



The Windmill Cottage

By Catherine Anderson and Melanie Vehse

Have you ever wondered or heard about the Windmill Cottage? It is so interesting, that it has been on the show "Ripley's Believe It Or Not"!

The Windmill Cottage got its name in 1860 when famous American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, attached an actual windmill to a house for his good friend, George Washington Greene. He gave this unusual house to his friend as a gift. George Washington Greene was responsible for building the first library in East Greenwich and was also Headmaster of the East Greenwich Academy. He taught kids how to read, and held his classes in the basement of the East Greenwich Free Library at night. He introduced the children to Latin, Greek, and French. George Washington Greene's grandfather was General Nathaniel Greene, who was second in command to George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

The cottage was built by John Peirce and Jeremiah Gardener in 1818. The windmill was originally located across the street and was built in 1810. The Windmill Cottage is located on 144 Division Street in East Greenwich. Inside there are four floors and six fireplaces. The ceilings are low enough for you to bump your head! The cottage is a good place to play hide and seek because of all the secret passageways. There was once a rusty tube that went up to the roof of the windmill like an intercom. In the earlier days, the Windmill Cottage was painted brown, but now it is gray. Both the windmill and the cottage have shingled roofs. The windmill is an octagon shape and was once the office of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He would stay with his friend, George Washington Greene, whenever he was in town. In fact, many of his poems were written about this house! Many people thought that Henry Longfellow was crazy because of his unusual ideas.

George Washington Greene lived with his family in the Windmill Cottage for over twenty years. It is still standing today and looks very similar to the way it did long ago.