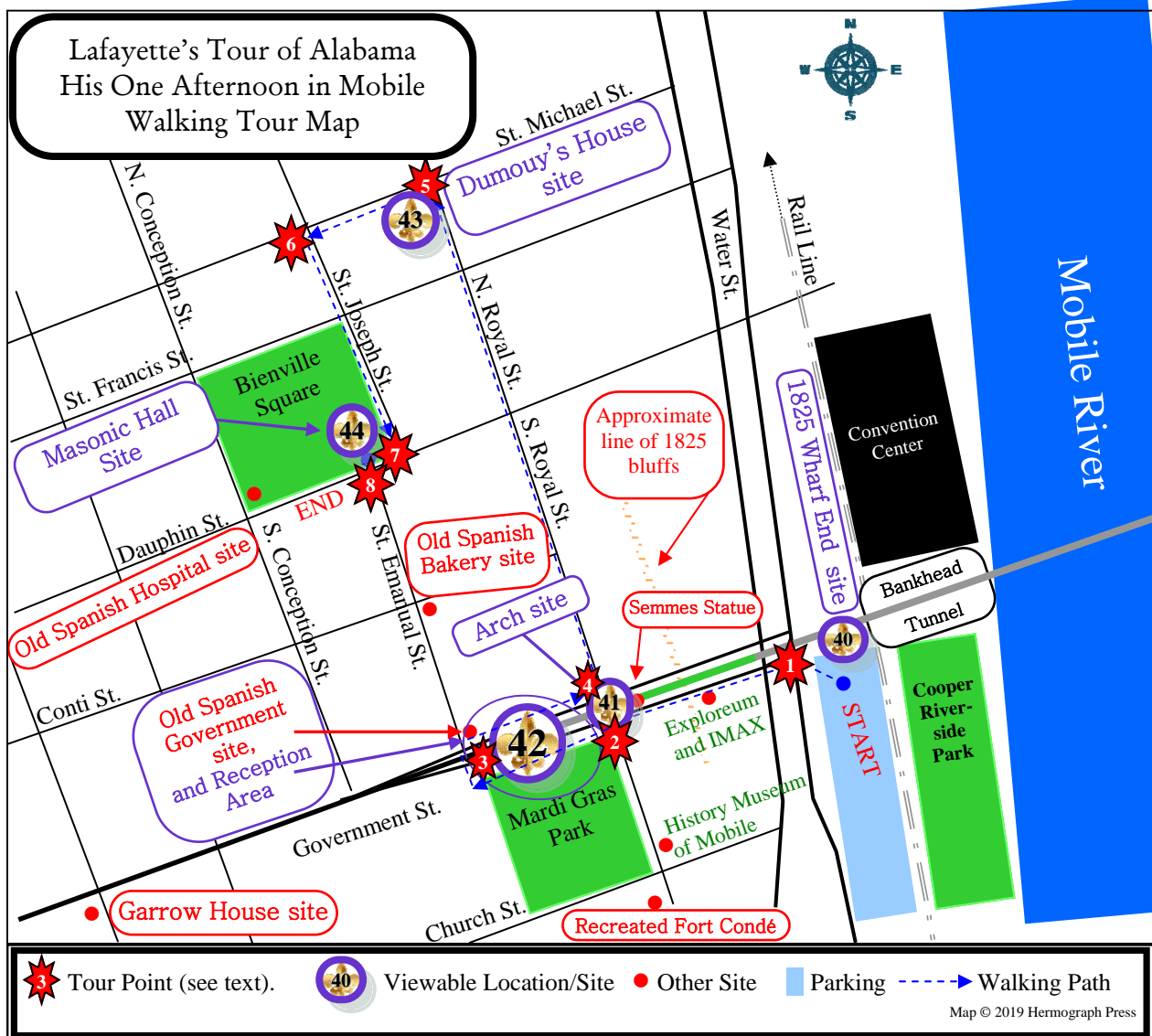




Mobile's Lafayette Walking Tour - Where Lafayette Visited in 1825.

©2020 Hermograph Press LLC, adapted from the book *Nine Days Traveling* by Dr. Larry Krumenaker. For more information, click the links above or email books@hermograph.com.



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

The General Marquis de Lafayette came to Alabama 195 years ago this year. After traveling the Federal Road through the Creek Indian Nation of East Alabama, he spent two days in Montgomery, then boarded the steamboat *Henderson* to go down the Alabama River. After stops at Selma, Cahawba, and Claiborne, he came to Mobile, April 7th, 1825. The city planned three days of festivities, but Lafayette, behind schedule and exhausted, gave them only that one day.

He disembarked at the **Government Street Wharf (40)**; today that endpoint would be in the sidewalk near the free parking lot by the Convention Center [1]. Lafayette climbed to Royal Street, then on bluffs overlooking the River [2]. He was greeted at the Royal-Government intersection under a **four-cornered Arch (41)**. The city population would have gathered, most likely, in the next block, in what is today mostly Mardi Gras Park but was then still a not-quite-built-over **Esplanade** from the now virtually vanished Fort. (42). The official greeting took place thereafter in the **Old Spanish Government House [3]**, at the corner of Government and St. Emanuel.

The Marquis agreed to dine at **Dumouy's House (43)** and also attend a Masonic ceremony and ball. He had two routes to get to Dumouy's, but as Royal was the most important street, he probably went back to Royal [4] and turned left and gone the equivalent of four blocks to Royal and St. Michael [5].

Dumouy's, today a parking lot-with-construction/office building/park, took the whole block of St. Michael, and as the (lost until now) site of the Masonic Hall was on Dauphin, just north of St. Joseph [6], he had to travel two blocks down St. Joseph to Dauphin Street [7]. **The Masonic Hall** was not on that corner, but about 25 feet west [8], directly in front of traffic on St. Emanuel (44).

The très fatiguée Lafayette returned to the Wharf by either of two possible, equal-length routes, boarded the *Natchez* for New Orleans (though he went first to Mobile Point) and was fast asleep by six o'clock or so. -LK