



# Historic Sites Survey

Inventory No. 5

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:** The Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral is a large three-by-eight-bay gable-front brick building embellished with rich late Gothic Revival details. On the southeast corner a four-level buttressed tower rises above the main block of the building. The center front entrance to the church features a Gothic arch portal surmounted by a steeply pitched triangular pediment with small pinnacles. Two levels of narrow lancet windows with a large rose window above dominate the facade. The east and west elevations are lined with stained glass lancet windows with buttresses in between. The apsidal end (north elevation) bows outward, reflecting the plan of the chancel. The interior of the church has a basilican plan with central nave and flanking aisles, the ceilings of which are formed by non-structural quatrepartite ribbed vaults with pendant-type bosses at the intersections of the ribs. The nave and aisles are divided by arcades of pointed arches supported by clustered colonettes with gilded capitals.

**ALTERATIONS:**  
 None

**OUTBUILDINGS:**  
 None

**LANDSCAPE FEATURES:**  
 None

**NAME:** Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral  
**STREET NO:** ~~Corner~~, West Howard Ave. and Fayard Street  
**TOWN/VIC:** Biloxi  
**COUNTY:** Harrison  
**BLOCK/LOT:**  
**PRESENT OWNER:** Roman Catholic Diocese of Biloxi  
 Attn; Bishop Joseph L. Howze  
**ADDRESS:** 198 Reynoir Street, Biloxi 39530  
**PRESENT USE:** Church  
**FORMER USE:** Church  
**DATE:** 1902  
**STYLE:** Gothic Revival  
**ARCH/BUILDER:** Theodore Brune, Arch., New Orleans  
**SOURCE OF DATE:** The Buildings of Biloxi  
**ENVIRONMENT:** Commercial  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
 NEIGHBORHOOD  
 LOCAL X  
 STATE  
 NATIONAL

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** The Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral is an excellent and well-preserved example of the late Gothic Revival style, designed by Theodore Brune, a New Orleans architect who designed many of Biloxi's early twentieth century buildings. This is the parent Catholic parish for the Gulf Coast and the third church to have built on the site by the congregation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Historical Marker

**PHOTOS**

**NEG. #**

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

N/A

THREATS:

N/A

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property, contains less than one acre. Identified on the enclosed map entitled "Individually Listed Properties," it includes the area within the red line as delineated on the Official Property Map of Biloxi, Mississippi, adopted by the city in 1976.

ACREAGE: less than 1 acre

UTM REF:

A	16	318310	3364120
	ZONE EASTING		NORTHING
C			
B			
	ZONE EASTING		NORTHING
D			

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Ken P'Pool

April 20, 1983