



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Statement from the Alabama Historical Commission on Middle Bay Lighthouse:

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) is carefully considering all the alternatives for protecting, preserving and interpreting Middle Bay Light. The commission recognizes the significance of what has been entrusted to us and we are deeply grateful for the many volunteers who have over the years helped us to fulfill this responsibility.

A proposal has been made to move the light adjacent to the USS *Alabama* at Battleship Memorial Park. As the chair of AHC's Historic Sites Committee, I am charged with collecting all the information needed to help us understand the full range of alternatives for Middle Bay Light.

Even as we are collecting information, we are proceeding with plans to repair the cast iron and steel structure that supports the lighthouse. Underwater inspections of the structure did not reveal an emergency situation, but rather repairs that should be addressed in the near future. We are advertising for architectural and engineering services to make those repairs. This work will need to be done whether the lighthouse is moved or remains on site.

Last month, the AHC's Historic Sites Committee held a public meeting in Montgomery to hear technical data about the condition of the lighthouse and alternative locations. At that meeting, we determined that members of the committee needed to see the lighthouse first hand. We also determined to have a public meeting in Mobile after the inspection to review and consider additional data.

This meeting will be at 1:30 pm, June 23 at the Brookley Conference Center in Mobile. We are encouraging all interested parties to attend. This will be a fact gathering meeting, rather than one at which a conclusion will be reached. The full Commission will make any final decisions about the alternatives.

Middle Bay Light has been an icon in Mobile Bay for more than a century. It deserves a full exploration of all the technical issues and all the alternatives.

Craig Sheldon
Chair, Historic Sites Committee
Alabama Historical Commission