



## KATRINA

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed the Mississippi Gulf Coast town of Waveland and eighty percent of the houses of the nearby historic towns of Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian and Ocean Springs.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation dispatched teams to assess the damage to historic structures on the rosters of the National Historic Register, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Mississippi Heritage Trust. I volunteered as a team leader for these efforts.

Although my primary responsibility was to promote historic preservation, I realized that I was staring straight into the mouth of the dragon of economic despair. It was apparent that preservation was not on the minds of those who have lost everything. It was all I could do to record the present for the archives of history. That is why I was compelled to take these pictures.

On a sad note, there is an obvious lack of people in the pictures because most of the residents fled the area. Many had yet to return to check on their homes or to clean up. Folks just gave up.