

NEW ORLEANS

300
1718 - 2018

TRICENTENNIAL

From *Bienville* to *Bourbon Street* to *bounce*. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.



WHAT HAPPENED

Hurricane Betsy made landfall on Sept. 9, 1965.

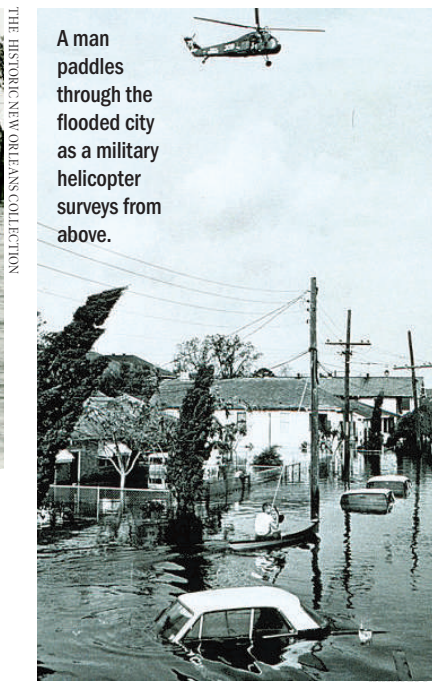
Flood Street, in the Lower 9th Ward, after Hurricane Betsy



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION



The city was hit by floodwater and winds from category 3 Hurricane Betsy. The storm caused 57 deaths across New Orleans.



A man paddles through the flooded city as a military helicopter surveys from above.

WIKIPEDIA

Before Katrina, there was Betsy.

The storm, which made landfall on Louisiana's coast on Sept. 9, 1965, was a defining moment for many New Orleanians and reshaped the landscape of Southeast Louisiana. The storm landed as a category 3 on Grand Isle, with a surge of 16 feet and wind gusts of 145 mph. The storm washed away the St. Bernard Parish communities of Yscloskey and Delacroix Island. As Hurricane Katrina would do years later, the storm pushed water into Lake Pontchartrain, the Mississippi River and the Industrial Canal, causing levees to fail and flooding the 9th Ward, New Orleans East, areas near the Industrial Canal and St. Bernard Parish. As floodwaters rose, some people escaped to their attics and died there. The waters flooded more than 164,000 homes in New Orleans and lasted for days. President Lyndon Johnson flew to New Orleans the following day and toured the area with Gov. John McKeithen, who pledged that "nothing like this will ever happen again." The storm and flooding prompted the creation of a hurricane defense system of walls and levees that still wasn't complete in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit.



THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Hurricane Betsy was the first storm to cause more than \$1 billion in damages.



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Philip Hannan arrived in New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Betsy. He immediately toured the damaged areas and committed to helping those affected by the storm.

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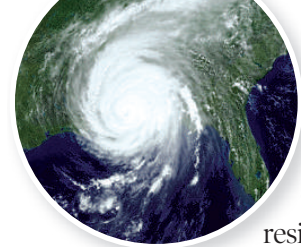
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WHAT HAPPENED

Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005.

Hurricane Katrina forever changed the cultural and physical makeup of New Orleans.



As the storm's surge pushed its way into the area on Aug. 29, 2005, poorly designed and constructed levee walls failed, eventually flooding 80 percent of the city. Almost 2,000 people died from the storm. Total property damage was estimated at \$108 billion. Thousands of residents were trapped inside the Superdome and the New Orleans Convention Center because there was no way out of the flooded city for days.

Eventually, almost 50,000 troops were ordered into the city to aid in relief and protect the city. The destruction following the storm forced the relocation of as many as 200,000 residents — thousands of whom never returned home. The storm led to some major changes in New Orleans, including the closure of the city's public housing developments and of Charity hospitals — both of which served the city's lower-income, primarily African-American residents. New Orleans is still working to rebuild roads and sewer lines damaged by the flooding. The recovery efforts following the storm, however, helped keep the economy booming in a time of downturn elsewhere and invigorated new interest and pride in the city and its unique culture.

While Hurricane Katrina winds did some damage, 80 percent of the city flooded after man-made levees failed around the city after Katrina's tidal surge reached Lake Pontchartrain.



New Orleans residents used their flooded homes and refrigerators as billboards to express their anger, desperation and hope as they returned home to clean up.



Tanisha Blevin, 5 holds the hand of Nita LaGarde, 89, as they are evacuated from the Convention Center. The photographer said the moment was sweet and uplifting despite the circumstances.



Bob Rue, owner of the Sarouk Oriental Rug shop on Magazine Street, stayed put and guarded his business during Katrina. He later amended his sign with a plea for residents to return for Carnival. His sign is now an artifact that has been displayed at the Presbytere and the Newseum in Washington, D.C.



Tens of thousands of New Orleans residents, like Henry Rhodes in the 7th Ward, had to be evacuated after Hurricane Katrina. The Coast Guard alone rescued about 34,000 people in New Orleans.