



DURHAM, NC
Historic Downtown Walk
10K and 5K



An AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Walk of the Triangle Trailblazers

**Special Programs: A-Maze-ing Labyrinths-10k, Par for the Course-10k & 5k,
Step to the Beat-10k & 5k, Walking with America's Veterans-10k & 5k**

>PLEASE TAKE NOTE<

The Start Point is the South Deck of the parking lot at the American Tobacco Campus in downtown Durham – 653 Jackie Robinson Dr.

Payment required Mon-Fri, 8-5, and during Special Events and ballgames.

*Pay on site with a credit card, or with the Park Mobile App. **CASH NOT ACCEPTED**
From April through September, we suggest checking the game schedule for the Durham Bulls Baseball Team, as this lot is heavily used at game time. Most games are in the evening, except for Sunday when games are in the afternoon.*

*<https://www.milb.com/durham> and then click on **SCHEDULES & PROMOTIONS***

[For 10k-Print pages 2 through 5 for walk directions, map and Points of Interest](#)
[For 5k-Print pages 6 through 8 for walk directions, map and Points of Interest](#)

Brief History of Durham - Before Europeans arrived, two Native American tribes – the Eno and the Occaneechi (related to the Sioux), lived and farmed here. Durham is thought to be the site of an ancient Native American village named Adshusheer. Many settlements formed along the “The Great Indian Trading Path” which ran through Durham. From the mid-1700’s through the mid-1800’s, Scottish, Irish, and English colonists settled on land granted to John Carteret, Earl of Granville, by King Charles I (for whom the Carolinas are named). Farming and processing of the foods grown were the main industries. In 1849, Dr. Bartlett Durham, for whom the city is named, provided land for a railroad station, and the community of Durham Station grew up around it. Following the Civil War, this community expanded rapidly, in part due to the tobacco industry. The textile and electric-power industries also played an important role. In the 1950’s-60’s, what is now the world’s largest university-related research park, the Research Triangle region was carved from Durham pinelands as a special Durham County tax district. One of Durham’s legacy nicknames is the “Bull City,” now signified by a full-size, bronze statue in the City Center District of Downtown. But the nickname isn’t related to livestock. John Green of the Blackwell Tobacco Company named his product “Bull” Durham Tobacco after seeing it used on containers of Coleman’s Mustard, which Green mistakenly thought was produced in Durham’s Sister City, Durham, England. By the time James B. Duke and the American Tobacco Company purchased the Blackwell Tobacco Co in 1898, Bull Durham was the most famous trademark in the world.

You will pass numerous restaurants on the trail, particularly around the Historic Durham Athletic Park, the downtown area and near the Durham Bulls Athletic Park.



Driving Directions to the Start Point -Parking Garage-South Deck at American Tobacco Campus

653 Jackie Robinson Dr Durham

From the East on I-40: take exit 279B, I-885N to Durham. In ~4 miles, stay to the left to take exit 9 for NC-147. In 2.5 miles, take exit 3B for US 15 & 501 Bus/Mangum St. Merge onto Jackie Robinson Dr. Cross Roxboro, Mangum and Blackwell and then turn right into the South Deck of the parking garage at the American Tobacco Campus.

From the West on I-40: take exit 163 on left for I-85. In 9.4 miles, take exit 172 for NC-147S. In ~5 miles, take exit 3 for US 15 and 501 Bus. At 2nd signal, turn left on Roxboro. Go under road and then turn left on Jackie Robinson Dr. Cross Mangum and Blackwell, and then then turn right in the South deck of the parking garage at the American Tobacco Campus. **BE SURE TO PAY BEFORE LEAVING FOR YOUR WALK.**

Details about Points of Interest (POI) are on page 4.



In Case of Emergency: Dial 911
For Event Assistance: Rich Rycek 919-699-0123

1. EXIT the parking garage (near the Pay Station) to the pedestrian mall of the Tobacco Campus. ***During weekdays - Make sure you pay before you leave!***
 2. Turn LEFT and head towards the Lucky Strike water tower.
 3. Walk the length of the campus, keeping to the left. A water feature will be on your right. **POI #1- American Tobacco Campus**
 4. Sidewalk ends past a railroad car. Go UP two sets of stairs on your left and then turn RIGHT towards water feature/door with 210 W Pettigrew above it. Turn LEFT to go up another set of steps.
 5. Immediately veer RIGHT onto small dirt path. **POI #2-Bee mural** Walk between the two buildings and when path emerges at road, turn LEFT. Take this road to the signal at Chapel Hill St.
 6. Turn slight LEFT on Chapel Hill, passing Durham Station (*restrooms available inside*).
 7. At next signal, turn RIGHT onto Duke St. Stay on Duke, carefully crossing RR tracks and Main St.
 8. Turn RIGHT on Morgan St.
 9. Go under the West Village building, and just after crossing RR tracks, turn RIGHT onto one-way road just before small red-brick building. **POI #3-Museum of Durham History**
 10. Roadway ends at W Main St (no sign). Turn RIGHT, again crossing RR tracks.
 11. At 2nd signal, CROSS Gregson St. and turn LEFT.
 12. In ½ block, turn RIGHT to enter the Brightleaf plaza. Walk length of plaza. **POI #4-Brightleaf**
 13. Veer LEFT to go through parking lot to street (Peabody St). Turn RIGHT.
 14. Follow sidewalk as it curves right. *Use caution- sidewalk ends near curve-cross to other side of road.*
 15. When road ends at W. Main St. turn LEFT.
 16. Immediately at first intersection, Buchanan Blvd, turn RIGHT to cross Main St, and then turn LEFT to cross Buchanan St. Continue on Main St. walking beside small stone wall.
 17. Cross Campus Dr. *Entrance to Duke's Eastern Campus.*
 18. At next signal, Broad, turn RIGHT between stone pillars. Turn LEFT on dirt path.
 19. Follow path as it curves RIGHT at Markham St. **POI #5-Baldwin Auditorium/Spec Prog-Step to the Beat**
 20. Path curves to the RIGHT at N Buchanan. In a short distance, turn LEFT between pillars, and use crosswalk to CROSS N Buchanan and turn RIGHT.
 21. In 3 blocks, at the signal, CROSS Trinity Ave and turn LEFT. Cross Watts and Gregson. *If you're NOT doing the Labyrinth Spec Prog, Continue to #22*
- If you ARE doing the Labyrinth Spec Program:*
- a) *Turn RIGHT on Gregson.*

- b) Turn LEFT into paved lot and head towards playground.
- c) Walk between sanctuary and play area. Labyrinth will be on the left.
- d) Retrace your steps to Gregson, turn RIGHT. Turn RIGHT on Trinity and continue with step #22
22. Continue on Trinity crossing Duke and Washington. **POI #6-Pearl Mill**
23. Just after Washington, at the top of the hill, turn RIGHT on Foster St.
24. At next signal, CROSS W Geer St and turn RIGHT. **POI #7-Historic Durham Athletic Park / Spec Prog-Par for the Course**
25. Follow sidewalk as it curves LEFT onto Washington St (sign on right). 3rd base line on left.
26. Veer LEFT on the sidewalk as it curves around the ticket office and borders a parking lot.
27. When you come to the driveway, turn RIGHT at crosswalk to carefully cross street (W Corporation). Continue ahead on alley.
28. Turn LEFT onto a broad sidewalk leading towards the metal roofed pavilion (*restrooms available during weekend market hours*).
29. Continue on sidewalk to CROSS ROAD into next park area. Follow sidewalk as it curves RIGHT past a play area, crosses a bridge and emerges back on the road.
30. Take the crosswalk on the left to CROSS road. Continue STRAIGHT on Foster St; parking lot on left.
31. At first signal, CROSS and turn RIGHT on Morgan St. Continue on Morgan for ~ ½ block.
32. At wide walkway, veer LEFT towards the Carolina Theatre (Durham Auditorium), the large yellow-brick building. **POI #8-The Carolina Theatre**
33. Turn away from the theater; go DOWN steps and CROSS the plaza to the other end. You will pass a water fountain and wooden-man statue. Turn RIGHT back onto Foster St and head slight uphill going by the Marriott Hotel.
34. CROSS and turn RIGHT on Chapel Hill St.
35. At Main St, make a HARD LEFT turn to circle around the end of the brick plaza and head down Main St. *Visitor Info at corner of Market & Main*
36. In 1 block, CROSS Market St and turn LEFT.
37. In one block, CROSS Parish St. Without entering the plaza, turn RIGHT on brick sidewalk and walk along the outside of the wall. **POI #9-Bull statue**
38. Turn LEFT at statue of bull. Continue to Chapel Hill St.
39. Turn RIGHT onto Chapel Hill St.
40. In about one block, opposite the flag pole in front of the old Post Office (now courthouse, on the left), turn RIGHT in between a red brick building, and a red parking deck. This is Orange Street.
41. At the end of the parking lot, and just before a wooden sculpture and arbor, turn LEFT on sidewalk.
42. Sidewalk emerges on N Mangum St. Turn LEFT for one block; City Hall will be on your right.
43. At next intersection, turn RIGHT and CROSS Mangum. Then walk straight ahead on the right side of Chapel Hill St (no sign). A small park area will be on the left, First Baptist Church is ahead.
44. Follow sidewalk as it curves RIGHT to join Liberty St. You will pass the back side of City Hall and Trinity United Methodist Church.
45. At signal, turn RIGHT on Roxboro St.
46. At next signal (facing away from you) cross E Main St. (sign also facing away from you) and turn RIGHT. Durham County Social Services on corner. Spec Prog-Veterans Memorials at County Courthouse.
47. At 2nd signal, turn LEFT on Corcoran St. Follow Corcoran as it crosses RR tracks and becomes Blackwell St. Pass DPAC on your left, American Tobacco Campus on your right. **POI #10-DPAC**
48. Durham Bulls Athletic Park will be on your left. **POI #11-Durham Bulls Athletic Park**
49. Turn RIGHT on Jackie Robinson Dr.
50. In ½ block, turn RIGHT into the American Tobacco Campus. Garage/start point on your left.

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Upon completion of the walk, remember to log back into the OSB system to complete your online registration.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

POI #1 American Tobacco Campus - After the Civil War, George Washington Duke concentrated on farming Bright Leaf tobacco, as this was the only crop still intact on his farm. His business expanded rapidly from 1870-1890, growing from a shed on his farm to a series of factories in downtown Durham. Eventually 4 of his biggest rivals joined him, and the American Tobacco Company was formed, guided by Duke's four sons. The company was one of the original 12 members of the Dow Jones Industrial Average in 1896. In 1911, antitrust action broke the company into several smaller companies.

POI #2 The Bee Mural - titled "Swarm", is part of the "The Good of the Hive Initiative", founded by artist Matthew Willey. Willey has committed to personally painting 50,000 honeybees – the number necessary for a healthy, thriving hive – in murals across America. The goal is to raise awareness about the importance of honeybees and other pollinators in our food chain. As of April 2024, 10,254 bees have been painted!

POI #3 The Museum of Durham History - began to take shape in 2004 when Durham's Cultural Master Plan recognized that a local history museum should be one of the community's highest priorities. The museum has become a centrally located facility that took an array of existing programs and a number of walking tours and knitted them together into a coherent story of Durham's past and its relevance to the present. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10-5, and Sundays 1-5. Free admission.

POI #4 Brightleaf - occupies the former Watts and Yuille Tobacco warehouses. The warehouses were built between 1900 and 1904 as part of an aggressive building campaign by the American Tobacco Company for storing, aging, and fermenting tobacco for cigarette manufacture. The building now houses restaurants, retail shops and small businesses.

POI #5 The Baldwin Auditorium – was designed by African American architect Julian F. Abele, and first opened in 1927. The auditorium recently underwent a \$15 million renovation, transforming it into one of the premiere small venues for classical music in the Southeast, with a seating capacity of 685.

POI #6 The Pearl Mill - was established by Brodie Duke in 1892 and named after his daughter Pearl. After

Brodie Duke suffered significant financial reversal in the 'Panic of 1893', Washington Duke and his two half-brothers helped him re-capitalize the company, along with George Watts, who became the new president of the company. By 1895, the mill had 200 workers, 10,000 spindles, and 160 looms "for making extra-wide sheeting".

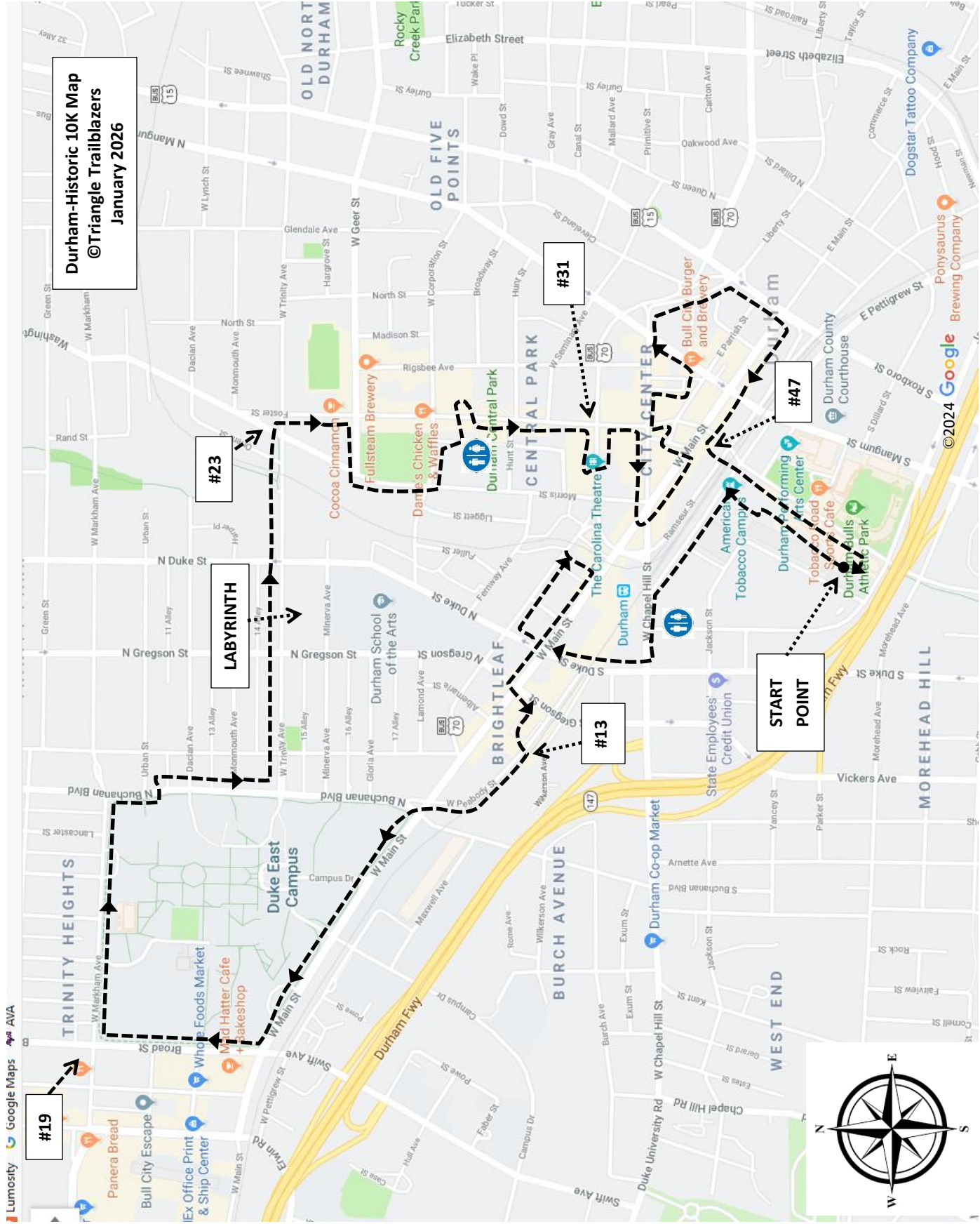
POI #7 The Historic Durham Athletic Park – was originally named El Toro Park when it was first built in 1926. This park served as the home of the Minor League Durham Bulls for almost 70 years. It was the location of the 1988 movie Bull Durham.

POI #8 The Carolina Theatre – was built in 1925-1926, and remains as the last of thirteen original theatres in the city. It was most recently renovated in 2011. Besides the main stage, the building also houses two movie theaters and two elegant event spaces. The theatre was the first theatre in Durham to admit African-Americans; an exhibit commemorating the Carolina Theatre's role in desegregation is located on the second floor.

POI #9 "Major" The Bull - has been a symbol associated with the Durham area dating back to the 1800s, when in the post-Civil War era merchant John R. Green branded his product "Bull" Durham Tobacco. In 1898, James B. Duke bought Green's tobacco company, making it a part of his American Tobacco Company, thus increasing Durham's national reputation as a tobacco-manufacturing center. Durham has been known as the "Bull City" ever since. The statue was given to the citizens of Durham in the memory of bank president and WWII veteran, Major George Watts Hill.

POI #10 DPAC - The Durham Performing Arts Center opened in 2008 and hosts over 200 performances each year. DPAC regularly ranks in the top 5 theaters in the US, with annual attendance topping 400,000.

POI #11 The Durham Bulls Athletic Park - is a 10,000-seat ballpark that is home to the Durham Bulls; the Triple-AAA affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. The park opened in 1995 when it succeeded the Durham Athletic Park, which you passed earlier during this walk. The Bulls were originally a Class A-Advanced Team, moving up to Triple AAA status in 1998. If there isn't a game, you should be able to access the steps for a view of the interior of the ballpark



Durham-Historic 10K Map
 ©Triangle Trailblazers
 January 2026

#23

LABYRINTH

#31

START POINT

#13

#47

#19



Driving Directions to the Start Point -Parking Garage-South Deck at American Tobacco Campus

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See details about Points of Interest (POI) at end of directions on page 7

1. EXIT the parking garage (near the pay station) to the pedestrian mall of the Tobacco Campus. ***During weekdays - Make sure you pay before you leave!***
2. Turn LEFT and walk towards the Lucky Strike water tower.
3. Walk the length of the campus, keeping to the left. A water feature will be on your right. ***POI #1- American Tobacco Campus***
4. Sidewalk ends past a railroad car. Go UP two sets of stairs on your left and then turn RIGHT towards water feature/door with 210 W Pettigrew above it. Turn LEFT to go up another set of steps.
5. Immediately veer RIGHT onto small dirt path. ***POI #2-Bee mural.*** Walk between the two buildings and when the path emerges at road, turn RIGHT.
6. Continue ahead to traffic light, and turn LEFT on Blackwell St.
7. Continue up slight hill crossing RR tracks, Ramseur St (Blackwell St changes to Corcoran) and W Main.
8. At the next intersection, veer LEFT crossing road towards the Bull statue. ***POI #3-“Major” the Bull statue***
9. Veer RIGHT past the Bull towards the Marriott Hotel.
10. Head downhill and just past the Marriott, turn LEFT, taking stairs down into the courtyard.
11. Head to the front of the Durham Auditorium, home of the Carolina Theatre. ***POI #4-The Carolina Theatre***
12. Turn RIGHT to head down ramp to street (W Morgan St). CROSS at crosswalk and turn LEFT.
13. At the first street, Morris, turn RIGHT.
14. In 3 blocks, cross Corporation St. and head towards the Durham Athletic Park. ***POI #5-Historic Durham Athletic Park / Spec Prog-Par for the Course***
15. Continue ahead passing 3rd baseline, and then turn RIGHT on Geer St to walk alongside the outfield of the park.
16. In 2 blocks, turn RIGHT on Rigsbee Ave. In the 2nd block, you will pass the Liberty Drive-In, site of a former tobacco warehouse, now apartments.
17. Just past the Liberty apt complex, turn RIGHT and head down the stairs into a park. A skate Park will be on your left. Take the circular path in either direction to head downhill to the “cage”.
18. Cross the bridge which is to the left of the “cage”.
19. Use the crosswalk on the left to cross street. Continue straight on Foster St; parking lot will be on your left.
20. In 2 blocks, CROSS Morgan St. and turn LEFT; YMCA will be on your left.
21. Stay on road for 2 blocks as it curves to the right. Turn RIGHT on Mangum St.
22. Cross E Chapel Hill St and turn RIGHT.

23. Just past a large parking structure, turn LEFT on brick alley (Orange St).
 24. Go past a wooden sculpture, turn LEFT through arbor and veer SLIGHT RIGHT to cross Mangum St. Continue ahead on Parrish St for 2 blocks.
 25. When road ends, turn RIGHT on N Roxboro.
 26. In 1 block at signal, CROSS E Main St (sign and traffic light are facing away from you) and turn RIGHT. Durham County Courthouse is on your left. *Spec Prog-Veteran's Memorial*
 27. In 2 blocks, at traffic light, CROSS E Mangum and turn LEFT. Head downhill.
 28. Cross Ramseur St and the RR tracks and then turn RIGHT on W Pettigrew St.
 29. In 1 block, cross Blackwell St and turn LEFT. The American Tobacco Campus will be on your right, and Durham's Performing Arts Center (DPAC) is on your left. **POI #6-DPAC**. *Spec Prog-Step to the Beat*. Eventually the Durham Bulls Athletic Park will also be on your left. **POI #7-Durham Bulls Athletic Park**
 30. Turn RIGHT on Jackie Robinson Dr.
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