

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library

2244 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Miss.

Applicant: Beauvoir

FEMA Funding: **\$14.9 million**

Harrison County



BACKGROUND: This was the last home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, where he retired and wrote his memoir, “The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government.” Facing the Gulf of Mexico and named Beauvoir, which means “beautiful view,” it was designed to welcome cooling breezes from the water in the days before air-conditioning. Built in 1852, it is considered one of the South’s grandest examples of a Greek Revival “raised cottage.” After Davis died in 1889, his widow sold it to the Mississippi Division of the United Sons of

Confederate Veterans on the condition that his beloved retreat would be preserved. It served as a veteran’s home until 1957 for close to 2,000 soldiers and widows.

THE DAMAGE: Raging water from Katrina tore off the porch on the front and sides of the house. A portion of the roof overhanging the front collapsed and heavily damaged the façade. The first floor of the library on the property (*being rebuilt on the left*) was also severely damaged.

FEMA FUNDING: Mitigation measures were taken to move the library out of the flood zone. Rebuilt 130 feet from the original site at a cost of over **\$8.3 million**, it reopened in 2012. Another **\$3.2 million** went toward repairing the home, which reopened in 2008. Another **\$3.4 million** was allotted for other structures on the property and content replacement.



FEMA

