

This cover for a 1968 compilation album titled 'The Georgia Blues 1927-1933' is a black and white photograph by Dorothea Lange, with the album title and an additional image superimposed on spaces in the image.

Lange's photograph was taken around 1938 and is titled 'Crossroads General Store'. It shows a building made of wooden planks with two windows on the ground floor, either side of a narrow doorway, and three shuttered windows above. Three wooden steps lead up to a porch running across the width of the frontage. The roof of the porch is held up by four unworked tree-trunks, their side branches roughly hewn off, leaving knobbly, uneven shapes.

On the ground to the left of the steps is a petrol pump of an early design, incorporating a round glass tank topped with a faded TEXACO star logo. Another pump is mounted on the porch itself. The wooden planks of the ground floor wall are covered with multiple tin signs for products on sale: several for Coca Cola, with large and small images of a bottle, and a smaller advert for a rival drink, Pop Kola; Old Gold and Lucky Strike cigarettes; and Sweet Scotch Snuff. Two signs assert that 'Chesterfields Satisfy' with a picture of an invitingly opened pack of cigarettes.

In the doorway stands a man who appears to be white, resting one shoulder against the frame, the other hand reaching up to the lintel in a relaxed but proprietorial pose, looking down with a smile at a black man seated to the right of the door, who is lifting a bottle to his mouth. There are four other black men sitting on the porch, though one is obscured by a tree trunk. The seated men are all in their late teens or early twenties, wearing brimmed hats, cotton shirts and loose trousers or denim dungarees. To the left, one tilts back his stool on two legs. He looks across at the

other men on the porch who lean towards him, laughing and smiling, as if listening to a story.

On the 1968 album cover, an additional photographic image is printed in green on top of the black and white image: two black men in suits and ties, both playing acoustic guitars, looking towards each other and smiling. These are Fred McMullen and Curley Weaver, two of the musicians featured on the album. They are superimposed on Lange's photo as if they are sitting on the steps up to the porch of the general store.

The title – 'The Georgia Blues' – is printed in green on the white space of the porch awning, with the dates 1927 and 1933 printed over the shuttered windows to left and right on the upper floor. On the central window there is the name and logo of the music publisher YAZOO and the catalogue number L-1012.