

Mississippi, as with the rest of the Southeastern United States, is historically associated with an agrarian rather than industrial way of life. However, “King Cotton” brought the industrial revolution to Mississippi in the form of cotton gins, cotton mills, cotton oil mills, and cotton compresses. Before 1860, this industry made Mississippi into one of the richest states in the country and resulted in there being more millionaires in Mississippi than in New York. This research project seeks to better understand the extent to which the cotton industry was present throughout Mississippi by examining where cotton was grown, harvested, processed, and exported. The second part of this research project locates existing all cotton production facilities through the use of historic resources and modern technologies, and documents whether these buildings may be renovated, reused, or restored.