Historic Gay Head Lighthouse on Martha's Vineyard to be rolled to new location

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Gay Head Lighthouse on Martha's Vineyard. *(Chris Costello)*

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AQUINNAH -- An 160-year-old piece of Martha's Vineyard history will be saved. But first, it has to be moved.

The Cape Cod Times reports the Gay Head Lighthouse will be moved 129 feet inland to save the historic landmark, which currently sits on an eroding cliff.

The lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Times reports the lighthouse will be moved through a deep excavated trench to a new location nearby.

From the Times:

> Soon after the trench is completed, they will begin putting down a "road" of wooden timbers and steel over which the lighthouse will pass on steel beams and rollers, pushed by hydraulic jacks at a glacial rate.

The organization, Save the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee, which raised $3 million for the project, says the move is just the beginning of restoration efforts, which will continue after the move.

There are 47 active lighthouses in Massachusetts.