

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

NEW, INTERACTIVE MAP HIGHLIGHTS HISTORICAL SITES OF MONTGOMERY

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Historic downtown Montgomery is seen, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, in Montgomery. All photos by Jason Fochtman, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer

A new online map of Montgomery is available for local students and tourists to see and learn more about the history behind the city. The Montgomery Economic Development Corp. compiled an interactive map in July to preserve the history of the city and showcase its old buildings.

Most of the sites on the map, which highlight commercial and residential parts of the town, are within walking distance from each other and can be used as a tour for the city. Each marked site includes a narrative that details the history and significance of it. Some of the

locations include Old Methodist Church, Magnolia House and Fernland Park.

Richard Tramm, city administrator of Montgomery, said he thinks the map will be useful for tourists and residents interested in the history of the town. In addition, the map will be helpful for seventh graders in MISD who have projects on local history. Tramm said the map shows how the city is promoting and preserving its treasured history, and helps out those who are interested in it. “It gives them a way to come through and know where the historical buildings are

located and makes it easier for them to tour those areas,” he said.

Rebecca Huss, president of MEDC, said another reason for the map’s creation was for people to have a consolidated site for the city’s historical sites, rather than scrolling through multiple websites to find more information.

Huss noted the map is compatible on all devices including phones and laptops, and it is more user friendly than the previous map that required users to download an app. The old map, which is still available on Distrx, features audio files to go

along with the sites. “I think the big thing is that it’s ... exceptionally user friendly, so you don’t have to be a genius to be able to work it,” she said. “Anyone can use it easily, anyone can administer it.”

The Alfred and Matilda Morris House, the Old Boardinghouse and the Old Baptist Parsonage are additions on the new map that most people are unaware of, according to Huss. “It’s not so much the house itself that is significant,” Huss said of the Morris House. “To me, it means more that regular people — the things that they built, the things they lived in, the things they loved — endure today.”

Huss said that the MEDC hopes to approve an expansion of this map later this month by adding new map layers including shopping and dining, parking — and even one for the new goats in town. “For Montgomery, history is everything. It’s where we started and an important part of who we are today,” she said. “It’s the key to why people choose to come and live here.”

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Monty the Goat, Montgomery. All photos by Jason Fochtman, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer



Fernland Historical Park, Montgomery. All photos by Jason Fochtman, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer