8th Street School through graduating from Weequahic High School. In the summer, she traveled back to the South to visit her grandmother in Talladega, Alabama. She went on to become an educator, teaching grade school and college in Essex County.

In 1996, Zaundria shared her story in an oral history interview, now part of the collection of the Newark Public Library. An oral history is a recorded conversation between an interviewer who asks questions and a narrator who answers them. From these interviews, we can learn firsthand what it was like to live through historic events like the Great Migration.



THE MAPSON FAMILY AT HOME, OSBORNE TERRACE, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, 1958 — SEATED: ZAUNDRIA, MRS. GEORGIA MAPSON (MOTHER) HOLDING CHARLES (BROTHER), PAULETTE (SISTER), STANDING: REV. JESSE MAPSON (FATHER), JESSE (BROTHER). PHOTO COURTESY ZAUNDRIA MAPSON LITTLE.



ZAUNDRIA AS A BABY BEFORE HER FAMILY MOVED TO NEWARK, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, 1947. PHOTO COURTESY ZAUNDRIA MAPSON LITTLE.

“We traveled by car. At that time we could not stop in the South for overnight accommodations. It was probably kind of difficult with a ten month old baby and a two year old. We were not able to stay in hotels.”

“In Newark I attended school with white children. If I had been in Talladega I would not have been able to attend school with white children.”

SOUTH 8TH STREET SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN CLASS, 1952. PHOTO BY ALMON W. JOHNSTON, COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

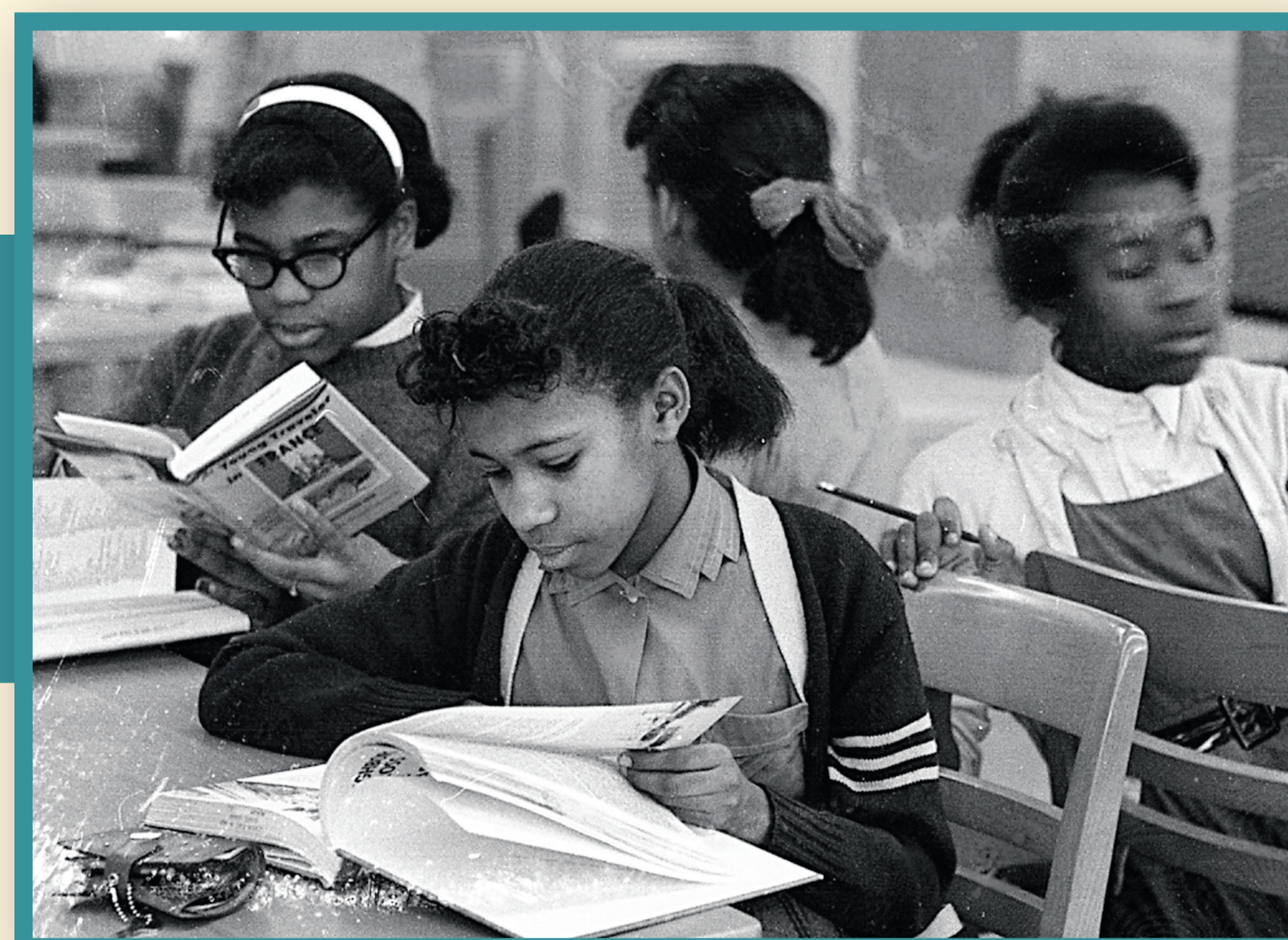


“I do remember going shopping with my grandmother in Talladega. I do remember fountains with the white only sign and colored sign.”

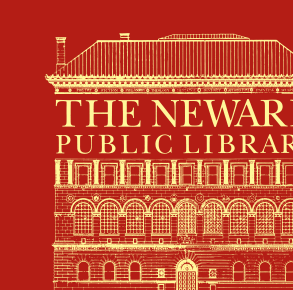
DRINKING FOUNTAIN ON THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAWN, HALIFAX, NORTH CAROLINA, 1938. PHOTO BY JOHN VACHON, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

“At the time I lived in Newark I was in school, I was growing up and I enjoyed school, I enjoyed activities — the museum, the library — and it seemed that Newark was a very exciting place. It had everything.”

GIRLS LOOKING AT BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY, CLINTON PLACE JUNIOR HIGH, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, 1958. PHOTO UNCREDITED, COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.



ZAUNDRIA MAPSON, AGE 19. PHOTO BY AL HENDERSON, 1967, COURTESY NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY.



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