

Hurricane Katrina

A Decade of Progress through Partnerships

Round Island Lighthouse

Laurel Avenue, Pascagoula, Miss. 39567

Applicant: City of Pascagoula FEMA Funding: **\$427,985**
Jackson County



BACKGROUND: This lighthouse, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, has survived many hurricanes – and even an occupation by revolutionaries – over the years. In 1849, a group of soldiers who had fought in the Mexican-American War set up camp on Round Island with a plan to take back Cuba from Spain. The original structure was in peril again in 1854 when the sea eroded the shore. A new brick tower was completed further inland in 1859. A few years later, a powerful hurricane washed away the keeper’s home, but he and his family

remained safe in the lighthouse tower as floodwater rose halfway up the structure. The lighthouse took another big hit during Hurricane Georges in 1998 when floodwater undermined its foundation. Restoration of the lighthouse damage from that storm was in the process of being finished when Hurricane Katrina came ashore.

THE DAMAGE: Only one-third of the lighthouse was left standing after Katrina. However, the rest of the structure, including most of the lantern gallery, was able to be salvaged. The base was transported by barge from Round Island to the mainland in 2010. The lighthouse now stands at the foot of the Pascagoula River Bridge along Highway 90, where it is protected from erosion and storm winds, a beacon for those traveling by land and sea.



FEMA FUNDING: A FEMA grant of **\$427,985** was provided to move the lighthouse to its new location. Funds to restore the structure came from Community Development Block Grants and other local sponsorships and grants.

