Mercer Pottery

Other Names  Mercer Pottery Company

Present Day Municipality  City of Trenton

Historic Municipality

Historic Location  Railroad Avenue near North Clinton Avenue; Railroad Avenue opposite Ott Street; Railroad Avenue near Perrine; 39 Muirhead Ave.; 19 Muirhead Ave.; 30 Muirhead Ave.; 27 Muirhead Ave.

Years in Operation  1868-1875


PRODUCTS

Tableware  Garden Ceramics  Rockingham  Other

Hardware  Art Ceramics  Toilet Sets

Sanitary ware  Hotel China  Electrical porcelain

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

white granite and c.c. ware, also decorated goods, stone, porcelain and hotel ware (Mains and Fitzgerald 1877); crockery and dinnerware (Goldberg 1998)

REFERENCES


Wednesday, April 10, 2013
Mercer Pottery


Wednesday, April 10, 2013
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MAP REFERENCES

Beers 1870: illegible

Everts & Stewart 1875: shown as "Mercer Pottery Co."

IMAGE REFERENCES

Everts & Stewart 1875:40

DUN COLLECTION

NOTES

"Be it enacted by the State and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey that John F. Thompson, Joseph G. Brearley, Elias Cook, Edward W. Scudder, Anderson L. Brearley and their

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Associates be, and are hereby, created a body politic and corporate, in fact and in law, by the name and style of the 'Mercer Pottery Company' for the purpose of manufacturing, selling and dealing earthenware and crockery in various descriptions… approved February 10, 1869" (Acts of the Ninety-Third Legislature 1869).

"China clay is obtained from the celebrated banks on the Brandywine, Delaware and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania; the feldspar from Maine, and is considered the best in the country, while the flint comes from Maryland" (Everts & Stewart 1875:XII).

"The Mercer Pottery was built in the year 1868. It is one of the finest and most substantial structures in the city. Composed of stone, with slate roofs, entirely new, and having been erected all at one time in the most modern and approved form, the buildings have as great a capacity as and better facilities than some larger establishments. When in full operation, it is able to produce $15,000 worth of ware per month.

During the first eight years, the works were controlled by Mr. J.F. Thompson, the late Mr. J.G. Brearley and others, under the firm name of The Mercer Pottery Company" (Mains & Fitzgerald 1877).

"This company was duly incorporated in 1868 under the laws of New Jersey and has continued by the original incorporators till 1875, when James Moses purchased the works and has continued the business since that time under the old name" (Quarter Century's Progress 1887:290).
Pottery Name in Census
Mercer Pottery Co.

Capital Invested
$50,000.00

Materials (Including Mill Supplies and Fuel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>500 tons</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint</td>
<td>300 tons</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feldspar</td>
<td>200 tons</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>1350 tons</td>
<td>$3,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemicals</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>$23,550</td>
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Products

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kinds</th>
<th>Quantities</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C &amp; C &amp; White Granite Ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>$51,770</td>
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Motive Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power Type</th>
<th>Horsepower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Steam &amp; Hand Engine</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
Machines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name or description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grinding Pans &amp; Jiggers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Number of Hands Employed

- Male Hands Above 16: 60
- Female Hands Above 15: 25
- Children: 25
- Yearly Wages: $26,000
- Months in Operation: 6