

# Hurricane Katrina

*A Decade of Progress through Partnerships*

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## Hancock County Court House

152 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, Miss. 39520

Applicant: Hancock County

FEMA Funding: **\$2.4 million**



*Historic postcard of the court house built in 1911.*

**BACKGROUND:** This historic courthouse in downtown Bay St. Louis, built in 1911, was considered the crown jewel and heart of Main Street. When it was reopened in 2009, the company that did the renovation received an award from the state's engineering council for the restoration of the building to its original character. Restoration included revealing the original plasterwork and dome ceiling. Reclaimed heart-pine lumber was used for the jury box, wainscoting and chair rails.

**THE DAMAGE:** Winds near 125 mph and windborne debris razed parts of the roof and shattered some of the windows, causing water damage inside. The storm surge damaged the courthouse's one-story storage buildings and its contents.

**FEMA FUNDING:** The county opted to do an improved project, putting the eligible FEMA money of **\$2.4 million** (the cost of restoring the property to pre-disaster condition) toward replacing and expanding the storage facilities. The money also went toward

repairing the roof and replacing the windows with pre-finish aluminum storm-resistant ones. The courthouse also has a new fiber-optic video conferencing system. Other funding sources came from insurance proceeds and historical grants.



FEMA

