

Trenton Fire-Clay & Porcelain Company

16B

Other Names Trenton Fireclay & Porcelain Company
Present Day Municipality City of Trenton
Historic Municipality City of Trenton
Historic Location Third Street and Landing Street; Third Street on Second Street;
Davies Street corner of Lalor Street
Years in Operation 1895-1915
Owners/Operators Trenton Fireclay & Porcelain (1895-1915)

PRODUCTS

Tableware **Garden Ceramics** **Rockingham** **Other**
Hardware **Art Ceramics** **Toilet Sets**
Sanitary ware **Hotel China** **Electrical porcelain**

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

plumbers' porcelain (Industrial Directory 1901); fire clay and porcelain goods (Industrial Directory 1906); plumbers' supplies, fountains (Industrial Directory 1909); porcelain sinks & bathtubs (Industrial Directory 1909); sanitary plumbing & fittings (Industrial Directory 1912)

REFERENCES

"A Fireman Killed. Three Others Badly Injured Fighting a Fire. The Porcelain Works Burned." Daily State Gazette, August 7, 1896.

"To Rebuild at Once. Work will Resume as Quickly as Possible. How the Injured Firemen Fare." Daily State Gazette, August 8, 1896.

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Abramson, D.V and T. Karschner. 1978. "An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, Trenton, New Jersey." On file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJDEP), Trenton, New Jersey.

Robinson, Dorothy and Bill Feeny. 1980. "The Official Price Guide to American Pottery & Porcelain." House of Collectibles, Orlando, Florida.

Nottle, Diane. 1997. "Beauty, Utility and Paychecks, All Built on a Base of Clay." New York Times, November 9, 1997.

MAP REFERENCES

Lathrop 1905, plate 11: shown as "The Trenton Fire Clay & Porcelain Co."

Sanborn 1908, vol. 2, plate 179: shown as "Trenton Fireclay & Porcelain"

IMAGE REFERENCES

Trenton Board of Trade 1900:69

DUN COLLECTION

NOTES

On August 7, 1896 severe fire broke out destroying three buildings at the plant. The first Trenton fireman to die in the line of duty perished while fighting that blaze (Daily State Gazette, August 8,

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1896).

In 1895 this factory was purchased by Trenton Fireclay & Porcelain Co. and later sold to J.L. Mott Co. (Harney 1929).

"Trenton Fireclay and Porcelain Co. made the first porcelain bathtub without feet and the first built-in bathtub... The Trenton Fireclay and Porcelain Co. was the last of a series of terracotta and porcelain companies on the site which had been owned by members of a family named Bowman since 1867. It was originated in 1894 and was the first company in this country to make a porcelain bathtub. They also made porcelain sinks and lavatories as well. In 1895, they began making all the porcelain requirements of the J.L. Mott Iron Works of Mott Haven, New York, a company which had been in operation for one hundred years making brass fittings, enameled iron fixtures, soil pipe, heating equipment, and since 1883 enameled cast iron tubs..." (Abramson and Karschner 1978:15-16).

"T.F.C & P. Co. was founded in 1893 by O.O. Bowman, R.K. Bowman, and W.J.J. Bowman. They were primarily producers of sanitary wares" (Robinson and Feeny 1980:347).