

A Prolific New England Architect:

Explore the New Online Catalogue of William Ralph Emerson's Works



Eustis Estate



HOME



LOCATIONS ▾



TOPICS ▾



HELP

William Ralph Emerson Architectural Database > Search Results > 1855 Projects

Summer Street - no. 32, Kennebunk, Maine



Image: Courtesy of David W. Granston III

Location

Summer Street - no. 32, Kennebunk, Maine

Date

1855

Clients

Lord, John Adams

Building Typology

house

Status

extant; stable reconstructed

Notes

A note in the collection of the Brick Store Museum describes this as the "First Commission of William Ralph Emerson" - Lord was W.R. Emerson's step-father

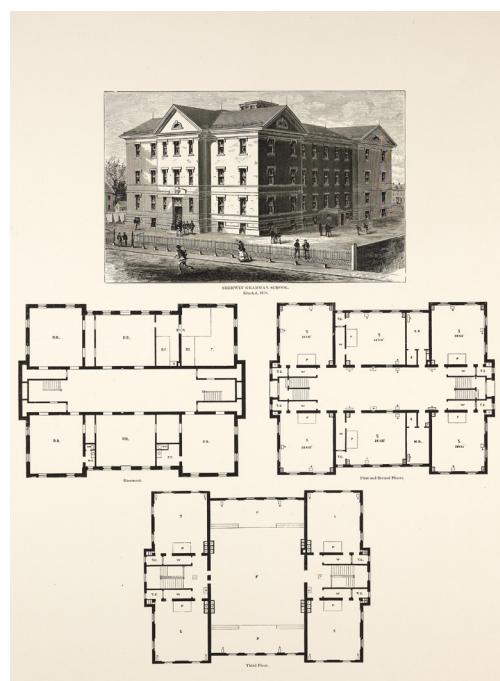
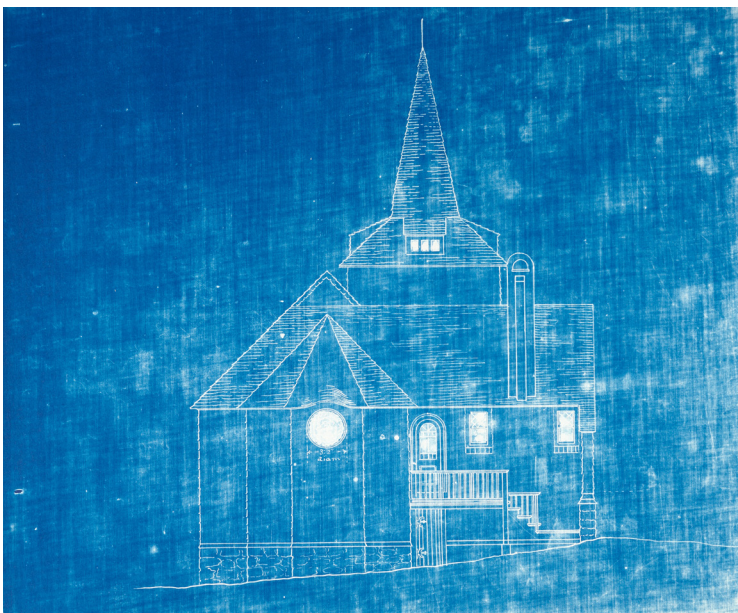
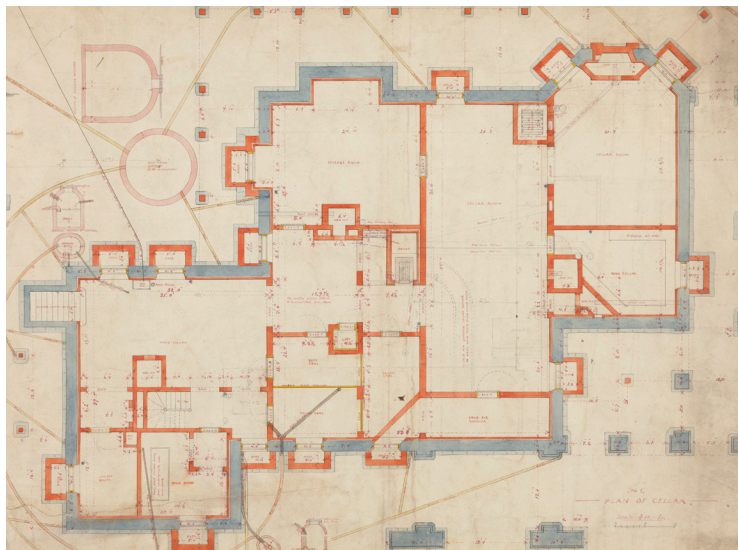


This winter we introduce a new interactive feature on our website centered on the work of renowned New England architect William Ralph Emerson (1833-1917). The online database is searchable and includes information on all of Emerson's known commissions, including those that are no longer standing and those that were never constructed. Visitors can browse or search these commissions by date, city, street, building type, or client and see a range of materials from photographs of extant buildings, to archival images from late nineteenth-century magazines, to original architectural designs. Accompanying the database is a web app with images and biographical essays celebrating the many facets of Emerson, who also was an accomplished artist, poet, lecturer, and writer.

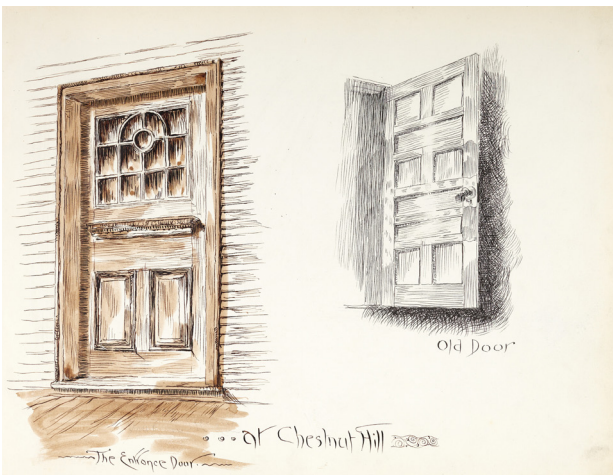
Emerson (cousin of philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson) was a prominent and highly sought-after architect who had hundreds of commissions during

his lifetime. He designed a variety of buildings from government facilities to country estates, but is best-known for his Shingle style residential architecture. His style became popular with the monied elite in the late 1800s, including renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

The database and web app result from years of meticulous research conducted by architectural historians Cynthia Zaitzevsky, Roger Reed, and particularly 2021-22 Historic New England Research Fellow David W. Granston III. Granston's fellowship research documented close to five hundred Emerson commissions, including four hundred previously undocumented commissions that Granston uncovered. The material these researchers assembled, along with their understanding of Emerson's life and work, has made it possible for Historic New England to share this collection for exploration and enjoyment.



TOP LEFT Postcard of St. Michael's Church in Milton, Massachusetts, 1898. **TOP RIGHT** Floor plan drawing of the Eustis Estate in Milton, Massachusetts, 1877-78. **MIDDLE LEFT** Sketch of a house, Chestnut Hill, Newton, Massachusetts, 1885. **MIDDLE RIGHT** Blueprint elevation of St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, Massachusetts, 1890. **LOWER LEFT** Cabinet card portrait of William Ralph Emerson and his wife, Sylvia, 1895. **LOWER CENTER** Photograph of Brewer Fountain, Boston Common, Massachusetts, 1868. **LOWER RIGHT** Plan for Sherwin Grammar School, Madison Square, Boston, Massachusetts, 1869-70.



TOP LEFT Sketch of two doors at Chestnut Hill, Newton, Massachusetts, c. 1885.

TOP RIGHT Postcard of Belmont Public Library, Belmont, Massachusetts, 1902.

MIDDLE LEFT Original perspective rendering of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Rockland, Maine, 1883-84.

MIDDLE RIGHT Interior photograph of First Unitarian Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 1874.

LOWER LEFT Photograph of Boston Art Club, Boston, Massachusetts, 1880-81.

LOWER RIGHT Photograph of Concord Bridge, Concord, Massachusetts, 1888.