

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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CULTURAL
RESOURCES
STEWARDSHIP,
PARTNERSHIPS,
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FINAL REPORT

KATRINA RECOVERY

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND
HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM



AUGUST 2015
A DECADE LATER



Above: **The Tatum House, Mid City National Register Historic District, New Orleans, LA.**

“ This grant allowed me the opportunity to save much more than a home; it allowed me to rebuild myself and begin to heal after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. ” -Marna David-Tatum, grant recipient

A DECADE LATER...

Nearly a decade after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, its effects on the coastal communities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are still clearly visible. Claiming over 1,800 lives and causing more than \$100 billion in property damage, Hurricane Katrina was the third deadliest and most costly natural disaster in our nation's history. Katrina's aftermath was catastrophic with an estimated total economic impact exceeding \$150 billion. Much of Katrina's destruction was due to storm surge that reached 35 feet and sustained winds up to 140 miles per hour, stretching 400 miles across the Gulf Coast. According to FEMA, one million people were displaced from their homes in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. ■



EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

In addition to being our nation's most costly disaster, Hurricane Katrina produced one of the greatest cultural disasters in American history. Hurricane Katrina claimed thousands of irreplaceable historic resources while leaving countless more severely damaged and vulnerable.

As a result, Congress passed Public Law 109-234, appropriating \$43 million from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for relief from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Of that award, \$40 million was for the preservation, stabilization, and repair of historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining \$3 million was for Section 106 review assistance, which was most often used by states to hire staff to manage the program. Later, Congress passed Public Law 110-28, appropriating an additional \$10 million from HPF to Louisiana for hurricane relief efforts.

Unlike regular HPF grants, a non-federal matching share was not required. Historic preservation covenants were recorded on properties receiving more than \$99,999 in grant assistance. Any project less than that amount entered into a five-year preservation agreement with the SHPO. A Programmatic Agreement was developed in conjunction with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to streamline the Section 106 review process.

Only hurricane-related damage was eli-

gible to receive assistance through this program. This included rehabilitation limited to portions of property that retained sufficient integrity to remain listed in the National Register of Historic Places. All activities were required to adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Acquisition and major reconstruction were not eligible.

The National Park Service worked closely with the SHPOs to administer the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Grant Program. The funding was focused on getting people back into their historic homes. SHPOs provided subgrants to a variety of recipients, including individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, local governments, and state agencies. In all, 3,224 subgrant applications were received by the SHPOs. Funding allowed only 858 projects to be awarded.

Among the funded projects were a wide variety of building types, including small antebellum cottages, commonplace 20th century bungalows, as well as high-style architectural resources. Without this grant program, a significant portion of these properties would have been lost. ■

“This program was a godsend. We are so thankful for our house being saved.”

-Kay Gauntt, grant recipient



LOUISIANA

Grant Amount: \$22,709,567

Awarded subgrants: 551



Managed by the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, the Louisiana Historic Building Recovery Grant Program was focused on homeowner recovery. Subgrants ranged between \$5,000 and \$45,000 with awards available for only non-completed repair work. Some subgrants were awarded to smaller commercial properties. The SHPO reviewed 1,885 applications of which 1,247 applications were eligible for funding—a total request of \$47,749,089. With \$21.5 million available for subgrants, 551 subgrants were awarded.

Project examples included every aspect of rehabilitation, including roof repair, re-leveling, plaster repairs, flooring rehabilitation, porch restorations, and window repairs. Grant projects were scattered throughout every historic district in New Orleans and the 15 surrounding parishes. Because of the level of funding per

project, no easements were required. However, preservation agreements were executed on each property. Most projects were located within regulated historic districts.

New Orleans was one of the hardest hit areas during Hurricane Katrina. Known worldwide for its cultural and historical significance, floodwaters reached as high as 20 feet and an estimated 80 percent of the city was under water. A decade after the storm, the city of New Orleans is still recovering from the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

A notable project included the repair of Jelly Roll Morton's childhood home on Frenchman Street in New Orleans. Morton was an early ragtime and jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer who started his music career in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th century. ■



Left: This house, located in the French Quarter of New Orleans, received a grant to repair damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Above left: This Creole Cottage on Frenchman Street was the childhood home of Jelly Roll Morton, an early ragtime and jazz pianist, bandleader, and composer who started his music career as a child in New Orleans in the 1890s. Grant funds paid to repair interior damage. Above right: This bungalow in Uptown New Orleans received grant funds to repair hurricane damage.



MISSISSIPPI

Grant Amount: \$27,500,000
Awarded subgrants: 268



Managed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Historic Preservation was focused primarily on owner-occupied homes, but some non-profit and public properties, as well as commercial properties also received funding. The subgrants awarded ranged between \$20,000 and \$1 million, but most grants were limited to a maximum of \$150,000. Awards were available for work that had been completed as long as it met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Approximately 1,300 properties were evaluated with 598 applications received—a total request of \$55 million. With \$26 million available for subgrants, 268 of those were awarded subgrants.

Grant projects were scattered throughout the southern half of the state, most of which are located in the coastal communities of Pass Christian, Long Beach, Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, and Pascagoula. Easements ranging from the

length of five years to perpetuity, depending on the grant amount, were placed on all properties receiving grants.

Hurricane Katrina's violent winds and massive tidal surge dealt an almost instant lethal blow to more than 300 of Mississippi's historic buildings, forever changing the cultural landscape along the entire stretch of the 70-mile coast. Between the storm surge, estimated as high as 35 feet at Bay St. Louis, where the eye of the storm landed, and its fierce wind field, even inland communities as far north as Jackson sustained hurricane-force winds wrecking havoc across thousands of square miles.

Notable projects include landmarks such as the Old State Capitol; Beauvoir, the home of Jefferson Davis; the Charmley Cottage and Guest House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan; three Rosenwald schools; the Walter Anderson cottage; and the Ocean Springs Community Center where Walter Anderson's murals adorn the interior walls. ■



Left: Grant funds were used to rehabilitate the Hancock County Courthouse in Bay St. Louis, which included interior work, window and roof repair, as well as restoration of the courtroom.

Above left: The Phillips-Toulme House in Bay St. Louis, a Gulf Coast Creole Cottage, underwent extensive interior and exterior work (the “before” picture is on the cover). Above right: The Waveland Civic Center received grant funds to rehabilitate collapsed rooms, replace the roof, and restore the interior.





ALABAMA

Grant Amount: \$2,450,000

Awarded subgrants: 39



Managed by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Recovery Grant program focused on homeowner recovery with subgrants awarded between \$1,000 and \$100,000 for non-state owned projects. Some subgrants were also awarded to nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and state-run historic preservation projects. Thirty-nine projects received grant funding totaling \$2.25 million.

Grant projects were scattered throughout the southern and middle parts of the state. Twenty-two counties were eligible, which included Baldwin, Bibb, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Cullman, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Marengo, Marion, Mobile, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston.

Projects included every aspect of rehabilitation, including roof repair, re-leveling, plaster repairs, and window repairs.

Notable projects include the righting of the

U.S.S. Alabama Battleship; masonry stabilization at Fort Morgan, an 1850s coastal fort and National Historic Landmark; roof repair of Isle Dauphine, a beach club built in 1956; Freeland Store in Grand Bay; Denby House in Downtown Mobile; and window and roof repair for the Chunchula Schoolhouse, a one-room schoolhouse built around 1909. The work funded at the Chunchula Schoolhouse attracted additional grant funding and allowed the schoolhouse to be reopened as a nonprofit community center. ■



© USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK



Left: The historic Chunchula Schoolhouse, built around 1909, received a grant to repair exterior window and roof damage sustained during Hurricane Katrina. Above left: This historic home in downtown Mobile received a grant to repair storm damage to its roof and porches. Above right: The Conde-Charlotte Museum House, also known as the House of Five Flags, is located adjacent to Fort Conde. The earliest section of the building, the rear kitchen wing, was built in 1822. It received a grant to repair storm damage.

BEFORE AND AFTER



Above: **The Walter Anderson Cottage in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Photos courtesy of MDAH.**



Above: **Holy Cross, New Orleans. Photos courtesy of Louisiana Dept. of Culture, Rereation & Tourism.**



Above: **West Side Park Home, Gulfport, Mississippi. Photos courtesy of MDAH.**

BEFORE AND AFTER



Above: **Magnolia State Supply Company Building, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Photos courtesy of MDAH.**



Above: **A private residence, Mobile, Alabama. Photos courtesy of Alabama Historical Commission.**



Above: **House in New Orleans. Photos courtesy of Louisiana Dept. of Culture, Rereation & Tourism.**

FACTS AND FIGURES

\$52.7 million in federal grants awarded to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama SHPOs

858 hurricane-damaged historic preservation projects funded in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

3,224 applications received in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama SHPOs

Cover: The Phillips-Toulme House in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, in the days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. Picture courtesy of Mississippi Heritage Trust. An “after” picture is on page 7.

Below: Considered one of his greatest works from the latter period of his life, Walter Anderson painted a series of murals in the Ocean Springs Community Center. The image below is a segment of those murals. Damaged by inadequate climate control and age, the condition of the mural worsened because of Hurricane Katrina. Through grant funds, the murals are now preserved and protected.

