

Higher Elevation Regulations Follow in Wake of Katrina

Several weeks after Hurricane Katrina passed **DeVillier House Movers & Leveling Company** were contacted by Roubion Construction to look at a project in Mandeville, LA. The job consisted of moving two buildings. The first was a small cottage back to a pre-storm location. It would require moving the structure approximately four feet and lifting the cottage 10 feet. The small wood-frame structure was approximately 24 feet x 32 feet. The second structure was the main residence, measuring 26 feet x 60 feet x 30 feet (original) plus a 35 feet x 50 feet x 18 feet addition to the rear of the house. The building's first floor was damaged with three feet of water during the hurricane. The lift of the main residence was originally scheduled to be three feet with the existing foundation to have an addition. The plans of how high each structure was to be lifted quickly grew to 14 feet in order to meet new Base Flood Elevations (BFE).

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Due to new Base Flood Elevations the structure had to be elevated 14 feet.



This 24 foot x 32 foot was pushed four feet off its foundation.



The main residence before elevation began.



Roubion Construction contracted with IASM member DeVillier House Movers and Leveling to elevate both structures.

Cribbing for the first lift of the main residence.



(Below)
Cribbing for the second lift.



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First the cottage was moved and raised. Once this was completed DeVillier began installing eight feet x eight feet cross-loaders and digging in 22 short crib jacks on the main residence. Using a Modern Hydraulics 18 jack unified machine DeVillier lifted the main residence to a height of four feet and rolled all cribbing to the load bearing walls and on top of the grade beams. Tall crib jacks were then installed and the house was lifted to eight feet.

At this point Roubion Construction installed four feet of fill dirt. Then DeVillier installed eight four feet x 10 feet x eight inch oak crane mats and two main beams with six foot cribbing between the cross loaders. The fill dirt, coupled with the crane mats and main beams, lowered the cribbing to less than 18 inches. Next DeVillier lifted the residence another eight feet. The crane mats gave a great deal of support and showed little signs of settling during the entire time Roubion's crew installed grand beams, 10 foot augured piles and cinderblock piers.

Once the foundation was in place DeVillier's crew returned to lower the residence and removed all equipment. Roubion then poured a slab under both structures. **SM**



Frontal view of the main residence after installation of piers.

(Below) Rear view of the main residence after completion of the project. The small structure is to the left.

