

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Biloxi Downtown Historic District
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Howard Avenue, roughly bounded west by Reynoir Street and east by Lameuse Street, including one building on the east side of Lameuse Street, excluding the western block of the south side of Howard Avenue.

city or town: Biloxi
state: Mississippi

code: MS county: Harrison

not for publication

vicinity

code 047

zip code: 39530

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. D. Paul
Signature of certifying official

July 22, 1998
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or 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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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

5. Classification**Ownership of Property:** Private, Public**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property: District

Contributing

Noncontributing

11

7

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

11

7

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

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

2

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions:**

COMMERCE/business
 COMMERCE/professional
 COMMERCE/financial institution
 COMMERCE/specialty store
 COMMERCE/department store
 COMMERCE/restaurant
 SOCIAL/meeting hall
 GOVERNMENT/fire station
 RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/business
 COMMERCE/professional
 COMMERCE/financial institution
 COMMERCE/specialty store
 COMMERCE/restaurant
 RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
 HEALTHCARE/clinic

7. Description**Architectural Classification(s):**

Classical Revival Art Deco
 Italian Renaissance Romanesque

Materials:

foundation: brick, concrete
 roof: built-up, asphalt, metal
 walls: brick, concrete, stucco, terra cotta, glass
 other: metal-tin, cloth/canvas

Narrative Description:

See continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 15 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	16	318760	3363970	C	16	318400	3364120
B	16	318760	3364020	D	16	318400	3364040

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Biloxi Downtown Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes a contiguous group of buildings that have historically comprised part of Biloxi's commercial district and that maintain historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Lolly Barnes; Museum Technician	Dr. Deanne Nuwer; Administrative Assistant
organization:	City of Biloxi	date: February 25, 1998
street & number:	P.O Box 508	telephone: (228) 435-6244
city or town:	Biloxi	state:MS
		zip code: 39533

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name:		telephone:
street & number:		zip code:
city or town:	state:	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

- X **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.
- X **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.

Areas of Significance

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1894-1930

Significant Dates

1894
1896
1898
1929

Significant Person(s)**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder**

Various/Unknown

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- ___ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ___ **B** removed from its original location.
- ___ **C** a birthplace or a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.

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: Mississippi
Department of Archives and History;
City of Biloxi Historical Survey

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, MS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The proposed Biloxi Downtown Historic District is composed of twenty buildings in the downtown area of Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi. The district is roughly concentrated along two blocks of Howard Avenue, bounded by Reynoir Street to the west and Lameuse Street to the east. These blocks have been a center of commerce for Biloxi since the 1890s. The district's character is primarily commercial although cultural elements such as the Saenger Theater are included.

The buildings of Biloxi's historic commercial district were constructed over a period beginning in the late 1800's and ending around 1930. A wide range of architectural styles are evident in the district, including Romanesque, Italian Renaissance and Classical Revival. Significant buildings in the district include 750 Howard [Inventory # 1, Photo #1], a Victorian example of architecture with a distinctive weathervane depicting a large witch sitting on a fingernail moon; 781 Howard [Inventory #7, Photo #4], a building with pressed metal cornices on both levels of the building, a feature common at the turn of the century; and 796 C Howard [Inventory #14, Photo #6], a building with exceptional Renaissance detailing. These structures reflect the boom years when Biloxi was the seafood canning capital of the United States.

Howard Avenue has an urban feeling with a one-way street, wide sidewalks, planters, green spaces, and strategically placed reproduction streetlights. Several buildings have awnings that give shelter from the weather and provide aesthetic appeal. Buildings are fairly uniform in size, scale, and set back. The topography of the town is generally flat. The proposed district is approximately two blocks north of the Gulf of Mexico and one block south of the railroad.

An inventory of the proposed district follows. Eleven of the twenty buildings contained within the district contribute to its architectural and historical character. Their contributing character is identified with the notation (C). Seven buildings in the district do not contribute to its architectural or historical character, usually due to alterations that destroyed or severely changed the building's historic features. These non-contributing buildings are denoted with (NC). One of these non-contributing buildings has received alterations that may be reversible and has the additional notation "Potentially eligible if restored." Two buildings in the district have been previously listed on the National Register and are identified with the notation (PL). Buildings are arranged in alphanumeric order by street address.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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Inventory of Properties

- 01 (C) 750 Howard Avenue
1896; additions c.1925
Romanesque Revival

Originally the People's Bank of Biloxi. The bank was relocated from this structure in 1924.

Two-story, three-by-five bay brick commercial building on a prominent corner site. Designed by William T. Harkness. Second story of chamfered southeast corner is distinguished by a tower with a conical copper roof surmounted by a copper weathervane depicting a witch on a crescent moon. Entrance and first story of the south elevation have been altered. Two-story, four-bay brick addition to the east elevation; similar three-bay addition on south elevation.

- 02 (C) 758 Howard Avenue
c.1900; alterations c.1975

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. Three-bay brick construction. Decorative brick frieze features corbelling and a soldier-course. Windows on second floor are one-over-one, double hung, with each bay consisting of a tripartite window-a large window flanked by two narrow ones. Four stacked-course pilasters divide the façade. First floor altered with stucco applied over the brick and modern doors and windows installed.

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03 (C) 759 Howard Avenue
c.1900; alterations c.1975

Originally housed a drug store and dry goods store on the first floor.

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. Original architectural design evident in second floor. First floor reflects a renovated storefront. This building is composed on the lower level of large areas of plate glass with two modern glass entry doors near the center and a single entry door on the extreme eastern side of the façade. The upper level of the north façade is stuccoed in a rough finish with pilasters flanking the east and west sides. The upper level is composed of three bays with a center bay receding slightly from the other two and containing three tall rectangular window openings with arched classical moldings. The two flanking bays each contain two tall rectangular windows capped with segmented arched moldings. The top cornice of the building is of corbelled brick on the two end bays and projects slightly. The cornice of the central bay is dissimilar, being made of flat horizontal bands. The building has a multi-planed brick veneer system with a very unique parapet and double capped coping. There are four different planes of brick, utilizing five masonry techniques ranging from running bond to stacked bond to soldier coursing and even a unique tear drop pediment brick design across the entire horizontal façade of the building. The windows are new on the second floor but complimentary to original design. Much of the original structure has been preserved in renovation.

04 (NC) 760 Howard Avenue
1898; alterations c.1975

Originally the Dukate Theater.

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. Renovations of this building are reflective of the modernization of Urban Renewal. Stucco covers the façade, with horizontal banding between the first and second floor to create a balance of awnings that were originally on the building. It is divided into three masses with a louvering effect for a sense of balance. Large expanses of plate glass on the first floor are bounded by massive stucco pilasters.

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05 (NC) 763, 767, 769, 771 Howard Avenue
c. 1975

One-story, flat-roof commercial building. Stuccoed façade. Attention was given to copings and frieze work.

06 (C) 772 Howard Avenue
c. 1900; alterations c.1975

Two-story, flat-roof, low-parapet, three-bay brick commercial building. The two outer bays have paired windows with stained glass in the upper sash of the west group. Below each bay is a panel of textured stucco. Above the outer bays are decorative metal filigrees. Above the central bay is a recessed panel. The Delauney Street side has bricked-in openings on the bottom floor. The second floor has four elaborate bays. The northernmost one is a paired window, separated by a turned post topped with a single transom. Next to it is an arched window with a filigreed keystone. A plastered outcropping separates this section and two windows with stained glass in the upper sash. There follows another outcropping and an arched window. First floor altered.

07 (C) 781 Howard Avenue
c. 1895; alterations c.1975

Originally a general store.

Two-story, three-bay brick commercial building. The north façade or store front is composed of glass blocks over the openings on the lower level, with three segmental arched windows with moulded tin crowns symmetrically arranged on the upper level. The second-story bays are divided by brick pilasters and embellished with corbelling below the cornice. A cornice of moulded tin divides the first and second stories on the east façade, supported by brackets and low-relief decoration. A matching cornice on the north façade was removed in the 1970s. A larger cornice of molded tin at the top of the north façade was also removed in the 1970s. The east façade, composed of four bays, contains four arched windows also topped with molded tin crowns on the upper level. The lower level of the east façade contains two taller rectangular openings, with the tin cornices of the upper level repeated.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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-
- 08 (C) 784 Howard Avenue
c. 1900; store-front alterations c. 1975

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building with parapet. Brick construction. Two-dimensional façade with soldier coursing in frieze. The building features an expressed cornice at the roofline coupled with a tile coping. The first floor reflects the urban renewal renovation, with the original brick masonry having been stuccoed over. However, maintaining the integrity of the columns on the first floor to match the second floor and by utilizing a vertical screening effect, a nice harmony and balance has been maintained.

- 09 (NC) 784B Howard Avenue
1998

Currently under construction. Concrete-block construction with brick veneer.

- 10 (C) 785 Howard Avenue
c. 1900; storefront alterations c. 1975

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. Brick construction reflective of the quality of masonry of this period. Five-bay column effect with the architrave being reflected as a soldier course running across the entire façade of the building. The frieze line is clear and strongly represented by relief in the masonry façade and the cornice is represented by triple stepping the masonry and visually supported by corbelling at the bottom. Parts of the first floor have been altered with stucco utilizing balanced visual columns and segmental arches.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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-
- 11 (NC) 786 Howard Avenue
c. 1900; extensively renovated c.1990

Originally built as a fire station.

Two-story building. Building has been altered by applying stucco over the original masonry. A unique feature of the building is the large keystone which was placed at the head of the arched window. Because the building is only one bay wide, emphasis has been placed on the decorations of the two symmetrical areas of fenestration. The stucco has been scored to represent horizontal stone work. The building style is reminiscent of Italian Renaissance.

- 12 (C) 788 Howard Avenue
1894; storefront alterations c.1975

Originally J.W. Swetman's Drug Store.

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. The second floor of the south façade has four rectangular nine-over-six windows with arched crowns and defined bases. The building is stucco with clearly defined coping which is reflective of the Spanish Mission style of architecture in the simplicity of its detailing. The altered first floor is an aluminum and glass storefront system.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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-
- 13 (C) 796 A and B Howard Avenue
c.1895; storefront alterations c.1970

Originally used as the Masonic Lodge until at least 1909, when the same space was also utilized as a "moving picture" hall.

Two-story, six-bay commercial building faced with stucco scored to emulate ashlar masonry. Second story features two groups of three round-arch windows. Prominent metal cornice. First floor renovated in urban renewal period. The exaggerated cornice is visually supported by a massive corbel table. The frieze line is expressed by a horizontal treatment in the stucco and the window sills are expressed through a series of rectilinear reliefs. The horizontal coping between the first and second floors is expressed through a series of dentils. The first floor is simple and massive, providing the necessary visual foundation and base for the extreme ornateness of the second floor. The style of the building can be classified as Romanesque.

- 14 (C) 796 C Howard Avenue
c.1898; storefront alterations c.1970

Originally a general store.

Two-story commercial building. First floor renovated in urban renewal period. This building is reflective of the Italian Renaissance style, with a heavily exaggerated cornice and very light and rhythmic play in the fenestration of the second floor. The corner is accentuated and defined by a cantilevered turret with a cylindrical bargeboard spiral terminating with a weathervane. The entablature of the spiral is heavily decorated with dentils at the cornice, a scroll pattern at the frieze and engaged pediments at the architrave.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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-
- 15 (NC) 808 Howard Avenue
c.1930; presently under extensive renovation

Originally a Woolworth's Five and Dime.

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. The building is being renovated in the Art Deco style, with highly articulated parapets. Focal points have been defined by the use of the flat, one dimensional tower in the middle of the building, accentuated by the vertical sixteen light window in the middle.

- 16 (C) 814 Howard Avenue
c.1925; storefront alterations c.1990

Originally a Kress Building.

Two-story, three-bay commercial building with a tile upper story on the south façade, and with light yellow brick side walls laid in flemish bond. The original part of the main façade has a Greek key motif across a string course above the first floor. Pilaster strips separate the bays of the upper floor. A series of moulded tile blocks with a spiral garland motif, which breaks in the center where the word "Kress", in tile, is placed above the bays. On each side of the two rows of spiral garlands are rosettes and on each side of the word "Kress" is a tulip motif. Above these decorative details is the cornice, ovolo on top, corona, then cyma recta on bottom, above which is a short parapet. This tile from wraps around for one bay along the west façade, which fronts an alley. There are seven more bays along this side façade, the five southernmost having triple windows. Above each of these bays is a small iron grill. A parapet above the second story rises for a short distance between the bays, and is delineated by a lighter color brick.

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17 (NC) 820,824,834,836,838 Howard Avenue
c.1925; extensively renovated c.1975

Potentially eligible if restored.

Two-story, flat-roof commercial building. Originally a beautiful building in the Spanish Revival style of architecture. This building was extensively renovated during the urban renewal period by Bill Allen, a well-known architect who was at one time professor of architecture at Tulane University in New Orleans. The building is reflective of modern architecture and expresses a play in massing. There are three basic horizontal elements: the first floor window-wall treatment, the second floor massing of stucco with a rhythmic pattern of fixed glass windows, and the large dominant massing of the vertical mansard roof.

18 (PL) 152 Lameuse Street
1914

People's Bank of Biloxi.

Two-story, flat-roof, four-by-six bay, brick commercial building with a decorated parapet. Rusticated brick pilasters divide bays of paired windows on the north elevation while dividing only the second-story windows on the west elevation (main façade). Three bays of the first story are filled with plate glass with transoms above and an intervening cantilevered metal canopy. Two bays of the north elevation have a like arrangement. Windows are double-hung in a one-over-one glazing configuration. The two-story inset entrance is framed by fluted Ionic columns and doorway surmounted by a segmental-arch pediment. The water table on the north elevation and surrounding the entrance is ashlar masonry. The northwest corner is beveled and a full entablature with a dentiled cornice extends along the façade and north elevation. A stone capped brick parapet highlights the roofline and is divided by engaged piers with match the spacing of the pilastrade below. Above the entrance an ornate cartouche is mounted onto the parapet.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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19 (NC) 155 Lameuse Street
c.1970

One-story, flat-roof commercial building. Constructed by Collins Construction Company. Contemporary brick and concrete-block structure on a prominent corner. Open windowed spaces are defined by brick columns.

20 (PL) 170 Reynoir Street
1929

Saenger Theater.

Three-story, brick theater building with a parapet. Roy Benjamin architect. This building reflects the feeling of the late renaissance, with elaborate scrolling, curves and carved ornamentation. The numerous plays in the planes of the masonry, the corbelling, the stepping and quoin work are reflective of a place of entertainment. The Saenger façade has three bays with a center block, divided by Ionic pilasters which correspond with frieze medallions and urns set above the parapet.

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Biloxi Downtown Historic District
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Biloxi Downtown Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of commerce and community planning and development. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The buildings in the Biloxi Downtown Historic District are important because they depict Biloxi's growth as the leading seafood canning city in the United States in the early twentieth century. Biloxi's downtown buildings form a locally significant and well-preserved collection of commercial and cultural structures reflecting Biloxi's varied influences from the late 1890's to approximately 1930. The buildings in the Biloxi Downtown Historic District are representative of popular architectural styles of the late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Many of the buildings from this boom period have survived, despite major fires and numerous hurricanes.

Pierre le Moyne, sieur D'Iberville and his younger brother Jean Baptiste, Le Moyne sieur D'Iberville landed in Biloxi in 1699, searching for the mouth of the Mississippi River. Biloxi became the legal capital of the French Providence of Louisiana in 1721, but the seat of government was moved to New Orleans shortly after that date. From the 1720s to the early 1800s, Biloxi was a small rural outpost between the growing cities of New Orleans and Mobile. The population consisted of a small number of families living basically from subsistence farming and seafood caught in the local gulf waters. The buildings of these early settlers were simple utilitarian ones, mostly constructed from wood. Unfortunately, the local humid climate, numerous hurricanes, fires and extensive redevelopment have taken their toll on these earliest structures. As a result, no identified buildings remain from the Colonial Era in Biloxi.

In the early 1800s, New Orleans experienced severe yellow fever epidemics during the summer months. Every summer, New Orleanians fled their pestilent-ridden city to escape to the healthier climate along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. To accommodate this annual influx of tourists, Biloxi and the Gulf Coast grew as a summer resort. Businesses and hotels in Biloxi were grouped along the beachfront, south of the proposed district. The same factors listed above have left few buildings in Biloxi standing from the early to middle nineteenth century.

In the 1870s, the canning process was introduced to Biloxi. Because of the abundant seafood in the local waters, the city soon became a seafood canning

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center, particularly for shrimp and oysters. By the 1890s, the industry was well established. Biloxi thereafter became the leading seafood canning city in the country by the early 1900s. The population during this time consisted mainly of a small number of wealthy seafood factory owners, New Orleanians who had summer homes in Biloxi and seafood industry workers, including fishermen, shrimp pickers, oyster shuckers, and packers.

Point Cadet, in eastern Biloxi, and the Back Bay area of the city were the seafood canning centers. The downtown business center also grew in response to commercial needs. The railroad was introduced in the 1870s, spurring development in the proposed district. After the devastating fire of 1894 ravaged downtown Biloxi, J.W. Swetman rebuilt his drug store at 788 Howard Avenue [Inventory #12], serving "the finest soda in town...in all flavors and combinations known to scientific soda dispensers (from Along the Gulf)". Immediately adjacent to the proposed district is the site of noted art potter George E. Ohr's studio, the Pot-Ohr-E. Self styled as the "Mad Potter of Biloxi", George Ohr has received international acclaim in recent years for his "mud babies". Ohr rebuilt his studio after it was destroyed in the 1894 fire and continued his work until 1910. The Pot-Ohr-E was both a tourist destination and an outlet for utilitarian pottery goods such as stovepipes and flowerpots. The archaeological importance of this site should be explored for possible National Register designation.

In 1896, the People's Bank [Inventory #1, Photo #10], designed by W. T. Harkness, opened to meet the financial needs of the thriving populace. The Dukate Theater [Inventory #5] opened in downtown Biloxi in 1898, bringing culture and entertainment to the city. On Howard Avenue, buildings reflected eclectic and Victorian influences in their construction. The first floors of the structures often housed commercial enterprises, while the upper floors might be used as meeting places for civic organizations. The Masons used the second floor of 796 Howard Avenue [Inventory #14, Photo #6] as their Masonic Lodge until 1909. Other general stores were constructed in this period [Inventory #3, 7, 14], providing the necessities of life for the local population as well as attractive examples of contemporary architecture. The municipal government responded to the needs of the growing district with the establishment of a fire station at 786 Howard Avenue [Inventory #11] at the turn of the century.

As the city grew, so did local cultural involvement. By 1929, Biloxi could boast about its new theater, the Saenger [Inventory #21, Photo #1]. Designed by Roy Benjamin and constructed by A. H. Perry Company of Jacksonville, Florida,

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the theater was in the forefront of design when it opened with one of the first sound films, "Interference." The downtown area continued to prosper as a center for commerce in the 1920s, as evidenced by the construction of the Kress Building [Inventory #16], a structure with fine classical detailing. From the 1930s to the 1950s, Biloxi's downtown maintained its place as the center of commercial activity. Numerous restaurants, bars and retail stores operated in the downtown district. By the 1960s, however, the western end of Biloxi began to develop as a commercial center and downtown went into a period of decline.

In conjunction with the Federal Urban Renewal project of the 1970s, city leaders initiated a modernization program in an effort to revitalize the downtown district. Howard Avenue was turned into a pedestrian walkway and renamed the "Vieux Marche". Metal awnings were erected over the sidewalks, brick planters were constructed and the Comfort Station was built as an amenity to pedestrians. Many buildings underwent storefront renovations in this period. One notable renovation from the Urban Renewal period of the 1970s is the Barq Building [Inventory #20, Photo #2]. Modernization efforts failed to have the desired effect and businesses continued to leave the downtown area. By 1980, few retail stores remained in the downtown district. The construction of a major medical facility adjacent to the district in the 1980s failed to rejuvenate the area as a center for professional offices.

The Biloxi Downtown Historic District has recently experienced a rebirth. The street was opened to one-way traffic and the metal awnings were removed in 1997. The owners of several buildings have begun to restore their properties to their original grandeur. Some retail businesses are returning to the area and several buildings are being converted to professional office space to meet the needs of the nearby medical center. One particularly successful restoration is 781 Howard Avenue [Inventory #8, Photo #8], which currently houses a book store. It is hoped that the revived interest in the Biloxi Downtown Historic District will result in the restoration and preservation of Biloxi's rich architectural legacy.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Photos Page: 15

Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, MS

PHOTOGRAPH LIST

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Biloxi, Harrison County, Mississippi
Photographed by: Dr. Deanne Nuwer
Date: February 23, 1998
Negatives: City of Biloxi

Photo 1 of 11: View of 750 Howard Avenue, looking northwest.

Photo 2 of 11: View of 763, 767, 769, 771 Howard Avenue, looking southeast.

Photo 3 of 11: View of 772 Howard Avenue, looking northeast.

Photo 4 of 11: View of 781 Howard Avenue, looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 11: View of 796 A & B Howard Avenue, looking north.

Photo 6 of 11: View of 796 C Howard Avenue, looking northeast.

Photo 7 of 11: View of 814 Howard Avenue, looking northeast.

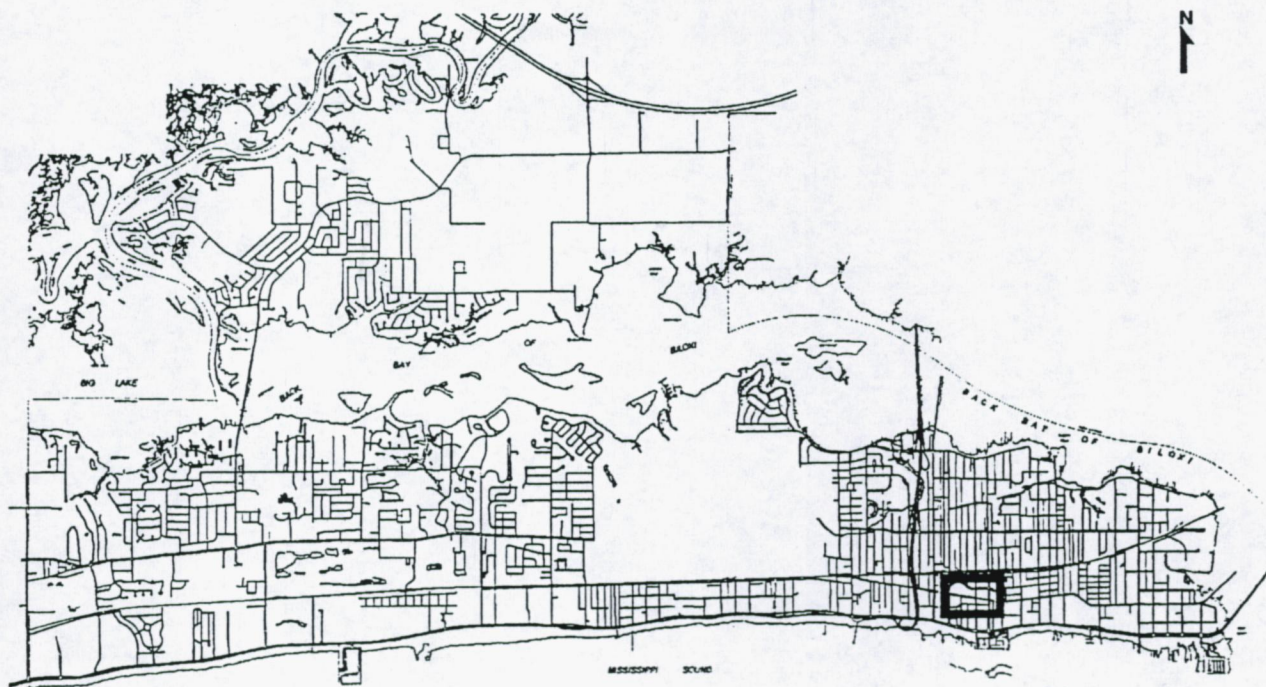
Photo 8 of 11: View of 820, 824, 834, 836, 838 Howard Avenue, looking east.

Photo 9 of 11: View of 152 Lameuse Street, looking southeast.

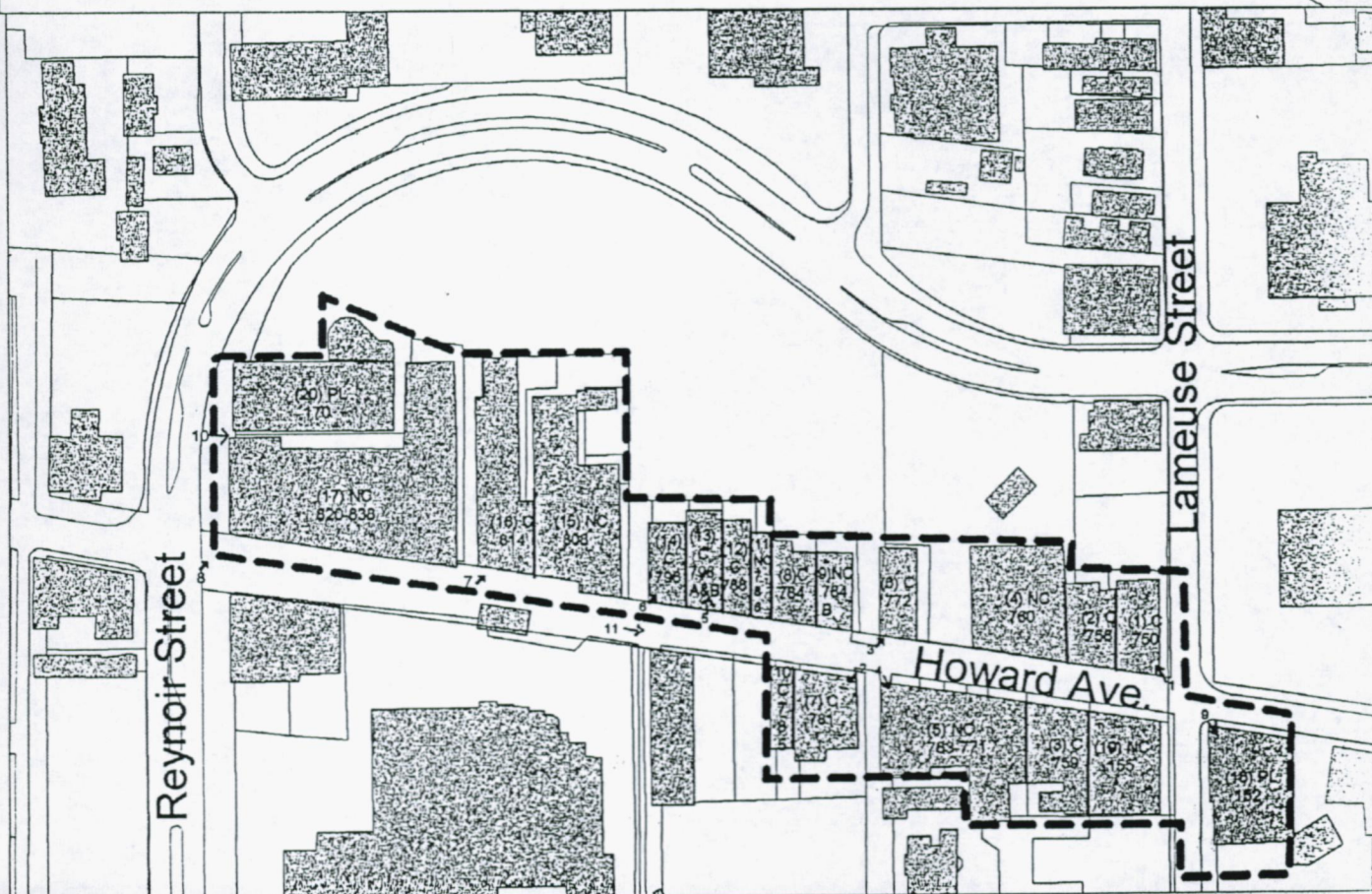
Photo 10 of 11: View of 170 Reynoir, looking east.

Photo 11 of 11: View of streetscape of Howard Avenue, looking east.

Proposed Biloxi Downtown Historic District



N

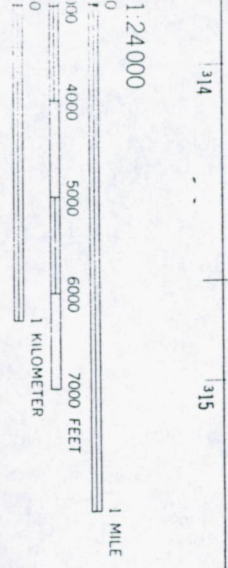


LEGEND:

- (1) - Inventory number
- 750 - Street number
- C - Denotes contributing, non-contributing, or previously listed status
- 1 - Photograph number and direction



P I S O U N D



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
1 FOOT-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
1 IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

HUNTOONS, INC.
3220 HEWES AVENUE
GULFPORT, MISS. 39507-2994

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



A 16/318700/3363970
B 16/318700/3364020
C 16/318400/3364120
D 16/318400/3364040

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

BILOXI, MISS.

NW/4 BILOXI 15' QUADRANGLE
N3022.5—W8952.5/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1976. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1976
AMS 3244 IV NW—SERIES V845



Elzey's Hardware store
750 Howard Avenue, Biloxi Downtown
Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking northwest

Photo 1



172 Howard Avenue
Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking northeast

Photo 3



767, 769, 771 Howard Avenue
Biloxi Downtown Historical District
Harrison County, Ms.

Anne Nuwer

3-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division
King Southeast

to 2 2



31 Howard Avenue

Biloxi Downtown Historic District

Harrison County, Ms.

Jeanne Nuwer

-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking Southwest

Photo 4 4



116 N. D. Howard Avenue
Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division
Looking North

Photo 5 5



796 C Howard Avenue
Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking northeast

Photo 6 6



Saad's
Healthcare Services

Saad's Healthcare Services

Saad's
Healthcare Services

Kress Building
814 Howard Avenue, Biloxi Downtown Historic Dis
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking northeast

Photo 7



Barg Building
820, 824, 834, 836, 838 Howard Avenue, Biloxi Downton
Historic District

Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking east

Photo 8 8



People's Bank
152 Lameuse Street, Biloxi Downtown
Historic District

Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking southeast

Photo  9



Saenger Theater
170 Reynoir, Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking east

Photo # 10



Howard Avenue Streetscape
Biloxi Downtown Historic District
Harrison County, Ms.

Deanne Nuwer

2-23-98

City of Biloxi, Museums Division

Looking east

Photo ~~X~~ 11