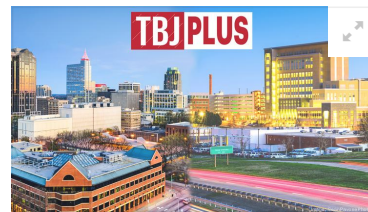


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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

TBJ Plus: NC hotel where Jackie Robinson, Louis Armstrong stayed reopens; Iceland is hot!; Smith Center looks empty



An illustration of the Raleigh-Durham skylines.

SEANPAVONEPHOTO

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By Dane Huffman
Managing Editor, Triangle Business Journal
a month ago

FAMED HOTEL FOR BLACK TRAVELERS REOPENS: A

Greensboro hotel that served African Americans during segregation - including Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson and James Brown - is back open after a restoration.

The Magnolia House is a 4,500-square-foot home that was ranked as one of the top places for Black travelers from 1949 through the end of segregation. The house figured prominently in "The Negro Motorist Green Book," which served as a guide for Black travelers at the time.

"We were the only hotel of prominence between Richmond, Virginia, and Atlanta," Natalie Miller told the *Triad Business Journal*. Her father, Samuel Pass, bought the property in 1995 and has been restoring it since.

The N.C. African American Heritage Commission has put together a fascinating look at 327 places in the state that were in various editions of the "Green Book." The project denotes hotels as well as restaurants, beauty parlors, gas stations and more that served African Americans.

In Raleigh, a central spot for the African-American community was the Lightner Arcade and Hotel at 122 E. Hargett St. The building was destroyed by a fire in 1970.

- **"Green Book" project interactive map of North Carolina**

