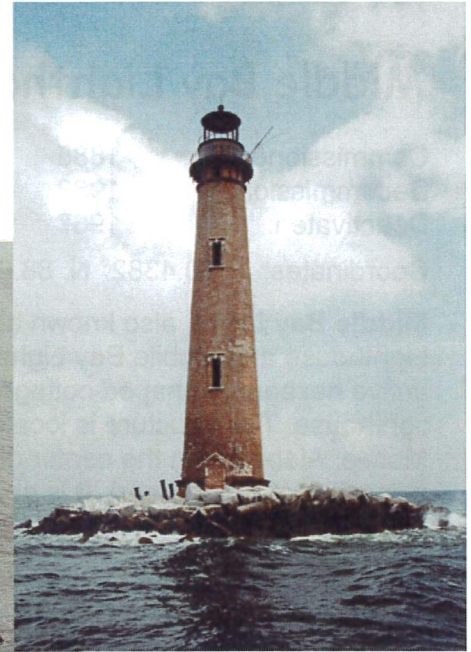


Sand Island Lighthouse



Year first constructed

1838 (first)

1859 (second)

1864 (third)

Year first lit: 1873 (current)

Year automated: 1921

Shape: Conical

Deactivated: 1971

Coordinates 30°11'16"N 88°03'02"W

Foundation: Granite Stone

Construction materials: Brownstone

Sand Island Lighthouse. Located roughly three miles from the Mobile Bay entrance, between Mobile Point on the east and Dauphin Island on the west, stands Sand Island Lighthouse on a tiny strip of land that was once 400 acres. Issues: Situated on a sandy island that has eroded, leaving the tower surrounded by water. Over the decades, the island has washed away and all that remains is the large rocks. It is 132 feet tall and was constructed of brick in 1873, the third lighthouse to be built on Sand Island. Its original optic was a Second Order Fresnel lens (now on display at Fort Morgan).

The first lighthouse on Sand Island, constructed by [Winslow Lewis](#) in 1837, was a 55-feet (17 m) structure completed in 1839. The lighting was provided by 14 lamps in 16 inch reflectors and a first-order lens, known as the [Lewis lamp](#), which was a poorly designed version, or [Argand-style lamp](#). Lewis enjoyed a monopoly through his relationship with [Stephen Pleasonton](#) that lasted until 1853.

In 1859 a new lighthouse was completed but was destroyed during the Civil War, on February 23, 1863, by Confederate John W. Glenn. The Confederate soldiers at [Fort Morgan](#) observed Union soldiers in the lighthouse, spying on the fort, and the guns of the fort open fire totally destroying the lighthouse. In 1864 a 48-feet (15 m) wooden tower was built that lasted until 1873.

Today, the lighthouse is owned by the residents of Dauphin Island where an extensive restoration process is beginning. The Alabama Lighthouse Association continues its support for the restoration of this historical landmark. While it looks very promising that the lighthouse and its site can be restored someday, the need for funding will be essential. The Alabama Lighthouse Association continues its support for the restoration of this light. The lighthouse is not open to the public.