

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE GUIDE

DURHAM



Where great things happen

Welcome to Durham, a genuine, creative, and entrepreneurial community where diverse and passionate people come together to shape a better world. Home to Research Triangle Park, Duke, and North Carolina Central universities, Durham has always been one of North Carolina's most ethnically diverse communities.

This brief glimpse into Durham's rich African-American heritage will help visitors better understand and experience the tremendous contributions Durhamites have made to the state and the nation.



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Durham African-American Heritage Sites

For ease of navigation, sites in this guide have been divided into three districts by location: North Durham, Duke University & Downtown, and NCCU & Hayti. More complete maps with site locations plotted are located on page 7 of this guide.

While many sites are open to visitors, several are now private sites that may not be interpretable. For more information about these and other Durham points of interest, contact the Visitor Information Center at 101 East Morgan Street, Downtown Durham, (919) 687-0288.

NORTH DURHAM HERITAGE SITES



Paul Liggitt/Durham/DCVB

- 1 Leathers' Slave Cemetery**
Located between Rougemont Rd and S Lowell Rd; www.cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem135.htm

Located in Mangum Township in a grove of hardwoods on the Pearse Farm, about 500 feet to the right of Rougemont Rd and less than a quarter mile NW of S Lowell Rd. This abandoned cemetery contains the graves of at least 100 slaves, including Peter Leathers. No legible stones exist.

- 2 The Russell School**
St Mary's Rd next to Cain's Chapel Baptist Church; www.bit.ly/9EmnLV
Built in the 1920s and named for local supporter Thomas Russell, this is one of two historic Rosenwald schools in Durham County. The Rosenwald Fund, started by Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, aimed to improve African-American education in the South by building schoolhouses. To date there are over 4,000 of these schools nationwide.



Jeana Lee Tahnik/DCVB

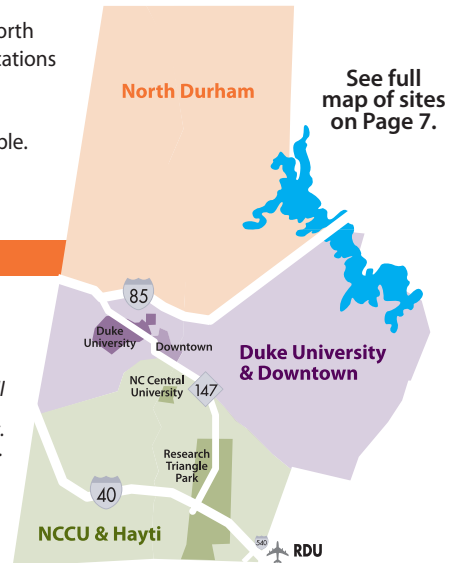
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- 3 Harris Hill Cemetery**
Mangum Township on the Stagville Plantation on a knoll east of Red Mill Rd; <http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem132.htm>; (919) 620-0120
This cemetery was used by slaves of the Bennehan and Cameron plantations and later by their descendants. Located on the property of BioMérieux, this site was also reported as the Halliburton-

Holloway Family Cemetery in the 1920s. Information and tours may be arranged via Historic Stagville.

- 4 Historic Stagville**
5828 Old Oxford Hwy; www.stagville.org; (919) 620-0120
Former estate, now a center for studies of African-American plantation life, culture, and society. Most Stagville slaves came from various family-based, agrarian societies across a wide area of West Africa. United by color only after capture and transport to America, they combined various cultural remnants into a vibrant new African-American culture. Open T-Sa, 10am-4pm (last tour begins at 3pm).

- 5 Cameron Grove Cemetery**
Located in Mangum Township on Old Oxford Highway; www.cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem121.htm; (919) 620-0120
This cemetery was the primary burial ground for the approximately 1,000 slaves of



See full map of sites on Page 7.

the Cameron Plantation. Located near what is believed to be foundation remnants of Cameron Grove, the church serving the slave community. Cemetery is located on private property and locked. Tours/access may be arranged through Historic Stagville.

- 6 Bennett Place State Historic Site**
4409 Bennett Memorial Rd; www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett; (919) 383-4345
Union General William T. Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston met at the Bennett farmstead in 1865 to arrange the largest troop surrender of the Civil War, 17 days after Lee's surrender. Reconstructed farmhouse, outbuildings, interpretive center, and museum. Open Tu-Sa, 10am-4pm.



Jeana Lee Tahnik/DCVB

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PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN DURHAMITES

Durham African Americans have made tremendous contributions to the state and nation, from pioneering the Piedmont Blues to heading the U.S. Olympic Committee. Just a few of Durham's most accomplished African Americans are represented here.

Business

More than 100 years ago, Durham's Parrish Street evolved into one of the nation's strongest African-American entrepreneurial enclaves, known as "Black Wall Street," including institutions such as N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, the nation's oldest and largest black-owned insurance company, and M&F Bank, one of the oldest African-American owned banks in the country. Booker T. Washington declared Durham "the city of Negro enterprise... I never saw a city of this size with so many prosperous..."



Charles Clinton Spaulding



◀ Durham Knitting Mill on Fayetteville St, 1911

African-American entrepreneurial enclave which developed along Parrish Street in the early 20th century, nationally cited as one of three such areas to be exceptionally prosperous. Black businesses such as the N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, M&F Bank, and others were established here. "Black Wall Street" created an unprecedented black middle class acclaimed by black scholars Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois. Features bronze sculptures commemorating the history of the street.

DUKE UNIVERSITY & DOWNTOWN HERITAGE SITES

7 Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture

West Union Building, Duke University West Campus; www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/mlw/; (919) 684-3814

Established in 1983 at Duke University, the Center's mission is to preserve and enhance black culture while promoting interracial understanding through programs and events on black art, history, and literature. Named after the "great lady of Jazz," pianist, composer, and teacher Mary Lou Williams, who was artist-in-residence at Duke University from 1977-81.

8 Duke University

West Central Durham (West/Central/East Campuses); www.duke.edu; (919) 684-8111
Campus architecture is dominated by a 1,800-seat Chapel and other Neo-Gothic Revival buildings designed by noted African-American architect Julian F. Abele. Student-led campus tours conducted through the admissions office.

9 John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary & International Studies

2204 Erwin Rd, Duke University; www.jhfc.duke.edu; (919) 684-2765

A consortium of programs committed to revitalizing notions of how knowledge is gained and exchanged. Participants explore intellectual issues including race and race relations, the legacy of the African-American experience and much more. Named for the late John Hope Franklin, Duke professor emeritus, historian, intellectual leader, and lifelong civil rights activist. This was the first humanities center on a major university campus named for an African-American living at the time.

10 Former Fitzgerald Brickyard

Duke Central Campus

A two-block area from Swift Avenue to Gattis Street marks the former location of the Fitzgerald Brickyard—one of Durham's largest black-owned business—and clay pit

area, which made bricks for Erwin Mills, Brightleaf District, American Tobacco, and several other factories and warehouses. These buildings help give Durham its unique texture as they are now converted into apartments, retail, restaurants, and office space.

11 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company

411 W Chapel Hill St, Downtown Durham; www.ncmutuallife.com; (919) 682-9201

Founded in 1898 by John Merrick and Aaron Moore. Today the largest and oldest African-American-owned insurance company in the country. Display cases on the outdoor Podium Level Pavilion contain a pictorial review and history of the 106-year-old company. Twelve-story building stands on four acre site of former B.N. Duke home.

12 Site of Former Downtown Durham Woolworth Store

124 W Main St

Site of lunch counter sit-in where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. first appeared endorsing direct but nonviolent confrontation with segregation laws. Pioneered by King's classmate Rev. Douglas Moore during the 1950s and 1960s, sit-ins soon spread throughout the South. Part of the historic Woolworth counter is now preserved in the William Jones Building at North Carolina Central University.

13 Black Wall Street / Historic Parrish Street

Parrish St; www.durhamnc.gov/departments/eed/parrish; (919) 560-4965

14 North Carolina Mutual National Historic Landmark / Mechanics & Farmers Bank Building

116 W Parrish St, Downtown Durham; www.mfbonline.com

Original location of Mechanics & Farmers Bank, now M&F Bank, operating continuously and profitably since opening in 1908. The building is one of three National Historic Landmarks in Durham. Founded by nine prominent African-American businessmen in 1907, it is one of the oldest African-American owned banks in the country. M&F Bank and N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co. anchored what once was called "Black Wall Street."



15 Former Royal Ice Cream Company

Corner of N Roxboro St & Dowd St

Site of August 1957 sit-in led by Rev. Douglas Moore of Asbury Temple United Methodist Church. Moore and Durham attorney Floyd McKissick led sit-ins at local bus station waiting rooms, parks, and hotels. By 1960, sit-in techniques developed and taught in Durham were leading to successful integrations across the South.

Religion

Durham has had influential African-American religious leaders: from Edian Markham, founder of St. Joseph's AME Church, one of the first autonomous African-American congregations in the country, to Pauli Murray, the first African-American woman to become an Episcopal priest, to Dr. Miles Mark Fisher, winner of the AHA's Outstanding Historical Publication Award, to Rev. Douglas Moore, civil rights pioneer who convinced Dr. King to adopt civil disobedience, to 11-time Grammy winner Shirley Caesar, the singer "60 Minutes" calls the First Lady of Gospel, to Grammy-nominated Pastor John P. Kee.



Pauli Murray

The Professions

Durham African-Americans have been instrumental in shaping the community and the nation: from Julian Abele, the architect who designed Duke University's West Campus, to Dr. Charles DeWitt Watts, the state's first black surgeon and the founder of Lincoln Community Health Center, to Judge Floyd McKissick, civil-rights sit-in pioneer and head of the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.), to Dr. Charles Johnson, former president of the National Medical Association.



Julian Abele

Durham African-American Heritage Sites

16 Durham Hosiery Mill (Mill #1)

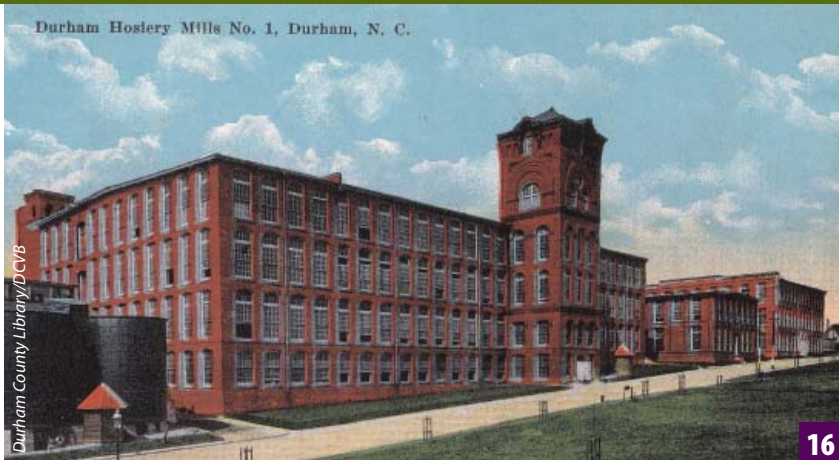
803 Angier Ave; (919) 682-4866

Built in 1901, it was once the nerve center of the world's largest hosiery mill complex and the nation's largest producer of silk stockings. After 1904, it was the only mill in the country staffed entirely by African-Americans. Today it provides affordable housing for the elderly and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

17 Geer Cemetery

Camden at Colonial and McGill Sts;

www.cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem252.htm
Founded in 1876 as the first cemetery for African-Americans in Durham. Margaret Faucette, founder of White Rock Baptist Church, and Edian Markham, founder of St. Joseph's AME Church, are among those at rest. Limited site maintenance.



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NCCU & HAYTI HERITAGE SITES



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18 Asbury Temple United Methodist Church

201 S Alston Ave; www.asburytempleumc.org; (919) 688-4578

Rev. Douglas E. Moore, former pastor of Asbury Temple, helped pioneer the student sit-in movement in the late 1950s to integrate white-only establishments in the South. He was the first N.C. delegate to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It was Rev. Moore who first persuaded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to endorse a policy of nonviolent confrontation with segregation laws.

19 St. Joseph's Performance Hall at the Hayti Heritage Center

804 Old Fayetteville St; www.hayti.org; (919) 683-1709

Formerly the sanctuary for St. Joseph's AME Church, founded in 1869. On the National Register of Historic Places, the 1891

Richardsonian Romanesque-style building includes 24 stained-glass windows and two-tiered Art Nouveau chandeliers. Restored into a 450-seat performance hall in 2001. Operated by the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc., located in the Hayti Heritage Center complex. Open M-F, 9am-5pm; Sa, 10am-3pm. Call for performance schedule.

20 St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/ Hayti Heritage Center

804 Old Fayetteville St; www.hayti.org; (919) 683-1709

Hayti was once one of America's most successful African-American marketplaces and neighborhoods and was named in admiration of the independent island nation. The center houses the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation's administrative offices, the 450-seat St. Joseph's Performance Hall, the former St. Joseph's AME Church sanctuary (a National Register site, circa 1891), and features art and artifacts in the Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery.

21 Durham County Library, Stanford L. Warren Branch

1201 Fayetteville St, at Umstead St; www.durhamcountylibrary.org/locations/sl.w.php; (919) 560-0270

The second black library in N.C. started in the basement of White Rock Baptist Church in 1913 by Dr. Aaron Moore. It moved Downtown in 1916, and Dr. Stanford Warren donated funds to purchase the current site in 1939. Named for his daughter, the Selena Warren Wheeler collection is recognized as one of the best African-American collections in the South.

22 Scarborough House

1406 Fayetteville St

The richly decorated Scarborough House is the only remaining full-blown example of the Colonial Revival style popularized in the neighborhood building boom of 1910. The house displays a monumental Doric portico and denticulate cornices. J.C. Scarborough, Sr. founded an undertaking business and, in 1922, became the first president of the Colored Voters League.

23 Lincoln Community Health Center, Inc.

1301 Fayetteville St; www.lincolnhc.org; (919) 956-4000

Dr. Aaron M. Moore established Lincoln Hospital as the first Durham hospital for African-Americans in 1901 on Proctor St. Now known as Lincoln Community Health Center, it is operated by Duke University Health System.

Politics

Durham African-Americans have a rich heritage of national political leadership and achievement: from the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, to Helen Edmonds, the first black woman to second the nomination of a Presidential candidate, to NCCU alumni the late Maynard Jackson, the first black mayor of a major Southern city, and Dan Blue, the first African-American Speaker of the NC House of Representatives, to the late Jeanne Lucas, the first African-American woman elected to the N.C. Senate.



Dr. King at Durham sit-in, along with associate Ralph Abernathy, at left, Rev. Douglas Moore, and an unidentified man.

Education

Durham African-Americans are national leaders in education: from Dr. James E. Shepard, founder of N.C. Central University (NCCU), the nation's first publicly funded liberal arts college for African-Americans, to historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Chairman of President Clinton's Commission on Race Relations, to Ben Ruffin, the first African-American chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina System.



Dr. John Hope Franklin

24 Lincoln Hospital Nursing Monument and Brick Marker

1301 Fayetteville Street

Honoring the tireless work and groundbreaking achievements of Lincoln Hospital's School of Nursing to the black residents of Durham in times of segregation. During its years of operation, 1903-1971, the school graduated 614 professional nurses. The school closed in 1971 when Lincoln and Watts Hospital combined to form Durham County Hospital Corp.

25 North Carolina Central University

1801 Fayetteville St;

www.nccu.edu; (919) 530-6295

Founded by Dr. James E. Shepard in 1910 as the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua to train African-American Sunday School teachers and missionaries. Later became North Carolina College for Negroes in 1925 and was renamed North Carolina Central University in 1969. The first publicly supported liberal arts college for African-Americans in the country, NCCU is the site of the Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School, the William Jones Building, which houses a portion of the Downtown Woolworth lunch counter where a historic Durham sit-in occurred, and the James E. Shepard Memorial Library, which contains the Martin Collection of books and pamphlets on African American history, literature, and culture; as well as the William Tucker Collections of works by African-American authors and illustrators of children's materials. Tours by appointment. NCCU also offers a renowned hospitality and tourism degree in the business school.



26 James E. Shepard House

1902 Fayetteville St, North Carolina Central University; (919) 929-4298

Built for NCCU founder James E. Shepard in 1925 and served as the official residence of the university's presidents through the early 1980s, it played host to many dignitaries including W.E.B. DuBois and Marian Anderson. A grant from the National Park Service and donations helped to fund the renovation of the property, which displays interactive exhibits on Dr. Shepard's life.

27 North Carolina Central University Art Museum

1801 Fayetteville St;

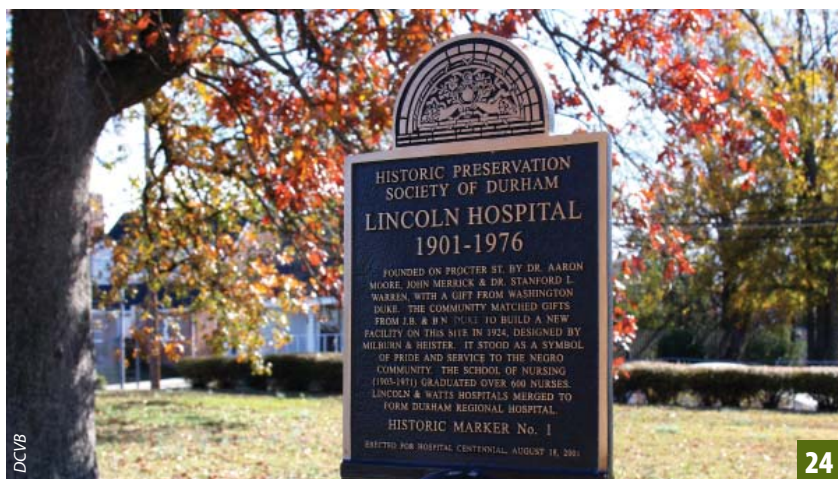
web.nccu.edu/artmuseum; (919) 530-6211

Collections include paintings, sculptures, prints, African art, and artifacts. The museum has temporary exhibitions of African-American art from national, regional, and local artists and also exhibits art from local public school students. Open M-F, 9am-5pm.

28 Dr. James E. Shepard Statue by William H. Zorach

North Carolina Central University, in front of Clyde R Hoey Administration

Son of Augustus Shepard, former pastor of White Rock Baptist Church, James graduated from Shaw University in pharmacy but followed his father into the ministry. He founded the National Religious Training School and Chatauqua in 1910, which later became North Carolina Central University, serving as president until his death in 1947. His statue stands in front of the campus administration building.



DCVB

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Durham County Library/DCVB

NCCU Basketball Players, 1940s

Sports

Durham African-Americans impact the nation's sports culture: from NCCU's victory over Duke in the South's first integrated college basketball game, to Coach John B. McLendon, pioneer of the fastbreak and four-corner offense, to Coach Russell E. Blunt, one of only two North Carolinians in the National High School Hall of Fame, to Sam Jones, the first African-American NBA first round draft pick, to NBA star and coach John Lucas and players such as Rodney Rogers, Tracy McGrady, and David Young, to NCCU's National Basketball Championship in 1989, Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan, and Dr. LeRoy Walker, Past President of the U.S. Olympic Committee.



North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library/DCVB

James E. Shepard, 1925

Durham African-American Heritage Sites

29 Institute for the Study of Minority Issues

2136 New School of Education Bldg, NCCU; www.nccu.edu/academics/institutesandcenters/ismi.cfm; (919) 530-6353
The Institute promotes minority research, particularly of African-Americans in the New South. ISMI provides a forum for discussion, research, and writing about educational, political, economic, and social issues that impact minority groups.

30 North Carolina Central University Women's Gym

1801 Fayetteville St; (919) 560-6100
Location of the first integrated college basketball game in the South. Was played in secret behind locked gym doors in defiance of Jim Crow laws. N.C. College (now NCCU) defeated the Duke Medical School all-star team 88-44 on March 12, 1944. Then-NCC coach and offensive pioneer John B. McLendon is now in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Currently the gym serves as a Student Services Center.

31 Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St; www.cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem251a.htm; (919) 560-4154
Contains the graves of many of Durham's early African-American business and community leaders, including John Merrick, founder of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; C.C. Spaulding, general manager and president of N.C. Mutual; and Dr. James E. Shepard, founder and president of the National Religious Training School, which became North Carolina Central University (NCCU). Located next to White Rock Baptist Church. 7am-5pm in winter, 7am-7pm in summer.

32 White Rock Baptist Church

3400 Fayetteville St; www.whiterockbaptistchurch.org.whsites.net; (919) 688-8136
Organized in 1866 and officially founded in 1875, the congregation was led for many years by Dr. Augustus Shepard, father of NCCU founder Dr. James E. Shepard. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressed the congregation February 16, 1960, with a history-making "Fill up the jails" civil-rights speech, following the famous Woolworth sit-in eight days earlier. The congregation moved to its current building in 1977.

33 Hillside High School

3727 Fayetteville St; www.hillside.dpsnc.net; (919) 560-3925
Called Whitted School in 1887, on the corner of Blackwell and Pettigrew Sts, it is one of the oldest schools in the state. Fire destroyed the original building, but the school opened again in 1921 as Hill Park View, then Hillside High in 1950. Moved four times in its history and currently located on Fayetteville Road, the school is named after John Sprunt Hill, a major contributor to its reconstruction. The school is one of the few historically black high schools that remained open following integration.

34 Holy Cross Catholic Church

2438 S Alston Ave; www.holycrossdurham.org; (919) 957-2900
Holy Cross Church is significant as one of the first African-American Catholic Churches in North Carolina and joined the ranks of only a handful in the Southeast. It was moved to its current location during an NCCU campus expansion for preservation and will be used as a community center.

▼ African-American Dance Ensemble



The Arts

Durham African Americans gained national attention by pioneering the Piedmont Blues, spearheaded by Blind Boy Fuller and Reverend Gary Davis, which was further enhanced by the Drifters' Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Clyde McPhatter. Other artists with national acclaim include comedian Dewey "Pigmeat" Markham, the first black comedian on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and Andre Leon Talley, contributing editor of *Vogue* magazine. Durham is also

home to Grammy-nominated Nnenna Freelon and 3-time Grammy winner Branford Marsalis, choreographer and African-American Dance Ensemble founder Chuck Davis, N.C. Award in Fine Arts winner Ernie Barnes, also a former NFL pro and acclaimed artist, as well as Biff Henderson, stage manager-turned-regular comic on the "Late Show with David Letterman" and John Dee Holeman, Piedmont Blues guitarist.



Clyde McPhatter



Chuck Davis



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OTHER NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Durham Business & Professional Chain

908 Fayetteville St, Ste 20; (919) 683-1047
Founded in 1938 by J.J. Henderson and C.C. Spaulding to link 150 African-American-owned small businesses to suppliers and to help members obtain credit and capital. Affiliated with the National Business League. Durham is known as one of five early African-American entrepreneurial enclaves in the South.

Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People

321 E Chapel Hill St, Downtown Durham; (919) 530-1100
Founded in 1935 by C.C. Spaulding, president of N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company and Dr. James E. Shepard, president of N.C. College (now NCCU), to use voting strength in pursuit of social and economic rights for African Americans and other ethnic groups. Nationally cited for its role in the development of the 1960s sit-in movement.

The Carolina Times

923 Old Fayetteville St; (919) 682-2913
Newspaper founded in 1927 by Louis Austin, an early proponent of justice and civil rights. He used the paper to crusade for black causes, including coverage of news on race relations from across the nation. There is now a second African-American newspaper based in Durham, *The Triangle Tribune*. Durham's African Americans have long made their mark in media: WDNC's Norfley Whitted was the first black radio personality in the South and, at that time, one of only four nationwide. Durham was also home to the nation's first black public radio station, North Carolina Central University's WAFR-FM, which operated from 1971-76.

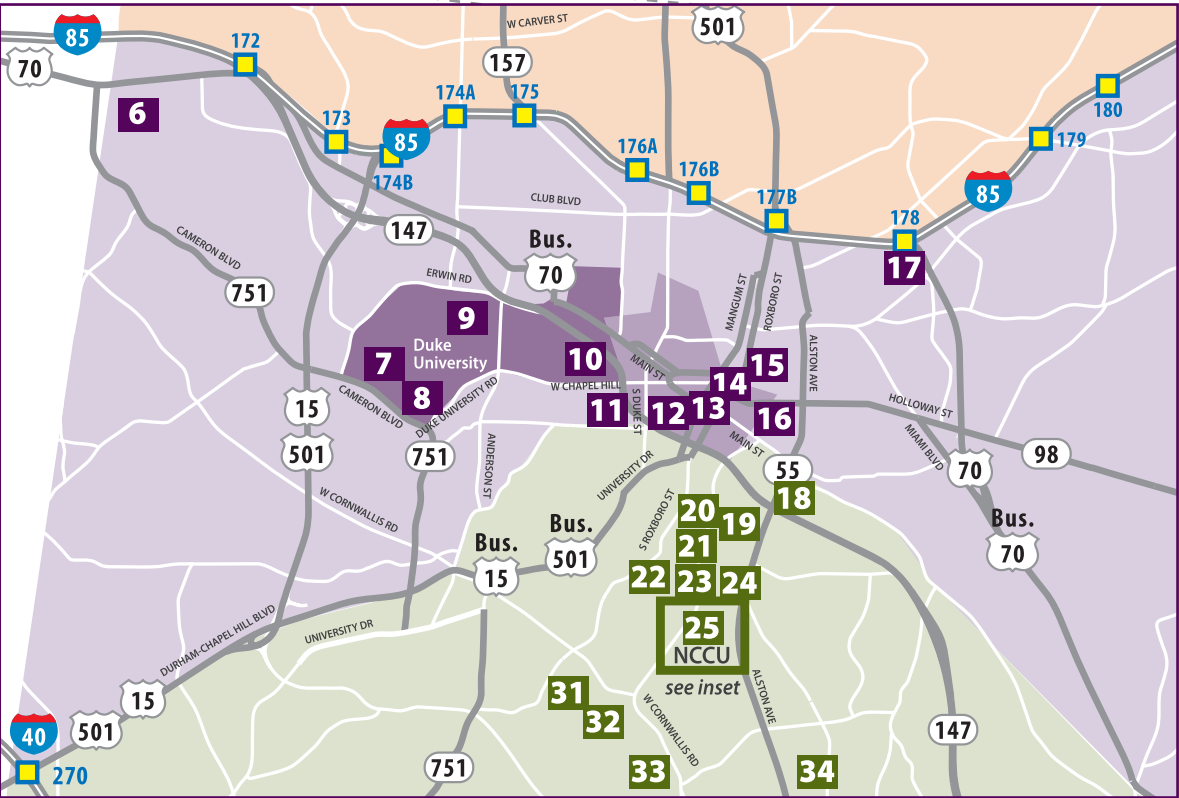
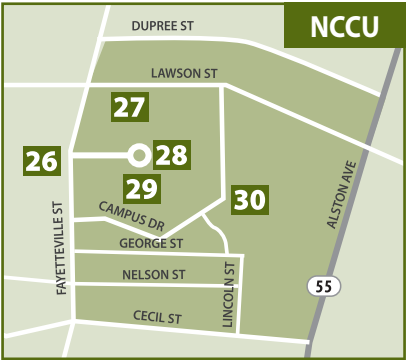
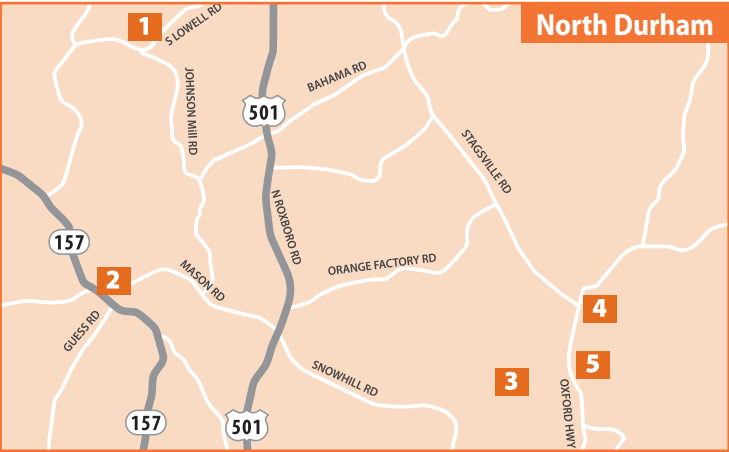
Durham African-American Heritage Site Map

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For additional information about visiting Durham:



Where great things happen

DURHAM
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER



Find helpful information on the great things to see and do in Durham by speaking with a friendly information specialist at the Visitor Information Center:

101 East Morgan Street, Downtown Durham
(919) 687-0288 or (800) 446-8604

Hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm ET, Monday-Friday, and 10 am to 2 pm ET, Saturday. (After-hours information bins and a computer kiosk are also available evenings and weekends.)

www.durham-nc.com

Official Durham website for visitors and newcomers features searchable event calendar, places to eat and stay, deals and discounts, things to see and do, and more.



African-American Heritage Festivals & Events



January

Martin Luther King, Jr. Raise-a-Reader Fair
Hayti Heritage Center,
804 Fayetteville St
www.hayti.org

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade
Fayetteville St, starting at Lakewood and ending at Elmira Ave
http://spectacularmag.com/Durham_MLK_Parade.html

February

Hayti Heritage Film Festival
St. Joseph's Performance Hall
at Hayti Heritage Center
www.hayti.org

March

Spirit of Hayti Awards Ceremony and Gala
Hayti Heritage Center,
804 Old Fayetteville St
www.hayti.org

April

Hayti Heritage Celebrity Golf Tournament
Falls Village Golf Club,
115 Falls Village Dr
www.hayti.org

May

Bimbe Cultural Arts Festival
CCB Plaza, Parrish and Corcoran Streets
www.DPRPlayMore.org

June

American Dance Festival
Various locations
www.americandancefestival.org
Durham Juneteenth Celebration
CCB Plaza, Downtown Durham
www.spectacularmag.com/NCJuneteenthCelebration.html

September

Annual Bull Durham Blues Festival
Durham Performing Arts Center
www.bulldurhamblues.org

October

Phoenix Fest
Fayetteville Street
www.phoenixfestdurham.com

November

Pauli Murray Birthday Party
Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park
<http://paulimurrayproject.org>

December

KwanzaaFest Celebration
St. Joseph's Performance Hall
at Hayti Heritage Center
www.hayti.org

Durham Civil Rights Legacy Walking Tour

Every third Saturday at 10 am, April–November, Preservation Durham offers a free guided walking tour of Durham's Civil Rights Legacy, led by knowledgeable local guides. Meet the tour guides at the Durham Farmers' Market, 501 Foster St. Call (919) 682-3036 for more details.

Scan the code below for an online search of Durham's 4,000+ annual events.



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