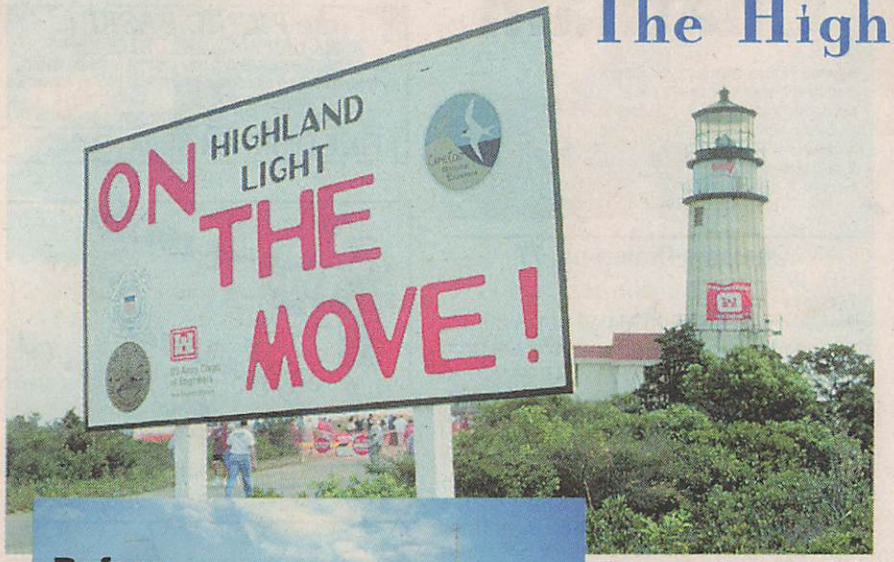
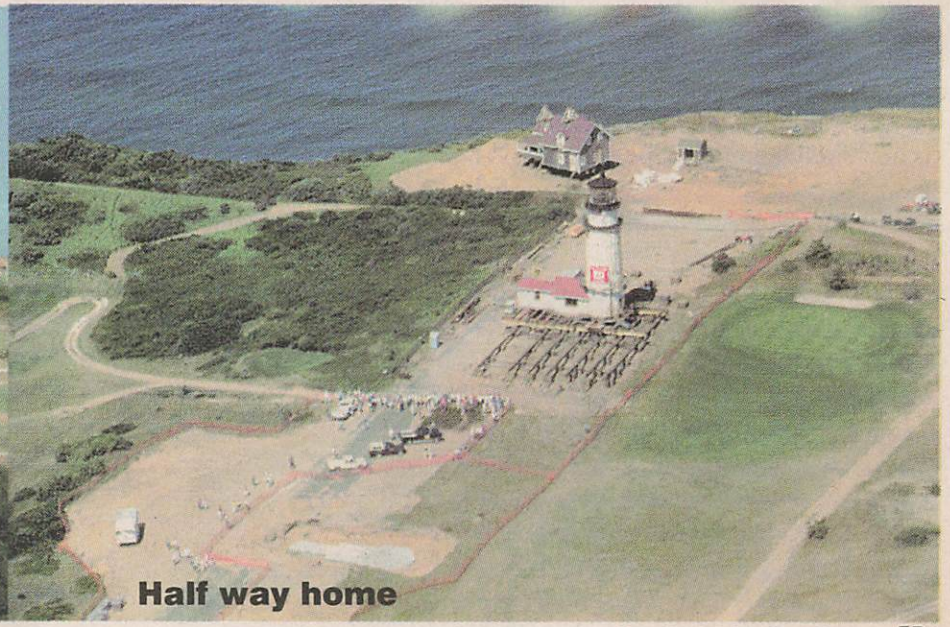
The Highland Lighthouse Takes a Stroll

A Photo Essay by Bill Quinn





***Above**, on the move; **left,** before; **below,** before the move; and **right**, halfway to its new home.*



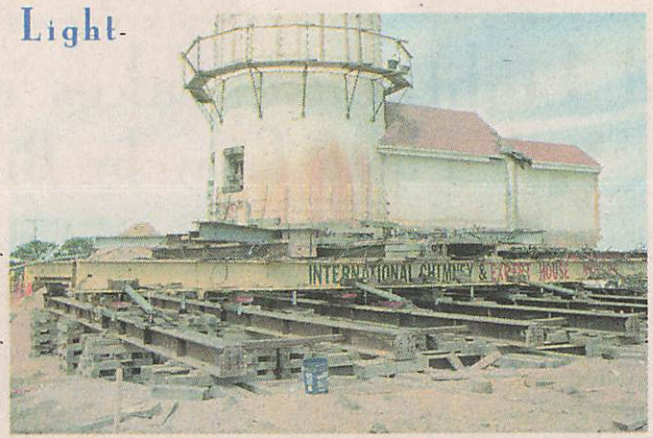
Bill Quinn usually covers ship wrecks, not house wrecks, but when the folks down in Truro decided to move America's oldest Lighthouse, he jumped in his plane and shot these aerial photos so even if you weren't down here last summer during the move, you could have this view.

Here's what this year's Truro town guide says about it. "Cape Cod's oldest lighthouse known locally as the Highland Light, is officially named the Cape Cod Light on maritime charts. It does sit on the Highland, 120 feet above the ocean, with its beam elevation 183 feet above the sea. Ships can identify it from 30 miles away. When it's not visible because of weather or fog, it can be heard by ship as it sends out a radio beacon every 6 minutes.

"This building was erected in 1857 on a 10 acre plot of land. Today less than four acres remain, The sea is a relentless neighbor. The first light was established in 1797, rebuilt in 1853, and replaced 1857 by the current structure. It has never been moved. Because of the eroding cliff the light had to be moved hundreds of feet from the cliff's edge or it would have fallen in the ocean as early as this summer. An Army Corps of Engineers Erosion Study, made for the Coast Guard in 1988, in

Highland Light-

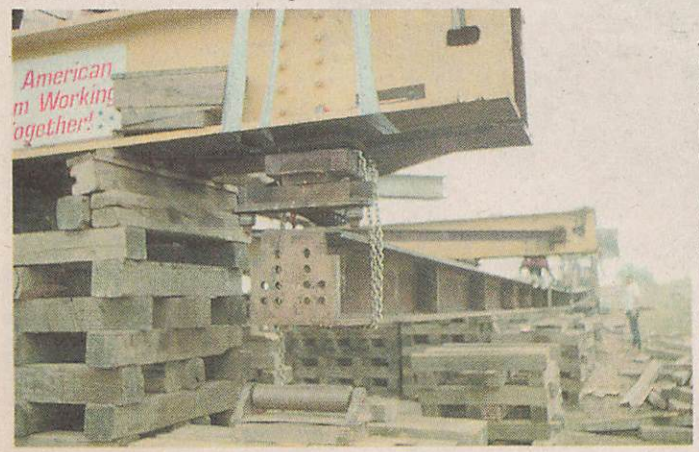
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dicated the light to be 143 feet from the cliff, whereas in 1985 it was 160 feet, and in 1961 it was 232 feet. That's a loss of over 3 feet per year. At times, large pieces of cliff have fallen. In a 1978 blizzard 18 feet were lost. More recently, just north of the light, 10 feet were lost in the spring of 1987, and then in January of 1990 another 40 feet were lost in that same location. A mid-1990 measurement from the base of the light to the cliff edge showed 128 feet.

"A Committee to Save the Cape Cod Light formed in early 1990 to 'effect the move of the Cape Cod (Highland) Lighthouse. This involved working with at least two government agencies (The Coast Guard owns the light and the land where it is now sited, and the Cape Cod National Seashore owns the surrounding land where the light would be moved.), neither of whom have money for the undertaking. The feasibility has been determined for the Committee by a professional engineer, well-skilled in moving even much larger buildings. It now needs approvals of the affected parties, and the money to do the job.

"You can help by giving financial aid to the Truro Historical Society, Attn: Lighthouse Committee, P.O. Box 486. Truro, MA 02666. Thanks."



Above, the enormous structure was dragged to its new location on steel beams

Left, close-up of the system used to move Cape Cod Light.

Photos by Bill Quinn

Chatham



Atwood House Museum on Stage Harbor Rd. was built in 1752 is run by the Chatham Historical Society and houses over 2,000 artifacts.

Chatham Dining-pg. 77

History

Chatham (population 6,543) was settled in 1656 when William Nickerson from Yarmouth "purchased" a large parcel of land from the sachem Mattaquason for the price of a boat. However, it wasn't until 1712 that the land was incorporated as a town separate from Eastham. When Nickerson first purchased the land, the courts in Plymouth were distrustful of one man owning such a large amount of land, so they disenfranchised Nickerson and fined him a ridiculous sum of money. Unable to meet the fine, a disheartened Nickerson moved to Boston. He returned to the Cape in 1661 and began a petition back for the land. After many years of legal maneuvering, the town of Chatham was incorporated in 1712.

Bike & Walking Trails

Bike the Chatham Loop; it's an on-road travel but worth it. Start at the Fish Pier, ride by the lighthouse, and travel by Stage Harbor. It loops through town and back to the pier on a well-marked path.

There are good walks on Hardings Beach, South Beach and Morris Island at the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge.

Points of Interest

Chatham Light and Breakthrough, Chatham Fish Pier & Fisherman's Monument, Morris Island, Ocean & Sound Beaches, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. The stretch of Route 28 from South Chatham, through town to North Chatham is quite lovely.

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