



COASTAL GEORGIA
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

2025 Annual Report

Preservation Projects

In 2023, the Society and its supporters established a dedicated Preservation Fund which will ensure that resources are permanently available to complete essential work on the historic buildings. Thanks to the members and donors who supported this fund, the Lighthouse and Home Front Museum will continue to stand as unique landmarks of Coastal Georgia that connect thousands of people to our area's rich history each year.

We are also thankful for the specialized craftsmen and companies who completed the work to the exacting standards required:

Shawn Sandow, Southern Lights Unlimited, LLC
Cathy Ammons, Ammons Awnings & Handrails
Parker Wood, Coastal Coverage Painting & Design Inc.
Jay Saunders, Pease Construction
Jon Collett, Custom Tree Works
Alan Smith, Island Air
Razorback, LLC

The following examples are the most important preservation projects completed in 2025:

Lighthouse & Keeper's Dwelling

■ The Museums and Museum Stores were closed for an annual week of **maintenance and inventory** from January 6 through 10, 2025. The Keeper's Dwelling's wood floors were cleaned, and interior paint in the dwelling was repaired and refreshed.

■ In March, Razorback, LLC and Coastal Coverage Painting & Design Inc. completed several **exterior maintenance projects at the Lighthouse**

and Keeper's Dwelling. The Lighthouse's observation deck and handrail were sanded, repaired, and painted by Razorback, who also cleaned, repaired, and painted the tower's exterior masonry. Coastal Coverage painted the Dwelling's windows, shutters, soffits, and corbels, as well as its porch and benches.

■ Over the summer, several **windows at the Keeper's Dwelling** were replaced. One window on the eastern wall underwent repairs. All salvageable pieces were repaired, and new pieces replicated elements of the original windows.

■ The windows on the Dwelling's upper floor received new **shutters**, installed by Austin Historical and inspected to ensure that they can be closed to protect these windows during hurricanes. Fourteen sets of shutter hinges were removed and replaced with lacquer-coated steel hinges, adjusted to latch correctly to protect the windows during hurricane season.

■ The Keeper's Dwelling had **termite protection** installed, and the Terme metal roofs of the Dwelling and Oil House were cleaned and repainted.

■ Several **small-scale repairs** were made around the Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling. A piece of window trim was replaced and painted in the children's room on the second floor of the Dwelling, and the building's front door had its strike plate repaired with epoxy to ensure proper latching and locking. The iron and steel window on the Lighthouse's second floor landing was also adjusted to ensure proper closure.

■ **Additional window replacements** were completed: eight sashes were replaced with newly-built sashes, and rot damage to the bottom of the south facing window was repaired.



Glynn County Fire Rescue at work on the World War II Home Front Museum's American flag halyard in October 2025

Home Front Museum

■ **New lights** were installed to illuminate the World War II Home Front Museum's historic flagpole. Existing lights on the site were relocated to the front of the museum, improving its nighttime visibility. The Society is thankful to Shawn Sandow at Southern Lights Unlimited, LLC, who generously donated time to this project.

■ Extensive work was undertaken to improve the **archive rooms**, which house the archaeological collections within the Main Station. A large dehumidifier was installed on the Main Station's third floor to prevent condensation in the rooms. A large archive room was created from the existing space, including the installation of insulation boards on the space's ceiling and the creation of a new wall.

■ White PVC **fence posts**, kindly donated by **Ammons Awnings & Handrails**, were installed to replace previous wood posts in the grass around the edge of the museum grounds.

■ The wooden two-rail fence around the museum's buildings was power washed and repainted to protect the wood.

■ In October, the **American flag halyard**, or rope hoisting mechanism, broke on the World War II Home Front Museum's flagpole. With help from **Glynn County Fire Rescue**, the **Glynn County Police Department**, and the **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**, this element of the museum's historic 60-foot flagpole was quickly repaired.

■ The **crow's nest** on top of the Main Station received new windows, along with new wood siding and paint to surround them, to prevent rain leaks. The windows of the Main Station's basement were also sealed with special caulk and paint for the same purpose.

■ Old sealant was removed from the museum's **porch**, and the top of the porch was resealed. This will also prevent rain damage.

■ A previously unprotected window received custom-made **shutters and hardware**. All shutters around the museum had properly working bolts installed, which help to close the shutters and protect the windows in the event of a hurricane.

■ Wood on the **Aerial Marker** was replaced and repainted.

■ Missing roof shingles, twenty feet of rain gutter, and two signs at the Home Front Museum were replaced.

Lightning Strike

Lightning strikes over the summer affected both the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum, as well as the operation of the Lighthouse's beam.

■ On June 8, **lightning struck the St. Simons Lighthouse**, temporarily disabling the light and lens. The Aids to Navigation Team at the U.S. Coast Guard post in Jacksonville quickly delivered a replacement motor, which turns the "flash plate" around the light source to create the Lighthouse's flash pattern—a bright white beam of light once every sixty seconds. On July 10, lightning struck again. The Lighthouse went dark for nearly a month as the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary awaited a replacement bulb. By the beginning of August, this important Aid to Navigation along our coast was fully functional once again. The repair process was featured in the *Brunswick News*.

■ **To protect the Lighthouse Museum**, the security and fire alarm systems were replaced after each strike. The building's thermostats and Honeywell box were replaced once, along with one of the dehumidifiers in the attic. Both the Lighthouse and the Keeper's Dwelling had high and low voltage suppression installed to mitigate damage from future lightning strikes.

World War II Home Front Museum

■ In the wake of the strikes, the museum's fire alarm panel was replaced. **All three of the museum's buildings**—the Main Station, Boat House, and Bath House—had high and low voltage suppression installed.