

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF

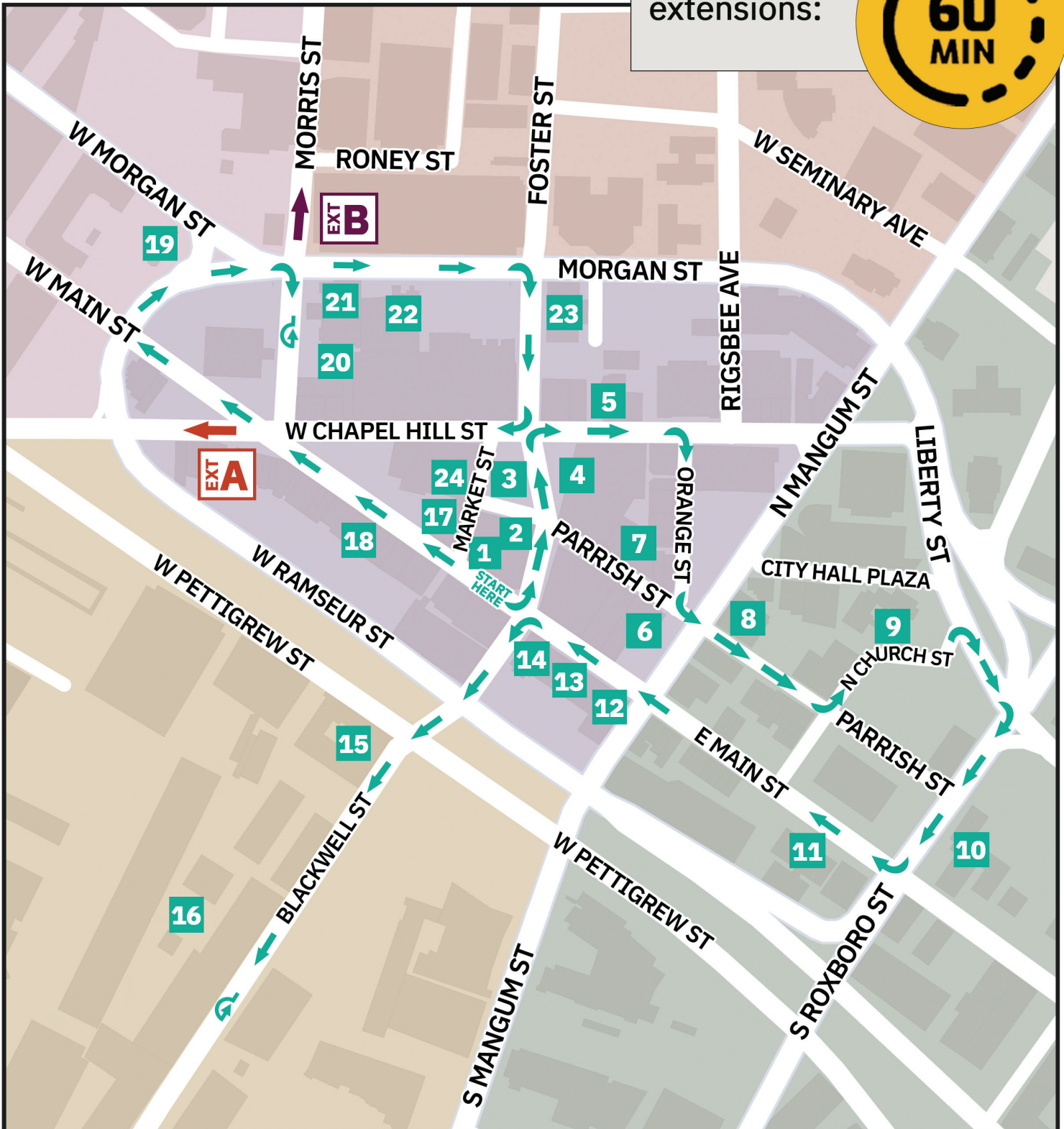
DOWNTOWN *DURHAM*™



MAIN ROUTE

CITY CENTER AND THE AMERICAN TOBACCO CAMPUS

Estimated tour time
of main route
excluding
extensions:



ABOUT THE

DOWNTOWN DURHAM HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Downtown Durham, North Carolina's first commercial district on the National Register of Historic places, is a compact, vibrant, relatively well-preserved area where buildings date from the first four decades of the twentieth century, when the city boomed. The buildings' original facades recall the time when Durham became the bustling and ambitious city of today, and a walk through the district reveals a place that honors its history while hosting a renowned food and drink scene and plenty of unique things to do and see.

This self-guided walking tour introduces the history of downtown Durham's significant sites, architecture, public art and more while allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the culture of innovation, creativity and grit that define it today. Explore the city on foot or visit godurhamtransit.org for bus routes and schedules.

Follow the QR code to the right for a companion **self-guided audio tour**. For more Durham travel resources, visit discoverdurham.com/resources.



Wayfinding signs are located throughout downtown to help visitors navigate.

**Begin at 212 W. Main St. #101,
DURHAM VISITOR INFO CENTER**

1 TRUST BUILDING

Now home to the Visitor Info Center. When the building was constructed in 1905, it was the tallest in North Carolina and featured Durham's first elevator.
212 W. Main St.

2 21C MUSEUM HOTEL

Built in 1935, this 17-story skyscraper was commissioned by John Sprunt Hill. If the design looks familiar, it's because the structure was designed by the same NYC architecture firm responsible for designing the Empire State Building. Now home to a boutique museum and hotel featuring a free 24/7 art museum open to the public.
111 Corcoran St.

3 CCB PLAZA

Named for the former Central Carolina Bank (now Truist), the plaza's focus is a life-sized, one-ton bronze bull named Major. The bull is the legacy emblem for Durham. Major was commissioned by the City of Durham and named for George "Major" Watts Hill. Be sure to rub the bull horns for good luck.
201 Corcoran St.

**4 UNSCRIPTED
DURHAM**

Formerly the Jack Tar Motel, the building had a skybridge that connected it to the then Washington Duke Hotel, where CCB Plaza now sits.
202 Corcoran St.

RIGHT ON ***E. CHAPEL HILL ST.***

5 THE DURHAM HOTEL

Former Home Savings Bank turned boutique hotel known for its art deco vibe, downstairs coffee bar and rooftop bar which boasts one of the best views for sunsets in the city.
315 E. Chapel Hill St.

RIGHT ON ***ORANGE ST.***

**6 BLACK WALL STREET
GARDENS**

Located on Parrish Street, also known as Black Wall Street for its role as a hub for Black-owned businesses in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The street regained attention in the 1960s when civil rights pioneers staged sit-ins and received a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Six public art sculptures mark the street's significance in the gardens.
W. Parrish St. & N. Mangum St.

7 HISTORIC PARRISH STREET FORUM

Located in the original 1908 headquarters of Durham-founded Mechanic and Farmers Bank. Developed as a commemorative exhibit that honors the legacy of African American entrepreneurs and businesses, the building now also serves as an event space.
108 W. Parrish St.

8 ROGERS ALLEY

Three buildings converted into a mixed-use complex including the 1904 fire station that is now a pizza restaurant and Wright Building, known formerly as Roger's Pharmacy.
107 E. Parrish St.

LEFT ON **N. CHURCH ST.**

9 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1924 Gothic revival church noted for its wood carvings, this was the second church established in Durham.
215 N. Church St.

CROSS **N. ROXBORO ST.**

10 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1916 building stands on the site of two previous churches. Its sanctuary features German stained-glass windows.
305 E. Main St.

11 HISTORIC DURHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Renovated 1916 neoclassical revival that replaced the 1887 courthouse.
200 E. Main St.

12 KRESS BUILDING

Built in 1932, one of the largest and most detailed art deco buildings in the state and first building in Durham to have air conditioning.
101-103 W. Main St.

13 1893 QUEEN ANNE-STYLE BUILDING

The oldest building remaining inside the downtown loop.
111 W. Main St.

14 CITY VIEW FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

Homesite of Durham namesake Dr. Bartlett Durham in the 1840s. Now a credit union with notable flower-swagged canopy.

123 W. Main St.

LEFT ON **CORCORAN ST.**

15 OLD BULL BUILDING

The 1874 Italianate-style brick tobacco warehouse is now apartments and more. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977. The bull comes from William T. Blackwell's brand of Genuine Bull Durham Smoking Tobacco.

201 W. Pettigrew St.

16 AMERICAN TOBACCO CAMPUS

Birthered from the American Tobacco Company, one of the first companies included in the DOW International Average in 1896. It was formed as a merger of tobacco companies, including Lucky Strike and Pall Mall. This 1-million-square-foot campus has been revitalized to include a courtyard, man-made waterway, iconic Lucky Strike smokestack, restaurants and businesses.

324 Blackwell St.

RETURN TO **W. MAIN ST.**

17 TEMPLE BUILDING

This 1909 Spanish colonial-style was built with leftover materials from Watts Hospital, which closed in 1976.

302 W. Main St.

18 OLD HILL BUILDING

1925 Georgian revival commissioned by John Sprunt Hill. Originally the Armory, this building was one of the earliest built masonry structures in what is now downtown's core.

307 W. Main St.

Turn left on **W. Chapel Hill St.** for **EXTENSION A**

19 MUSEUM OF DURHAM HISTORY

Opened in 2013, this 21st century museum is dedicated to preserving and promoting local history. Located in a former downtown bus station, this free attraction features rotating exhibits.

500 W. Main St.

CROSS **W. MORGAN ST.**

20 DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL

Formerly 1906 Central High School and later City Hall. This 52,000-square-foot arts center has a performance space, galleries and meeting rooms.

120 Morris St.

21 CIVIL RIGHTS MURAL

Located next to the Durham Arts Council, the mural celebrates Durham's African American and civil rights history. Thirty diverse community members researched and designed the mural under the direction of artist Brenda Miller Holmes and educator Dr. Benjamin Speller of North Carolina Central University. Scan the QR code in the lower left corner of the mural to learn more.

110 Morris St.

Turn left on **Morris St.** for
EXTENSION B

22 THE CAROLINA THEATER

Renovated 1926 Beaux-Arts style theatre housing touring acts, live performances and cinemas for arts, films and festivals. It was also the site of civil rights protests in the early 1960s, now documented inside the theatres "Confronting Change" exhibit.

309 W. Morgan St.

23 DURHAM ARMORY

Originally built as Durham's National Guard unit headquarters. It also served as the original Civic Center from the late 1950s to 1989. Pop culture enthusiasts will recognize it as the backdrop of the Ernie Barnes painting, "The Sugar Shack." The painting is inspired by Barnes' childhood memory of sneaking into the Armory when it was a dance hall.

212 Foster St.

CROSS **E. CHAPEL HILL ST.**

24 BULL CITY BUSINESS CENTER

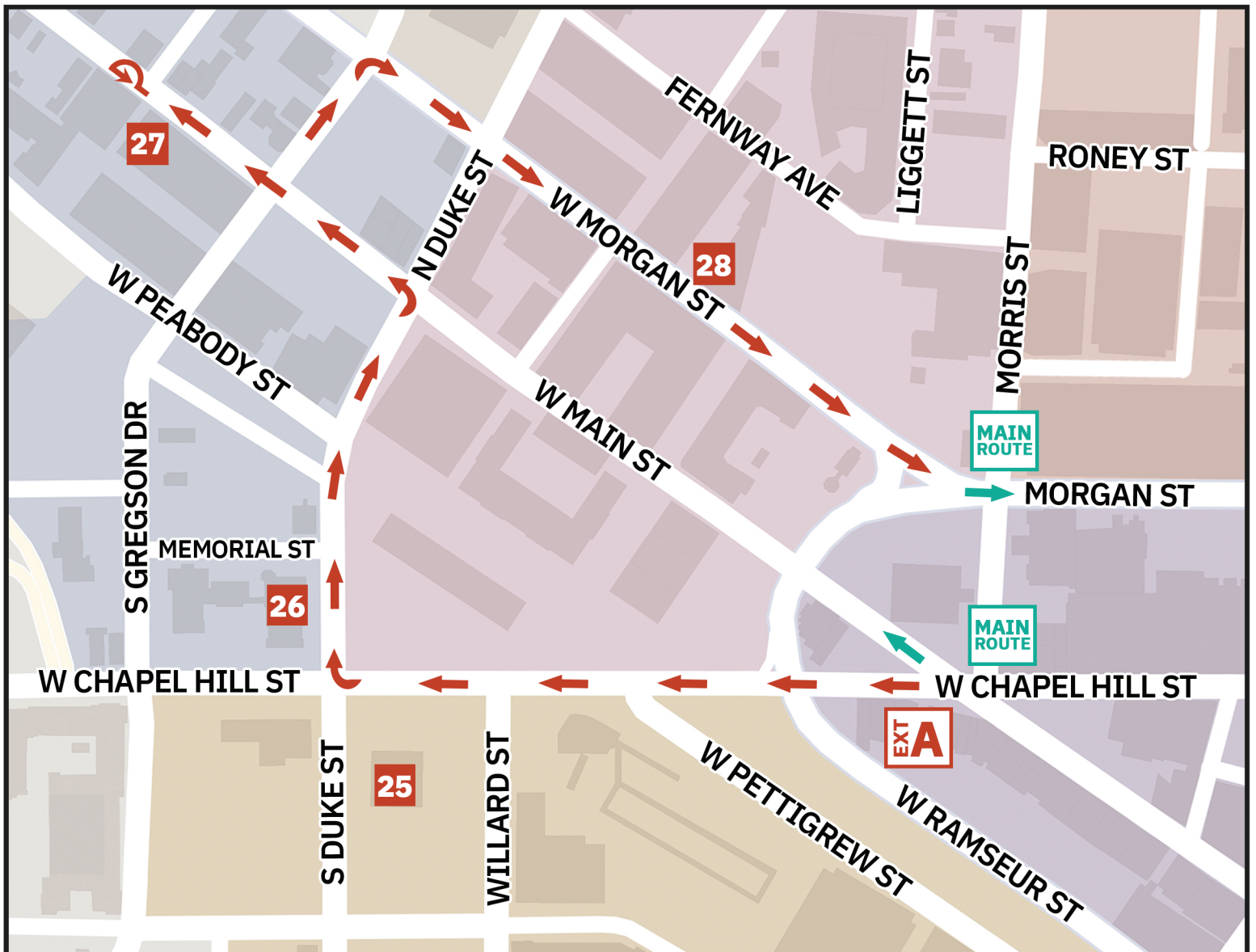
Former home of the Herald-Sun newspaper, built in 1920s with Italian Renaissance styling.

115 Market St.

EXTENSION A

BRIGHTLEAF SQUARE AND WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

From the Visitor Info Center, down West Main Street before Duke's East Campus, you'll pass through the Warehouse and Brightleaf Districts. Brightleaf Square is made up of two turn-of-the-century tobacco warehouses adapted into retail, dining and office spaces. Look toward the sky while facing City Center to see The Chesterfield's historic building sign marking the beginning of the Warehouse District. Walk along the former Liggett & Myers tobacco buildings to find tucked away small businesses and hidden gems as you make your way toward Central Park.



From *W. Main St.* at **18** turn left on *W. Chapel Hill St.*

NORTH CAROLINA

25 MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Founded in 1898, this is one of the largest and oldest Black-owned corporations in the country. It no longer accepts clients. It is now home to Provident 1898, an inclusive coworking space and nod to the buildings origins.

411 W. Chapel Hill St.

RIGHT ON *S. DUKE ST.*

26 DUKE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Beginning as Main Street Methodist, this twin-towered, brick Romanesque and Gothic revival style church was built in 1907. Named for its benefactor Washington Duke, it features a 10-bell chime.

504 W. Chapel Hill St.

LEFT ON *W. MAIN ST.*

27 BRIGHTLEAF SQUARE

1904 Neo-Romanesque brick tobacco warehouses redeveloped in 1981. Now a popular gathering spot with central courtyard, shopping and dining.

905 W. Main St.

28 WEST VILLAGE

A several-block project that converted former Liggett & Myers tobacco buildings into loft-style apartments, retail, offices and Durham's train station. At the time, this was one of the largest adaptive reuse projects in North Carolina history.

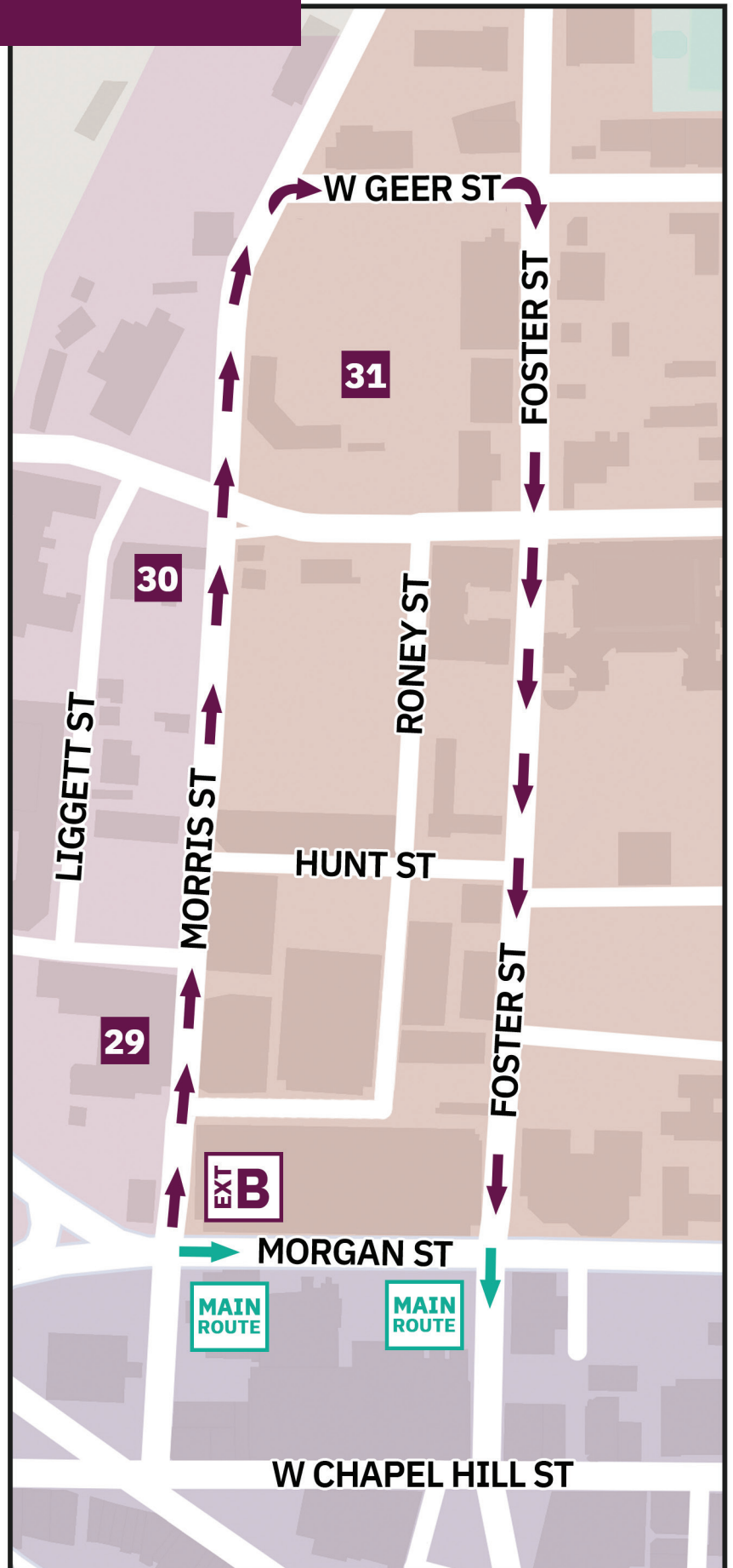
604 Morgan St.

REJOIN THE MAIN ROUTE AT THE INTERSECTION OF MORGAN ST. AND MORRIS ST.

EXTENSION B

CENTRAL PARK DISTRICT

The Central Park District is, naturally, home to Durham Central Park, a five-acre public space with a playground, skate park, covered pavilion, art studios, public art and a spacious grassy lawn where thousands of people shop weekly at the Durham Farmers' Market. Next to the park, Durham Food Hall is an all-day stop for coffee, sweets, casual lunches, dinner fare and drinks. Down Geer Street, you'll find the Historic Durham Athletic Park, featured in the 1988 movie "Bull Durham."



At **21** cross over *W. Morgan St.* and continue north on *Morris St.*

29 **FORMER IMPERIAL
TOBACCO
WAREHOUSE**

1916 warehouse of Imperial Tobacco Company. Tobacco was redried here before being shipped to Great Britain. Locker room scenes from “Bull Durham” were also filmed here.
215 Morris St.

30 **HISTORIC BC
HEADACHE POWDER
FACTORY**

Former factory that invented a headache remedy and manufactured it here from 1928-1972. Now home of Measurement Inc. and part of the Innovation District, an ever-evolving redevelopment combining historic buildings with new lab, office, residential and retail space.
423 Morris St.

31 **HISTORIC DURHAM
ATHLETIC PARK**

Originally named El Toro Park when it was first built in 1926, this spot served as the home of the Durham Bulls for almost 70 years, and was a film location for the movie “Bull Durham,” filmed here in 1987. In 1995, the team moved to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park located a mile south of here.

500 W. Corporation St.

REJOIN THE MAIN ROUTE
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
MORGAN ST. AND FOSTER ST.

ABOUT **PRESERVATION DURHAM**

Preservation Durham believes everyone's story has a place. Made up of folks who believe that place is important and that our past helps to shape our future, the organization works to protect Durham's unique sense of place through the sharing of Durham's history. They offer education and advocacy to the public, stakeholders and public officials and encourage the preservation of beloved places. Preservation Durham advocates for embracing growth and change while preserving Durham's unique identity in the Triangle and protecting Durham for future generations.

www.preservationdurham.org

ABOUT **OPEN DURHAM**

Open Durham is an online community archive of Durham people and places built by and for the community. A project of the local non-profit Preservation Durham, it helps trace the evolution of our city block-by-block, building-by-building, story-by-story. Your experiences, recollections, words and images not only matter, they are crucial to documenting and sharing this rich legacy. Browse what others have already contributed and create an account to add your voice.



Follow this QR code to see upcoming tours and events, or learn more at www.opendurham.org

ABOUT **THE MUSEUM OF DURHAM HISTORY**

The Museum of Durham History is a 21st-century museum that uses stories about people, places and things to foster curiosity, encourage further inquiry and promote an understanding of diverse perspectives about the Durham community and its history. The museum puts its mission into action through a personal approach to history that sets this museum apart: an innovative, community model that engages with history through stories—the personal memories, experiences and family lore of our shared heritage.

www.museumofdurhamhistory.org



For other publications and information on the great things to see and do in Durham, speak with a friendly information specialist at the

Durham Visitor Info Center

212 W. Main St #101, Durham NC, 27701 USA

(919) 687-0288

www.discoverdurham.com