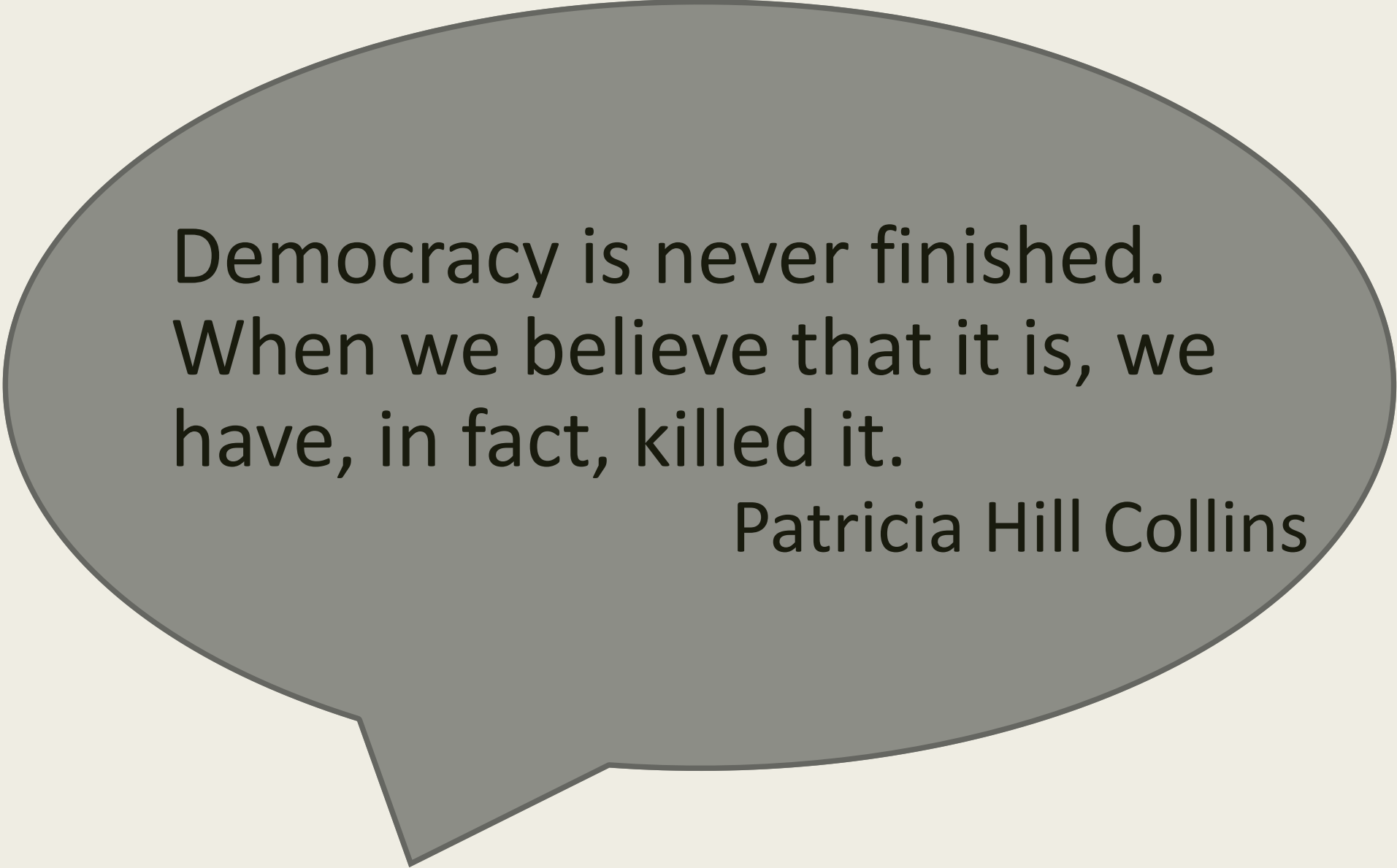


# JIM CROW IN NORTH CAROLINA

*“Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable?” W.E.B. DuBois (1935)*

**DEMOCRACY**

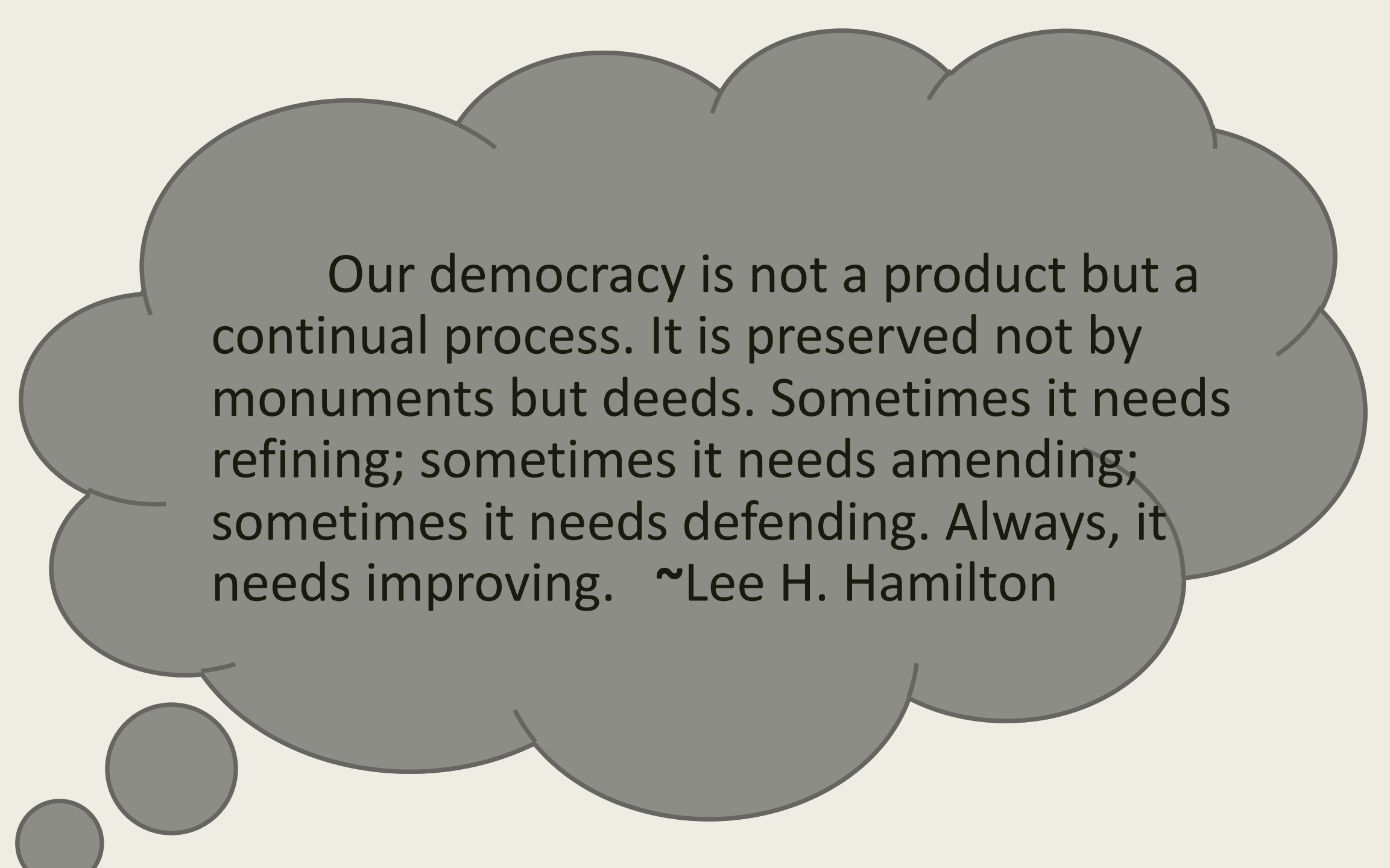


Democracy is never finished.  
When we believe that it is, we  
have, in fact, killed it.

Patricia Hill Collins

Democracy is a process, not a static condition. It is becoming rather than being. It can easily be lost, but never is fully won. Its essence is eternal struggle.

William H. Hastie



Our democracy is not a product but a continual process. It is preserved not by monuments but deeds. Sometimes it needs refining; sometimes it needs amending; sometimes it needs defending. Always, it needs improving. ~Lee H. Hamilton

# What is “Jim Crow”?

- The term “Jim Crow” originated in an 1830s racist song performed by a white minstrel show actor.
- Jim Crow became the term to describe a system of racial apartheid in the American South that lasted for nearly **one hundred years - 1866 to 1967** – with lingering effects lasting to today.
- It affected every part of Southern life, dictating everything from racial segregation to social etiquette, most infamously through racial segregation in schools and public spaces.

Source: <https://onthebooks.lib.unc.edu/laws/the-laws-in-context/>

# What is “Jim Crow”?

- The Jim Crow laws in NC (between 1866 and 1967) represented a series of rigid, unjust laws with the purpose of keeping the races separated (segregation.)
- Beyond the unjust laws, there was equally oppressive etiquette/behavior expected between black people/people of color and white people - based on the misconception that white people were superior.
- The system’s primary function was to promote and maintain a white supremacist racial order. This was accomplished primarily through laws that separated the races and limited the civil rights of non-white citizens.

# What is “Jim Crow”?

- Despite Jim Crow’s prevalence, many people today still do not fully understand this system.
- Some think of Jim Crow as a minor inconvenience—a seat on the back of the bus or an inferior water fountain.
- In reality, the system was all encompassing, touching nearly every part of Southern life for both black, white and people of color.
- Jim Crow resulted in separate restrooms, water fountains, restaurants, waiting rooms, parks, swimming pools, beaches, libraries, hospitals, bus seats, and even cemeteries.





*A cafe near the tobacco market, Durham, North Carolina – May 1940*

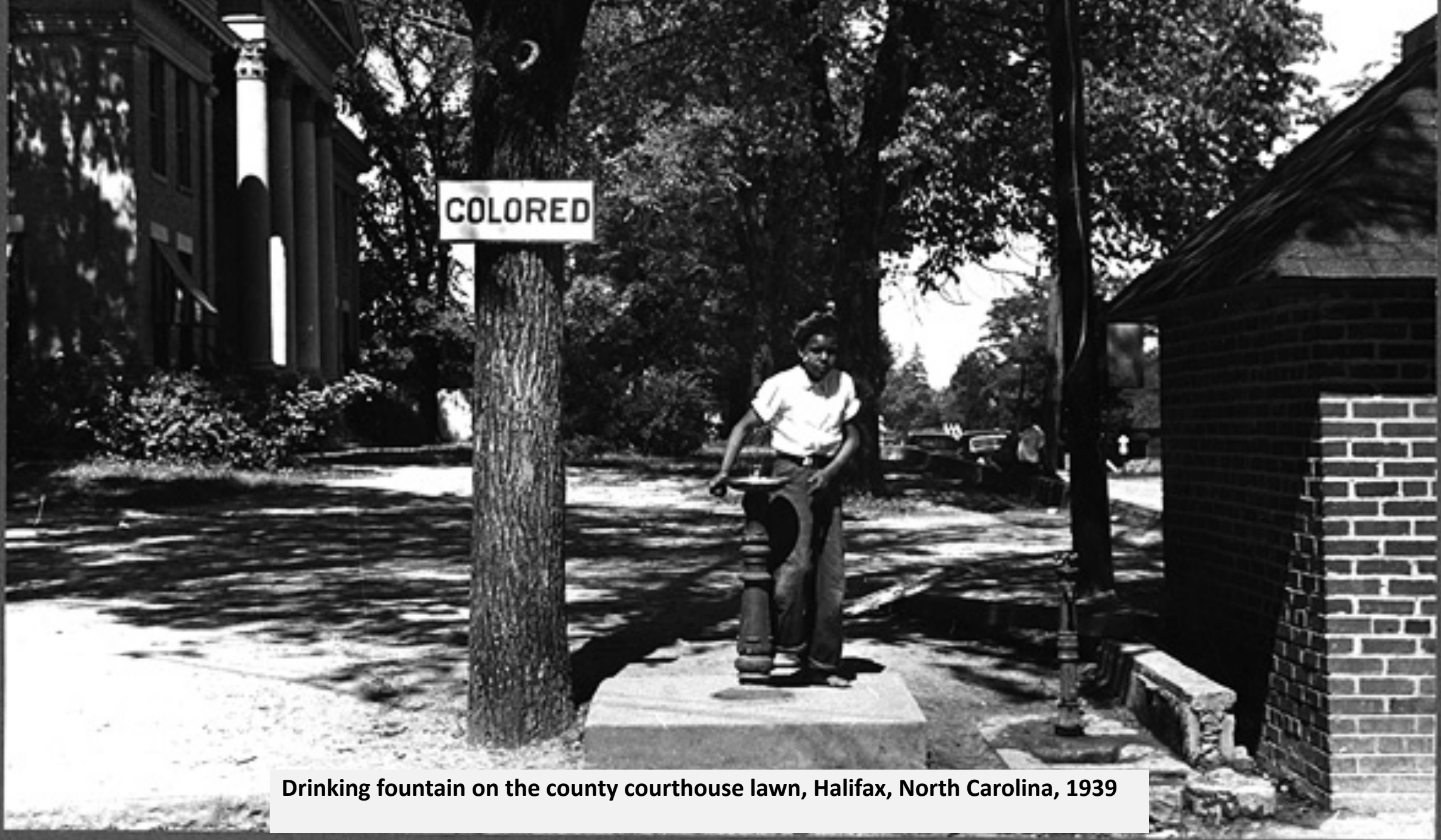


*Durham, NC Bus Station— May 1940*

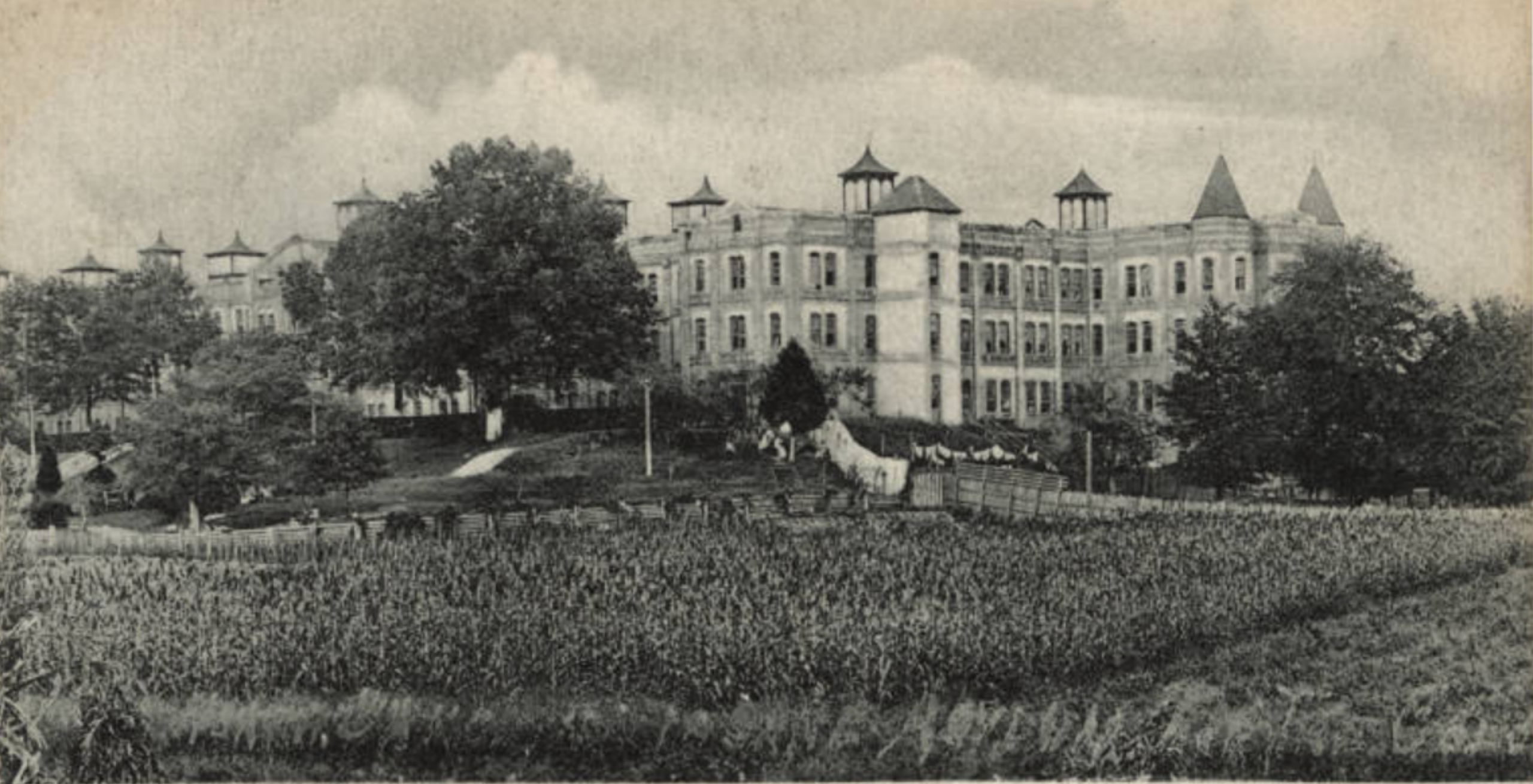
Center Theatre Rocky Mounty, 1951







Drinking fountain on the county courthouse lawn, Halifax, North Carolina, 1939



9550 — North Carolina Insane Asylum for the Colored, Goldsboro, N. C.





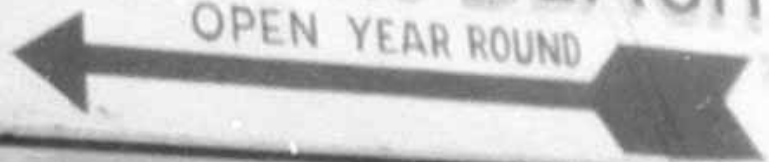


Greensboro, NC, 1956



ATLANTIC BEACH

OPEN YEAR ROUND





“While the ideal is Lady Justice sitting with a blindfold and balanced scales, the reality is that law is always a reflection of the times and of the people, for better and for worse.”

Richard Paschal, Jim Crow in North Carolina

<https://onthebooks.lib.unc.edu/>

The Laws

# ON THE BOOKS

JIM CROW AND ALGORITHMS OF RESISTANCE

TEACH ▾

RESEARCH ▾

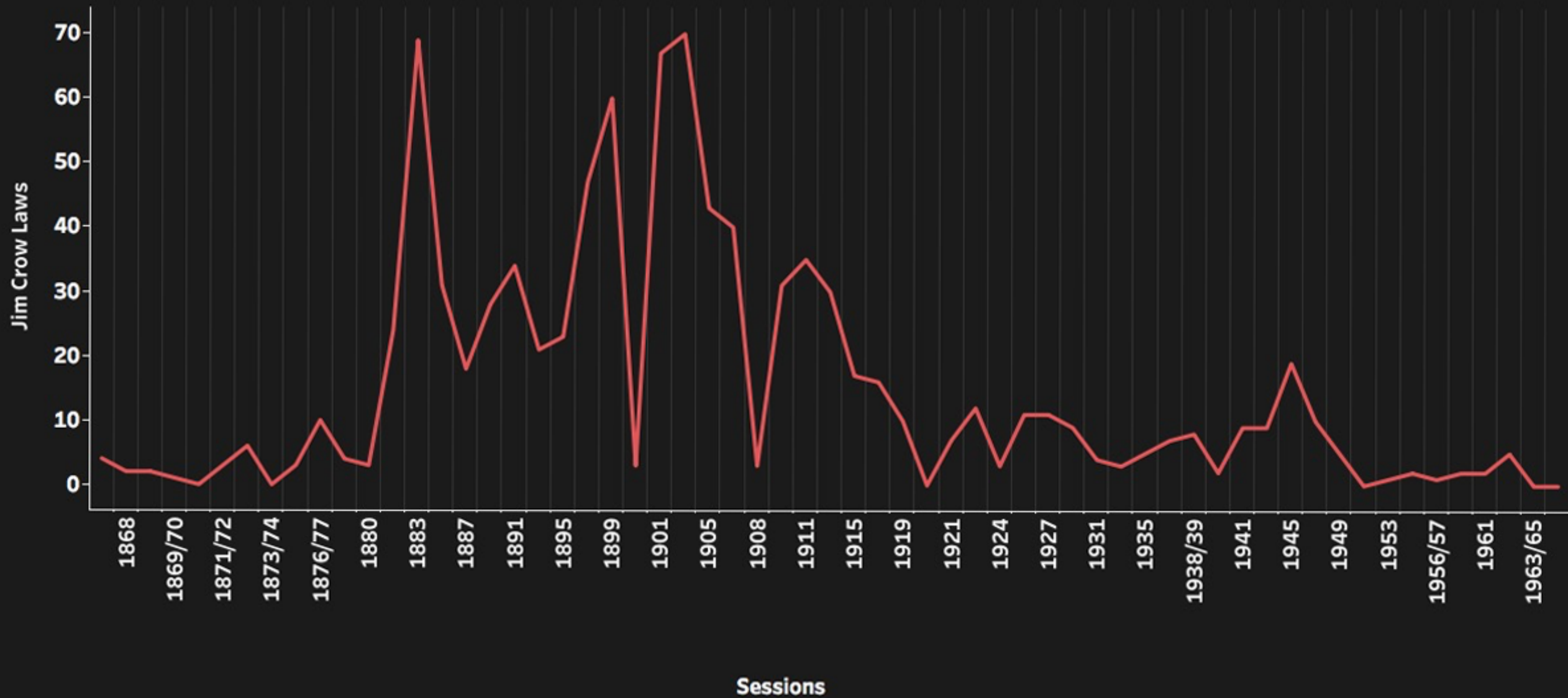
LAWS ▾

ABOUT

CONTACT



Number of Jim Crow Laws in North Carolina from 1868 to 1965



“Nations reel and stagger on their way;  
they make hideous mistakes;  
they commit frightful wrongs;  
they do great and beautiful things.  
And shall we not best guide humanity by telling  
the truth about all this,  
so far as the truth is ascertainable?”

W.E.B. DuBois (1935)

[Jim Crow] history is part of how we, as Americans, got to where we are now. It is not the entire story, but it is an important part of that history. Law was central to Jim Crow in North Carolina and elsewhere. In order to fully understand the shadow that Jim Crow continues to cast over us today, it is necessary to know how ostensibly democratic government at all levels and in all places used law to advance white interests while disadvantaging the interests of African Americans and other minorities.

Richard Paschal, Jim Crow in North Carolina (p. 194)

# Exit Ticket

In what ways have race and law been connected, both explicitly and in the ways in which they were enforced?

Despite such unjust laws, how did people resist to move society forward from the Jim Crow Era?

What is still needed today to continue moving forward towards equality and justice?