



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Residence of Mrs. F.S. Phillips, East Hampton, L.I.

East Hampton has many interesting and historical houses, but if there's one specific house that comes to mind, it's Grey Gardens. Located at the corner of West End and Apaquogue Road, Grey Gardens is a Shingle style home designed by Joseph Greenleaf Thorp for F. Stanhope Phillips and his wife Margaret Bagg Phillips in 1897. The Phillipses purchased the 4-acre piece of oceanfront property for \$2,500 in 1895 from the estate of Abraham D. Candy, but later learned the property was bequeathed to the U.S. Government twenty years beforehand. As a result, this delayed the building of the house. Unfortunately, F. Stanhope Phillips passed away in 1901, but his wife continued to use the home until 1913, when it was sold to Robert C. Hill and his wife Anna Gilman Hill. Anna was an avid gardener who, with the help of landscape architect Ruth Bramley Dean, imported decorative concrete walls from Spain to help frame her garden. In 1924, the walled garden was included in Louise Shelton's "Beautiful Gardens in America" where Anna told Shelton "It was truly a gray garden. The soft gray of the dunes, cement walls, and sea mists gave us our color scheme as well as our name." As such, the name "Grey Gardens" was born. That same year, the Hills sold the house to Phelan Beale and his wife Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale (paternal aunt of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis). In 1946, Phelan divorced Edith, leaving her with a monthly stipend to support both her and their daughter, also named Edith. "Big" Edie and "Little" Edie Beale continued to live in the home as it fell into a desperate state of disrepair and squalor, which was famously recorded in Albert and David Maysles' 1975 documentary "Grey Gardens." In 1979, "Little" Edie sold the house to Ben Bradlee and his wife Sally Quinn, who restored it. The home is

currently for sale. (Image: [The East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection, The Harvey Ginsberg Post Card Collection.](#))

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[The East Hampton Star Archive](#) is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

[The Karl Grossman Research Archive](#) is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

[The Local Artist Research Archive](#) is a collection of over 10,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week." We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and wedding logs.

We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to **Digital Long Island** on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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