



Despite Hurricane, Louisiana Town Meets Main Street HOPE VI HUD Grant Deadline

Bastrop, located in the extreme northeast corner of Louisiana, has always been considered the hub for many of the surrounding small towns. Within the town's historic district is a vacant school that was built in 1927 and expanded in 1931. A marvel of early 20th-century architecture, Bastrop High School was regarded as one of the best, largest, and most complete high school facilities in the state. Today, it stands as a mute testimony to generations past who sought and valued education. Sadly, the old school is now the historic district's most unattractive building and the greatest liability of downtown Bastrop.

Visionary citizens, however, believe that this historic structure has great potential and will become an award-winning project in north Louisiana. Once completed, the project will create approximately 80 independent living apartments for the elderly and 15 permanent jobs, along with 200 jobs during construction. A nearby community college has expressed its desire to house continuing education within the building. This community project will combine historic preservation, economic development, and education.

Working with the City of Bastrop and the Morehouse Parish School System, Bastrop Main Street originated the project in 2001. Marketing, environmental, structural, and conceptual design studies have been completed and a developer located. An Environmental Phase I study on the school was completed with the help of the Byrd Family through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Knowing that historic preservation experience would be key to the success of the project, Tom Crumley of Crumley Realty

Investments, LLC, was contacted and agreed to head up this massive \$7.3 million project.

When the Main Street HOPE VI HUD Grant Program was announced in late July, project supporters immediately realized that the program was a perfect fit for the school restoration. Although much of the critical information was already assembled for the submission of the application, much remained to be done. Everything was on schedule when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, home of Tom Crumley.

Tom, a vital player in the submission of the grant, evacuated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with plans of only being displaced for two to three days. When it became clear that he and his family would not be able to return home for some time and, with only three working days left before the submission deadline, Tom arrived in Bastrop to work on the grant. Working through Labor Day weekend, Crumley and the Bastrop team completed and submitted the application to Washington D.C. in time to meet the deadline.

Without the determination and commitment of the project team members, Katrina would have destroyed the opportunity that the National Trust for Historic Preservation had made possible through the creation of the Main Street HOPE VI HUD grant.

And in late September, their commitment and hard work paid off. HUD awarded Bastrop \$500,000 in HOPE VI grant funds.

For more information, contact Vicki Carpenter at tcarp@direcway.com.



Morehouse Parish School Board Superintendent (front), school board members, workers, and Bastrop Main Street members pose in front of Bastrop High School (right) after it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Baltimore Main Streets Wins 2005 Baltimore Heritage Preservation Award

Congratulations to the Baltimore Main Streets Program for winning the 2005 Baltimore Heritage Preservation Honor award.

The annual Baltimore Heritage Preservation Awards recognize the contributions of projects, organizations, and individuals, and heighten public awareness of the value of adaptive use of historic buildings. Among the impressive results of the Baltimore Main Streets Program cited for the award were 201 new businesses created, 484 new full-time jobs

created, 261 part-time jobs created, 291 façade improvement projects, \$33 million in private investment, and \$2.8 million in public improvement projects.



Mary Pat Fannon accepts Baltimore Heritage Preservation Honor award on behalf of Baltimore Main Streets.