Rebuilding a Sinking City

Sandy A. Johnson, Ph.D.
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WAS – IS Workshop

Animation & imagery source: NOAA Satellite and Information Service, NESDIS
Situation, Location and Topography

NEW ORLEANS ELEVATION MAP
AREAS BELOW SEA LEVEL

Key:
- Mitigated
- Roads
- Parish Boundary

Elevation (Feet):
- 0
- 1 to 5
- 6 to 10
- 11 to 15
- 16 to 20
- 21 to 25
- 26 to 30
- Above 30

Legend:
- Mitigated: 4
- Roads: 3
- Parish Boundary: 2
- Elevation (Feet):
  - 0: 1
  - 1 to 5: 2
  - 6 to 10: 3
  - 11 to 15: 4
  - 16 to 20: 5
  - 21 to 25: 6
  - 26 to 30: 7
  - Above 30: 8

Source: LSU Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes
Population Growth

Source: German map 1888, no attribution, accessed online at www.madere.com
Source: John De Frailes, 1908 at www.madere.com/map1980.html
Weather, Disaster and Technology – Call and Response

- Yellow Fever 1854, 1905
- Mississippi Flood 1927
- Unnamed hurricane 1947
- Hurricane Betsy 1965
Communicating Risk...

- History of storms and evacuation
- Local coping mechanism
- Hurricane psychology
... and Planning Response

- Evacuation communication
- Perception of flood area
- Emergency response plan and capacities
- Local response and resources

Source: Louisiana Citizen Awareness & Disaster Evacuation Guide (2005)
Reconstruction and Vulnerability

- Hazardous landscape
- 350 miles of levees
- Issues of equity and ethics in reconstruction
- Lessons learned and public planning

London Ave. Canal breech

Lower Ninth Ward

Photo: Sandy Johnson

Photo: NOLA.COM: Ashley Scott