Pre-Conference Tour: Mississippi Gulf Coast
(Waveland, Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs)
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Tour developed and hosted by
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Gulf Coast Field Office
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Tour liaison
Philip Marshall, US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees

ITINERARY

8:30am Bus departs New Orleans
(meet at corner of Royal and Canal Streets)

9:30am Arrive in Waveland – Old City Hall site

Only one in 100 structures south of the railroad tracks survived Katrina. Waveland City Hall was not one of them. The Bay and Waveland area is located where the eye of Katrina passed over.

10:00am Arrive in Bay St. Louis at Washington Avenue

Several MDAH “Hurricane Relief Grant for Historic Preservation Projects” are in this area. This includes an 1890’s shotgun-L house that is now the first structure back from the beach. It had been the seventh back from the beach. “Old Town” is the old main street of Bay St. Louis that is struggling to stay viable as commerce moves to higher-and-dryer ground.

10:45am Arrive in Pass Christian at Davis Avenue, and drive west on E. Scenic Dr if passable

East Scenic Drive sits on a bluff that is one of the highest spots on the coast between Louisiana and Alabama. Along this stretch of road is the largest group of pre-Katrina beach-front houses on the Mississippi Sound Coast. The East Scenic Drive roadbed was washed out by storm surge and is currently a dirt road.

11:30am Arrive in Gulfport at Old Main Library

This 1965 Formalist building has brought up issues of preserving recent past structures as well as pre-storm memories of the structure for many citizens. It has also bought up the issue of appropriate uses for municipal buildings in the velocity zone (V-zone). To the west of this site are several vacant acres that were part of the Andres Duany plan for Gulfport.

12:00n Arrive at Beauvoir for a box lunch (included)

An 1855 raised-coastal “Cottage,” Beauvoir is the final home of Jefferson Davis (President of the Confederate States of America). Restoration work is nearing completion for the main house while restoration is beginning for the site and remaining outbuildings.
1:30pm Arrive at Point Cadet in Biloxi

Point Cadet is a neighborhood in Biloxi that was decimated by Katrina. The once very tightly-packed neighborhood was inhabited by the elderly and by immigrants associated with the shrimping trade, many of whom cannot afford to rebuild. This area will most likely remain vacant until the land is zoned for casino use. Then it will either be purchased or taken by eminent domain from the owners.

2:30pm Arrive at Louis Sullivan site in Ocean Springs

This site is a small historic district that contained three structures built by architect Louis Sullivan, one of which was his winter residence. Though Sullivan’s residence was destroyed by Katrina, the “Summer Cottage” and “Guest House” he designed for Chicagoan James Charnley survived the massive storm surge. Both structures are currently undergoing complete restoration.

3:30pm Leave Ocean Springs for New Orleans

5:00pm Arrive in New Orleans (disembark at the corner of Royal and Canal Streets near the hotel)
Evergreen Plantation is the most intact plantation complex in the South with 37 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, including 22 slave cabins. Today, Evergreen Plantation remains a privately owned, working sugar cane plantation. People live here and work here. Evergreen Plantation is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, between New Orleans and Baton Rouge in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Louisiana.

**ITINERARY**

9:00am  
Bus departs New Orleans - (meet at corner of Royal and Canal Streets)

10:30 am  
Arrive at Evergreen Plantation

10:45 am  
welcoming remarks & tour

12:00 noon  
Light brunch served

2:00 pm  
Bus departs Evergreen Plantation

3:00 pm  
Bus drops passengers off at the Louis Armstrong International Airport

3:45 pm  
Bus returns to the Hotel Monteleone