

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

Biloxi Visitors Center

1050 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Miss. 39530

Applicant: City of Biloxi FEMA Funding: **\$3.1 million**
Harrison County



BACKGROUND: A Greek-revival mansion known as the Dantzler House (*bottom right*) once stood where the new visitors center is now located. Home to cotton farmers and lumber barons, the estate at one time housed a bowling alley, a billiard hall and a bathhouse. Before Katrina destroyed the home, it housed some of the city's offices. Another beautiful old home in the town green, the Brielmaier House (*bottom left*), was used as the visitors center,



but it also was destroyed. When it came time to rebuild, the city opted for an improved project, applying the FEMA funds approved to replace each of the damaged structures

toward constructing a new building. The new consolidated 24,000 square-foot facility includes the Chamber of Commerce, a museum with multimedia exhibits, a 17-seat state-of-the art theater for meetings and a reception area for weddings. To retain the historic character of the former estate, many of its design features, such as original stained glass windows that were salvaged after the storm, and its wraparound porch, were included in the construction.

THE DAMAGE: Three structures that housed the city's administration functions, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors Center and a small museum were reduced to rubble.

FEMA FUNDING: A grant of **\$3.1 million** was awarded to rebuild the center with reinforced concrete walls, steel columns and storm-proof glass.



FEMA

