Augusta, Kentucky

I grew up in a poor family in a poor town. We did not have much money or many of the good things in life, but we did have one another. One year the flood wiped out our home. It fact, it wiped out all of River Street. I'll never forget the morning I saw River Street for the last time. The river was on one side of the street, and the houses were on the other. We lived in one of these houses before the flood hit. There was mud on the walls of the houses, and many windows were broken. The roofs were in terrible shape. There were many gigantic trees. Children were still playing here, and I remember hearing music. There was a bar at the end of the street and after that a lot of weeds. The whole scene was pretty desolate.

Revision Questions

1. The paragraph does not begin with a clearly focused topic sentence. Do you think any of the opening sentences in this draft could be eliminated without confusing the reader or altering the basic sense of the paragraph? Which ones?

2. What particular place is the writer attempting to describe?

3. What is the dominant mood or feeling that the writer is trying to evoke?
4. Using your answers to questions 2 and 3, create an effective topic sentence for this paragraph.

5. What are some of the items mentioned in the paragraph that you think need to be described in more detail?

6. Suggest a more appropriate title--one that indicates more clearly what the paragraph is about?