



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

DIGITAL LONG ISLAND

EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



The Windmill Cottage, East Hampton, L.I.

To me, there's nothing more representative of the South Fork of Long Island than a windmill. Perhaps it's because I drive past them on my way to the Library every morning that I make this association, but I find them charming because they serve as a humble reminder of the past. There are 11 windmills that remain on the South Fork today (the highest concentration of windmills in the United States) and they were vital for milling grain, pumping water, sawing wood, and provided a place for people to gather to exchange news and gossip. While I admire windmills from afar, others have managed to elevate their love of the structures by incorporating them into their very own homes. Some that come to mind are the Lathrop Brown house at Montauk Point, where Brown purchased the 1813 Wainscott Windmill in the early 1920s and had it moved to his estate (it was later moved to the Georgica Association in the wake of WWII, where it remains today). There's the Edward DeRose Windmill Cottage in East Hampton that dates back to 1885, which was recently purchased by actor Robert Downey Jr. The house contains a replica 3-story windmill, which has a foyer on the ground floor, a library on the second floor, and a home office on the third. There's a 1830s mill in Amagansett that was later converted into a house in the 1950s, attracting guests that included Marilyn Monroe, Arthur Miller, and Kurt Vonnegut. Lastly, there's the Windmill Cottage seen in the postcard above, which was designed by architect John Custis Lawrence and built in 1903 for H.A. Wessell on Middle Lane. Like the DeRose house, it also contained a replica windmill. In 1980, the house was demolished but the windmill was retained and

attached to the new house. The original architectural plans for the Wessell house are available for viewing in the Long Island Collection, upon request.

EXPLORE MORE

The Digital Long Island Collection is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

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 whaling 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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