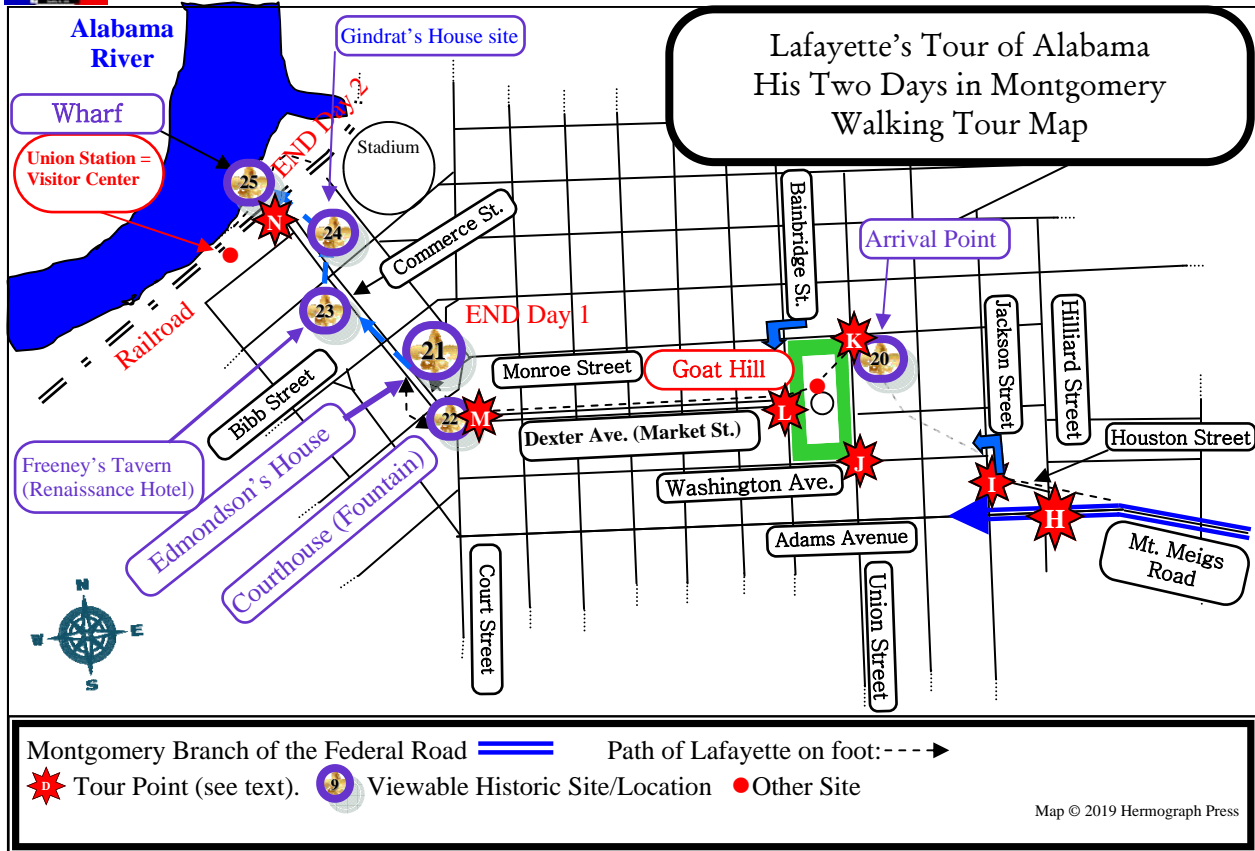




## Montgomery's Lafayette Walking Tour - Where Lafayette Visited in 1825.

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## Here's Something to Do if You Can Go Out for Some Fresh Air... Follow in Lafayette's 195-Year-Old Footsteps in Montgomery!

The General Marquis de Lafayette came to Montgomery on April 3rd, 1825, 195 years ago this year. After traveling the Federal Road through the Creek Indian Nation of East Alabama, he left the Road to head to Montgomery, then just a river port city. Basically he followed what is today's Atlanta Highway — back then this all was known as the **Mt. Meigs Road**. It still is Mt. Meigs Road, for a short distance on the west side of Ann Street, where it comes into Montgomery on an angle. Where it joins Adams Avenue today [H], it was known as Red Bridge Road, but all that survives of that is a one-block street now named [I] **Houston Street**. From there, somehow, Lafayette made his way to the corner of Union and Monroe [K], across from the northeast corner of today's capital property. There is a **plaque on the Folsom Building (20)**, indicating that this was where **Lafayette was first greeted**.

Lafayette was escorted up Goat Hill to a pair of tents (about where the **capitol dome** is today) where politicians and leading citizens welcomed him with speeches and some refreshments, and the view of the town. Not being the state capitol yet, there were no buildings up on the hill then. And as it was Sunday, the governor declared no other business would be done that day. He drove Lafayette down Market Street (today's Dexter Street [L]) in his carriage to **John Edmondson's boarding house** on Commerce Street (21), today being reconstructed as a restaurant/venue site called City Fed, and then to church services held in the city's **Courthouse (22)**, at the site of today's **Fountain [M]**. Afterwards, at Edmondson's, Lafayette spent the day talking with citizens, former army colleagues, politicians, and others.

The next day began as the previous day ended, at Edmondson's, talking. But in the evening, Lafayette was escorted to a feast at **Freney's Tavern** two blocks away (23), at Tallapoosa and Commerce. A marker is on the sidewalk and a 'ghost structure' belonging to the Renaissance Hotel sits on the site. Between 10 and 11PM, Lafayette made his exit from the party and went to Montgomery Intendant (the equivalent of mayor) **John Gindrat's house** for an hour, to freshen up, catch his breath and wait for the call to go to his steamboat, a then-new mode of transportation. Today at the site at 234 Commerce Street is a gray-white office building (24), and its west-side parking lot. By midnight, Lafayette was on the *Henderson*, the lead ship of three, heading downriver, from the wharf [N], still the only wharf in the city (25), from where the *Harriott II* sails. -LK