



# Newport Historical Society

## Guide to the Berkeley House collection , circa 1881 – 1895

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### Descriptive Summary

<i>Collection Identifier</i>	MS.099
<i>Title</i>	Berkeley House collection
<i>Creator</i>	King, LeRoy, 1857-1895
<i>Date</i>	circa 1881 – 1895 (bulk 1884 – 1895)
<i>Extent</i>	This collection contains 4 boxes and 4 over-sized items. There are 4 architectural drawings and specifications, personal artwork, and household receipts related to LeRoy King and his residence, Berkeley House.
<i>Abstract</i>	This collection contains 4 architectural drawings and specifications, personal artwork, and household receipts related to LeRoy King and his residence, Berkeley House.

## Historical Note

Berkeley House is located at 1 Berkeley Avenue in Newport, RI. It is a brick, Queen Anne cottage built in 1884-1885 for LeRoy King of Newport and New York. It was designed by the firm of McKim, Mead and White. It replaced a smaller wood structure that stood on the corner site of Berkeley and Bellevue Avenues.

LeRoy King (1857-1895) was the son of Edward King and a member of the extended King family that amassed a fortune in the China Trade. Other Kings include Dr. David King (Muenchinger-King building), Edward King (King Senior Center), David King Jr. (Kingscote), George Gordon King (Edgehill) and the artist Charles Bird King. At one time the Kings were the largest land owners, ever, in Newport. LeRoy King also built the King block of shops adjacent to the Newport Casino.

The house remained in one family for one hundred years. It passed from LeRoy King to his wife Ethel Rhinelander King, then to their children including Ethel King Russell, then to her son John Stephen Howland Russell. It is presently a three family dwelling.

### CHRONOLOGY OF BERKELEY HOUSE, 1 BERKELEY AVENUE, 262 BELLEVUE AVENUE, PLAT 33, LOT 26

1876: Atlas shows a corner lot with a wood house owned by Eliza T. Goffe, widow of John Goffe, adjacent to larger lot owned by Edward King.

1878 August 2: Deed transferred from Eliza T. Goffe to Mary King, David King, Jr. and LeRoy King, trustees under the will of Edward King, for \$10,500, Land and improvements(LE 49:460).

1883: Atlas shows owner as LeRoy King, 50,673 sq. ft. wood house on corner, larger lot.

1884: Wood house moved to south end of lot or demolished. November 22 1885 The Newport Mercury reports that plans have been drawn for a new brick villa and the foundation has been poured.

1884-1885: House erected. Plans by McKim, Mead, and White. William Underwood, contractor.

1893: Atlas shows owner as LeRoy King, 50,673 sq. ft. Brick house on corner, wood house to south.

1895: LeRoy King dies.

1907: Atlas shows owner as Ethel R. King, 53, 877 square feet, same.

1921: Atlas shows owner as Ethel R. King, same.

1925: Ethel R. King dies. House is passed to heirs.

1971: Ethel King Russell dies. House is willed to son, John Howland Russell.

1984: House sold to Josiah and Diana Bunting.

### Sources:

Lippincott, Bert. (2006 February 23). Berkeley House. (Institutional House History). Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains 4 architectural drawings and specifications, personal artwork, and household receipts related to LeRoy King and his residence, Berkeley House. The receipts, which make up a bulk of the collection, are a comprehensive view into the work and life of running a household and being a part of Newport Society at the turn of the 20th century. The business of everyday life is cataloged and recorded with local and national vendors, purveyors and service providers, including Western Union Telegraph Co., Caswell Massey and Co., McKim, Mead, and White, the Old Colony Steamboat Co., and the Newport Daily News. Also represented are memberships to social, intellectual and religious institutions including Trinity Church, Redwood Library, the Newport Business Men's Association, and The Newport Natural History Society. Receipts of administrative business are present including taxes and fees to the City, utility bills, servant wages, house maintenance, and horse care. Also included are two notes of received payment from Edward R. Wharton, husband of Edith Wharton.

## Organization

The Berkeley House collection is organized into two series:

1. Berkeley House records, 1881-1895, undated
2. Artwork, undated

All sections arranged chronologically with undated material at the end of folder.

## Subject Access

### *People*

Covell, William King (1833-1919)  
Gay, Bradford  
King, LeRoy, 1857-1895  
Martin, Thomas  
Murray, Hiram  
Newport Gas Light Company  
Peckham, Jesse E.  
Quinn, Martin  
Wharton, Edward

*Organizations* Caswell Massey And Company  
McKim, Mead & White

*Subjects* Architecture  
Home economics  
Wages--Accounting  
Wages--Household employees

*Form/Genre* architectural documents  
drawings (visual works)  
receipts (financial records)

## Access and Use

*Physical Access* This collection is housed on site at the Newport Historical Society.  
Researchers can be seen by appointment during operating hours.

*Reproduction & Use* NHS allows monitored personal photography of manuscript and artifact collections for research use only, with some limitations and restrictions. Fees apply. See our Personal Photography Policy and Agreement for more details.

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We reserve the right to restrict photography of copyrighted, culturally sensitive or physically endangered materials.

<i>Citation</i>	Berkeley House collection , MS.099, Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island
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## Administrative Information

<i>Processor</i>	Processed by Stacie Parillo, August 19 2012.
<i>Descriptive Rules</i>	Finding aid based on <i>Describing Archives: A Content Standard</i> (DACS)
<i>Accession Info</i>	Gift of David Chase, 2012.
	Accession Number: 2012.33

## Inventory

### Series 01: Berkeley House records , circa 1881 – 1895

Within this series household receipts account for the majority of material. They provide a comprehensive view into the work and life of running a household and being a part of Newport Society at the turn of the 20th century. Business with local and national vendors, purveyors, and services providers are cataloged and recorded. Highlights include receipts from Western Union Telegraph Co., Caswell Massey and Co., McKim, Mead, and White, the Old Colony Steamboat Co., and the Newport Daily News. Utility bills, servant wages, house maintenance and horse care expenses are also documented. Other material includes memberships to institutions such as Trinity Church, Redwood Library, the Newport Business Men's Association, and The Newport Natural History Society.

It is arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

#### *File 01.001: Architectural specifications , 1885*

Document describes the materials that will be used in the construction of the Newport home for LeRoy King according to the drawings and specification prepared by McKim, Mead & White Architects. Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

#### *File 01.002: Household receipts , 1881 – 1883*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.003: Household receipts , 1884*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.004: Household receipts , 1885*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.005: Household receipts , 1886*

Arranged chronologically by date with the undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.006: Household receipts , 1887*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.007: Household receipts , 1888*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.008: Household receipts , 1889*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.009: Household receipts , 1890*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.010: Household receipts , 1891*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.011: Household receipts , 1892*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.012: Household receipts , 1893*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.013: Household receipts , 1894*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.014: Household receipts , 1895*

Arranged chronologically by date with undated material at the end of the folder.

*File 01.015: Household receipts*

Arranged alphabetically followed by notepaper.

*File 01.016: Architectural drawings , February 24 1892*

Series 02: Artwork

*File 02.001: Artwork*

1 watercolor painting of a steamship, 1 pencil drawing of a sailboat, 1 pen drawing of a train cart, one watercolor painting of a vase.