

Etruria Pottery

11B

Other Names	Ott & Brewer's Etruria Pottery Works; Etruria Pottery Company
Present Day Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Municipality	City of Trenton
Historic Location	Clinton Avenue near Belvidere and Delaware Railroad; East of Normal School; Millham Road; North Clinton corner of Ott; Clinton corner of Ott; N. Clinton Avenue corner of Ott; Clinton Ave. east of Normal School
Years in Operation	1871-1892
Owners/Operators	Joseph Ott & John Hart Brewer (1871-1892)

PRODUCTS

Tableware <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden Ceramics <input type="checkbox"/>	Rockingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Hardware <input type="checkbox"/>	Art Ceramics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Sets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sanitary ware <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel China <input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

white granite and cream colored wares for tables, toilet and druggists' use, complete line of decorated china and parian wares and statuary (Mains and Fitzgerald 1877); largely china and white granite ware, decorated goods, including a full line of dinner, tea, toilet, and hotel ware, opaque china goods, the "Century" dinner and tea ware and "Lochiel" toilet ware in opaque china, "Belleek" egg-shell china (Quarter Century's Progress 1887:267)

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MAP REFERENCES

Everts & Stewart 1875: shown as "Etruria Pottery"

Robinson 1881, plate K: shown as "Etruria Pottery Ott & Brewer"

Haven 1882: shown as "Etruria Pottery Works-Ott & Brewer"

Sanborn 1874 (1886), plate 11: shown as "Etruria Pottery Co.'s Wks."

Sanborn 1890, plate 14: shown as "Etruria Pottery Co.-Ott Brewer & Co."

Scarlett & Scarlett 1890, plate 57: shown as "The Ott & Brewer Co Etruria Pottery"

IMAGE REFERENCES

Woodward E.M. and John F. Hageman 1883:692

J.M. Elstner & Co. 1889:88

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DUN COLLECTION

NOTES

"The buildings are three stories in height, of solid brick, built in the most substantial manner, almost covering a plat of ground two hundred feet front by three hundred feet deep. The works were erected in 1863 by William Bloor, Joseph Ott and Thomas Booth. Mr. Booth was succeeded by G. S. Bourroughs in 1864. In 1865, J. Hart Brewer succeeded Mr. Burroughs. The firm name being at that time, Bloor, Ott & Brewer. Mr. Bloor retired in 1871. Since that time the firm has been as it is at present--Ott & Brewer. They manufacture a full line of white granite and C.C. Ware for tables, toilet and druggists' use, also a complete line of decorated ware. They are second to no other firm in the country in respect to quality of goods and prompt business ability" (Mains & Fitzgerald 1877).

Detailed descriptions and drawings of the Baseball Vase and the Bust of Cleopatra, as well as the Pastoral Vase and Fashion Vase, can be found in: Young 1879:464-467.

"Messrs. Ott & Brewer are building a new kiln, and they have just completed a fine new workshop" (Trenton State Gazette, Monday, March 8, 1880).

In 1882 Etruria Pottery Works owned six kilns and employed two hundred hands. It was the only pottery producing Belleek. In 1876 the pottery received a medal at the Centennial Exposition for the finest display of Parian ware and statuary ware (Woodward & Hageman 1883:692).

"It is due Messrs. Ott & Brewer to say that they have done more to elevate the art of pottery in Trenton than any single firm in the city, and it is not difficult for one to say this, because every competitor admits it without reserve and points with pride to the satisfactory results they have attained in the production of that peculiarly delicate porcelain which has been regarded as the very perfection of delicacy in the manufacture of artistic pottery" (Trenton Evening Times, Sunday, November 15, 1885).

"... The premises occupied comprise a superior series of three-story brick buildings, fully supplied with all modern appliances, machinery, and apparatus necessary for the successful prosecution of the business. Two hundred and fifty operatives are employed, and the machinery is driven by a fifty-horse power steam engine. There are six decorating and six white kilns on the premises in active operation. The firm manufacture largely china and white granite ware, decorated goods, including a full line of dinner, tea, toilet, and hotel ware, opaque china goods, etc. The 'Century' dinner and tea ware and 'Lochiel' toilet ware of this reliable house in opaque china are combinations of beauty and service. All goods manufactured by Messrs. Ott & Brewer are subjected to four hundred degrees greater heat than any other factory's production in the United States, and consequently are rendered much less likely to craze than any others. Messrs. Ott &

Brewer likewise produce the 'Belleek' egg-shell china. This ware derives its name from Belleek, Ireland, where it was first made. It is universally conceded that 'Belleek' china surpasses all other kinds of porcelain ... The Belleek china made by Ott & Brewer is to be found on sale at Galt's, Washington, D.C.; Tiffany & Co., New York; Shreve, Crump & Low, Boston; and Bailey, Banks & Biddle and Caldwell & Co., Philadelphia" (Quarter Century's Progress 1887:297).

"This substantial and representative institution was established nearly 30 years ago and today enjoys the distinction of occupying a leading position among the potters of America. The output consists largely of thin porcelain, hotel porcelain, white granite and "Belleek" egg shell china, a ware which derives its name from Belleek, county Fermanagh, Ireland, where it was first produced ... Its delicacy of fabric and beautiful translucency had never been equaled until the Ott & Brewer Compaby began to perfect the original Belleek porcelain ... one dozen cups and saucers weigh just sixteen ounces!" (J.M. Elstner & Co. 1889:88).

"The first 'Belleek' made in America was a product of the Etruria Works. An Englishman, William Bromley, Jr., who had worked at the Belleek pottery in Ireland brought the formula for the making of that ware to this country, and arriving at Trenton, was employed by Mr. Brewer. It is interesting to note that Bromley's knowledge of the formula was so thorough that the first mix was made from memory. The first ware produced, however, was only a partial success, and it was not until Mr. Brewer had secured the services of two other members of the Bromley family and two or three other employees of the Belleek plant that a fine ware was manufactured" (Podmore 1932:271).

"Ott and Brewer Belleek was obtainable only at the most fashionable dealers in china and glass, including Tiffany and Company and Black, Starr and Frost in New York, Shreve, Crump and Low and French's in Boston, and Caldwell's in Philadelphia." (Frelinghuysen 1989:46).

The history of the firm is covered in numerous sources (e.g., Woodward and Hageman 1883:691-692; Quarter Century's Progress 1887:267; Robinson and Feeny 1980:333-334; Goldberg 1998:31-35).

1880 Industrial Census

Etruria Pottery

11B

Pottery Name in Census

Etruria Pottery Co.

Capital Invested

\$180,000.00

Number of Hands	200
Males Above 16	125
Females Above 15	25
Children	50
Work Hours in a Day (May to November)	9
Work Hours in a Day (November to May)	8
Skilled Mechanic Wages Per Day	\$3
Ordinary Laborer Wages Per Day	\$1
Total Wages in Year	\$60,000
Months in Full-time Operation	12
Months in 3/4-time Operation	0
Months in 1/2-time Operation	0
Months Idle	0
Value of Material (Including Mill Supplies and Fuel)	\$100,000
Value of Product	\$180,000
Number of Boilers	2
Number of Engines	1
Horse Power	160