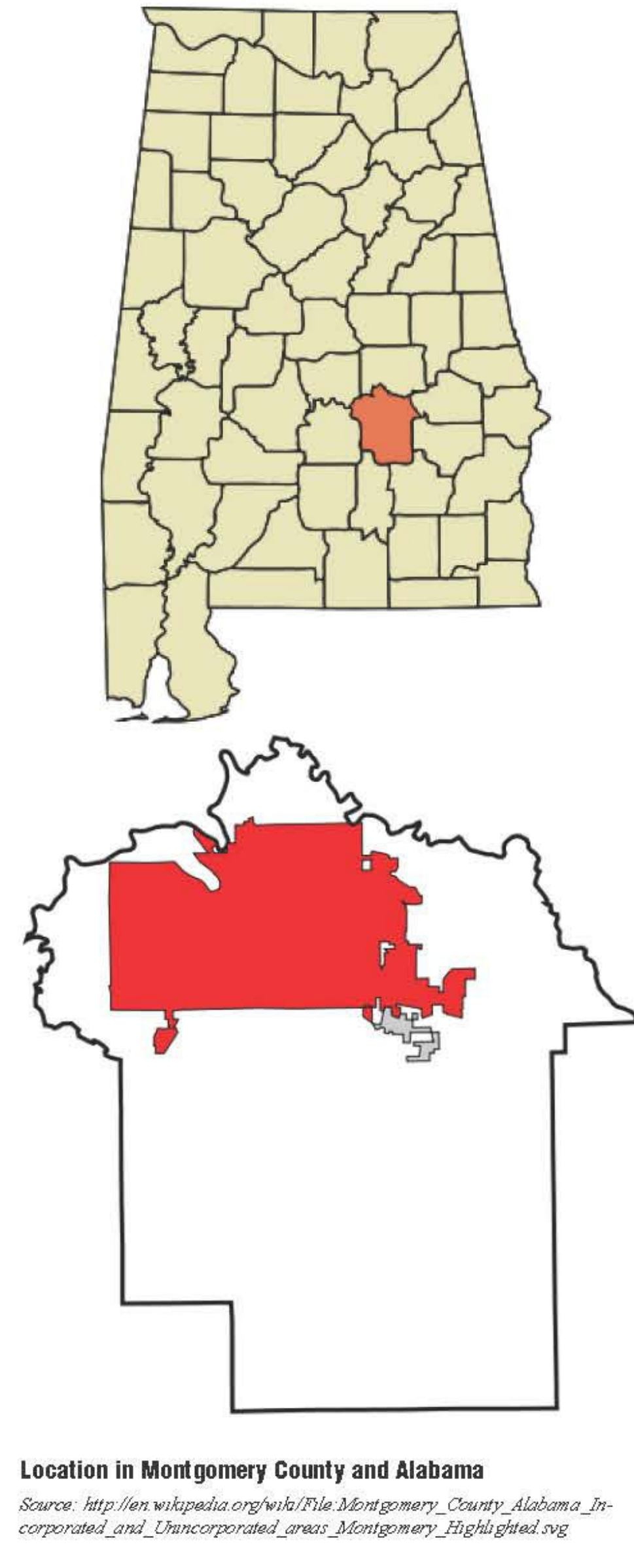


# UNDERSTANDING THE CITY OF MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA



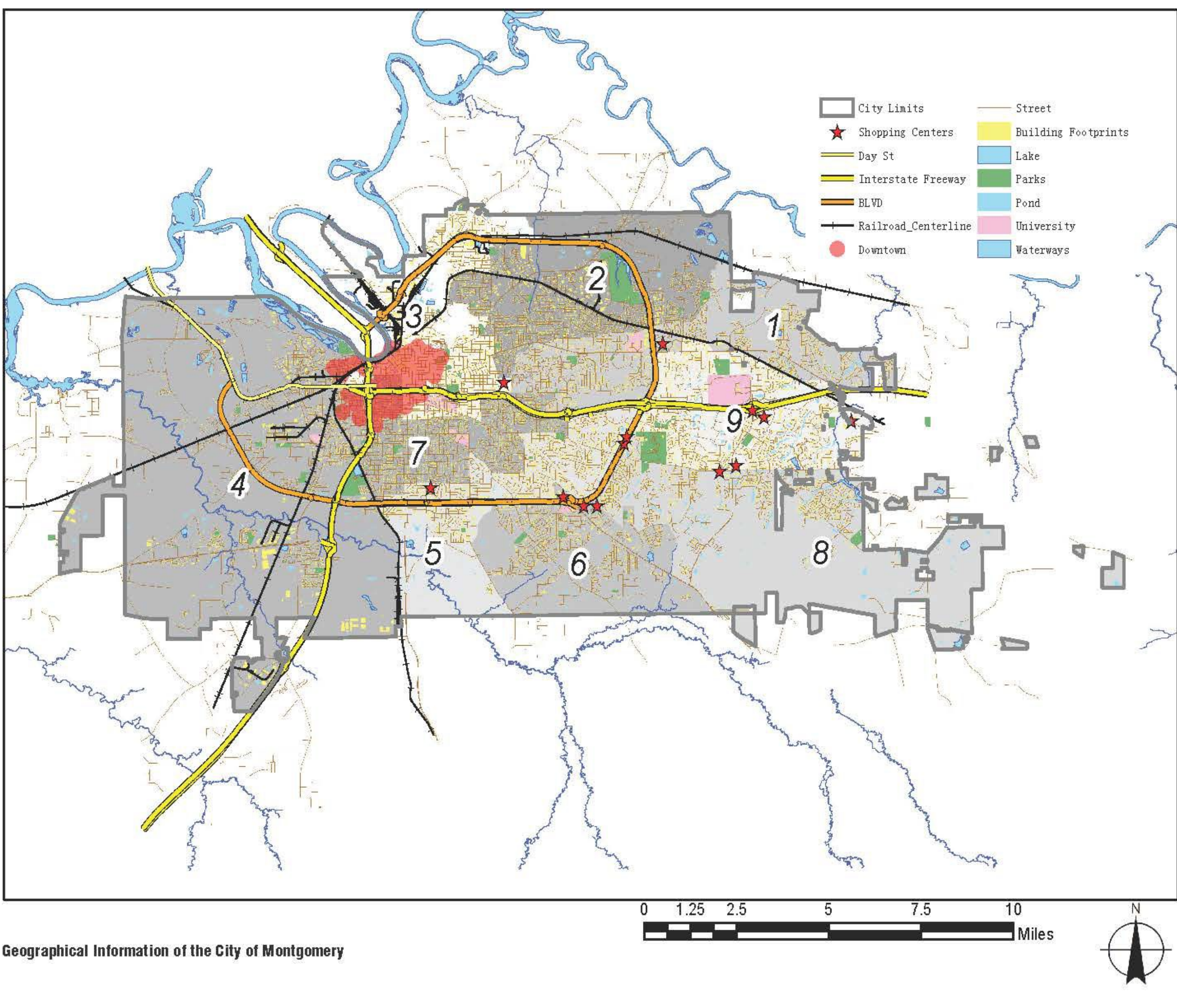
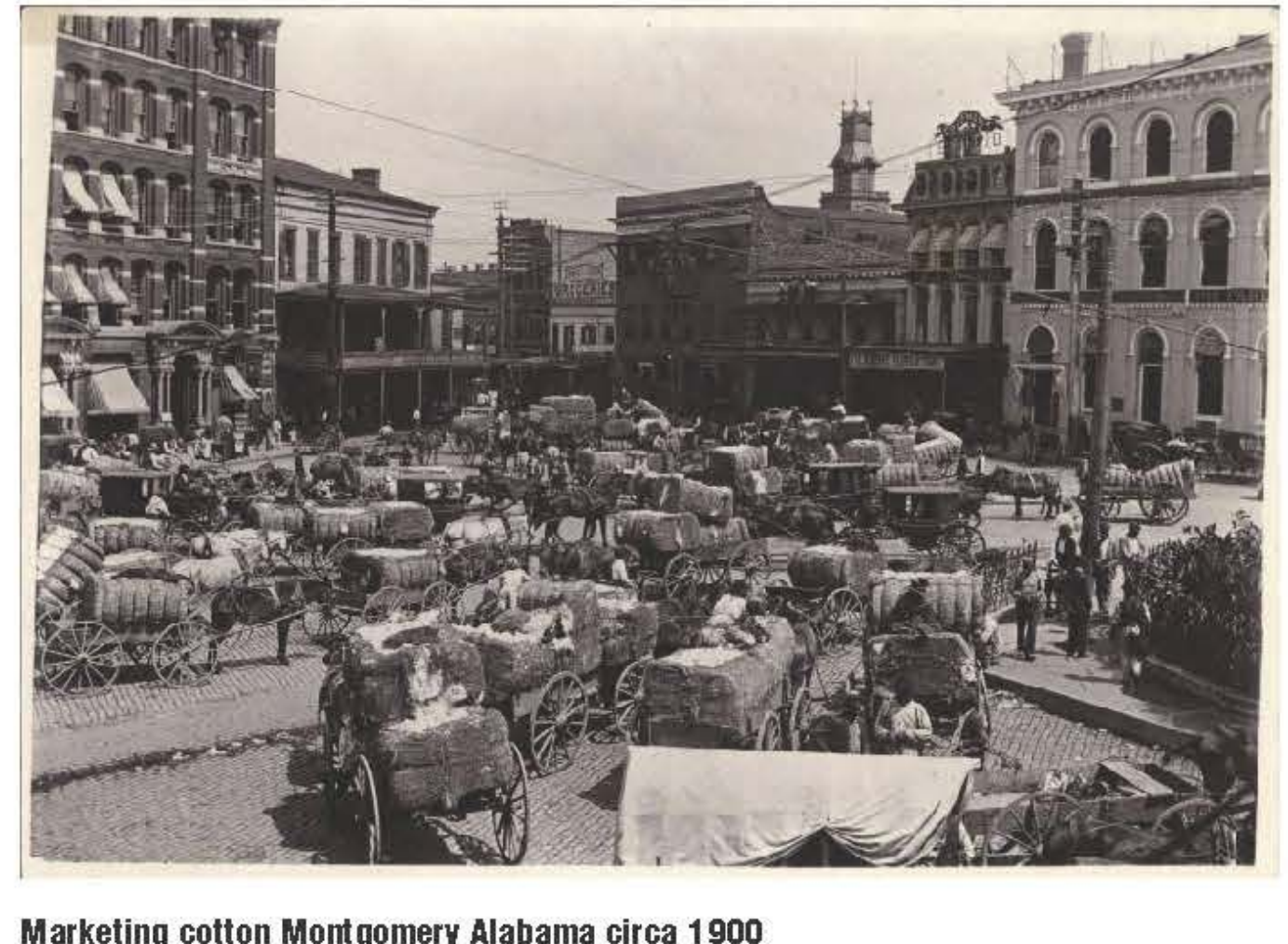
## INTRODUCTION



Montgomery emerged in 1819 with a cotton surplus and transportation opportunities via its Alabama River border, and at this time, the agricultural and transportation factors were enough to justify a southern city. Urban production developed later for Montgomery; therefore, Montgomery was never positioned to contend with larger US cities that met all three criteria. The city of Montgomery is located centrally in southeast Alabama along the Alabama River. This capital city is divided into nine voting districts, each with their own unique identities (City of Montgomery). While district 7 is rich with history from the American Civil War, the downtown area of district 4 is the center of employment for many Montgomery citizens.



Relying heavily on agriculture and expanding transportation, Montgomery has undergone waves of development as transportation technology has improved. These waves roughly coincide with Borchert's Transport Epochs, which are the Horse and Wagon Epoch (1790-1830); the Regional Railroad Epoch (1830-1870); the National Railroad Network Epoch (1870-1920); and the Automobile-Airplane Epoch (1920-1960). These epochs explain metropolitan development through the lens of transportation improvements and argue that cities grew as transportation innovations were implemented across the United States (Kaplan 2009, 71). Throughout these waves of development, Montgomery has proven its significance if not in a somewhat contradictory way. While Montgomery was once the capital of the seceding Confederacy, at the same time it is considered to be the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement.



## CURRENT PROFILE

