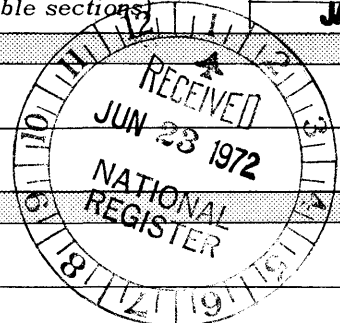


HB NO 47m

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| STATE: Mississippi | |
| COUNTY: Harrison | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER JAN 18 1973 | DATE |



1. NAME

COMMON:
Biloxi Garden Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Brick House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
410 East Bayview Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Biloxi

STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39530 COUNTY: Harrison CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Biloxi Garden Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
410 East Bayview Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Biloxi STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39530 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Harrison County Courthouse,

STREET AND NUMBER: Second District
Washington and Lameuse Streets, Post Office Box 544

CITY OR TOWN: Biloxi STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39530 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi

COUNTY: Harrison

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 18 1973

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

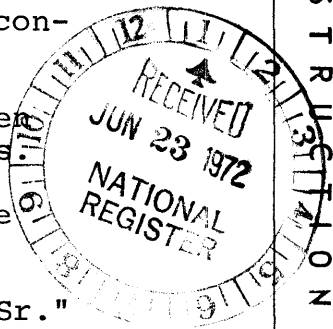
The Biloxi Garden Center is a 7-bay, story-and-a-half common-bond brick structure, formerly a residence, measuring approximately 50 feet in length and 30 feet (excluding the gallery) in depth. The 12-foot wide gallery on the facade (north elevation) was rebuilt after Hurricane Camille in 1969 and is supported on uprights connected by a railing of square balusters. The paneled doors of the three recessed front entrances are original: a double-leaf type flanked by two single doors. The center opening is simply but effectively framed at the sides by slender pilasters and five lights above wooden panels, and overhead by a 9-paned transom beneath an extended lintel. On the rear elevation is a recessed porch enclosed by louvered panels and double doors. Formerly the porch was open and connected by a passageway to an outside kitchen and dining room, both of which were removed in the 1920s when Bayview Avenue was laid out. A resident of the house in 1920-21 has described the kitchen area as follows:

From the rear gallery downstairs a covered and floored passageway about twenty feet long and eight feet wide connected the main house to the kitchen. It was the same construction as the house.

The original earthen floor of the kitchen had been covered with twelve-inch boards. The open brick fire place was at least five feet high and three feet deep. The iron pot hooks and swinging levers, for kettles, were still intact.

("Recollections of Mrs. Richard Guice, Sr." Official Files, Biloxi Garden Center.)

Each side elevation of the Garden Center features parapet walls and a chimney in the apex of the roof gable, with the roof pitch being broken at the rear. Three dormers with triangular pediments project from the front and the rear slopes, all six being rebuilt on the lines of the originals. Conventional windows are 9 over 9 with flat-arch lintels and 2-part green wooden shutters on the first floor and blinds on the second. Their sills, canted to shed moisture, are the original cypress, but sashes and panes were made to order for the restoration. The flight of four granite steps at the rear entrance was obtained from the demolished First National Bank in Biloxi, which also provided replacement lumber. Side elevations are cemented from the ground to a height of approximately four-and-a-half feet and are pierced near grade by iron-grille ventilators. The gallery is based on a brick foundation vented by open coursework.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Mississippi | |
| COUNTY | |
| Harrison | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

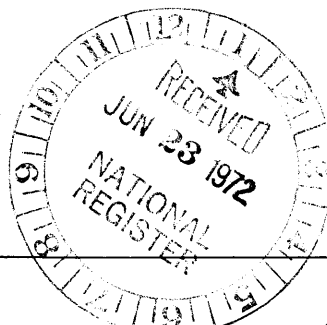
(Number all entries)

7.

The plan of the Biloxi Garden Center consists of a central hallway with four rooms on the first floor and a hallway and two rooms on the second floor. There was also a wine cellar beneath what is now the kitchen, with a rear outside entrance. A rectangular arch leads from the downstairs hallway to the enclosed rear porch, which features walls of both brick and plaster; storage cupboards installed in 1957; and doors with cross and Bible paneling opening into the adjoining rear rooms. Also on the porch is a 13-step staircase with winders and functional newel, balusters, and stringer. The bottom treads were reworked during the restoration to provide more convenient access. Other interior characteristics include plastered walls with simple molded cornices; board ceilings; 11-inch window jambs; and 6-inch flooring which was recovered from a demolished courthouse in nearby Pascagoula, Mississippi. In the dining room is a varnished wooden mantelpiece carved with pilasters and cartouche which was removed from an early Biloxi home; the mantelpiece in the parlor is copied from it.

Restoration of the two rooms and hallway upstairs is incomplete and in places the broken plaster exposes the brickwork underneath. Door framings are utilitarian and there are brick fireplaces without mantles in the end rooms. The flooring of the hallway consists of foot-wide boards, and the 7-inch beaded baseboard there appears contemporary with the structure. Furnishings throughout date principally from the first half of the nineteenth century and include an Empire sofa, a center parlor table, and an étagère. A suite of two small sofas and matching chairs was originally in the Montross Hotel at Biloxi, one of the most celebrated resorts on the Gulf Coast.

Three features of a landscaping program still in progress are an 1861 fountain which formerly stood at Howard Avenue and Lameuse Street in downtown Biloxi; walls on the south, east and west boundaries laid from bricks which paved early Biloxi streets; and an official state historical marker which commemorates Civil War Mayor John L. Henley's occupancy of the house. Two cisterns, one on each side of the yard, were an early source of water supply, and around the turn of the century scuppernong vines and pecan and orange trees were cultivated on the property.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

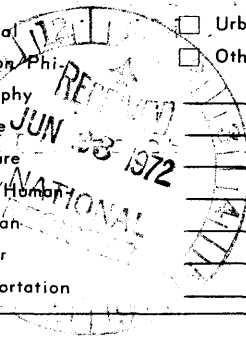
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Biloxi Garden Center, locally known for many years as the "Old Brick House," is built on land obtained by French settler Jean Baptiste Carquote (died 1824) during the Spanish regime of the 1790s. Carquote's original grant of 285.73 acres, extending north from the Gulf of Mexico to Biloxi's Back Bay, was surveyed by the United States Government in 1824. The construction date of the one-time residence is not known, nor whether it was actually occupied by Carquote. By 1845, however, its existence was implied in the wording of the United States Government's validation of Carquote's patent. Two years before, Carquote's heirs had conveyed the property to William Rodgers of New Orleans. In view of Rodgers' place of origin and the period of his ownership (1840s), the following observations by restoration architect Samuel Wilson, Jr., of New Orleans may be especially relevant:

...the building was a most interesting one. Some of the details seem to date from the 1830's or 1840's. The red brick and gabled ends recall some of the buildings built by Americans in New Orleans and also in Natchez. In my opinion it is a very good example.... (Letter from Samuel Wilson, Jr., to Dawn Maddox, March 30, 1972.)

By the terms of William Rodgers' will, his property was to be sold "to benefit the poor boys' asylum in New Orleans." Accordingly, in 1850 his executors, Roderic Seal and Jacob Elmer, conveyed to John L. Henley, for the sum of \$865.00, the "premises, together with all and singular the tenements thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining."

Henley was mayor of Biloxi during the Civil War and directed the defense of the city against the Union fleet anchored at Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico. The incident and its outcome have been described as follows:

Since the entire male population capable of bearing arms was at war (about fifty men and five hundred women and children were

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews:

Mrs. John Brooks (former president, Biloxi Garden Center), Biloxi, Mississippi, March 15 and 16, 1972.

Mrs. Delores Davidson Smith (historian of Biloxi Garden Center building), Ocean Springs, Mississippi, March 16, 1972.

Lang, John H. History of Harrison County. Gulfport, Miss.: The Dixie Press, 1936. P. 258.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | 30° 24' 43" | 88° 52' 58" | |
| NE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |
| SE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |
| SW | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: June 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi 39205 CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name R. A. McLemore
R. A. McLemore

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date June 15, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/18/73

ATTEST: Wm J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1.9.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| STATE Mississippi | |
| COUNTY Harrison | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER JAN 18 1973 | DATE |

(Number all entries)

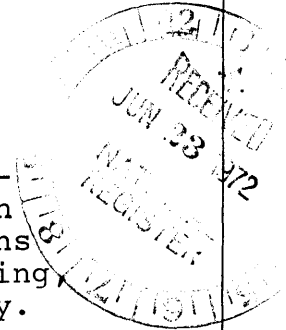
8.

left), a token resistance, headed by Captain Henley, was made against the Union fleet anchored offshore at Ship Island. The active "battery" consisted of two six-pounder field pieces, only one capable of being fired. Sandbags and wooden "guns" made up the rest of the defense which greeted the reconnoitering Union fleet. As the boats would approach the shoreline, Mayor Henley and other citizens would make a great show of ramming and sponging, and elevating or lowering their log artillery. This had the effect of holding the fleet offshore for some time, but since there was little or no ammunition for the single usable six-pounder, the town was surrendered on demand to Captain Melancthon Smith of the U.S.S. Massachusetts. It appears that thereafter Captain Smith left Biloxi to the care of Mayor Henley and the other city fathers, confident that the Union fleet had nothing to fear from the wooden battery.

("Biloxi Garden Center's Old Brick House" by Mrs. Delores Davidson Smith. Official Files, Biloxi Garden Center.)

John L Henley retained the property until 1872, when it was purchased by Jacob Elmer. It was during this time, notes John H. Lang in his History of Harrison County, that there were only four brick buildings in Biloxi, one of which was "the old Henley place on the east Back Bay." In 1878 Dr. Edward Bell of New Orleans purchased the house for use as a summer residence. His heirs owned it until 1921, after which it was rented as an office building, tenant house, and machine and junk shop during 31 years of successive private and municipal ownership.

In 1952 the Dogwood Garden Club leased the building for the purpose of developing it as a meeting place for the garden clubs of Biloxi and to insure preservation of its intrinsic architectural and historical significance. It was described in the lease as "a very old brick house, which after much research various people in the City of Biloxi consider to be the oldest house now standing in the City of Biloxi." The Biloxi Garden Center, incorporated in 1953 to administer the restoration project and chartered by the State of Mississippi in 1962, is now composed of 13 clubs representing 281 individual members. In 1966 the City of Biloxi conveyed the property to the Biloxi Garden Center, which had by then largely completed restoration of the building. It is open to the public and is an attraction of the annual Spring pil-



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| STATE Mississippi | |
| COUNTY Harrison | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | JAN 18 1973 |

(Number all entries)

9.
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Second District, Harrison County Courthouse, Biloxi, Mississippi. Land Deed Records, Second District, Harrison County, Book 001, p. 133; Book 1, p. 573.
Official files of the Biloxi Garden Center, 410 East Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi.
Personal inspection by Dawn Maddox, March 15 and 16, 1972.
Telephone interview:
Mrs. Clell Dildy (Rita Fayard, great-great-granddaughter of Jean Baptiste Carquote), Biloxi, Mississippi, March 16, 1972.
Wilson, Samuel, Jr. Letter to Dawn Maddox, Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, March 30, 1972.

8.
grimage sponsored by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Council of Garden Clubs.

