

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Middle Bay Light is a one and one-half story hexagonal structure constructed of wood on metal pilings in approximately 12 feet of water, and situated near the middle of Mobile Bay.

The structure measures 18 feet 8 inches on a side, excluding the gallery which surrounds it. The bearing walls consist of rough-sawn 4" x 6" studs sheathed with rough sawn 1" by 12" boards and covered with 1" by 6" horizontal siding.

The first floor framing consists of 9" x 5" I-beams radiating from the center post to each corner post; corner posts are tied with the same section and the perimeter of the gallery is framed with 9" by 3" channel sections.

The continuous wooden gallery which surrounds the structure has cast-iron railings and boat-launching davits on the north and south. There are two iron ladders down to the water line on two opposite sides.

The hexagonal hipped roof is covered with slate and has flat "L" shaped terra cotta ridge caps. A hexagonal deck rises 2 feet out of the center of the hipped roof, supporting a mast and modern light 18' 8" above the roof.

There are two exterior double doors, one on the north wall and one on the south wall. The first floor windows are double-hung wooden sash with six-over-six lights; the second floor windows have four-over-four lights. Two dormers containing double windows project on opposite sides of the sloping roof.

Interior: The basic hexagon is divided down the center in a generally north-south direction by the enclosed stairway in the center and flanked by a band containing closets, lockers and latrine. The remaining space on each side of this band is divided into two irregularly-shaped rooms of equal size. The second floor has a similar arrangement.

Access to the main floor is provided by two metal ladders, rising from the water line 16 feet below. The enclosed spiral stairs in the lighthouse are framed into the center mast and enclosed in a hexagonal space.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mobile Bay Light is one of Alabama's few navigational landmarks and is by far the most interesting. The one and a half story hexagonal light is unusual in that it was constructed as both a residence and a light. Reputedly constructed as a replica of the Hooper's Strait Light off the Maryland Coast, is thought to be one of only a few remaining lights of this type.

On March 3, 1883 an Act was approved appropriating \$19,000 to mark the recently completed Mobile ship channel. Under this appropriation the Mobile Bay Light station was established in December of 1885. At that time the light exhibited a fixed white light varied by a red flash every 30 seconds.

In 1905 the light was rebuilt and it is believed that it is a duplicate of the original light. In 1935 the light was automated and the structure has been vacant since that date.

The light was saved from demolition in 1967 by the efforts of concerned citizens and is currently being restored.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey, No. Alabama 780, 1966.
 Dr. Samuel Eichold, correspondence with U. S. Coast Guard.
 Owen, T. M., History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biogrpahy.
 S. J. Clarke Publishing Company; Chicago, 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

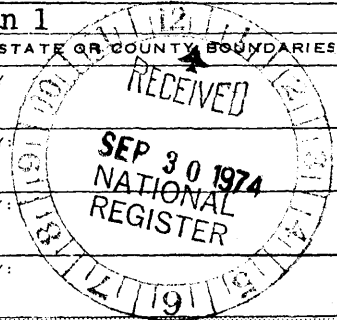
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES									
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds					
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	30	0	26	14	88	0	00	42
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"								
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"								
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"								

16/40281
 330747
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **Sept. 20, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery,** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Wils B. Howard Jr.

Title SHPO Ala.

Date September 23, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

W. Warner Floyd
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/30/74

ATTEST:

W. Warner Floyd
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **DEC 27 1974**