

# DURHAM™

## African American Heritage Guide



Far from iron encased behind glass facades, black history lives and breathes among Durham streets traversed for generations. Markers, murals, homes, and heritage coalesce to honor the stories of our African American community, and here, we humbly continue in the treasured tradition of storytelling.

The foundation of Durham as a diverse and inclusive destination was laid by the perseverance and fortitude of the African American community. Discover Durham's African American legacy.

PRODUCED BY DISCOVER DURHAM // [DURHAMBLACKHISTORY.COM](https://durhamblackhistory.com)



# Durham's Story

The history of African Americans in Durham is as integral to our story as the mortar and brick that built the Bull City — and this distinct community is no less resolute.

African Americans here experienced the arc of oppression most did at the formation of this nation, enduring enslavement at Stagville and later, the decimation of Hayti, a robust, thriving business and residential district reduced to rubble at the hands of developers.

Still, like plumes of smoke, the community rose — making indelible marks on Durham as entrepreneurs, artists, educators, politicians, and engaged citizens. Plumes of aspiration materialized in 1889, when John Merrick founded North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the largest and oldest African American-owned life insurance company in the nation. In 1907, Mechanics & Farmers Bank also became one of the nation's strongest African American-owned and -managed banks. In 1909, Dr. James E. Shepard founded what later became North Carolina Central University.



**Pictured above:** The “Durham Civil Rights History” mural is located next to the Durham Arts Council building at 120 Morris Street in downtown Durham. The project, led by artist Brenda Miller, brought together diverse community members to create a 2,400 square foot mural to recognize Durham’s Civil Rights history. Learn more at [durh.am/civil-rights-mural](http://durh.am/civil-rights-mural)

Estlin Haiss / Discover Durham

## Durham African American Heritage Sites

For ease of navigation, sites in this guide have been divided into three districts by location: Northern Durham; Duke University, Downtown & Central Durham; and NCCU, Hayti & Southern Durham.



In response to Jim Crow laws, Rev. Douglas Moore organized one of the first sit-ins in the nation at Durham’s Royal Ice Cream Parlor. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Durham five times and delivered his famed “fill up the jails” speech at White Rock Baptist Church. Where before the embers and mist of pioneering achievement descended on Durham, 150 years later, a blaze of brilliance ensues.

Today, black history has transformed into pathways of possibility as exemplary African American minds contemplate and build new legacies. Today, Durham is home to the largest research park in the country, Duke University Medical Center, North Carolina Central University, and Black Wall Street. The resurgence of black entrepreneurship has resulted in black-owned restaurants, businesses and startups, with many at the cutting edge of their industries.

Grit, fortitude and the unapologetic pursuit of justice are lasting legacies of a community that influenced the progress of Americans toward equality from coast to coast ... join us as we discover and celebrate evermore.

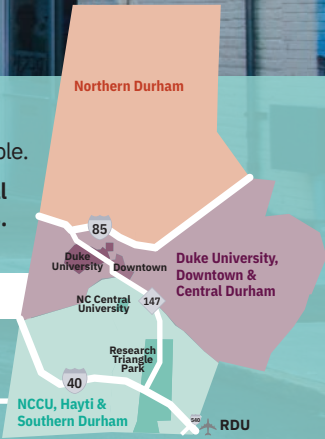


This guide provides an overview and map of 33 places in Durham related to black history. While most are free and open to visitors, several are private sites that might not be accessible.

**For more information about these and other Durham points of interest, stop by or call the Visitor Info Center at 212 W. Main St. #101, Downtown Durham, (919) 687-0288.**

### Icon Key

- |                            |                                  |                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Historic site or building  | Tours offered or can be arranged | Group-friendly |
| Viewable exhibit or museum | Kid-friendly                     | Free           |





# Northern Durham



## Historic Stagville

Keenan Hairston / Discover Durham

### 01 Leathers' Slave Cemetery

Located in Mangum Township in a grove of hardwoods on the Pearse Farm, it is about 500 feet to the right of Rougemont Road and less than a quarter mile northwest of S. Lowell Road. This abandoned cemetery contains the graves of at least 100 slaves, including Peter Leathers. No legible stones exist. *Located between Rougemont Road and S. Lowell Road; cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem135.htm* 📍👤👤👤

### 02 Russell School

Built in the 1920s and named for local supporter Thomas Russell, this is the only standing building of Durham County's 18 historic Rosenwald schools. 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. *2001 St. Mary's Road, next to Cain's Chapel Baptist Church; historicrussellschool.org* 📍👤👤👤

### 03 Harris Hill Cemetery

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. *Mangum Township on the Stagville Plantation on a knoll east of Red Mill Road, (919) 620-0120; cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem132.htm* 📍👤👤👤

### 04 Historic Stagville

A former estate, it is now a center for study 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. Classified by color after capture and transport to America, they combined various cultural remnants into a vibrant new African American culture.

*Open Tue-Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (last tour begins at 3 p.m). 5828 Old Oxford Hwy, (919) 620-0120; stagville.org* 📍🏠👤👤👤

### 05 Cameron Grove Cemetery

This cemetery was the primary burial ground for the approximately 1,000 slaves of the Cameron Plantation, located near what is believed to be the foundation of Cameron Grove, the church serving the slave community. The cemetery is located on private property and locked. Tours/access may be arranged through Historic Stagville. *Located in Mangum Township on Old Oxford Hwy., (919) 620-0120; cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem121.htm* 📍👤👤




# Duke University, Downtown & Central Durham




## Bennett Place State Historic Site

## Duke University


### 06 Bennett Place State Historic Site

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 General Lee's surrender. This site includes the reconstructed farmhouse, outbuildings, interpretive center, and museum. *Open Tue-Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 4409 Bennett Memorial Road, (919) 383-4345; [bennettplacehistoricsite.com](http://bennettplacehistoricsite.com)* 

### 07 Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture

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. It is 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. *First and Ground Floors Flowers Bldg, Duke University West Campus, (919) 684-3814; [studentaffairs.duke.edu/mlw](http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/mlw)* 

### 08 Duke University

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 are conducted through the admissions office. *Duke University, (919) 684-8111; [duke.edu](http://duke.edu)* 

### 09 John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary & International Studies

A consortium of programs, it is 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. It is named for the late Dr. 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. *2204 Erwin Road, Duke University, (919) 668-1923; [jhfc.duke.edu](http://jhfc.duke.edu)* 





## Pauli Murray Mural

Estlin Haiss / Discover Durham

### 10 Pauli Murray House

It is the childhood home of Pauli Murray, the first African American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest, and civil rights activist who fought racial, gender, and sexual discrimination. The house was built by Murray's grandfather, Robert Fitzgerald, a Civil War veteran who educated emancipated African Americans. The home site is the future location of The Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice and was named a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2015. Down the street Murray's likeness is immortalized in a colorful mural, the result of a collaborative project led by artist Brett Cook. 906 Carroll St., (919) 796-1728; [paulimurrayproject.org](http://paulimurrayproject.org) 📍

### 11 North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company

Founded in 1898 by John Merrick and Aaron Moore, it is today the largest and oldest African American-owned insurance company in the country. The twelve-story building stands on the four-acre site of the former home of B.N. Duke, and was named one of the top ten buildings of the 1960s by Fortune magazine. 411 W. Chapel Hill St., (919) 682-9201; [ncmutuallife.com](http://ncmutuallife.com) 📍

### 12 Former Fitzgerald Brickyard

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 businesses — and clay pit area, which made bricks for Erwin Mills, the Brightleaf District, American Tobacco, and other factories and warehouses that give Durham its unique architecture. View the Museum of Durham History's outdoor Fitzgerald Brickyard exhibit at the Durham Co-op Market. 1111 W. Chapel Hill St.; [durham.coop](http://durham.coop) 🏠

### 13 Museum of Durham History

Durham's local history museum features exhibits on Black Wall Street, North Carolina Mutual, and a timeline featuring key historical figures and pivotal moments in Durham's history. Visit the Museum's website for information on rotating exhibits and upcoming events. 500 W. Main St., (919) 246-9993; [museumofdurhamhistory.org](http://museumofdurhamhistory.org) 🏠📍



**NC Mutual Life Building**



**The Carolina Theatre**  
The Herald-Sun / Carolina Theatre

## 14 Carolina Theatre Integration Exhibit

The Carolina Theatre was the first all-white theater in Durham to admit African Americans, though they were initially segregated and used a separate staircase to reach the balcony. The third floor of the theater holds that balcony and an exhibit, *Confronting Change*, depicting the history of segregation at the theater. 309 W. Morgan St., (919) 560-3030; [carolinatheatre.org](http://carolinatheatre.org) 🏠👤

## 15 Site of Former Downtown Durham Woolworth Store

It is the site of lunch counter sit-in where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. appeared, endorsing direct but nonviolent confrontation with segregation laws. Pioneered in part 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 James E. Shepard Memorial Library at North Carolina Central University and part at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Formerly 124 W. Main St. NCCU: 1801 Fayetteville St., NCSSM: 1219 Broad St. 🏠👤

## 16 NC Mutual National Historic Landmark/ M&F Bank Building

Built by the NC Mutual Life Insurance Company, it later housed Mechanics & Farmers Bank (now M&F Bank), which has been 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, M&F is one of the oldest African American-owned banks in the country. M&F Bank and NC Mutual Life Insurance Co. anchored what was later called Black Wall Street. 116 W. Parrish St., (919) 687-7803; [mfbonline.com](http://mfbonline.com) 🏠👤

## 17 Former Royal Ice Cream Company

It is the site of the 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. Corner of N. Roxboro St. & Dowd St. 🏠👤





## Black Wall Street/Historic Parrish Street

### 18 Black Wall Street/ Historic Parrish Street

An African American entrepreneurial enclave that developed along Parrish Street in the early 20th century, it was nationally cited as one of three such areas to be exceptionally prosperous. Black businesses such as the NC Mutual Life Insurance Company, M&F Bank, and others were established here. Later known as Black Wall Street, the area created an unprecedented black middle class acclaimed by black scholars Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois. There are bronze sculptures commemorating the history of the street. *Parrish St.*, (919) 560-4965 x15216; [tclf.org/parrish-street](http://tclf.org/parrish-street) 🗺️👤

### 19 Durham Hosiery Mill (Mill #1)

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. *803 Angier Ave.*, (919) 682-4866 🗺️👤

### 20 Geer Cemetery

It was 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. *Camden at Colonial and McGill Sts*; [cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem252.htm](http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem252.htm) 🗺️👤

## Learn More: Durham Civil Rights Map

A community resource for those interested in civil and human rights activism in Durham, the Civil Rights Map displays markers documenting important events and locations in Durham's history of activism. The map is supported by the Pauli Murray Project at the Duke Human Rights Center / Franklin Humanities Institute. [durhamcivilrightsmap.org](http://durhamcivilrightsmap.org)





# NCCU, Hayti & Southern Durham

## St. Joseph's Performance Hall

Keenan Hairston / Discover Durham

### 21 Hayti Heritage Center, St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, and St. Joseph's Performance Hall

Hayti (pronounced hay-tie) was once one of America's most successful African American marketplaces and neighborhoods and was a central gathering place during the Civil Rights movement. Some believe it was named in admiration of the independent island nation of Haiti. The center houses St. Joseph's Historic Foundation's administrative offices, the Chuck Davis Dance Emporium, art and artifacts in the Lyda Moore Merrick Gallery, and the 450-seat St. Joseph's Performance Hall. The Performance Hall was formerly the sanctuary for St. Joseph's AME Church, founded in 1869, but was converted to a performance venue in 2001. On the National Register of Historic Places, the 1891 Richardsonian Romanesque style building includes 24 stained glass windows and two-tiered Art Nouveau chandeliers. *Open M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Visit their website for performance schedule. 804 Old Fayetteville St., (919) 683-1709; hayti.org* 🏠👤🚶🏠

### 22 Scarborough House

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. *1406 Fayetteville St.* 🏠🏠

### 23 Historic Hillside High School

Durham's first high school for African Americans, Hillside Park High School opened in 1922 and expanded educational options for the black community by offering classes through the 11th grade. A year after opening its doors, Hillside Park became the first African American school to get an "A" rating from the state of North Carolina. In 1950, Hillside High School switched locations with James Whitted Elementary School (built in 1935 on Concord St.) due to overcrowding. Two years later, a bond was passed to remodel James Whitted Elementary School, which was reopened at Whitted Junior High School in 1955. *200 E. Umstead St.; opendurham.org/buildings/hillside-park-high-school-whitted-junior-high* 🏠🏠

### 24 Durham County Library, Stanford L. Warren Branch

The second black library in NC started in the basement of White Rock Baptist Church in 1913 by Dr. Aaron Moore. Dr. Stanford Warren donated funds to purchase the current site in 1939. Named for his daughter, a librarian at the library, the Selena Warren Wheeler collection is recognized as one of the best African American collections in the South. *1201 Fayetteville St., at Umstead St., (919) 560-0270; durhamcountylibrary.org/locations/slw.php* 🏠🏠



## North Carolina Central University

### 25 Lincoln Community Health Center, Inc./Lincoln Hospital Nursing Monument and Brick Marker

Dr. Aaron 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. It also hosts a monument honoring the tireless work and groundbreaking achievements of Lincoln Hospital's School of Nursing for 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 Hospitals combined to form Durham County Hospital Corp. 1301 Fayetteville St., (919) 956-4000; [lincolnchc.org](http://lincolnchc.org) 📍

### 26 Historic Holy Cross Catholic Church

Holy Cross Church is significant as one of the first African American Catholic churches in North Carolina and one of only a handful in the Southeast. It was moved to its current location for preservation during an NCCU campus expansion and is used as a community center. The site of the original church now holds NCCU's nursing school; the congregation moved to a new location at 2438 S. Alston Ave. Corner of Fayetteville St. and Formosa Ave. 📍

### 27 North Carolina Central University

The university was 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. It 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; a portion of the downtown Woolworth lunch counter where a historic Durham sit-in occurred; and the James E. Shepard Memorial Library, housing collections on African American history, literature, and culture, as well as works by African American authors and illustrators of children's materials. Tours available by appointment. 1801 Fayetteville St., (919) 530-6295; [nccu.edu](http://nccu.edu)



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

The son of Augustus Shepard and a former pastor of White Rock Baptist Church, Shepard 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. *North Carolina Central University, in front of James E. Shepard Administration building* 📍





**NCCU Art Museum**  
NCCU



**White Rock Baptist Church**  
The Herald-Sun

## 29 North Carolina Central University Art Museum

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 exhibits art from local public school students. *During the academic year, open T-F, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Su, 2-4 p.m.; during the summer, open M-F, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1801 Fayetteville St., (919) 530-6211; legacy.nccu.edu/artmuseum/index.cfm* 🏛️🎨👤👤👤

## 30 North Carolina Central University Women's Gym

It is the location of the first integrated college basketball game in the South, played in secret behind locked gym doors in defiance of Jim Crow laws. NC 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. *1801 Fayetteville St., (919) 560-6100* 🏛️🏀

## 31 James E. Shepard House

Built for NCCU founder James E. Shepard in 1925 and serving as the official residence of the university's presidents through the early 1980s, it played host to many dignitaries, including W. E. B. Du Bois 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. *1902 Fayetteville St., North Carolina Central University, (919) 530-6363* 🏛️🏠

## 32 Beechwood Cemetery

It contains the graves of Durham's early African American business and community leaders, including John Merrick, founder of NC Mutual Life Insurance Company; C.C. Spaulding, general manager and president of NC Mutual; and Dr. James E. Shepard, founder and president of the National Religious Training School (now NCCU). *Located next to White Rock Baptist Church. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. in winter, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. in summer. 3300 Fayetteville St., (919) 560-4156; durhamnc.gov/737/Cemeteries-Management* 🏛️

## 33 White Rock Baptist Church

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 on 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 after the original site was demolished to build the Durham Freeway. *3400 Fayetteville St., (919) 688-8136; whiterockbaptistchurch.org* 🏛️

MECHANICS · AND

# Prominent Durham African Americans

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 in this guide.





# FARMERS · BANK



Charles Clinton Spaulding,  
longtime president of NC Mutual

## Business

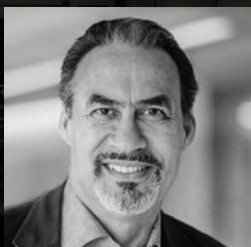
More than 100 years ago, Durham's Parrish Street evolved into one of the nation's strongest African American entrepreneurial enclaves. Known after 1949 as Black Wall Street, it included institutions such as NC Mutual Life Insurance Company, the nation's oldest and largest black-owned insurance company, 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 in a city of this size so many prosperous carpenters, brick masons ... among Negroes."



Shirley Caesar

## Religion

Durham has been home to many 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, author of "Proud Shoes"; to Dr. Miles Mark Fisher, a Baptist minister and winner of the AHA's Outstanding Historical Publication Award; to Rev. Douglas Moore, the civil rights pioneer who convinced Dr. King to adopt civil disobedience; to 11-time Grammy winner Shirley Caesar, the singer "60 Minutes" called the "First Lady of Gospel"; to Grammy-nominated Pastor John P. Kee.



Phil Freelon

## The Professions

African Americans have been instrumental in shaping the Durham 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; to Phil Freelon, architect and designer of acclaimed landmarks like the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and Durham Bulls Athletic Park.



Dr. King at a Durham sit-in, along  
with Rev. Ralph Abernathy, at  
left, and Durham's Rev. Douglas  
Moore, at right.

## 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 the late NCCU alumni Maynard Jackson, the first black mayor of a major Southern city; to Dan Blue, the first African American Speaker of the NC House of Representatives; to Jeanne Lucas, the first African American woman elected to the NC Senate.





Dr. James E. Shepard



Dr. John Hope Franklin

## Education

Durham African Americans have been national leaders in education: from Dr. James E. Shepard, founder of NC 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.



NCCU Basketball Players, 1940s

## Sports

Durham African Americans also impacted the nation's sports culture: from NCCU's victory over a Duke medical school team in the South's first integrated college basketball game; to Coach John B. McLendon, pioneer of basketball's fastbreak and four-corner offense; to track and field Coach Russell E. Blunt, one of only two North Carolinians in the National High School Hall of Fame; to Irwin Holmes, a Durham native and graduate of Hillside High who was both the first African American to captain an ACC athletic team and the first African American to earn a varsity letter in the ACC; 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; to Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan; and Dr. LeRoy Walker, past president of the U.S. Olympic Committee.



Clyde McPhatter



Chuck Davis

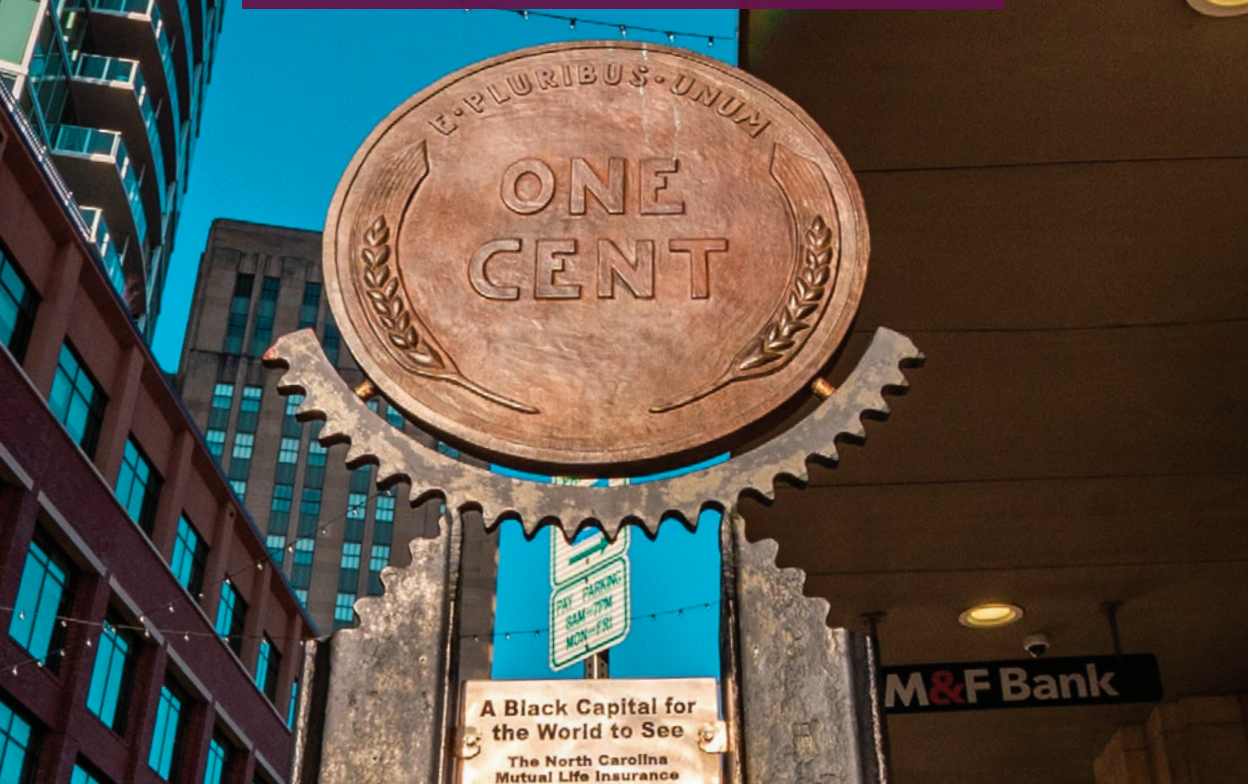
## The Arts

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 Durham artists with national acclaim include comedian Dewey "Pigmeat" Markham, the first black comedian on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and Andre Leon Talley, former editor-at-large for Vogue magazine. Durham has also been home to Grammy-nominated Nnenna Freelon and three-time Grammy winner Branford Marsalis; choreographer and African American Dance Ensemble founder Chuck Davis; NC 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.



# Discover More Online

For a topic this broad, a single guide will never be enough. Visit [DURHAMBLACKHISTORY.COM](http://DURHAMBLACKHISTORY.COM) to find out about events like the Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival, Blues and Roots Celebration, and the Art of Cool Festival. Also find additional features on contemporary figures, and other topics related to Durham's African American history.



## Other Notable Organizations & Resources

### Durham Business & Professional Chain

Founded in 1938 by J.J. Henderson and C.C. Spaulding, it linked 150 African American-owned small businesses to suppliers and to help members obtain credit and capital. It is affiliated with the National Business League. Durham is known as one of three early African American entrepreneurial enclaves in the South. 908 Fayetteville St., (919) 683-1047; [facebook.com/pages/Durham-Business-Professional-Chain/84464618015](https://facebook.com/pages/Durham-Business-Professional-Chain/84464618015)

### The Carolina Times

The newspaper was 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 Norfolk 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. 923 Old Fayetteville St, (919) 682-2913

### Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People

Called to its first meeting in 1935 by C.C. Spaulding, president of NC Mutual Life Insurance Company, and Dr. James E. Shepard, president of NC College (now NCCU), to use voting strength in pursuit of social and economic rights for African Americans and other ethnic groups. It is nationally cited for its role in the development of the 1960s sit-in movement. (919) 530-1100; [facebook.com/DCABP](https://facebook.com/DCABP)

# Durham African American Heritage Site Map

KEY: ■ Northern Durham ■ Duke University, Downtown & Central Durham ■ NCCU, Hayti & Southern Durham

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