

## **Middle Bay Lighthouse Update, April 23, 2010**

The architect for Middle Bay Light expects to finalize plans in May for repairing the historic light house's iron and metal support structures. If all goes as planned, bids can be let this summer with work slated to begin in the fall.

In January, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) contracted with local firms to prioritize, plan and supervise the most critical repairs. The team, led by Kim Harden of STOA Architects , includes engineers and underwater structure specialists

The team has recommended the following priorities:

1. replacing all the metal tie rods above the water line and applying a special marine coating to protect them
2. placing sacrificial anodes (devices that prevent water's corrosive effects on metal) on the underwater sections of the metal legs
3. protecting the leg's above water sections with marine coating
4. putting sacrificial anodes on the tie rods below water
5. repairing a cracked, but stable, steel bracket
6. cleaning the steel floor beams and adding a marine coating

The AHC anticipates that it can complete the first three priorities—which are the most critical—with existing funds.

Later phases will include priorities 4-6; painting exterior and interior wood surfaces and staining the doors; replacing two broken shingles, a loose piece of dormer siding and a roof hatch hinge, and fixing the deteriorating wrought iron railing. The existing windows are not historic. If sufficient funds are available, the team recommends replacing rather than repairing the windows.

AHC Director Frank White commended Thomas Roofing, which provided the roof inspection free of charge. The AHC staff and restoration team anticipate additional donations of materials and services.

"We continue to be heartened by the number of people who really care for this landmark and want to help," White said.