

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brielmaier House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 710 Beach Boulevard

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Biloxi

N/A ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Harrison code 047 zip code 39533

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

May 22, 1995

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Brielmaier House  
Name of Property

Harrison County, Mississippi  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

Historic Resources of Biloxi

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Tourist Information Center

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Stick/Eastlake

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick piers

walls weatherboard

roof wood shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)



**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Art

**Period of Significance**

1895

**Significant Dates**

1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Brielmaier, Paul W.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

**Name of repository:**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

Located on East Beach Boulevard on Biloxi's new "Town Green," a downtown urban park linking the central business district with the waterfront, the Brielmaier House is a diminutive vernacular Eastlake cottage that now serves as a tourist information center. Constructed in 1895, the Brielmaier House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1984, as part of the Historic Resources of Biloxi multiple resource nomination. At that time, the house (Inventory No. 14) was located at 436 Main Street on a small city lot. In July 1986, the building was moved approximately three-and-one-half blocks (0.3 mile) south, at which time it was automatically delisted from the National Register. The park is located at the former site of the Montross Hotel on a flat 2.4-acre parcel, with the Brielmaier House being situated on the eastern end of the park at the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Main Street. Only the immediate setting of the Brielmaier House is being nominated. Approximately 45 feet behind the Brielmaier House, and outside the nominated area, is the Foretich House, a circa 1890 lateral-wing, galleried, shotgun house that was moved to the park from 134 Delauney Street and which has been rehabilitated for use as office space for the City of Biloxi. A deck extends from the rear of the Brielmaier House to the southeast corner of the Foretich House and encircles two ancient live oaks. To the west of the Brielmaier House is the green space and parking lot.

The Brielmaier House is a one-and-one-half story, frame, five-by-four bay house that rests on brick piers infilled with lattice-work panels and is crowned by a wood-shingled gable roof trimmed by a concave cornice. The house is a T-plan, with the base of the stem of the "T" oriented toward the street. The main (south) facade is dominated by an arcaded verandah that encircles the stem of the T-plan and features delicate turned posts, semi-circular ball-and-dowel spandrels with drop pendants, a turned balustrade (added in 1988), a wooden porch deck, and a hipped roof. The gable of the main facade is highlighted by elaborate woodwork, including sunbursts and raised lozenges, and a modified Palladian window with colored glass border. The stem of the "T" is three bays wide, with a central single-leaf entrance filled with a carved Eastlake style panelled and glazed door. Windows are floor-length, double-hung sash composed of an exceptionally long single-pane lower sash and an upper sash with colored glass border. The outer two bays of the main facade, located



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

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in the cross bar of the "T", are filled with single-leaf, Eastlake panelled and glazed doors. The upper third of the glazing in these two doors is outlined with a colored glass border, giving the illusion of a transom. All of the openings are framed by molded surrounds, denticulated cornices, carved corner blocks, and plinth blocks.

Each of the side elevations features two floor-length windows, like those of the main facade, that open onto the verandah, and two shorter double-hung sash, also with colored glass borders in the upper sash (Photo #3). The openings of the side elevations are trimmed by elaborate molded surrounds like those of the main facade. The gables in each side elevation have decorative lozenge-patterned woodwork and also have complete cornice returns. The rear elevation is four bays wide; the center two bays contain single-leaf panelled and glazed doors topped by transoms having colored glass borders (Photo #4) while the outer bays contain double-hung sash with colored glass borders in the upper sash. The surrounds of these openings are like those of the other elevations.

The interior of the house is equally as ornate as the exterior. The parlor, which occupies the stem of the T-plan, has an exposed beam ceiling and an elaborate hand-carved Eastlake style mantel with an ornate mirrored overmantel (Photo #5). The cross bar of the "T" originally held only two rooms, each with identical corner mantels with slender Ionic columns extending from the floor to support a shelf above the mirrored overmantel (Photo #6). These two fireplace openings are framed by decorative glazed tile. After the house was moved, the northeastern room was subdivided into bathroom and storage space, but the mantelpiece remains in place. Windows and doors throughout the interior have flat surrounds with bullseye corner blocks. Hand-carved lozenge-patterned designs ornament the surrounds, as well as the wide baseboards (Photo #5). Paul W. Brielmaier hand-carved the Eastlake mantel in the parlor as well as the window and door trim and the baseboards throughout the house.

Prior to moving the Brielmaier House in 1986, a circa 1920 rear addition--as well as later rear additions--were demolished. The existing non-historic concrete porch floor was removed and replaced with a new wood porch floor prior to the move, and the original three-room structure was moved in one piece. The integrity of the historic fabric was not compromised by the move. The house was



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

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sympathetically rehabilitated for use as a tourist information center in 1986-1988 and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The few alterations to the house are relatively minor. Although the house originally sat on very low foundation piers, with only two steps leading to the porch, when it was moved it was placed on three-foot tall brick piers, which is in keeping with the building practices in Biloxi during the Victorian era and is in compliance with Biloxi building codes, which require that buildings be placed above the 100-year flood level. Five steps now lead to the porch. To meet building code requirements, a balustrade had to be installed to the verandah, which historically never had one. The current balustrade was designed to be compatible with the historic design but not visually overwhelm it. The one central interior chimney that served all three fireplaces was not rebuilt after the move. And finally, one of the rear rooms was subdivided for bathroom and storage space.

Although the parcel of ground where the house is now situated is much larger than at its original Main Street location, the placement of the building at the east edge of the park at the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Main Street, rather than in the center of the park, helps to minimize the effect of the relocation. The building is positioned in the same orientation to the lot and to the street as at its original location. The significance of the Brielmaier House was not undermined by the relocation; in fact, the integrity of setting had been lost at the Main Street site. Prior to the move, the Brielmaier House had been vacant for some time and was located in an area that had become engulfed by the central business district. The Brielmaier House was sandwiched between two commercial buildings, each built along the property line. A commercial building was constructed only six-and-one-half feet from the north side elevation of the house and extended the full depth of the Brielmaier House lot. Another commercial building was constructed about 39 feet from the south side elevation. A concrete block garage and concrete driveway occupied the south half of the Brielmaier lot. In addition, due to the widening of Main Street through the years, the house sat very near the street. As before the move, the Brielmaier House is situated in Biloxi's central business district. The significance of the Brielmaier House was not and is not dependent on its site location; it is significant for its architectural design and craftsmanship. The house retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Brielmaier House

Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 4

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1895, the Brielmaier House is of local significance in the area of architecture and art (Criterion C), being Biloxi's most elaborately decorated turn-of-the-century cottage and representing a unique vernacular interpretation of Eastlake ornamentation. The house is a showcase of fine turn-of-the-century millwork, boasting such features as a wrap-around gallery with slender turned posts and semicircular ball-and-dowel spandrels; gables filled with ornate lozenge-patterned woodwork; and carved Eastlake doors and windows with colored glass borders framed by elaborate molded surrounds with denticulated cornices, corner blocks and plinth blocks. The house derives additional distinction from its fine hand-carved interior woodwork. Paul W. Brielmaier, who built the house for his family, hand-carved the elaborate Eastlake-style mantelpiece in the parlor as well as lozenge-patterned designs on the baseboards and the window and door trim throughout the house interior. At the time the house was built, Brielmaier was foreman and mill superintendent for the T.J. Rosell Manufacturing Company, which most certainly was the source of the millwork for the house.

The Brielmaier House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1984, as part of the Historic Resources of Biloxi multiple resources nomination but was automatically delisted in July, 1986, when it was moved approximately three-and-one-half blocks. As discussed in Section 7, prior to its move the house had lost integrity of setting due to widening of the roadway and encroachment of commercial development. Although the building lost integrity of location when it was moved, it retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling, and qualifies for listing because of its architectural and artistic significance.

Paul W. Brielmaier built the house in 1895 for his family. At that time, Brielmaier was foreman and mill superintendent of the T.J. Rosell Manufacturing Co., which specialized in the production of windows, doors, sashes, and other architectural details and also performed general contracting work (The Buildings of Biloxi, p. 72). The parcel of land where the Brielmaier House originally stood at 436 Main Street was obtained from Brielmaier's sister-in-law, Tудie Swetman Graves. Brielmaier spent two years carving an elaborate mantelpiece for Mrs. Graves, who in exchange deeded the Main Street property to her sister, Minnie Swetman Brielmaier. According to



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

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Brielmaier's daughter, Margaret Shimkus, this mantelpiece, although not original to the Brielmaier House, was later installed in the parlor of the house (Shimkus, pp. 1, 6; Bergeron). Mrs. Shimkus also reported that her father spent five years hand-carving the window and door surrounds and baseboards in the house.

When T.J. Rosell Manufacturing Co. went bankrupt, Brielmaier purchased the company, renaming it the Brielmaier Sash, Door and Blind Company (Shimkus, p. 1). Many of Biloxi's older houses were designed by Brielmaier and contain millwork from his factory. According to Brielmaier's daughter, her father designed many houses in Biloxi, including the following: 627 Lameuse Street (which he built as a rental house); 927 Lameuse Street; 1900 West Beach; and the John Swetman House at 540 East Howard (Shimkus, pp. 7-10; The Buildings of Biloxi, p. 73).

The Brielmaier family moved in 1910 after outgrowing the house. However, they retained ownership of the small original family dwelling, renting it out until 1923, when Paul Jr. and his bride moved into the house. The house was eventually willed to Grace Wallace, who donated it to the City of Biloxi in 1982. The City moved the house and sympathetically restored it for use as a tourist information center.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 6 Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bergeron, Kat. "Homes Paint the Town Green." Sun-Herald (Biloxi),  
April 17, 1988, pp. F-1 and F-2.

The Buildings of Biloxi: An Architectural Survey. Biloxi, MS: The  
City of Biloxi, 1976.

Crook, Brenda R., architectural historian with the Mississippi  
Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Inspection of the  
Brielmaier House, February 9, 1995.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Mississippi  
Landmarks File. Harrison County. Brielmaier House.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National  
Register File. Harrison County. Historic Resources of Biloxi.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide  
Survey of Historic Sites. Harrison County. Brielmaier House.

Shimkus, Margaret, daughter of Paul W. Brielmaier. Interviewed by  
Lloyd Vogt, of Eskew, Vogt, Salvato and Filson, Architects,  
April 1, 1987, at 927 Lameuse Street, Biloxi, Mississippi.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property  
is a rectangle formed by measuring from the point of intersection of  
the two gable roof ridges of the main T-shaped roof of the house the  
following distances: 28 feet to the north, 37 feet to the east, 52  
feet to the south, and 37 feet to the west. The resulting rectangle  
of land has sides that are 74 feet by 80 feet and are parallel or  
perpendicular to the main facade. This property is located in Block  
100 of the SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 27, Township 7 South, Range 9  
West.

Boundary Justification: The boundary was selected to include only  
the house and its immediate setting. Although the house is located  
in a 2.4-acre park, the house was moved and has no historic  
association with the property.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi

Section number Photos Page 7

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Brielmaier House
- (2) Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi
- (3) Brenda R. Crook
- (4) February 9, 1995
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1--(6) Main (south) facade and west elevation, view to northeast

Photo 2--(6) Main (south) facade, view to northwest

Photo 3--(6) West elevation, view to east

Photo 4--(6) Rear entrance, view to south

Photo 5--(6) Parlor, view to northwest

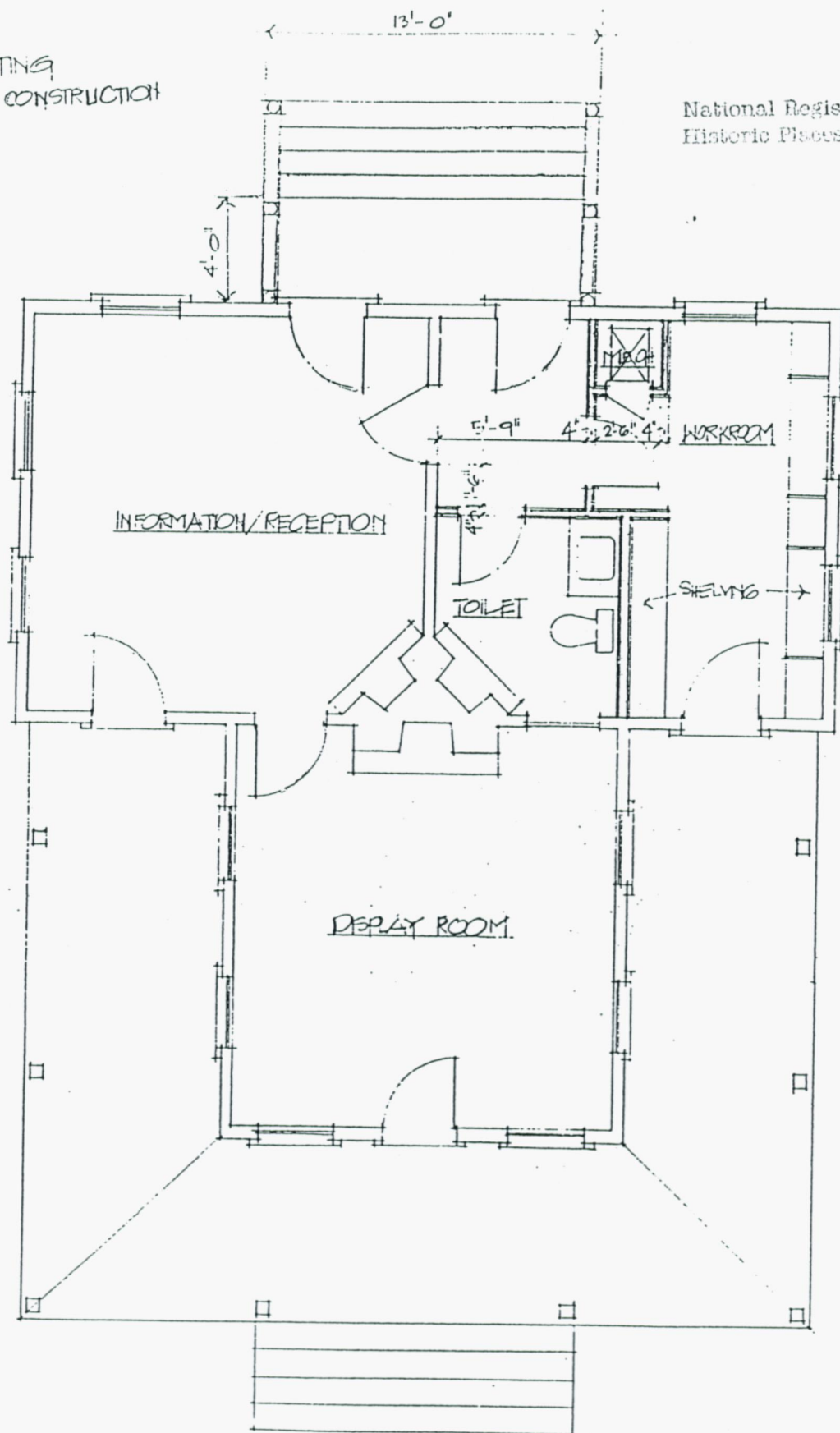
Photo 6--(6) Mantelpiece in northwest bedroom view to southeast



# LEGEND

- EXISTING
- NEW CONSTRUCTION

National Register of  
Historic Places

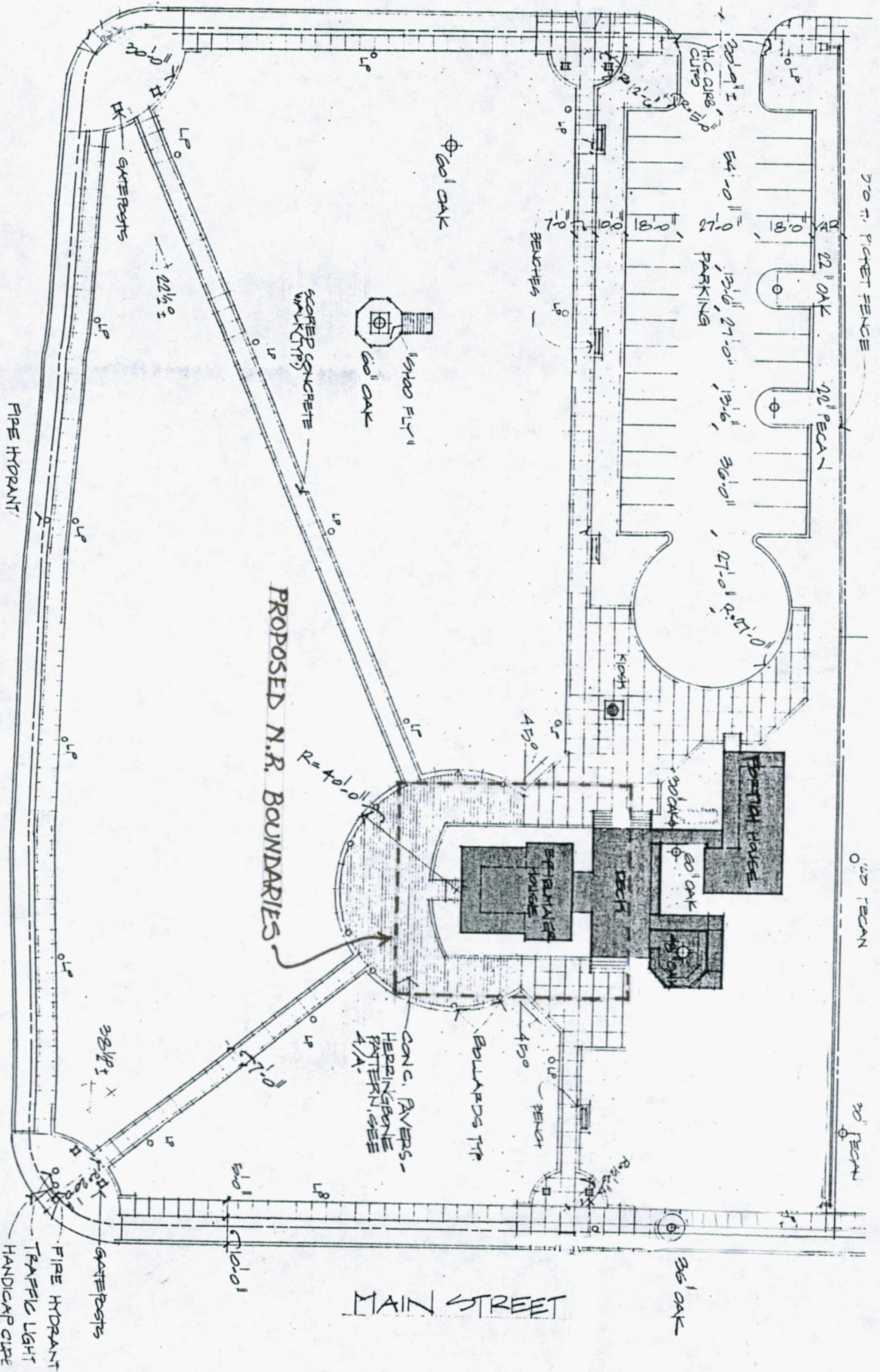


Brielmaier House  
Biloxi, Harrison County  
Mississippi

Scale in feet



A horizontal number line with an arrow pointing to the right. A single tick mark is present on the line, and the letter 'z' is written below it.



U.S. HIGHWAY 90

BRIELMAIER HOUSE  
BLOXI, HARRISON CO., MS







United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Amendment Page: 1

Brielmaier House  
Harrison County, Mississippi

**Amendment for Purposes of Delisting Property From The National Register of Historic Places**

The Brielmaier House, Harrison County, Mississippi was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 18 May 1984 under the cover of the Historic Resources of Biloxi multiple resource area nomination. The house was moved in July 1986 resulting in delisting. An individual nomination was filed in 1995 and the house was listed individually on 9 September 1995. Since that date, the house has lost the qualities which originally caused it to be listed. The house was destroyed on August 29, 2005 by Hurricane Katrina and should be delisted.

Resource  
Brielmaier House

Address  
710 Beach Boulevard  
Biloxi, MS

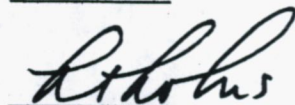
Section 11:

Form Prepared By:  
William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6940

Date: February 5, 2008

Section 2:

Certification



State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 5-19-2008





Brielmaier House  
Harrison Co., Mississippi  
Photo 1 of 6





Brielmaier House  
Harrison Co., Mississippi  
Photo 2 of 6







Brielmaier House  
Harrison Co., Mississippi  
Photo 3 of 6





Brielmaier House

Harrison Co., Mississippi

Photo 4 of 6





Brielmaier House

Harrison Co., Mississippi

Photo 5 of 6





Brielmaier House  
Harrison Co., Mississippi

Photo 6 of 6