

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received APR 18 1984  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic N/A  
and/or common Historic Resources of Biloxi (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Sites) <sup>g MRA</sup> <sub>^</sub>

**2. Location**

street & number N/A N/A not for publication  
city, town Biloxi N/A vicinity of  
state Mississippi code 28 county Harrison code 47

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Harrison County Courthouse

street & number 101 East Washington Street

city, town Biloxi state Mississippi

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

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6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
1936, 1940   X   federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey  
1976   X   local  
Biloxi City Library  
Biloxi, Mississippi

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
— excellent	— deteriorated	N/A unaltered	N/A original site	N/A
N/A good	N/A ruins	— altered	— moved	date
— fair	— unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Biloxi (pop. 48,486) is located on a peninsula along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, between the cities of Gulfport and Ocean Springs. It is built on a flat, low-lying site (elevation 22 feet) bounded on the south by the Mississippi Sound of the Gulf of Mexico and on the north by the Bay of Biloxi. Until the late-nineteenth century, the sandy soil of this long, narrow peninsula supported thick stands of pine, all of which were cleared by the early-twentieth century, leaving primarily live oaks to take their place.

The streets of Biloxi basically follow a grid plan, with the major arteries corresponding with the east-west orientation of the peninsula. U.S. Highway 90 (Beach Boulevard) stretches along the Gulf of Mexico, while Pass Road in West Biloxi and Howard Avenue and Division Street, east of Keesler Air Force Base, serve as the primary inland arteries. The large military facility lies approximately in the center of the city, separating the new area of West Biloxi from the older sections to the east. With the exception of a number of nineteenth-century beachfront properties, most of the buildings in West Biloxi are relatively new. Consequently, most of Biloxi's historic resources are concentrated within the eastern half of the city.

Of the 137 buildings listed in Biloxi's two proposed historic districts, most are in good structural condition and contribute architecturally to their respective districts. Most of these buildings date from the city's period of sudden prosperity at the turn-of-the-century. The majority of the houses are single-story frame structures, embellished with simple undercut galleries or porches with Eastlake-influenced details. Along the beach, however, stand many elaborate Neoclassical Revival residences in addition to several mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival homes.

Like their domestic counterparts, most of Biloxi's important commercial, institutional and public buildings were constructed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Built of stuccoed brick, or stone, these structures reflect the influences of the late Gothic Revival, Neoclassical Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival styles. Although the historic character of much of Biloxi's downtown area has been sacrificed, due largely to the installation of pedestrian malls and canopies, several of the city's finest buildings have maintained a high degree of integrity and are included among the twenty-one individual properties contained within the nomination. Included are the Masonic Temple, Peoples Bank of Biloxi, the Gulf Coast Center for the Arts (Old Biloxi Public Library), the Saenger Theater and the Cathedral of the Nativity.

An architectural survey of the City of Biloxi was conducted during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It was administered by the city's Community Development Program and resulted in the publication of The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey. From the information compiled in the survey and on-site inspections, the significance of each district and property were determined. Boundaries were drawn with respect to historic development patterns, visual cohesiveness and the architectural quality and integrity of buildings within each district. The names of the districts correspond with those established in The Buildings of Biloxi.

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7 - DESCRIPTION

This multiple resource area nomination does not represent all Biloxi properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Additional properties within the city may be nominated in the future. The presence of significant archaeological resources is unknown but considered unlikely.

While most of the nineteenth-century vernacular dwelling types found in Biloxi are peculiar to the Gulf Coast area, the ubiquitous Bungalow is the most common early-twentieth-century residential building type found in the city. Generally modest in scale, these buildings are occasionally enriched with Mission details or enlarged and embellished with exaggerated details.

The significance of several of Biloxi's commercial, public and institutional buildings is heightened by their association with prominent early-twentieth-century architects. The Old United States Post Office, Court House and Customs House, listed on the National Register in 1978, now converted for use as the Biloxi City Hall, was designed by James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the United States Treasury. Theodore Brune, a New Orleans architect responsible for many of Biloxi's finest buildings, designed the individually nominated Cathedral of the Nativity (B.V.M.). The Tivoli Hotel and the old Biloxi Public Library, both individually nominated, were designed by Carl E. Matthes, while the Saenger Theater was designed by Jacksonville architect Roy Benjamin.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

immigrants, contributing to the growth of the city and establishing a base of ethnic diversity which persists today. By 1891, when nearly two thirds of Biloxi's population was employed by the canneries, the city was ranked first in the nation in the seafood packing business, thus establishing the position of an industry which remains the backbone of the local economy.

Natural disasters and considerable redevelopment have obliterated any physical evidence of Biloxi's tenuous connections with seventeenth-century French and Spanish explorations and eighteenth-century colonial settlements, as well as many significant nineteenth-century resources. More than eight major hurricanes over the past century have decimated the coastline, destroying canneries and workers' homes in the Back Bay and Point Cadet areas and demolishing many of the large residences located on West Beach Boulevard. Fires have taken their toll on the downtown area, the most devastating blazes occurring in 1889 and 1900. Nevertheless, there remains a wide variety of architecturally significant buildings representative of the major periods of Biloxi's development within the two proposed districts and among the twenty-one individually nominated properties.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder/Architect N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Once called the "Gem City of the Gulf Coast" and the "Seafood Capital of the World," Biloxi, Mississippi, has been a leader in the Gulf Coast's important tourist and seafood industries since the mid-nineteenth century. The city's major architectural resources, located near the waterfront, largely reflect the tastes and economics of the tourist trade, which reached its zenith in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. In contrast to the modest cottages and bungalows built by the city's year-round residents on the quiet tree-lined side streets, Biloxi's summer visitors left a legacy of splendid Eastlake-influenced and Neoclassical Revival style residences, among the finest to have survived along the storm-ridden Gulf Coast.

Sparcely settled during the eighteenth century by French, English and Spanish colonists, Biloxi was made part of the Mississippi Territory in 1811. Although the first reported land claims were made as early as 1814, the settlement was not incorporated as a town until 1833. Following several reincorporations in the mid-nineteenth century, Biloxi was granted a city charter in 1896 (Julia Guice, editor, The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey [Biloxi: City of Biloxi, 1976], p. 13).

Summer tourists from New Orleans began their seasonal migration to Biloxi in the early 1840s. Several large hotels and guest houses flourished, most notably, the recently restored Magnolia Hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Many built spacious homes along the beach such as the individually nominated Hermann House (523 East Beach Boulevard) and the Bailey House (1333 East Beach Boulevard). By the 1870s, visitors tripled the population of the town during the summer months, their journeys facilitated by the opening of the New Orleans and Mobile Railroad. Six hotels, numerous boarding houses and a host of rental properties dominated the beachfront and extended northward to the railroad depot (Guice, pp. 14-15). The tourist trade continued to swell the summer population throughout the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries as the opulent beachfront residences and resort hotels, such as the Tivoli (836 East Beach Drive) and the White House (1556 West Beach Boulevard), illustrate.

Concurrent with the development of the summer tourist trade, Biloxi's noted fishing and canning industries boosted the city to new levels of prosperity in the late-nineteenth century, bolstered by the opening of new northern markets in the 1870s. Although fishing operations had flourished long before the Civil War, the Gulf Coast's first seafood cannery, Lopez, Elmer and Company, was not established until 1881 (David A. Sheffield and Darnell L. Nicovich, When Biloxi Was The Seafood Capital of the World [Biloxi: City of Biloxi, 1979], p. 6). In response to the growing demand for the area's abundant supply of shrimp and oysters, numerous other packing plants were built in the Back Bay and Point Cadet areas during the next decade. The thriving seafood industry brought with it an influx of Eastern European

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Early Biloxi residences reflect the influence of the Louisiana plantation house. Long galleries and Greek Revival details distinguish the Hermann House (523 East Beach Boulevard), as well as Beauvoir and the Gillis and Toledano-Tullis Houses, listed on the National Register. Applied Grecian details also enrich the individually nominated Scherer House (206 West Water Street) and the Brunet-Fourchy House (138 Magnolia Street Mall).

Biloxi's finest residential buildings were constructed during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, when the popularity of this resort town reached its peak. Rambling frame dwellings with Eastlake-influenced porches and stately Neoclassical Revival homes line West Beach Boulevard. The Father Ryan House (#23), 1900 West Beach Boulevard, and the individually nominated Brielmiere House, 436 Main Street, display particularly exuberant Eastlake details, while the individually nominated Suter House, 165 Suter Place, and smaller cottages on Seal and Morrison Avenues are embellished with more restrained details applied to simple, single-story porches and galleries. The influence of the Queen Anne style is limited to the so-called "bayed-cottage," the most notable of which is the individually nominated house at 121 West Water Street. The individually nominated Redding House (126 West Jackson Street), with its semi-circular bays and porticos, is the most outstanding example of the Neoclassical Revival style in the city. Other excellent examples are located along West Beach Boulevard.

Most of Biloxi's vernacular buildings fall into one of three categories: the locally-popular Creole, Biloxi, and American Cottage types. The Creole Cottage, introduced in the mid-nineteenth century, is typified by its gable roof, undercut gallery and four-bay facade with doors in the two central bays. The larger Biloxi Cottage is generally characterized by a hip or gable-on-hip roof, which, on the facade, extends outward from the building to create an undercut gallery. Like the Creole Cottage, the Biloxi Cottage features a four-bay facade, most often pierced with two central doorways. The so-called American Cottage is larger than the other dwelling types and was popular among the city's more prosperous residents. Like its New Orleans counterparts, these houses are constructed with a hip roof, an undercut gallery and a symmetrical five-bay facade with a central entrance often surmounted by a transom. The decorative millwork applied to the porches and galleries of these homes was most likely purchased from a Biloxi sash, door and blind company, the T. J. Rosell Manufacturing Company (Guice, p. 28).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Guice, Julia, editor. The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey. Biloxi: City of Biloxi, 1976.
- Sheffield, David A., and Nicovich, Darnell L. When Biloxi Was the Seafood Capital of the World. Edited by Julia Cook Guice. Biloxi: City of Biloxi, 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 2,520 acres

Quadrangle name Biloxi and Ocean Springs, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone      Easting      Northing

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Zone      Easting      Northing

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3	3	6	2	8	8	0
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D 

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3	1	2	5	6	5
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3	3	6	7	3	8	0
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E 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries of the area contained within the Historic Resources of Biloxi Multiple Resource nomination consist of the city limits as indicated on the Biloxi, Miss. and Ocean Springs, Miss. USGS Quadrangle maps, 1954, photorevised 1970 and 1976, scale 1:24000.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A      code      county      code

state N/A      code      county      code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken P'Pool, Chief Architectural Historian; Tomas Blackwell, Architectural Historian  
Mississippi Department of Archives

organization and History      date April 20, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 571      telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson      state Mississippi

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national       state       local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Kenneth H. P'Pool*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 10, 1984

For NPS use only

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

*See Continuation Sheet for Listings*      date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Biloxi Multiple Resource Area  
State Harrison County, MISSISSIPPI

Nomination/Type of Review

*Completed* 5/18/84

Date/Signature

1. Bailey House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

2. Barq, E., Pop Factory

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

3. Biloxi's Tivoli Hotel

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

4. Bond House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

5. Brielmaier House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

6. Brunet-Fourchy House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

7. Church of the Redeemer

Religious Building

*for*  
Keeper

*Jim Mahan* 5/18/84

Attest

8. Clemens House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

9. Fisherman's Cottage

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest

10. Gulf Coast Center for  
the Arts

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Delores Byers* 5/18/84

Attest



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Biloxi Multiple Resource Area  
State Harrison County, MISSISSIPPI

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Hermann House Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

12. House at 121 W. Water Street  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

13. Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

14. Peoples Bank of Biloxi  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

15. Redding House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

16. Saenger Theater  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

17. Scherer House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

18. Seashore Campground School  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

19. Suter House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

20. Swetman, Glenn, House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Biloxi Multiple Resource Area  
State Harrison County, MISSISSIPPI

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. West Beach Historic District  
Substantive Review

Keeper Lynn Donkin 5/18/84

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

22. West Central Historic District  
Substantive Review

for Keeper Delores Byers 5/18/84

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

23. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

24. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

25. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

26. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

27. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

28. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

29. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

30. Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_