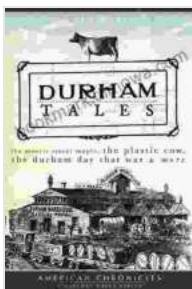


# The Morris Street Maple: The Plastic Cow and the Durham Day That Was More American

Tucked away in the heart of Durham, North Carolina, the Morris Street Maple has stood as a beloved landmark for over a century. This historic tree has witnessed the city's transformation from a sleepy town to a thriving metropolis, serving as a silent observer of countless lives and events. In 2010, the Maple was recognized as a national champion, further solidifying its place as a cherished symbol of Durham's heritage.

## The Plastic Cow: An Unlikely Icon

Nestled beneath the Maple's majestic canopy, a peculiar sight greets visitors: a life-sized plastic cow. This bovine curiosity has become an iconic symbol of the tree, attracting attention and sparking conversations. The plastic cow was strategically placed in the 1990s by a local artist as a playful nod to the city's agricultural roots. It has since become a beloved photo opportunity and a talking point for locals and tourists alike.



## Durham Tales: The Morris Street Maple, the Plastic Cow, the Durham Day that Was & More (American Chronicles) by Greater Than a Tourist

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6947 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 163 pages



## **The Durham Day That Was More American**

On July 4, 1910, the Morris Street Maple witnessed a pivotal event that shaped Durham's identity: the first Durham Day celebration. This community festival was inspired by a desire to foster unity and celebrate the city's diverse population. On that day, people from all walks of life came together beneath the Maple's shade, their differences melting away as they shared food, music, and laughter. Durham Day has become an annual tradition, serving as a testament to the city's inclusive spirit and its commitment to embracing diversity.

## **A Haven for All**

Throughout its long history, the Morris Street Maple has provided solace and shelter to countless individuals. In its early days, travelers would rest beneath its branches, finding respite from the sweltering heat. Children would gather around its trunk, playing games and sharing stories. As the city grew, the Maple became a gathering place for protests, rallies, and community events. It has witnessed the triumphs and struggles of Durham's residents, offering a silent witness to their joys and sorrows.

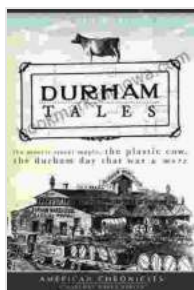
## **A Living Legacy**

Today, the Morris Street Maple continues to thrive, its massive limbs reaching towards the sky like outstretched arms. It remains a beacon of resilience, having withstood hurricanes, droughts, and the relentless pace of urbanization. Its roots run deep into the city's soil, anchoring it to the past

and connecting it to the future. As generations come and go, the Maple stands as a reminder of Durham's enduring spirit and the timeless beauty of nature.

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The Morris Street Maple is more than just a tree; it is a living testament to the history, diversity, and resilience of Durham, North Carolina. From its humble beginnings as a haven for travelers to its role as a symbol of unity and community, the Maple has played an integral part in shaping the city's identity. Today, it stands as a beloved landmark, a reminder of the past and a source of inspiration for generations to come.



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