

## **Threats and Challenges Facing Historic Resources**

Despite these successes, there are still many challenges confronting historic preservation in Mississippi. The following are among the most serious threats to historic resources:

- Neglect and decay of historic properties, especially in urban and other economically-disadvantaged areas.
- Depopulation of many rural areas, leading to widespread abandonment of houses, retail buildings, churches, and agricultural buildings in these areas.
- Development pressures from dockside gambling in historic waterfronts and adjacent areas.
- Coastal erosion and subsidence of marsh shell middens, affecting coastal archaeological sites.
- Urban sprawl on the fringes of larger population centers.
- Leveling of thousands of acres of farmland for irrigation, resulting in the widespread destruction of archaeological sites.
- Consolidation of public schools and replacement of school facilities throughout the state, resulting in the abandonment or destruction of many older school buildings.
- Railroad abandonment, causing the loss, decline, or abandonment of transportation, industrial, and commercial properties in small rural communities, and diminishing the opportunities for economic revitalization in those areas.
- Erosion and improper maintenance along historic roads in the loess bluff areas.