

Mercer Pottery

17A

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
Owners/Operators	J.F. Thompson & Co. (1868-1875).

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 type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Sets <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sanitary ware <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel China <input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical porcelain <input type="checkbox"/>	

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

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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).

1870 Industrial Census

Mercer Pottery

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Pottery Name in Census

Mercer Pottery Co.

Capital Invested

\$50,000.00

Materials (Including Mill Supplies and Fuel)

Kinds	Quantities	Value
Clay	500 tons	\$4,800
Flint	300 tons	\$5,100
Feldspar	200 tons	\$3,800
Coal	1350 tons	\$3,850
Chemicals		\$3,000
Total		\$23,550

Products

Kinds	Quantities	Value
C & C & White Granite Ware		\$51,770

Motive Power

Power Type	Horsepower
1 Steam & Hand Engine	25

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1870 Industrial Census

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Machines

Name or description	Number
Grinding Pans & Jiggers	

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