

# **SIGNS OF JIM CROW**

*from the Library of Congress Collection*

**Produced by Carole Weatherford**

**Author,**

***Freedom on the Menu:***

***The Greensboro Sit-Ins***

**Co-produced by Jeffery Weatherford**

# Pop Quiz 4.4

## Match item to answer:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Civil Right Act '64                 | A. Outlawed literacy tests                            |
| 2. Plessy v. Ferguson                  | B. Universities can't give bonus points to minorities |
| 3. Voting Rights Act '65               | C. Requires businesses to be accessible               |
| 4. Brown v. BOE of Topeka              | D. Created the separate but equal rule                |
| 5. Americans with Disabilities Act '90 | E. Outlawed Jim Crow practices                        |
| 6. Gratz v. Bollinger                  | F. Led to desegregation in schools                    |

# **What were Jim Crow laws?**

**From the 1880s into the 1960s, most American states enforced segregation through "Jim Crow" laws (so called after a black character in minstrel shows). From Delaware to California, and from North Dakota to Texas, many states (and cities, too) could impose legal punishments on people for mingling with members of another race. The most common types of laws forbade intermarriage and ordered business owners and public institutions to keep blacks and whites separated.**

## **Some Facilities that Were Separate:**

- **Bus station waiting rooms and ticket windows**
  - **Railroad cars or coaches**
  - **Restaurants and lunch counters**
  - **Schools and public parks**
  - **Restrooms and water fountains**
  - **Sections of movie theaters**
- **There were even separate cemeteries**

# How were Jim Crow laws Legalized?

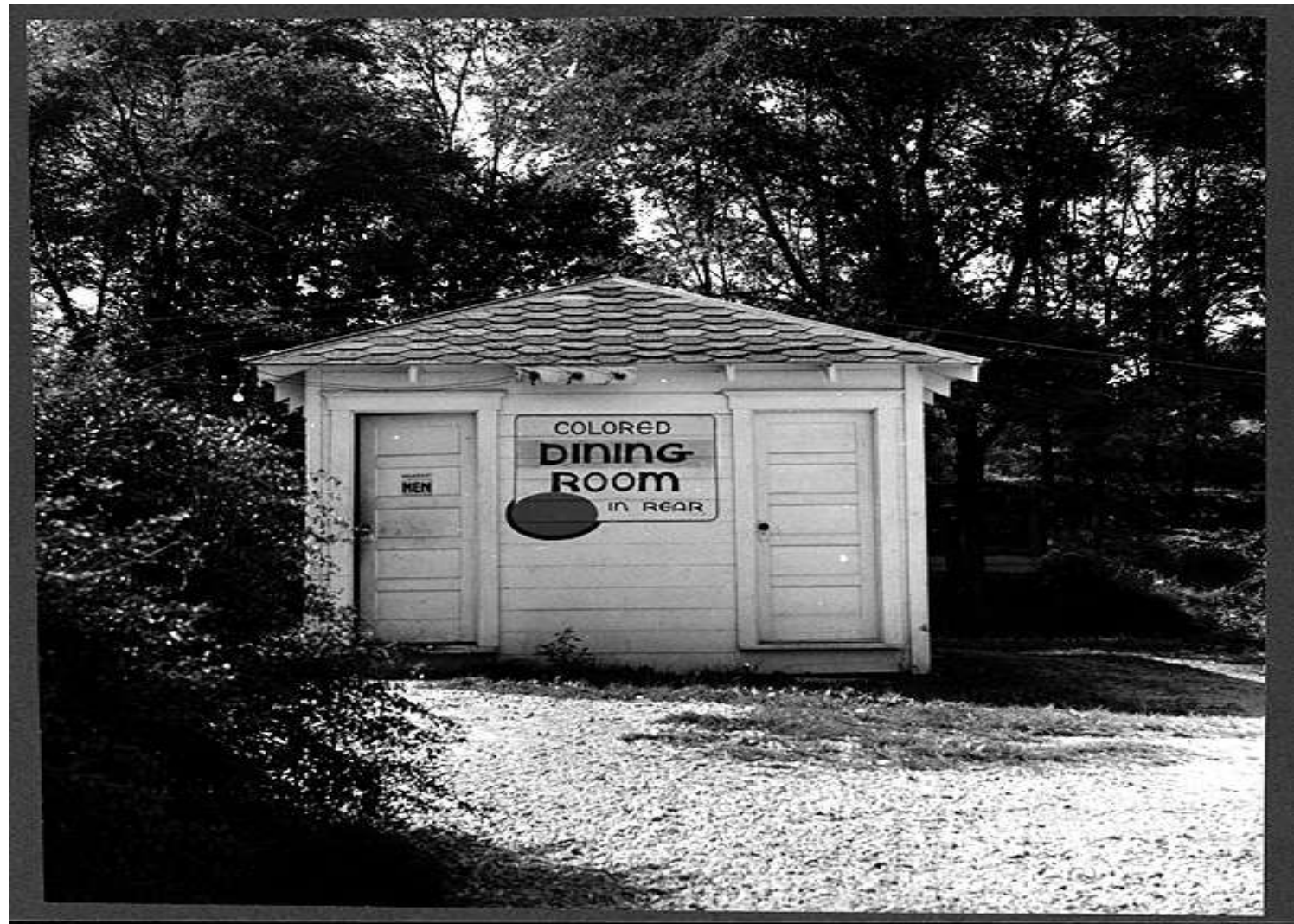
- In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled that facilities could be “separate, but equal” in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson.
- The impact of this decision by the Court led to the segregation of the South and the enactment of Jim Crow laws in many areas of daily life.
- These laws violated the civil rights of African Americans.



**At the bus station, Durham, North Carolina, 1940**



**Greyhound bus terminal, Memphis, Tennessee. 1943.**



**A rest stop for bus passengers on the way from Louisville, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee, with separate entrance for Blacks. 1943.**





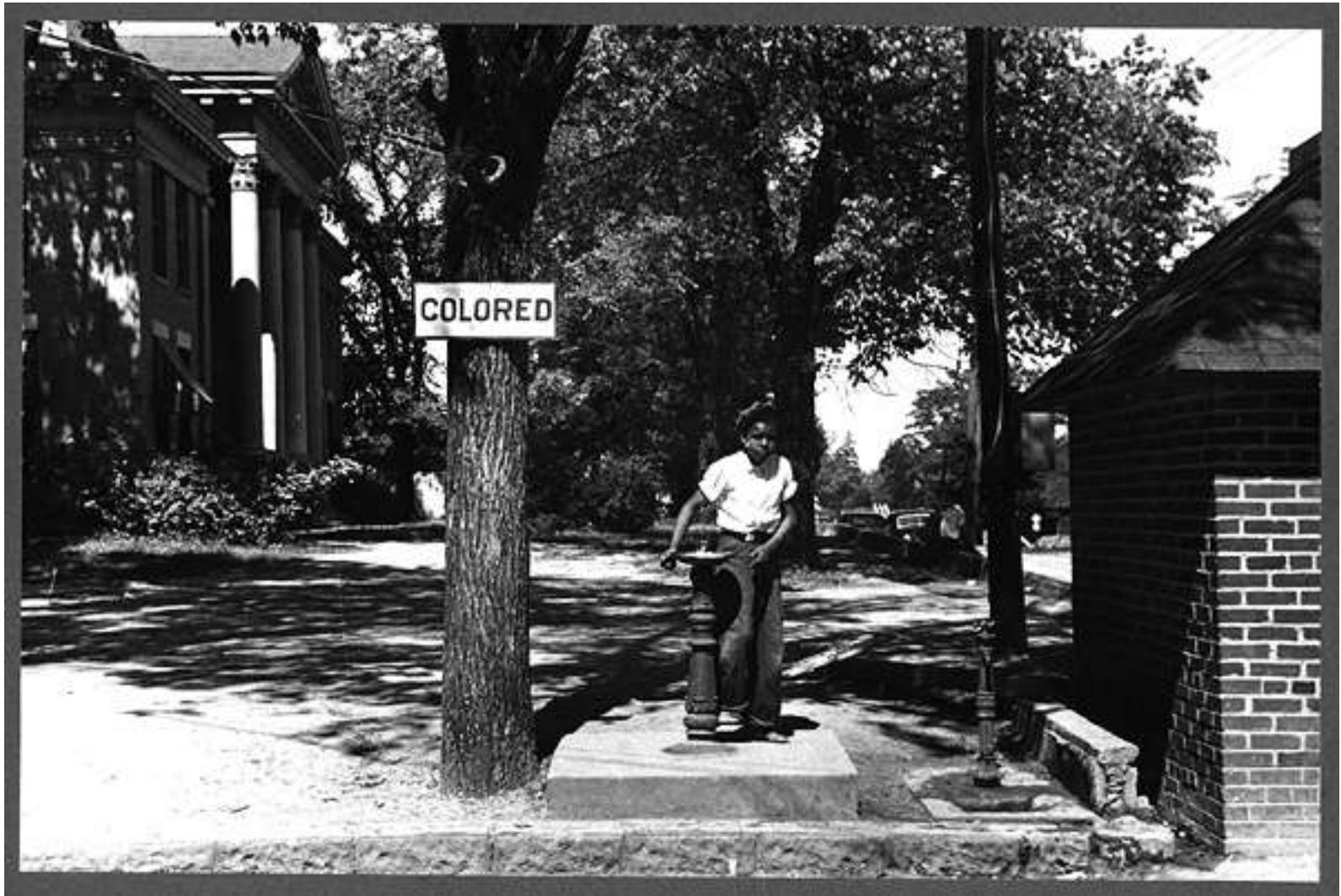
**A sign at bus station, Rome, Georgia. 1943.**



**A highway sign advertising tourist cabins for Blacks, South Carolina. 1939.**



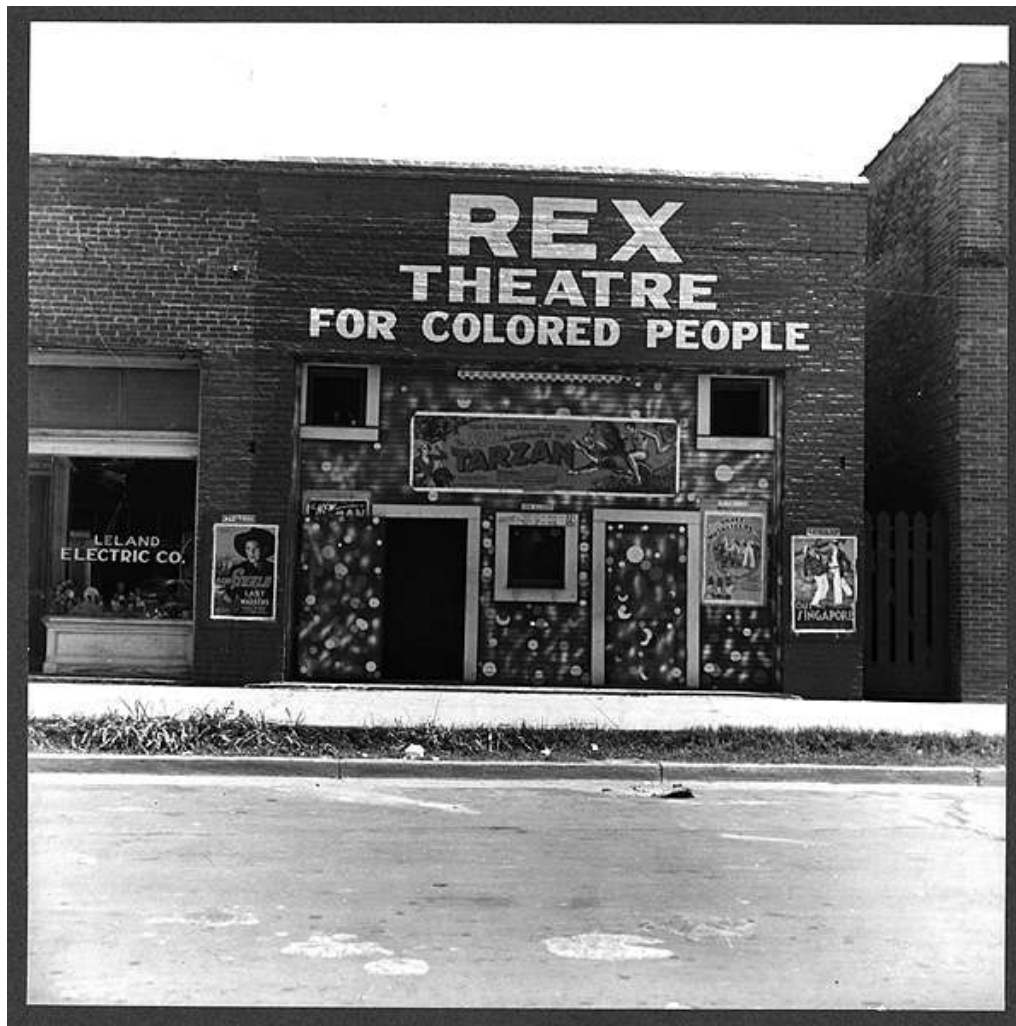
**Cafe, Durham, North Carolina. 1939.**



**Drinking fountain on the courthouse lawn, Halifax,  
North Carolina. 1938.**



**Movie theater's "Colored" entrance, Belzoni,  
Mississippi. 1939.**



**The Rex theater for colored people,  
Leland, Mississippi. June 1937.**



**Restaurant, Lancaster, Ohio. August 1938.**





**Water cooler in the street car terminal, Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma. 1939.**





**Sign above movie theater, Waco, Texas. 1939.**



**Beale Street, Memphis, Tennessee. 1939.**

# How did African Americans fight these laws?

- NAACP was formed in 1909 to draft legislation and file litigation for laws that violated the guarantees of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
- Because most African Americans could not vote, lawmakers continued to pass legislation that infringed on rights and allowed overt discrimination.
- The NAACP then turned to the courts for a remedy.

# Battle in the Courts

- Prove that segregated schools were detrimental to African American children.
- Find a case so horrendous that the Courts agree.
- Brown v. Topeka BOE

<http://history.howstuffworks.com/american-history/civil-rights-movement2.htm>

# What led to legislation?

- Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat—  
Sparked boycotts in Montgomery, AL

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8A9gvb5Fh0>

- Students from NCA&T University  
organized sit-ins in Greensboro as a form of  
*civil disobedience*.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU2lfkz5-MU&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

- March on Washington, DC

# Landmark Legislation

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
  - Impact: Greatly increased legal standing of lawsuits involving discrimination
- Voting Right Act of 1965
  - Impact: Greatly increased the number of African American voters
- Title IX of Omnibus Education Act of 1972
  - Impact: Increased women's sports participation
- Affirmative Action laws
  - Bakke v. UC Regents, Gratz v. Bollinger
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
  - Impact: Allowed accessibility to facilities

## About Carole Boston Weatherford

Weatherford's books have won the Carter G. Woodson Award from National Council for the Social Studies, North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award, an NAACP Image Award nomination, and IRA Teachers Choice and NCTE and NCSS Notables honors. A college professor, she presents school and professional development programs nationwide. Her 19 books include:

*Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*

*A Negro League Scrapbook*

*Remember the Bridge: Poems of a People*

*Sidewalk Chalk: Poems of the City*

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