

1108
86 Island Rd.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This is one of several 1½ story cottages located on the Ox Bow on southern Northampton. This area originally was part of Hadley, but in 1840 the Connecticut River cut through the slender neck of the Ox Bow and made this an island and the western side of the river. The entrance to the Ox Bow quickly silted up and the island became connected to Northampton. The 1860 map shows two houses in the Ox Bow, and 24 years later there was one more. However, a spur of the Connecticut River Railroad had been introduced to the Ox Bow, and the 1884 atlas shows the Connecticut River Lumber Co., Mt. Tom Kindling Wood Co., and several small shops. Expansion of these industries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries led to about 25 more houses being built, including two large boarding houses.

This house probably first appears on the 1873 atlas as the property of A. Johnson. The 1875 directory lists Herbert Johnson, a farmer, in this area. By 1885 Garrett O'Neil, an employee of the Connecticut River Lumber Co., was living here.

There are also 3½ acres on the northern side of Island Rd. which belong to this property. This farmland extends to the banks of the Ox Bow and has three large barns situated thereon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1831 Town Map. 1860 County Map. 1873, 1884, 1895 and 1915 Atlases.
Northampton Directory: 1873-74, 1875-76, 1885-86, 1895-96.