



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

July 22, 2009

Mr. Ray Aycock
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Aycock:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

Harrison County (applicant) has applied for FEMA funding to relocate the Gulfport Public Library outside of the 100-year floodplain and ABFE. In addition, the applicant proposes to relocate the function and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library to the proposed relocation site. The consolidation of both libraries at the proposed relocation site would create the new Harrison County Library.

The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

The proposed site is located outside of both the 100- and 500-year floodplains and is also outside of the ABFE. The proposed site plan indicates that the project would include the construction of a new library

200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728

building and an associated parking lot; the house and garage located on the site would be demolished, however, many of the large live oak trees would be retained (see Figure 4).

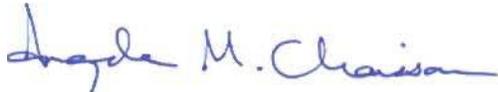
The Orange Grove Public Library building was constructed in 1978. Harrison County proposes to sell the existing Orange Grove Public Library site with the stipulation that the facility continue to be used for library services until construction of the new Harrison County Library has been completed. It is anticipated that the Orange Grove Public Library building would then be demolished.

Because the original Gulfport Public Library building is listed as a Mississippi Landmark, FEMA has been in coordination with MDAH regarding the proposed demolition of the structure. In addition, the proposed demolition of the Gulfport Public Library building has created a significant amount of public interest in preserving the library, mainly being organized by several public interest organizations (We the People is the main opponent to the project). FEMA has initiated several public meetings with participation from MDAH and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). FEMA and ACHP have been consulting with the applicant to identify alternatives to demolition in efforts to preserve the structure; however, the applicant has expressed no interest in funding any restoration activities for the structure. Alternatives considered to date include finding a 3rd party to purchase or lease the facility in an effort to have private funding sources participate in the restoration of the library building. FEMA is currently preparing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which outlines measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential adverse effects of all practicable alternatives considered for the Gulfport Public Library, including demolition of the structure.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 301.670.3379 or electronic mail at angela_chaisson@urscorp.com.

Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





July 22, 2009

Mr. James D. Giattina
Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Management Division
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Giattina:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

Harrison County (applicant) has applied for FEMA funding to relocate the Gulfport Public Library outside of the 100-year floodplain and ABFE. In addition, the applicant proposes to relocate the function and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library to the proposed relocation site. The consolidation of both libraries at the proposed relocation site would create the new Harrison County Library.

The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

The proposed site is located outside of both the 100- and 500-year floodplains and is also outside of the ABFE. The proposed site plan indicates that the project would include the construction of a new library

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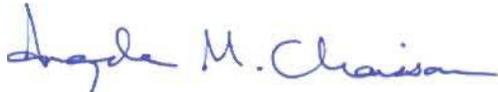
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Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





July 22, 2009

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 W. Capitol Street
Suite 1321 Federal Bldg.
Jackson, MS 39269

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

Harrison County (applicant) has applied for FEMA funding to relocate the Gulfport Public Library outside of the 100-year floodplain and ABFE. In addition, the applicant proposes to relocate the function and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library to the proposed relocation site. The consolidation of both libraries at the proposed relocation site would create the new Harrison County Library.

The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

The proposed site is located outside of both the 100- and 500-year floodplains and is also outside of the ABFE. The proposed site plan indicates that the project would include the construction of a new library

building and an associated parking lot; the house and garage located on the site would be demolished, however, many of the large live oak trees would be retained (see Figure 4).

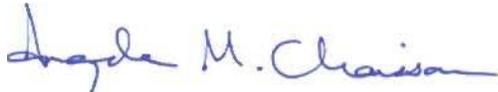
The Orange Grove Public Library building was constructed in 1978. Harrison County proposes to sell the existing Orange Grove Public Library site with the stipulation that the facility continue to be used for library services until construction of the new Harrison County Library has been completed. It is anticipated that the Orange Grove Public Library building would then be demolished.

Because the original Gulfport Public Library building is listed as a Mississippi Landmark, FEMA has been in coordination with MDAH regarding the proposed demolition of the structure. In addition, the proposed demolition of the Gulfport Public Library building has created a significant amount of public interest in preserving the library, mainly being organized by several public interest organizations (We the People is the main opponent to the project). FEMA has initiated several public meetings with participation from MDAH and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). FEMA and ACHP have been consulting with the applicant to identify alternatives to demolition in efforts to preserve the structure; however, the applicant has expressed no interest in funding any restoration activities for the structure. Alternatives considered to date include finding a 3rd party to purchase or lease the facility in an effort to have private funding sources participate in the restoration of the library building. FEMA is currently preparing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which outlines measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential adverse effects of all practicable alternatives considered for the Gulfport Public Library, including demolition of the structure.

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Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





July 22, 2009

Dr. Susan Rees
PD
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Planning Division
109 Saint Joseph Street
Mobile, AL 36602

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Dr. Rees:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

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The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

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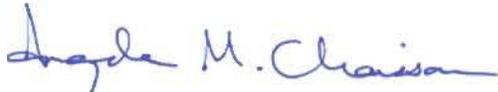
The Orange Grove Public Library building was constructed in 1978. Harrison County proposes to sell the existing Orange Grove Public Library site with the stipulation that the facility continue to be used for library services until construction of the new Harrison County Library has been completed. It is anticipated that the Orange Grove Public Library building would then be demolished.

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Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





July 22, 2009

Mr. Claiborne Barnwell
Chief
Mississippi Department of Transportation, Environmental Division
Administration Building
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

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The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

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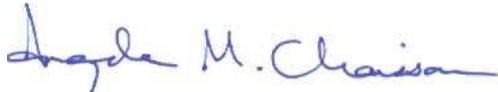
The Orange Grove Public Library building was constructed in 1978. Harrison County proposes to sell the existing Orange Grove Public Library site with the stipulation that the facility continue to be used for library services until construction of the new Harrison County Library has been completed. It is anticipated that the Orange Grove Public Library building would then be demolished.

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Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

July 22, 2009

Ms. Robin Zantow
Administrative Assistant
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Zantow:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

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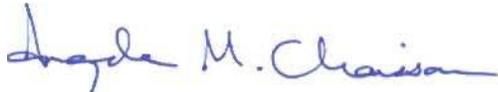
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Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

July 22, 2009

Ms. Michelle Vinson
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Vinson:

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The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

The proposed site is located outside of both the 100- and 500-year floodplains and is also outside of the ABFE. The proposed site plan indicates that the project would include the construction of a new library

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Gaithersburg, MD 20878
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FAX 301-869-8728

building and an associated parking lot; the house and garage located on the site would be demolished, however, many of the large live oak trees would be retained (see Figure 4).

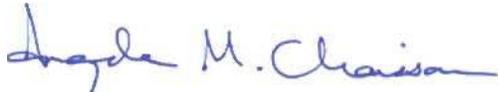
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Because the original Gulfport Public Library building is listed as a Mississippi Landmark, FEMA has been in coordination with MDAH regarding the proposed demolition of the structure. In addition, the proposed demolition of the Gulfport Public Library building has created a significant amount of public interest in preserving the library, mainly being organized by several public interest organizations (We the People is the main opponent to the project). FEMA has initiated several public meetings with participation from MDAH and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). FEMA and ACHP have been consulting with the applicant to identify alternatives to demolition in efforts to preserve the structure; however, the applicant has expressed no interest in funding any restoration activities for the structure. Alternatives considered to date include finding a 3rd party to purchase or lease the facility in an effort to have private funding sources participate in the restoration of the library building. FEMA is currently preparing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which outlines measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential adverse effects of all practicable alternatives considered for the Gulfport Public Library, including demolition of the structure.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 301.670.3379 or electronic mail at angela_chaisson@urscorp.com.

Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

July 22, 2009

Mr. Andy Prosser
Bureau Director
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, MS 39215

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Prosser:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

Harrison County (applicant) has applied for FEMA funding to relocate the Gulfport Public Library outside of the 100-year floodplain and ABFE. In addition, the applicant proposes to relocate the function and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library to the proposed relocation site. The consolidation of both libraries at the proposed relocation site would create the new Harrison County Library.

The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

The proposed site is located outside of both the 100- and 500-year floodplains and is also outside of the ABFE. The proposed site plan indicates that the project would include the construction of a new library

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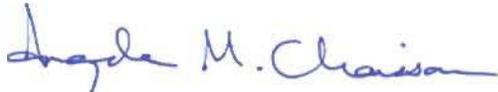
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NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 301.670.3379 or electronic mail at angela_chaisson@urscorp.com.

Sincerely,

NISTAC



Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC





Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

July 22, 2009

Mr. Don Underwood
Executive Director
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 23005
Jackson, MS 39225-3005

**Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project,
Harrison County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Underwood:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, resulting in high winds, heavy rains, and flooding that caused extensive damage to the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Gulfport Public Library served as the main library for Harrison County and consisted of a 43,664-square-foot, two-story building located on a 1.6-acre site. The building, constructed in 1965, is listed as a Mississippi Landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). The Gulfport Public Library was located outside of the 100-year floodplain according to the pre-Katrina Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). However, the post-Katrina Digital FIRM identifies that the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Additionally, the property is located within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). The southern boundary of the Gulfport Public Library property is formed by Beach Boulevard, which is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi Sound. Katrina's storm surge inundated the building with up to 4 feet of water, causing extensive damage that exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for demolition and replacement. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport (see Figures 1 and 2).

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The Harrison County Library would be built on a 4.5-acre site located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (see Figure 3). The proposed project site is located approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location. The site is currently a residential lot containing a single-family home and a detached garage. The remainder of the property consists of a concrete driveway and landscaping which includes mature live oak trees. The site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property.

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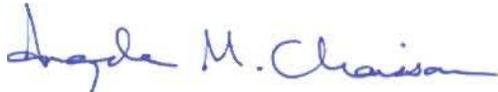
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Sincerely,

NISTAC

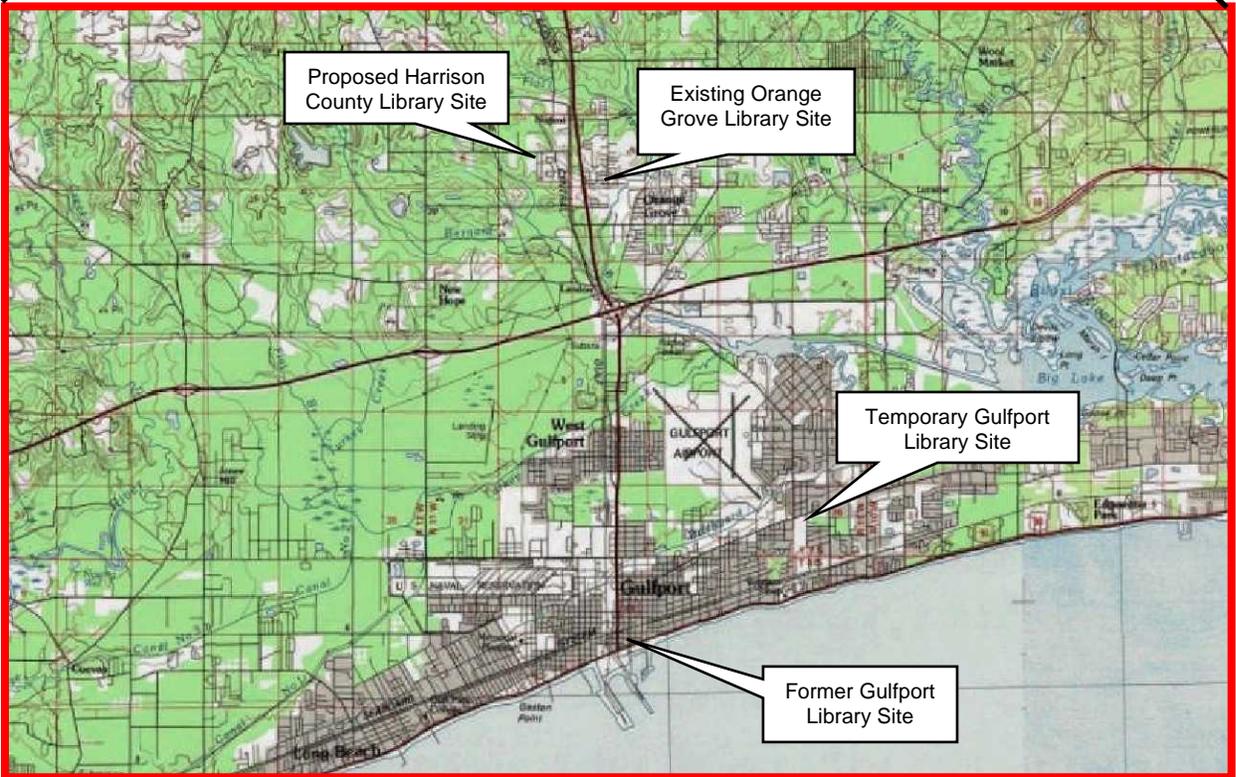


Angela M. Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist

Enclosures as noted

cc: Brian Mehok, NISTAC

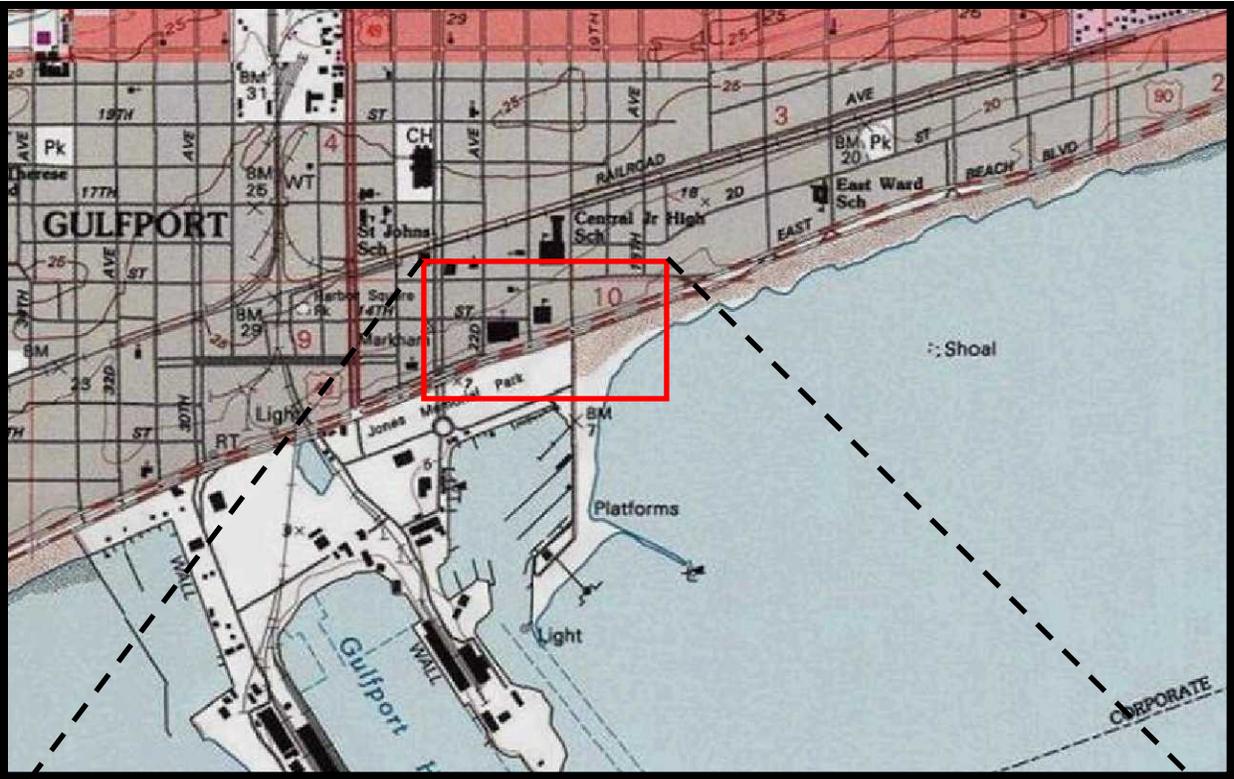




Source: USGS, Gulfport and Biloxi 1:100,000 quadrangles

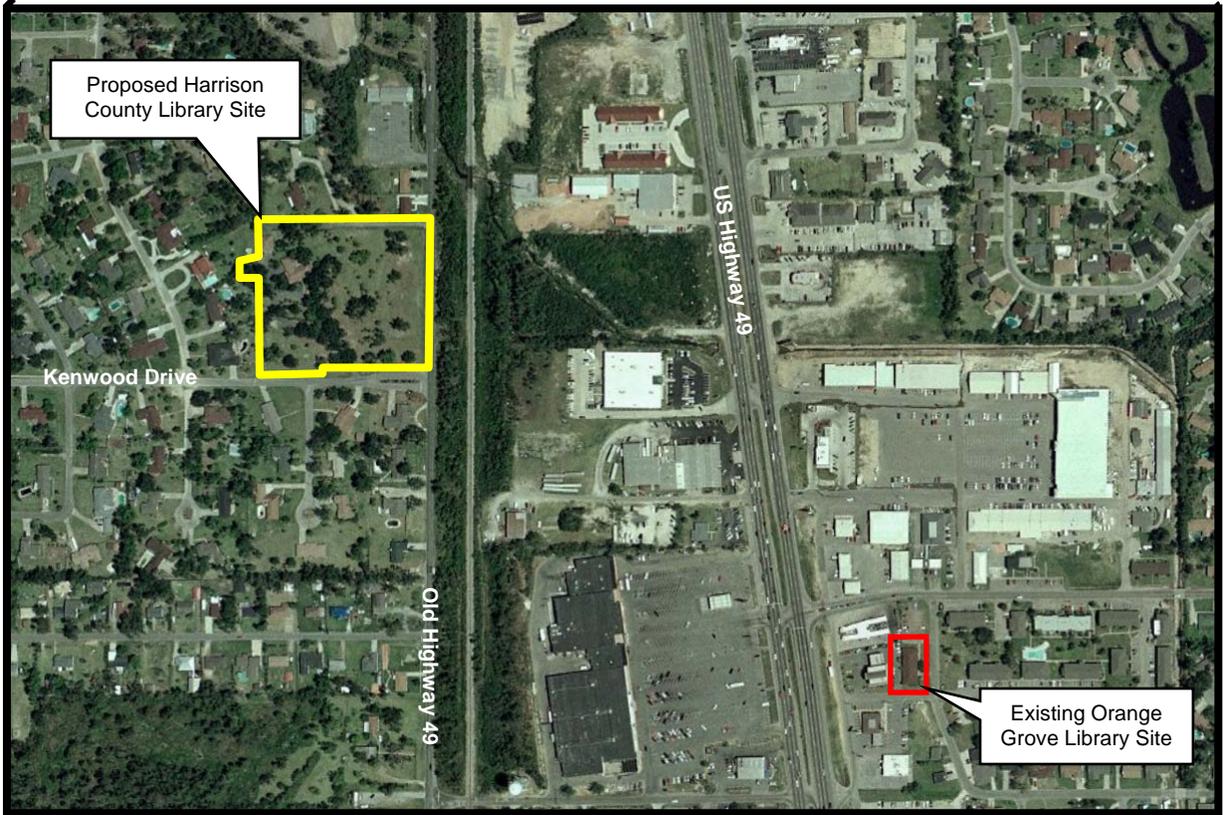
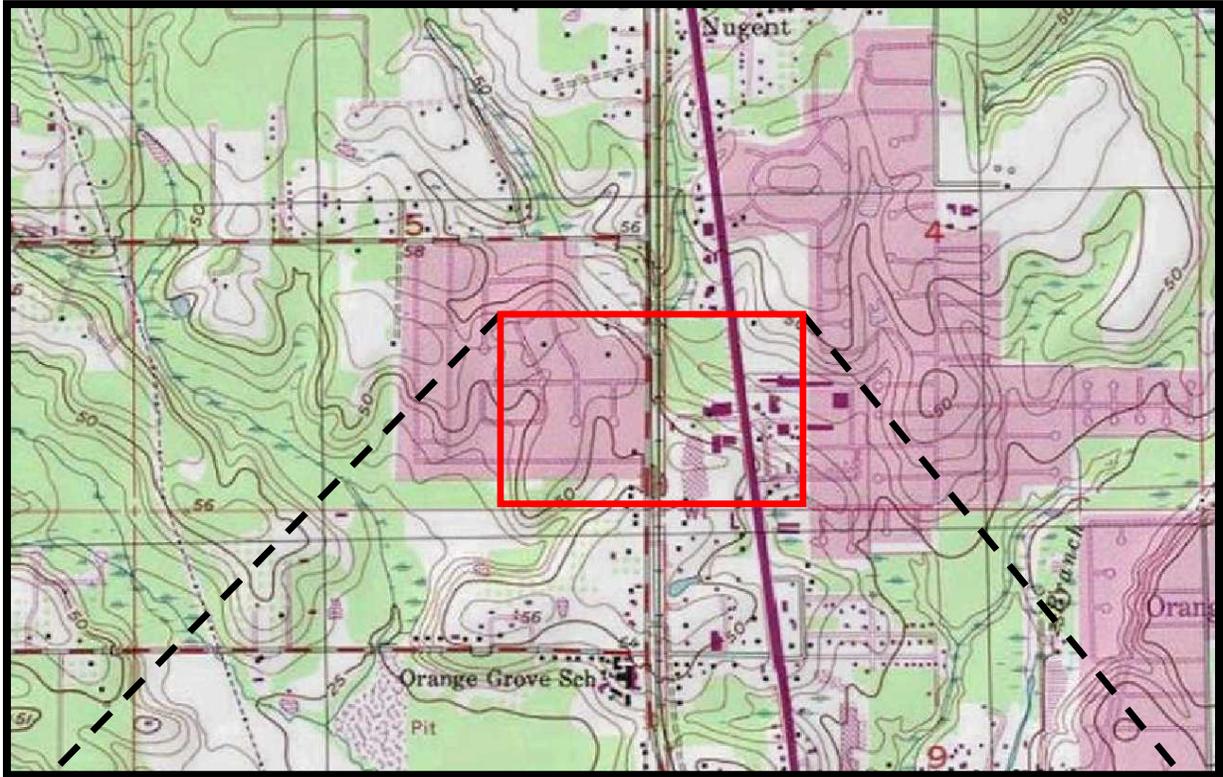
CLIENT Harrison County			TITLE	
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project			PROJECT VICINITY	
REVISION NO	DES BY			
SCALE	DR BY		FIGURE 1	
FILE	CHK BY			





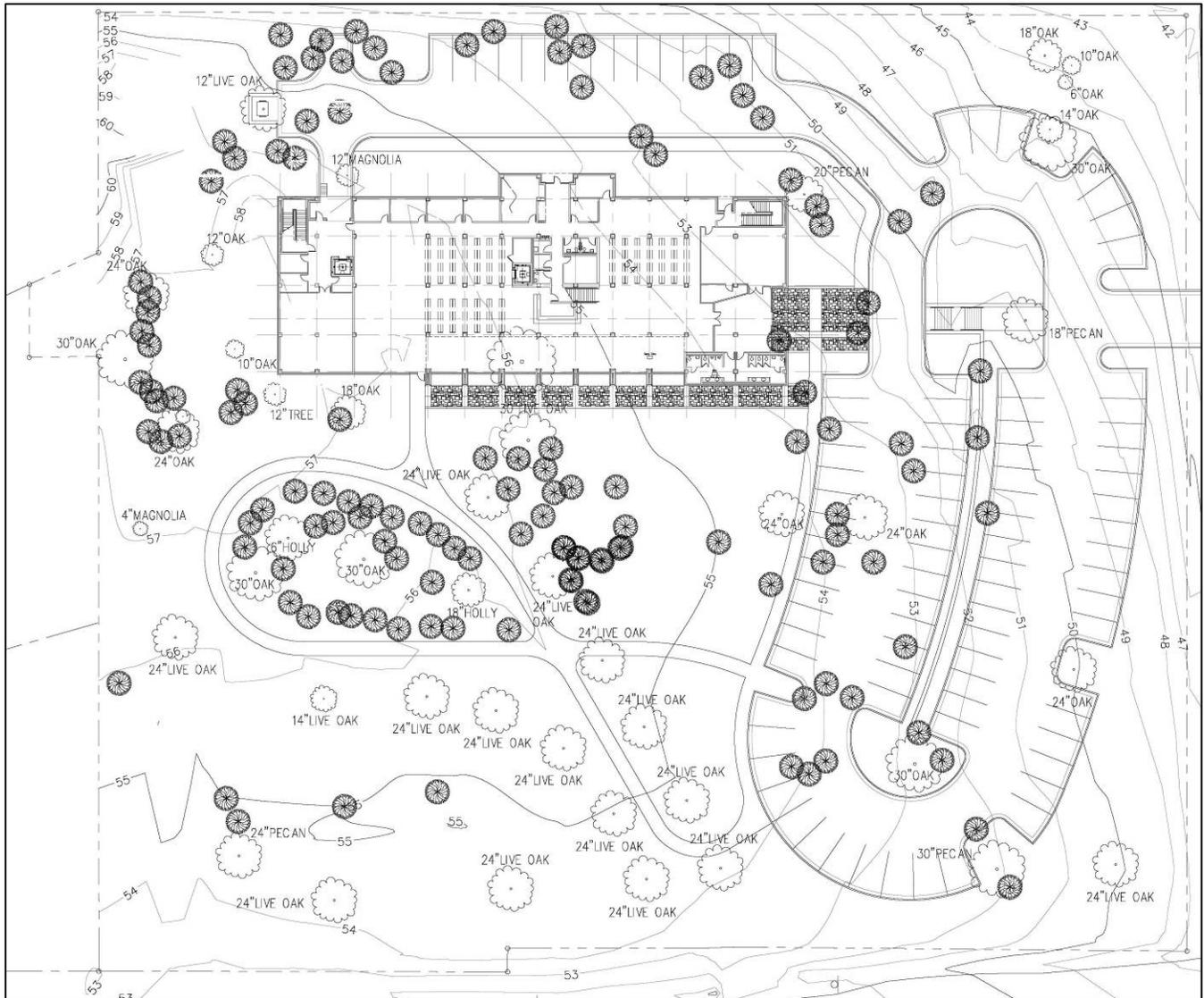
Source: USGS, Gulfport South and Gulfport North 1:24,000 quadrangles, Aerials Express Gulf Coast 2006

CLIENT Harrison County		TITLE		PROJECT LOCATION	
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project					
REVISION NO	DES BY			PROJ NO	15708003
SCALE	DR BY			FIGURE	2
FILE	CHK BY				



Source: USGS, Gulfport North 1:24,000 quadrangle, Aerials Express Gulf Coast 2006

CLIENT Harrison County			TITLE		PROJECT LOCATION	
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project						
REVISION NO	DES BY				PROJ NO	15708003
SCALE	DR BY				FIGURE	3
FILE	CHK BY					



Source: Eley Guild Hardy Architects

CLIENT Harrison County		TITLE		
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project		 PROPOSED SITE PLAN		
REVISION NO	DES BY			PROJ NO 15708003
SCALE	DR BY			FIGURE 4
FILE	CHK BY			

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Suite 1321, Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269

July 30, 2009

Angela M. Chaisson, Senior NEPA Specialist
NISTAC
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Ms. Chaisson:

This is in response to your request for Federal funding under the FEMA program for the effort to restore or relocation of the Gulfport Public Library to Orange Grove, Mississippi.

According to the site locations you have provided, areas within the city limits do not require an FPPA determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reginald K. Harris", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Reginald K. Harris
Acting State Soil Scientist/
State Conservation Engineer

Cc:

Tyree Harrington, Supervisory District Conservationist, NRCS, Gulfport, MS
Wesley Kerr, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Hattiesburg, MS



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

July 30, 2009

Angela Chaisson
Senior NEPA Specialist
Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RE: DMR-100055

Dear Ms. Chaisson:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a proposal for Harrison County to construct a library at the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Department has no objections provided there are no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands and no coastal program agency objects to the proposal. If wetland impacts are anticipated, an application should be submitted to this office for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information or questions concerning this correspondence, contact James Davis with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4115 or james.davis@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willa J. Brantley", written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Willa J. Brantley
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WJB/jdd



"Johnson, Adam"
<ajohnson@mdot.state.ms.us>
08/19/2009 04:24 PM

To <angela_chaisson@urscorp.com>
cc "Thurman, Kim" <kthurman@mdot.state.ms.us>
bcc
Subject Re:Request for Project Review - Gulfport Public Library
Relocation Project, Harrison County, Mississippi

Ms. Chaisson:

This email is in response to the letter sent to Mr. Claiborne Barnwell on July 22, 2009 with regard to the subject project.

To my knowledge, MDOT has nothing planned in the area that has been proposed as the new location for the Gulfport Public Library.

Adam Johnson

Location Engineer
Environmental Division
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Phone: (601) 359-7875
Cell: (769) 798-3677

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FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Transitional Recovery Office
Physical Address
220 Popps Ferry Rd.
Building A South
Biloxi, MS 39532

September 10, 2009

Mr. Jim Woodrick
FEMA Point of Contact
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project

Dear Mr. Woodrick:

Harrison County has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1604-DR-MS for the proposed construction of a new library facility. The new facility will serve as the Harrison County Public Library, and house the combined functions and services of the former Gulfport Public Library, the temporary Gulfport Public Library, and the Orange Grove Public Library.

On August, 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing extensive damage. The storm surge and high winds severely damaged the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport. In lieu of repairing the Gulfport Public Library, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors (applicant) proposes to construct a new Harrison County Public Library facility approximately 6 miles to the north on a 4.45-acre site (relocation site) located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (Figure 4). The applicant proposes to relocate the functions and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library and the temporary Gulfport Public Library to the proposed Harrison County Public Library, creating a new main library for the City of Gulfport and Harrison County (Figure 1).

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

In April and July 2009, a NISTAC archaeologist and architectural historian, both qualified in their respective disciplines under *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards* (36 CFR Part 61), conducted an assessment of the project's potential to affect historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

For above-ground resources, the APE consists of: the four discontinuous parcels directly associated with the undertaking as defined above, including the former Gulfport Library property, the temporary Gulfport Library property, the existing Orange Grove Library property, and the proposed Harrison County Public Library property (relocation site), as well as the parcels immediately adjacent to the proposed relocation site to account for indirect effects.

For archeological resources, the APE consists of the entire 4.45-acre parcel(s) proposed relocation site to account for all areas where ground disturbance associated with the undertaking could potentially occur. Planned activities that have the potential to affect archaeological resources include demolition and removal of existing buildings; construction of the new building and associated impervious surface for ingress, egress, and parking; and hardscape and landscape improvements, including the construction of walking paths around the property.

Former Gulfport Public Library

In October 2008 the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) determined that the 1966 former Gulfport Public Library building was eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A for its association with cultural progress in the community and Criterion C as the best example of New Formalist architecture on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and that the building possessed exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G (Figure 2). FEMA further determined that the 1942 Captain Joseph T. Jones Monument, a bronze statue that stood on the grounds of the library, was a contributing resource to the NRHP-eligible Gulfport Public Library.

Subsequently, FEMA determined that the proposed demolition of the former Gulfport Public Library would result in an adverse effect to the historic property. The adverse effect has been resolved through the execution in May 2009 of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among FEMA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors (HCBS). The MOA stipulates that for a period of one year the HCBS will seek to identify viable re-use proposals for the Gulfport Public Library building. If a qualified lessee emerges, rehabilitation of the library will be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Should the HCBS efforts to market the building fail to identify a qualified lessee, the county will proceed with demolition. Mitigation includes the preparation of HABS documentation and a completed MDAH Historic Resources Inventory Form.

New Harrison County Public Library

FEMA has determined that no historic properties are located within or adjacent to the proposed relocation site for the new Harrison County Public Library. Therefore, FEMA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Above-ground Resources. The proposed relocation site of the new Harrison County Public Library building is a 4.45-acre lot located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 (Old Magnolia Highway) and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (Figure 3, Photos 1-12). It is approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location, and is located in the northern suburban fringes of the City of Gulfport. The relocation site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property. The surrounding area retains a sense of rural locality between spaced, planned (subdivision) communities. Old Highway 49, which runs north-south and parallel to Highway 49, is a heavily urbanized, commercial shopping and services thoroughfare. The two highways are separated by a distance of about four city blocks and the railroad tracks that run north-south from Jackson to Gulfport (Gulf and Ship Island Railroad). The proposed relocation site is not located in or adjacent to any listed or eligible NRHP properties.

The 4.45-acre parcel on which the new Harrison County Public Library would be constructed is a residential lot containing a single-family dwelling and a detached garage, as well as hardscape and landscape features including an asphalt driveway lined by an allee of mature live oak trees. In the early 20th century, the parcel was part of a larger property consisting of approximately 160 acres owned by Thomas Watson, who acquired the land through county auctions. The property was sold in 1917 to the McCandliss family, and used for timber harvesting between 1917 and 1923. In 1923, the property owner applied for a Federal Farm Mortgage from the Federal Land Bank in New Orleans under the condition that the acreage be used for agricultural purposes. From 1923 to 1972 the property was used for citrus cultivation. A 1933 Postal Service map shows a building on the property that may have been a dwelling. The property was sold again in 1972 and subdivided into residential lots. The proposed relocation site is located within the parcel sold to Jerry and Norma Williamson in 1972.

The extant one-story brick dwelling and detached one-story, two-car garage appear to have been constructed shortly after the sale of the property to the Williamsons in 1972, as suggested by the physical characteristics of the buildings, aerial imagery, and deed records. The dwelling is clad in brick veneer, features a high roof line, and exhibits aluminum-frame windows. The buildings are not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The parcel also features hardscape and landscape features including: an asphalt driveway, accessible from Kenwood Drive, that is lined with mature live oak trees that appear to have been planted in the early 20th century; small linear mound rows and a defunct irrigation pump that appear to be remnant from the use of the property for citrus

cultivation; and an abandoned well. Although reflective of the historical use of the property, these features are disconnected from one another and altered by later uses of the land. There is no indication that these features possess historical significance either as individual resources or collectively.

The 4.45-acre parcel is surrounded by residential, institutional (church), and commercial buildings that date from the second half of the 20th century. There is no evidence to suggest that these properties are eligible for listing in the NRHP either individually or as a district.

Archaeological Resources. The proposed relocation site is situated inland on the coastal terrace at an elevation of approximately 55 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The site lies 0.6 mile south of Flat Creek, a first-order stream. It is 50 feet south of an unnamed seasonal stream or drainage channel that creates areas of marginal marshland just to the north. Due to its location and size, the proposed relocation site was initially considered to have a moderate potential to yield archeological resources. However, visual inspection of the relocation site did not reveal any evidence of archeological resources on the surface other than remnant landscape features associated with the property's history of citrus agriculture from the 1920s to the 1970s. Despite numerous archaeological assessments conducted within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of the proposed relocation site, a search of MDAH site files indicated no previously recorded archaeological sites were located within this area.

A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed project area was conducted by Nationwide Infrastructure Technical Assistance Consultants (NISTAC) from July 26 to July 31, 2009. NISTAC archaeologists were accompanied by a FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist during the field investigation. Work consisted of a pedestrian survey, photographic documentation, and the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) spaced at 20-meter intervals across the 4.45-acre parcel. Forty-six STPs at 20-meters intervals were placed on eight staggered transects across the entirety of the proposed relocation site (Figure 4-1). The pedestrian survey revealed linear mound landscape features and a probable irrigation pump associated with past citrus cultivation. Additionally, a well with a hand-scribed date of 1942 on the well-cap is located on the western side of the extant dwelling. The Phase I Archaeological Survey revealed a lack of archaeological resources for the entire 4.45-acre parcel. One STP adjacent to the extant dwelling yielded probable 20th-century material remains; these remains are likely associated with the building shown in the 1933 Postal Service map and later occupation of the property. The apparent modern-era nature of the five total recovered artifacts did not warrant site recordation under the qualitative criterion established with the MDAH. The eastern and southern perimeters of the property are notably disturbed. These portions of the property adjacent to Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive have been subject to past roadway construction and drainage ditch excavation.

The soils at the proposed relocation site consist of Poarch fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) on most of the site, with Harleston fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) on the southern side of the site, and Escambia loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) in the northeastern

corner of the site (USDA/NRCS, 2008). The Phase I Archaeological Survey concluded that the proposed relocation site (except for the eastern and southern boundaries disturbed by road and drainageway construction) exhibits a high degree of stratigraphic integrity, yet yields no cultural material. No evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural activities prior to the property being used for citrus production in 1923 was identified. Therefore, FEMA recommends no further archaeological investigation on the 4.45-acre parcel.

Existing Orange Grove Library

The Orange Grove Public Library is located on Mobile Avenue approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the proposed relocation site (Figure 3, Photos 13-14)). According to the Harrison County Library System Website, the Orange Grove Public Library opened in December 1978. The date is consistent with the physical characteristics of the building, which is a slab-on-grade, rectangular, one-story form, with a hipped roof, typical of 1970s construction. The building is not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. FEMA has determined that the Orange Grove Public Library is not a historic property, and that, therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Temporary Gulfport Public Library

The Temporary Gulfport Public Library consists of a trailer unit located on Maples Drive approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the proposed relocation site (Photos 15-16). The Harrison County Library System Website stated that the temporary Gulfport Public Library opened on June 15, 2007. The trailer is not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. FEMA has determined that the temporary Gulfport Public Library is not a historic property, and that, therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Summary of Effects to Cultural Resources

The undertaking consists of construction of a new Harrison County Public Library on a relocation site on Kenwood Avenue, and relocating the functions and services of the former Gulfport Public Library, the temporary Gulfport Public Library, and the Orange Grove Public Library to the new facility. This undertaking may result in the demolition of the NRHP-eligible former Gulfport Public Library, which FEMA has determined to be an adverse effect. This adverse effect has been resolved through the implementation of an MOA signed in May 2009. FEMA has determined that no other historic properties, either above-ground or archaeological, are located within the APE for the proposed undertaking. If unexpected discoveries are made during the course of project execution, FEMA will proceed in accordance with the applicable Programmatic Agreement.

FEMA requests MDAH review of the enclosed Phase I Archaeological Survey report and concurrence with its findings and determinations as presented above. If you have any

Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project

questions or need additional information, please contact K. Patrice Bamat by telephone at (228) 365-9933 or electronic mail at karen.bamat@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Grisham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Grisham" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Grisham
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Enclosures: *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Gulfport Library
Relocation: Kenwood Drive (September 2009)*



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Transitional Recovery Office
Physical Address
220 Popps Ferry Rd.
Building A South
Biloxi, MS 39532

September 10, 2009

Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350

Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project

Dear Mr. Carleton:

Harrison County has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1604-DR-MS for the proposed construction of a new library facility. The new facility will serve as the Harrison County Public Library, and house the combined functions and services of the former Gulfport Public Library, the temporary Gulfport Public Library, and the Orange Grove Public Library.

On August, 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing extensive damage. The storm surge and high winds severely damaged the Gulfport Public Library located at 1300 21st Avenue in Gulfport. Services formerly provided by the Gulfport Public Library are currently being provided at a temporary trailer unit located at 47 Maples Drive in Gulfport and at the existing Orange Grove Public Library located at 12031 Mobile Avenue in Gulfport. In lieu of repairing the Gulfport Public Library, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors (applicant) proposes to construct a new Harrison County Public Library facility approximately 6 miles to the north on a 4.45-acre site (relocation site) located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (Figure 4). The applicant proposes to relocate the functions and services of the existing Orange Grove Public Library and the temporary Gulfport Public Library to the proposed Harrison County Public Library, creating a new main library for the City of Gulfport and Harrison County (Figure 1).

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

In April and July 2009, a NISTAC archaeologist and architectural historian, both qualified in their respective disciplines under *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards* (36 CFR Part 61), conducted an assessment of the project's potential to affect historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

For above-ground resources, the APE consists of: the four discontinuous parcels directly associated with the undertaking as defined above, including the former Gulfport Library property, the temporary Gulfport Library property, the existing Orange Grove Library property, and the proposed Harrison County Public Library property (relocation site), as well as the parcels immediately adjacent to the proposed relocation site to account for indirect effects.

For archeological resources, the APE consists of the entire 4.45-acre parcel(s) proposed relocation site to account for all areas where ground disturbance associated with the undertaking could potentially occur. Planned activities that have the potential to affect archaeological resources include demolition and removal of existing buildings; construction of the new building and associated impervious surface for ingress, egress, and parking; and hardscape and landscape improvements, including the construction of walking paths around the property.

Former Gulfport Public Library

In October 2008 the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) determined that the 1966 former Gulfport Public Library building was eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A for its association with cultural progress in the community and Criterion C as the best example of New Formalist architecture on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and that the building possessed exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G (Figure 2). FEMA further determined that the 1942 Captain Joseph T. Jones Monument, a bronze statue that stood on the grounds of the library, was a contributing resource to the NRHP-eligible Gulfport Public Library.

Subsequently, FEMA determined that the proposed demolition of the former Gulfport Public Library would result in an adverse effect to the historic property. The adverse effect has been resolved through the execution in May 2009 of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among FEMA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors (HCBS). The MOA stipulates that for a period of one year the HCBS will seek to identify viable re-use proposals for the Gulfport Public Library building. If a qualified lessee emerges, rehabilitation of the library will be carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Should the HCBS efforts to market the building fail to identify a qualified lessee, the county will proceed with demolition. Mitigation includes the preparation of HABS documentation and a completed MDAH Historic Resources Inventory Form.

New Harrison County Public Library

FEMA has determined that no historic properties are located within or adjacent to the proposed relocation site for the new Harrison County Public Library. Therefore, FEMA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Above-ground Resources. The proposed relocation site of the new Harrison County Public Library building is a 4.45-acre lot located northwest of the intersection of Old Highway 49 (Old Magnolia Highway) and Kenwood Drive in Gulfport (Figure 3, Photos 1-12). It is approximately 6 miles north of the former Gulfport Public Library location, and is located in the northern suburban fringes of the City of Gulfport. The relocation site is bounded to the south by Kenwood Drive and residential properties; to the west by residential properties; to the north by Edward Lane, residential properties, and a church; and to the east by Old Highway 49, railroad tracks, and commercial property. The surrounding area retains a sense of rural locality between spaced, planned (subdivision) communities. Old Highway 49, which runs north-south and parallel to Highway 49, is a heavily urbanized, commercial shopping and services thoroughfare. The two highways are separated by a distance of about four city blocks and the railroad tracks that run north-south from Jackson to Gulfport (Gulf and Ship Island Railroad). The proposed relocation site is not located in or adjacent to any listed or eligible NRHP properties.

The 4.45-acre parcel on which the new Harrison County Public Library would be constructed is a residential lot containing a single-family dwelling and a detached garage, as well as hardscape and landscape features including an asphalt driveway lined by an alley of mature live oak trees. In the early 20th century, the parcel was part of a larger property consisting of approximately 160 acres owned by Thomas Watson, who acquired the land through county auctions. The property was sold in 1917 to the McCandliss family, and used for timber harvesting between 1917 and 1923. In 1923, the property owner applied for a Federal Farm Mortgage from the Federal Land Bank in New Orleans under the condition that the acreage be used for agricultural purposes. From 1923 to 1972 the property was used for citrus cultivation. A 1933 Postal Service map shows a building on the property that may have been a dwelling. The property was sold again in 1972 and subdivided into residential lots. The proposed relocation site is located within the parcel sold to Jerry and Norma Williamson in 1972.

The extant one-story brick dwelling and detached one-story, two-car garage appear to have been constructed shortly after the sale of the property to the Williamsons in 1972, as suggested by the physical characteristics of the buildings, aerial imagery, and deed records. The dwelling is clad in brick veneer, features a high roof line, and exhibits aluminum-frame windows. The buildings are not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. The parcel also features hardscape and landscape features including: an asphalt driveway, accessible from Kenwood Drive, that is lined with mature live oak trees that appear to have been planted in the early 20th century; small linear mound rows and a defunct irrigation pump that appear to be remnant from the use of the property for citrus cultivation; and an abandoned well. Although reflective of the historical use of the

property, these features are disconnected from one another and altered by later uses of the land. There is no indication that these features possess historical significance either as individual resources or collectively.

The 4.45-acre parcel is surrounded by residential, institutional (church), and commercial buildings that date from the second half of the 20th century. There is no evidence to suggest that these properties are eligible for listing in the NRHP either individually or as a district.

Archaeological Resources. The proposed relocation site is situated inland on the coastal terrace at an elevation of approximately 55 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The site lies 0.6 mile south of Flat Creek, a first-order stream. It is 50 feet south of an unnamed seasonal stream or drainage channel that creates areas of marginal marshland just to the north. Due to its location and size, the proposed relocation site was initially considered to have a moderate potential to yield archeological resources. However, visual inspection of the relocation site did not reveal any evidence of archeological resources on the surface other than remnant landscape features associated with the property's history of citrus agriculture from the 1920s to the 1970s. Despite numerous archaeological assessments conducted within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of the proposed relocation site, a search of MDAH site files indicated no previously recorded archaeological sites were located within this area.

A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed project area was conducted by Nationwide Infrastructure Technical Assistance Consultants (NISTAC) from July 26 to July 31, 2009. NISTAC archaeologists were accompanied by a FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist during the field investigation. Work consisted of a pedestrian survey, photographic documentation, and the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) spaced at 20-meter intervals across the 4.45-acre parcel. Forty-six STPs at 20-meters intervals were placed on eight staggered transects across the entirety of the proposed relocation site (Figure 4-1). The pedestrian survey revealed linear mound landscape features and a probable irrigation pump associated with past citrus cultivation. Additionally, a well with a hand-scribed date of 1942 on the well-cap is located on the western side of the extant dwelling. The Phase I Archaeological Survey revealed a lack of archaeological resources for the entire 4.45-acre parcel. One STP adjacent to the extant dwelling yielded probable 20th-century material remains; these remains are likely associated with the building shown in the 1933 Postal Service map and later occupation of the property. The apparent modern-era nature of the five total recovered artifacts did not warrant site recordation under the qualitative criterion established with the MDAH. The eastern and southern perimeters of the property are notably disturbed. These portions of the property adjacent to Old Highway 49 and Kenwood Drive have been subject to past roadway construction and drainage ditch excavation.

The soils at the proposed relocation site consist of Poarch fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) on most of the site, with Harleston fine sandy loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) on the southern side of the site, and Escambia loam (0 to 2 percent slopes) in the northeastern corner of the site (USDA/NRCS, 2008). The Phase I Archaeological Survey concluded

that the proposed relocation site (except for the eastern and southern boundaries disturbed by road and drainageway construction) exhibits a high degree of stratigraphic integrity, yet yields no cultural material. No evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural activities prior to the property being used for citrus production in 1923 was identified. Therefore, FEMA recommends no further archaeological investigation on the 4.45-acre parcel.

Existing Orange Grove Library

The Orange Grove Public Library is located on Mobile Avenue approximately 0.5 mile southeast of the proposed relocation site (Figure 3, Photos 13-14)). According to the Harrison County Library System Website, the Orange Grove Public Library opened in December 1978. The date is consistent with the physical characteristics of the building, which is a slab-on-grade, rectangular, one-story form, with a hipped roof, typical of 1970s construction. The building is not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. FEMA has determined that the Orange Grove Public Library is not a historic property, and that, therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Temporary Gulfport Public Library

The Temporary Gulfport Public Library consists of a trailer unit located on Maples Drive approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the proposed relocation site (Photos 15-16). The Harrison County Library System Website stated that the temporary Gulfport Public Library opened on June 15, 2007. The trailer is not known to possess the exceptional importance required for properties less than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. FEMA has determined that the temporary Gulfport Public Library is not a historic property, and that, therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking within this portion of the discontinuous APE.

Summary of Effects to Cultural Resources

The undertaking consists of construction of a new Harrison County Public Library on a relocation site on Kenwood Avenue, and relocating the functions and services of the former Gulfport Public Library, the temporary Gulfport Public Library, and the Orange Grove Public Library to the new facility. This undertaking may result in the demolition of the NRHP-eligible former Gulfport Public Library, which FEMA has determined to be an adverse effect. This adverse effect has been resolved through the implementation of an MOA signed in May 2009. FEMA has determined that no other historic properties, either above-ground or archaeological, are located within the APE for the proposed undertaking. If unexpected discoveries are made during the course of project execution, FEMA will proceed in accordance with the applicable Programmatic Agreement.

FEMA requests THPO review of the enclosed Phase I Archaeological Survey report and concurrence with its findings and determinations as presented above. If you have any

Re: Request for Project Review – Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project

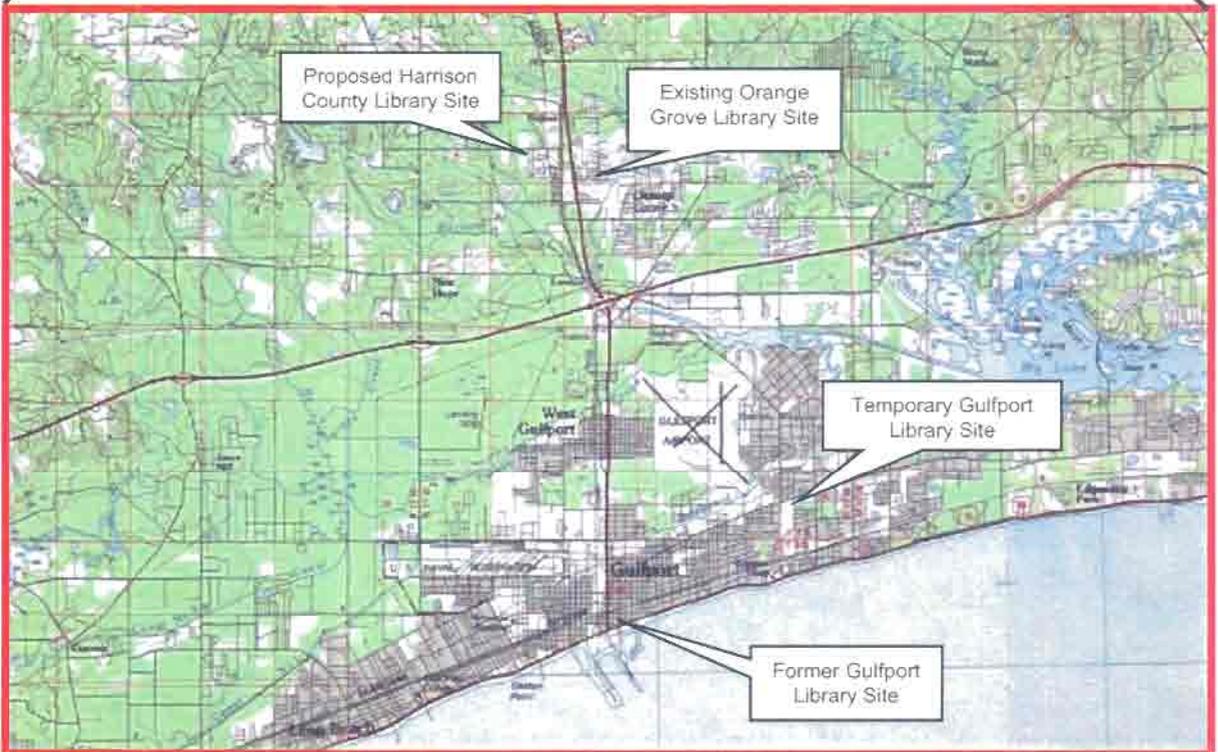
questions or need additional information, please contact K. Patrice Bamat by telephone at (228) 365-9933 or electronic mail at karen.bamat@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Grisham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

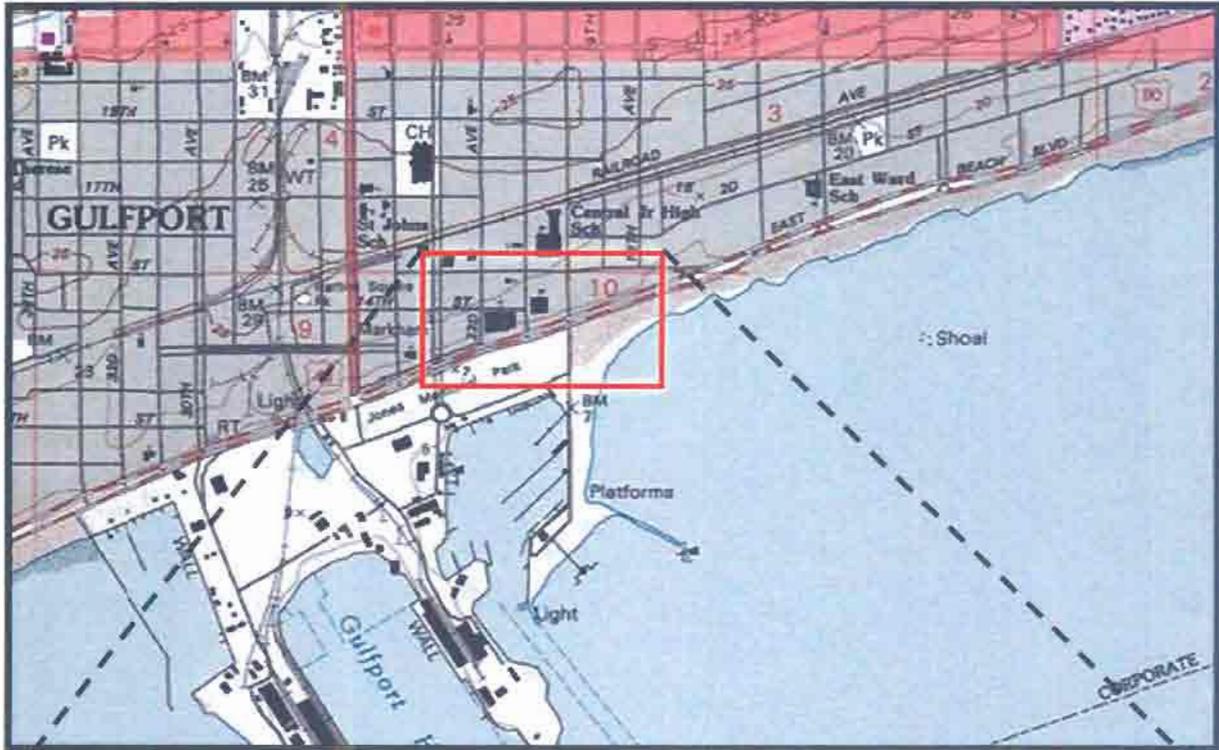
Michael Grisham
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Enclosures: *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Gulfport Library
Relocation: Kenwood Drive (September 2009)*



Source: USGS, Gulfport and Biloxi 1:100,000 quadrangles

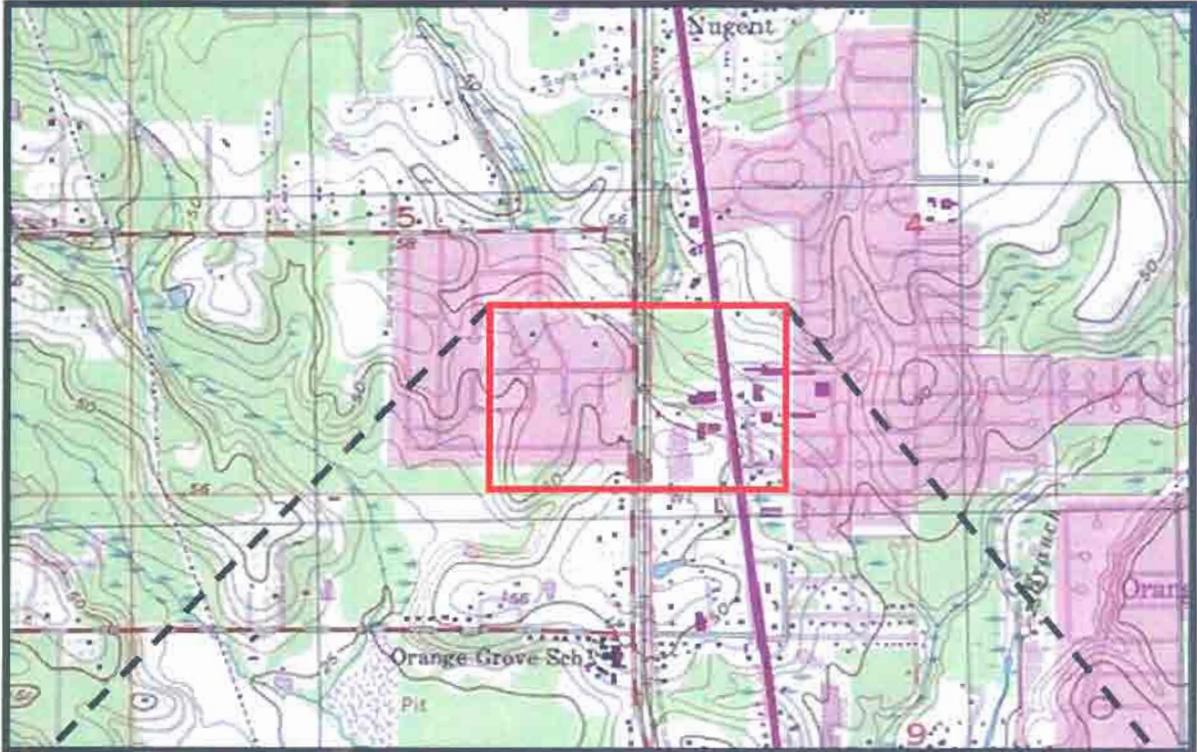
CLIENT Harrison County			TITLE	
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project			PROJECT VICINITY	
REVISION NO	DES BY			PROJ NO 15708003
SCALE	DR BY			FIGURE 1
FILE	CHK BY			



Source: USGS, Gulfport South and Gulfport North 1:24,000 quadrangles, Aerials Express Gulf Coast 2006

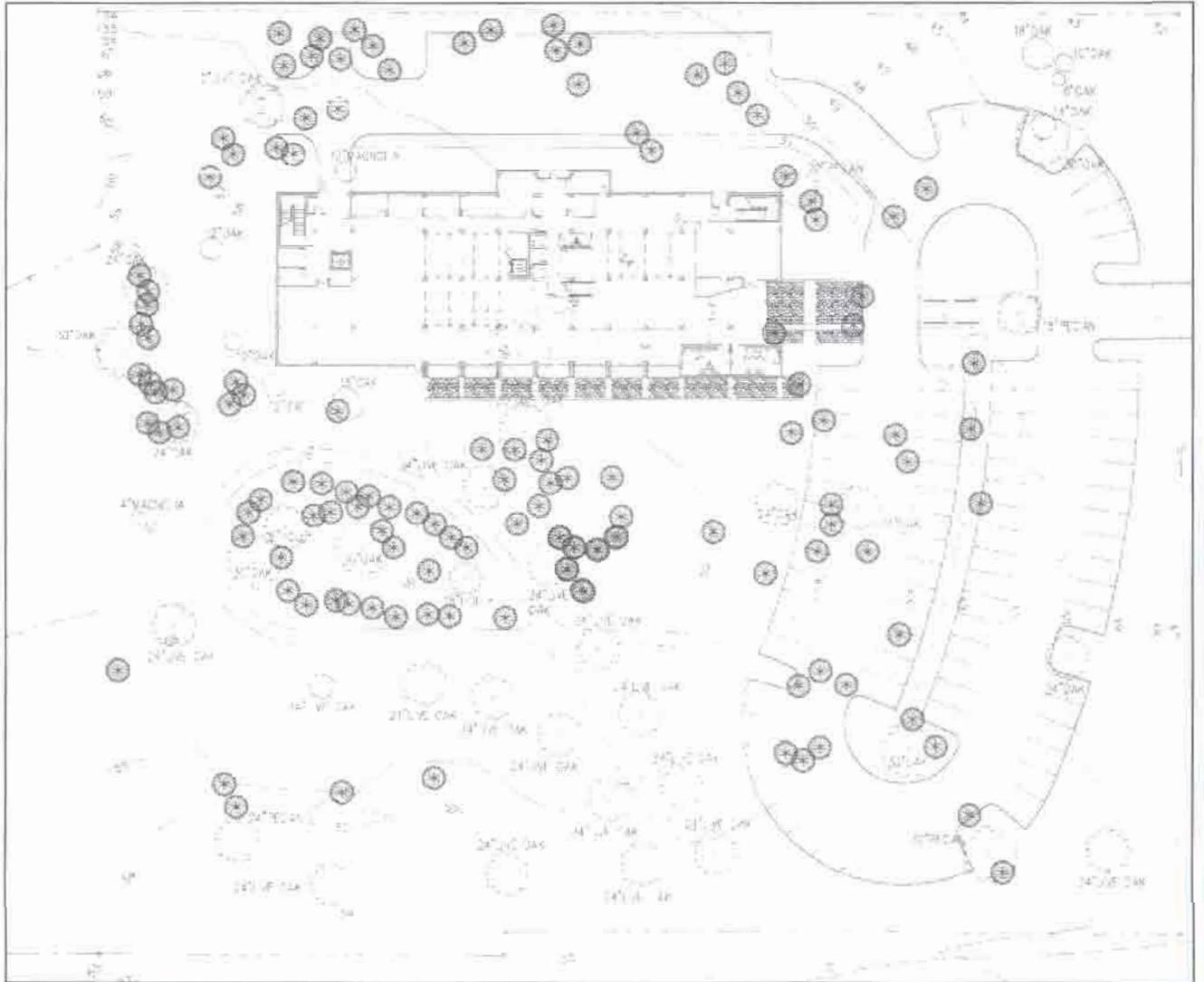
CLIENT	Harrison County		
PROJ	Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project		
REVISION NO	DES BY		
SCALE	DR BY		
FILE	CHK BY		

TITLE	PROJECT LOCATION	
		
	PROJ NO	15708003
	FIGURE	2



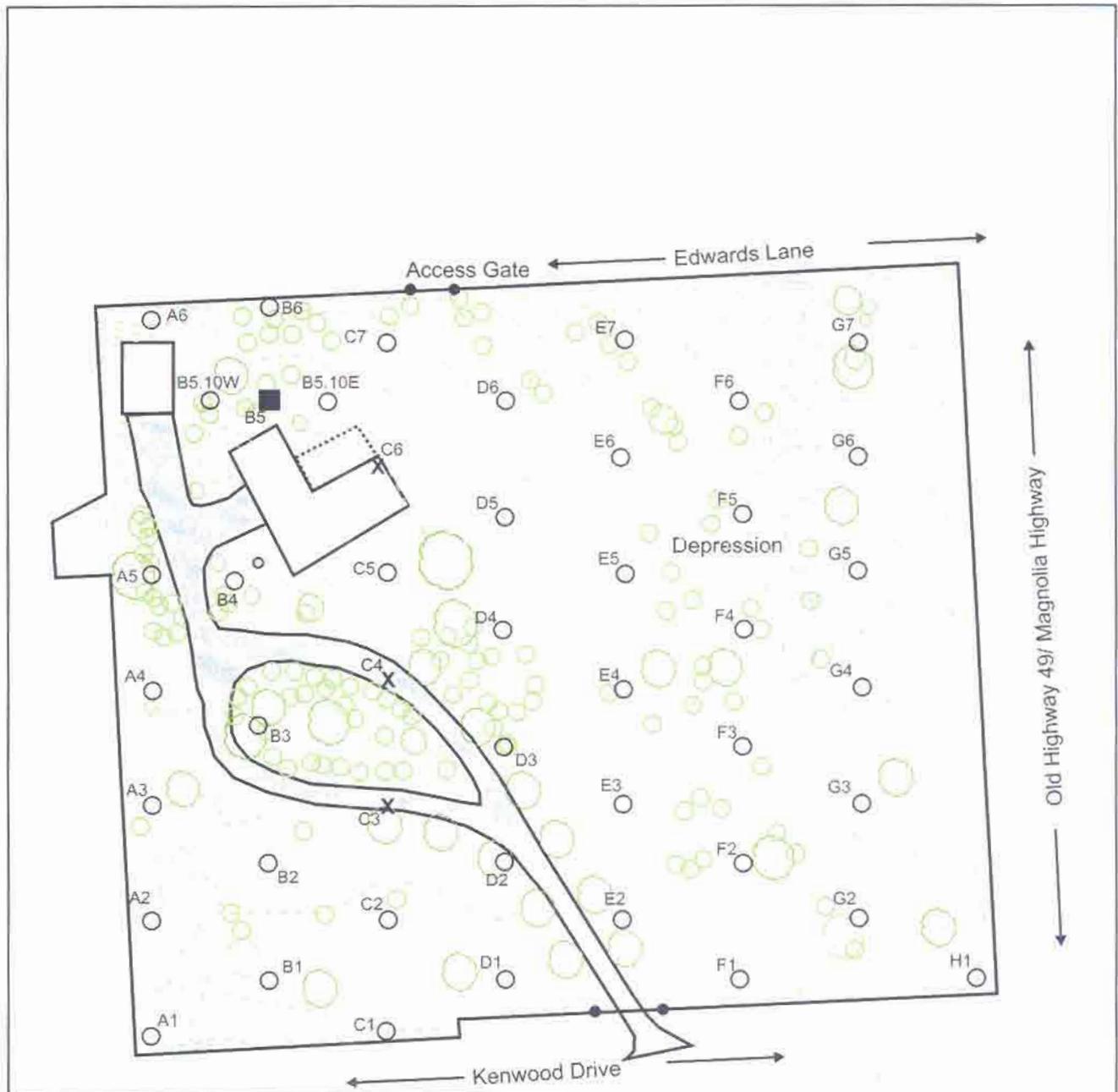
Source: USGS, Gulfport North 1:24,000 quadrangle, Aerials Express Gulf Coast 2006

CLIENT Harrison County			TITLE PROJECT LOCATION		
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project					
REVISION NO	DES BY	PROJ NO			15708003
SCALE	DR BY	FIGURE			3
FILE	CHK BY				



Source: Eley Guild Hardy Architects

CLIENT Harrison County			TITLE	
PROJ Gulfport Public Library Relocation Project			PROPOSED SITE PLAN	
REVISION NO	DES BY			PROJ NO 15708003
SCALE	DR BY			FIGURE 4
FILE	CHK BY			

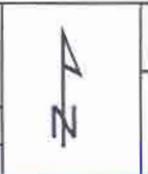


Key	
○	Shovel Test - Negative
X	Shovel Test - Not Excavated
■	Shovel Test - Positive for Historic Material
○ (yellow)	Boxwood
○ (green)	Tree, various species
- - -	Topographic contour line, one foot interval
—	Cultural feature

Meters
0 40

TITLE Gulfport Library Relocation Site Map Showing STP Placement

PROJ	Gulfport Library Relocation Phase I Survey, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi
SCALE	As shown
SOURCE	URS Field Map, EGH Architects Map (2009)



PROJ NO	15708003
FIGURE	4-1



PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name: Gulfport Public Library Relocation	Site Location: Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive	Project No. 15708003
--	---	--------------------------------

Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 1
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Direction Photo Taken:
Facing northwest

Description:
Gated driveway entrance on the south side of the property along Kenwood Drive.



Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 2
------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing northwest

Description:
Primary façade of the mid 1970s single-family residence located in the northwest section of the property.





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name:
Gulfport Public Library Relocation

Site Location:
Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive

Project No.
15708003

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		3

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing south

Description:

Northern elevation of the single-family residence



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		4

Direction Photo Taken:

Facing south

Description:

Northern elevation of the single-family residence





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name:
Gulfport Public Library Relocation

Site Location:
Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive

Project No.
15708003

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		5

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing north

Description:

Detached two-car garage located in the northwest corner of the property.



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		6

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing northwest

Description:

Tree lined driveway located on the south side of the subject property accessed via Kenwood Drive.





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name: Gulfport Public Library Relocation	Site Location: Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive	Project No. 15708003
--	---	--------------------------------

Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 7
------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing north

Description:
Overview of the landscaping on the property.



Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 8
------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing northeast

Description:
Overview of the landscaping on the property.





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name: Gulfport Public Library Relocation			Site Location: Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive			Project No.: 15708003		
Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 9						
Direction Photo Taken: Facing north								
Description: Old Highway 49 (Magnolia Highway) from the southeast corner of the property.								

Date 7/28/09	Data Point	Photo No. 10				
Direction Photo Taken: Facing southwest						
Description: Viewshed across Kenwood Avenue from the gated entrance of the property.						



PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name:
Gulfport Public Library Relocation

Site Location:
Gulfport Library Relocation Site – 16058 Kenwood Drive

Project No.
15708003

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		11

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing west-southwest

Description:
Kenwood Drive from the gated entrance of the property.



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/28/09		12

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing west

Description:
Kenwood Drive from the southwest corner of the property.





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name:
Gulfport Public Library Relocation

Site Location:
Orange Grove Library – 12031 Mobile Avenue

Project No.
15708003

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/29/09		13

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing west

Description:
Primary façade of the Orange Grove Public Library



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/29/09		14

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing south

Description:
Side elevation of the Orange Grove Public Library





PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Applicant Name:
Gulfport Public Library Relocation

Site Location:
Temporary Gulfport Library – 47 Maples Drive Trailer #1

Project No.
15708003

Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/29/09		15

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing southwest

Description:
Overview of the Temporary Gulfport Library property.



Date	Data Point	Photo No.
7/29/09		16

Direction Photo Taken:
Facing northeast

Description:
Side elevation of the existing trailer

