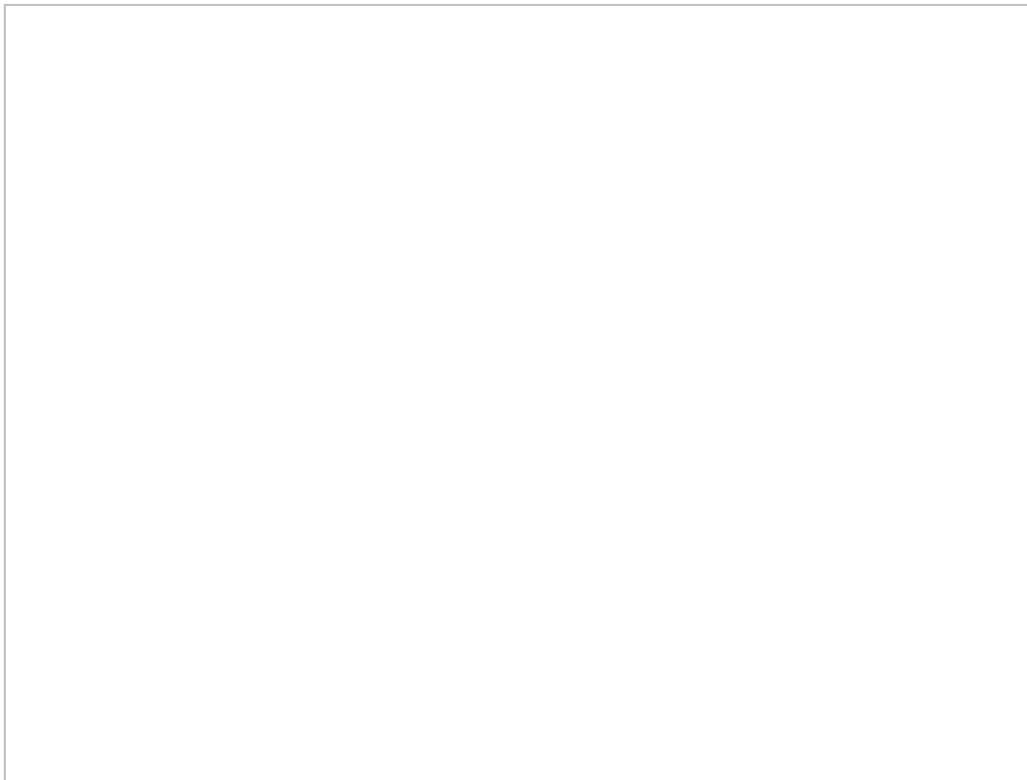

#TBT - Black Barbers have been keeping the CD looking sharp for over 100 years.

Posted by [Staff](#) / 20 - Oct - 2019

#TBT - Black Barbers have been keeping the CD looking sharp for over 100 years.



Mr. William Jackson is pictured outside the Square Deal Barber shop in 1930 located at 1731 22nd Avenue.

The #TBT series is a collaboration between the [Black Heritage Society of Washington State](#) and Africatown Seattle to give historical insights and perspectives into Black history and Black contributions in the Seattle area and Washington State as a whole.

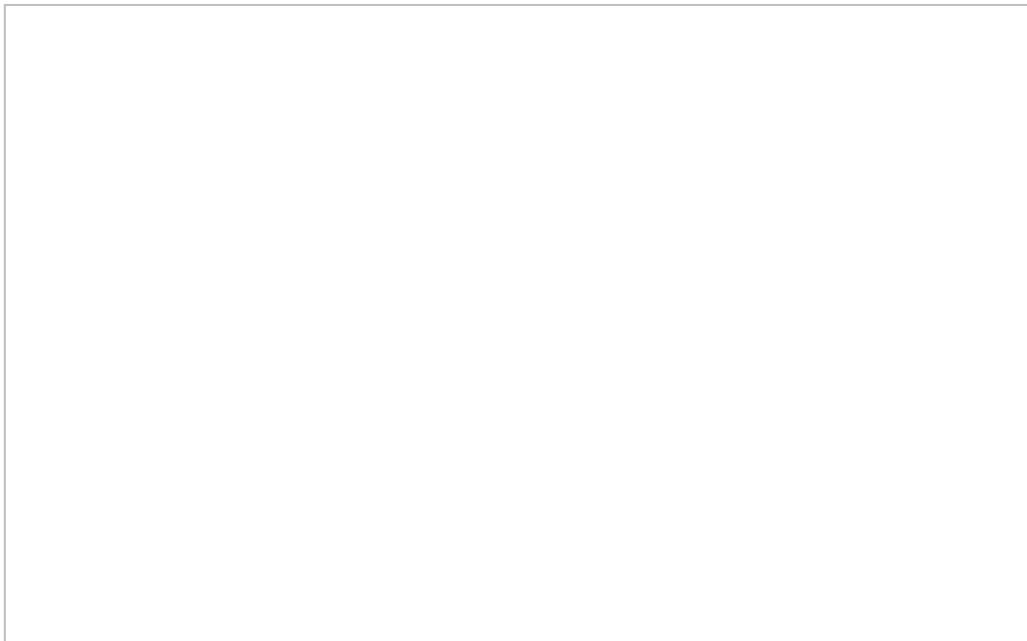
From the 1920s through the 1940s, East Madison Street from 12th to 28th Avenues, and within a few blocks north and south, was the business center of the Central District where one could find all types of black-owned and operated businesses. As Seattle's black population grew, the demand for varied services was in demand and many aspired to the call.

Today, as was the past, barber shops catered to discerning clientele and well-groomed men with kept beards. Underneath all the outward appearances the barber

shop was and is regarded as a special place to cut loose, shoot the breeze, swap tales, talk about issues and politics of the day, play cards, chess or dominoes. Known as the tonsorial, parlor or barber, no matter the name, this refuge of sorts is regarded for its unique social function.

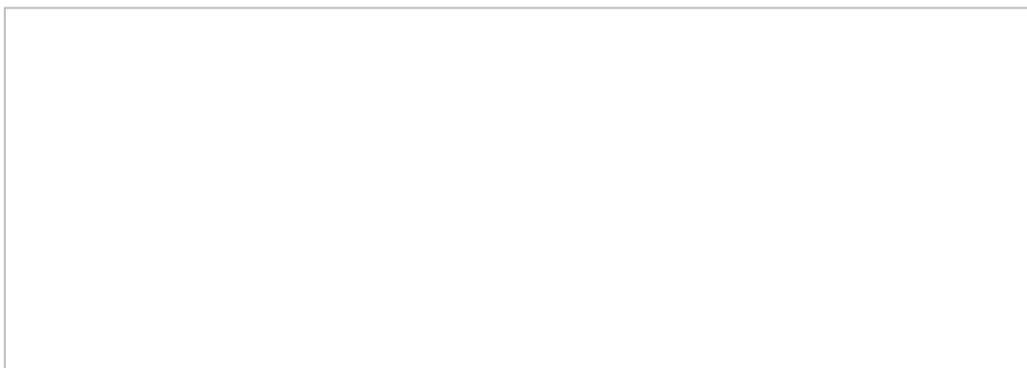
The history of Seattles black-owned barber shops and beauty salons is rich. Barbers, beauticians and stylists are admired as self-made entrepreneurs, skilled in their profession, doing a dance around the client chair all day long, trading gossip and holding secrets. It wasnt until 1956 that Seattles first black barbers union, the Haven of Associated Barbers was organized by Mr. Ulester Garry, Sr. Mr. Garry was elected union president and in 1957 he opened Garrys Deluxe Barber Parlor at 1918 E. Yesler. He cut Jackie Robinsons hair there on his one and only visit to Seattle. Listen to Mr. Garry as he shares his story in this [pop-up interview session](#) recorded at Seattles 2014 ROOTS (Relatives of OldTimers) Celebration.

Reaching back to the 1920s at 2324 E. Madison Street was Buxtons Tonsorial Parlor Catering to the Fastidious.



*The advertisement is from a 1920s community souvenir booklet.

The owner/manager was a black man by the name of Samuel E. Buxton who had success on Madison Street and later moved to a location at 1731 22nd Avenue. He renamed the establishment Square Deal Barber Shop Ladies Haircutting a Specialty.

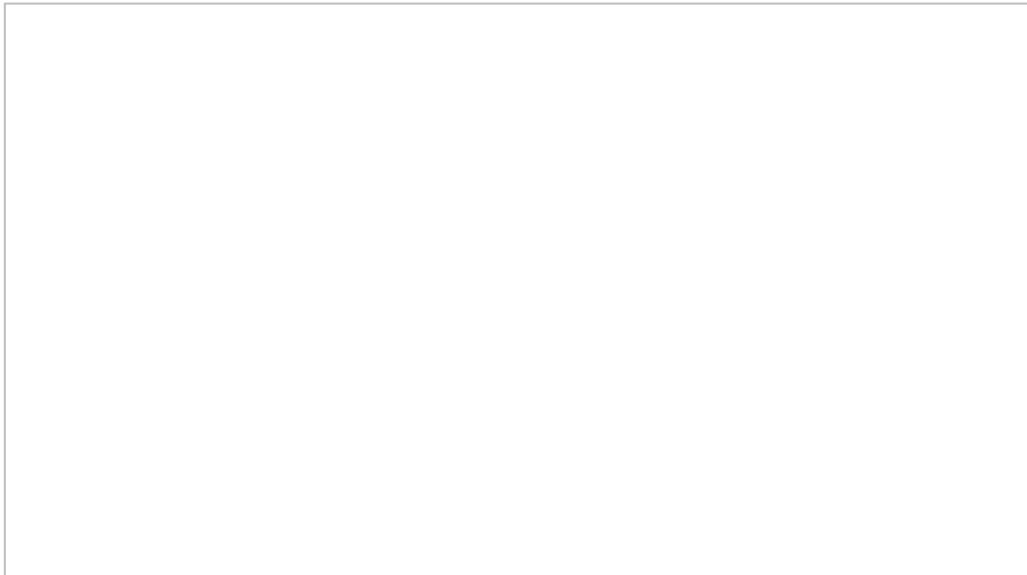


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By 1928 Buxton sold the Square Deal Barber Shop to William Jackson. Later Margaret (Margie) Malone took over the business. Mr. Garry mentions Margie in his 2014 ROOTS interview. She was the only female member at the start of the first black barbers union.

As black businesses come and go, and when the community loses the places that bring comfort, identity and comradery, the preservation of legacies plant our feet to ground the roots to nurture and inform the resurrection of black business we see claiming space in the Central Area today.

Earl Lancaster, [Earls Cuts and Styles](#), we see you holding down the phenomenal tradition of barbering in the heart of the Central Area. You stand on history, hard work, community, and determination to inspire the future.



Earl Lancaster - Earl's Cuts & Styles - Photo: The Evergrey

Reference:

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