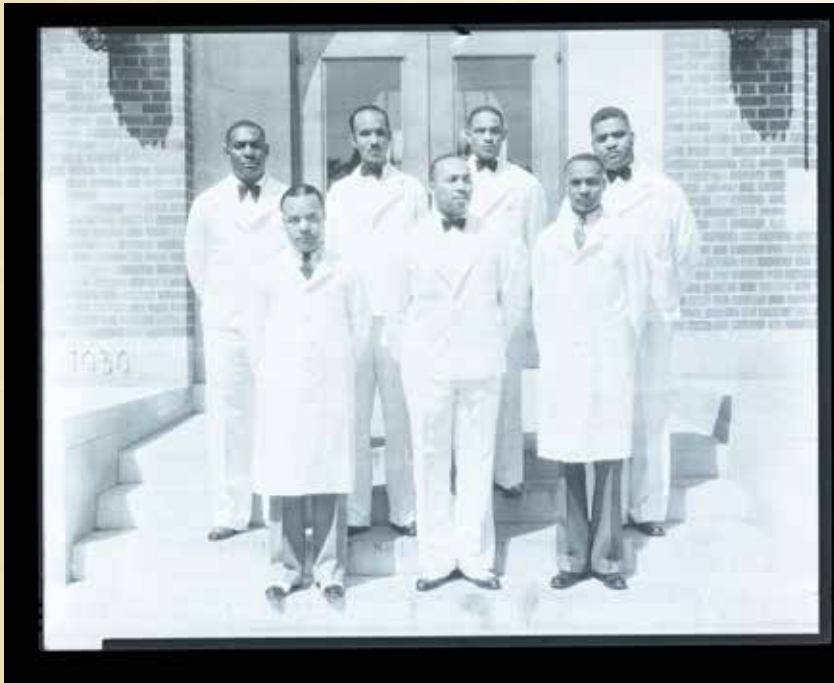


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## CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: YOUR SHOP BARBERSHOP



*Kentucky Historical Society collections*

Your Shop Barbershop operated in Louisville from the 1930s to the 1960s and was a hub where the city's African American communities gathered. It and other businesses like it were critical conduits of change during Jim Crow and the civil rights era because they provided safe spaces for debating politics, segregation and social issues. Moreover, they proved to be important testing grounds for social action, as community members discussed the merits of boycotts, nonviolent direct action and armed self-defense.

It was in places like Your Shop Barbershop that Kentucky's civil rights leaders recruited members, sought advice and worked to change the Commonwealth.

LOUISVILLE — During the Jim Crow era, African Americans were banned from using white businesses in much of the South. Kentucky was no exception.

This ban on integrated spaces created opportunities for black businesses to thrive in African American communities. Barbershops, beauty parlors, corner stores and churches often were more than businesses. They also served as meeting grounds and safe places in which to discuss the pressing issues of the day.

*The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at [khscatalog.kyvl.org](http://khscatalog.kyvl.org)*

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