The Beebe Windmill, located on the corner of Hildreth Avenue and Ocean Road, Bridgehampton, is one of only eleven remaining on Long Island and was originally constructed in Sag Harbor in 1820. It is an example of a “smock mill” with a stone foundation and four-story tower which is exceptionally large for a windmill. Its cast-iron gears, fantail (the first on Long Island) and both wood and iron shafting and cog-work make the Beebe Windmill unique as it is the only surviving windmill with that combination of characteristics.

The Beebe Windmill is named after its first owner whose last name was sometimes spelled as Beebee. It may be coincidence that the carved cap on top of the windmill, called an ogee, resembles a bee hive. The windmill was originally constructed in Sag Harbor in 1820 by Pardon Tabor, a local woodworker, and Samuel Schellinger, a local mill wright, for Lester Beebee, a retired whaler and shipbuilder. When completed it was the tallest structure in Sag Harbor. Following Beebee’s death, the windmill was sold in 1836 to Judge Abraham T. Rose and Richard Gelston and was moved to what became known as Mill Hill on Ocean Rd. Over the next forty-five years the mill was sold and relocated several more times.

In 1882, John A. Sandford purchased it, installed a steam engine and relocated it north of the Bridgehampton rail road tracks, seen here.

In 1888, the mill was purchased by Brooklyn Park Commissioners for $600.00 with the intention of moving it to Prospect Park in Brooklyn. However, transporting the Mill by train would cost upwards of $3,000.00, and the “folly” was abandoned. Later John Berwind, coal magnate and summer resident moved it to his Ocean Road estate “Minden” in 1915. After his death, his widow, Katherine Berwind had the windmill moved to its final spot, where it stands today, and in 1935, the property and windmill were given to the Town of Southampton in memory of her husband. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and subsequently received landmark status by the Town of Southampton. The Bridgehampton Museum serves as the “Keeper of the Keys” and gives guided tours several times during the summer and by special appointment throughout the year.