

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

Old Brick House

622 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 39530

Applicant: City of Biloxi FEMA Funding: **\$645,136**
Harrison County



BACKGROUND: The original owner of this modest pre-Civil War home was once the sheriff and mayor of Biloxi. He also owned a contracting company during the Civil War called “Henley’s Invincibles.” In fact, this house, completed in 1850, proved to be quite invincible. With walls made by three layers of brick, it is one of the few remaining pre-Civil War buildings standing on Biloxi’s Gulf Coast. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and is now used for meetings, events and weddings.

THE DAMAGE: The storm flooded the home with over seven feet of water, destroying the front wall, the staircase to the second floor and the back porch. Although the walls were built three layers thick with brick, the surge caused a massive hole in the brick.



FEMA FUNDING: A Public Assistance grant of **\$645,136** went toward the hiring of masonry specialists to match the size and color of the original brickwork. When the home was being built in the late 1840s, soft hand-packed bricks from Biloxi’s Back Bay were used. Modern bricks are now made much heavier and would have put too much weight on the existing wall.

